

**The story continues:
the forgotten half of Cochrane's
Random Reflections in Bentham's path**

Gabriel M Leung

June 14, 2013

Inaugural Victorian Psycho-oncology Research Conference
Melbourne, Australia



**SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG**

香港大學公共衛生學院



Impact Through Translation: Cancer Research Informing Practice

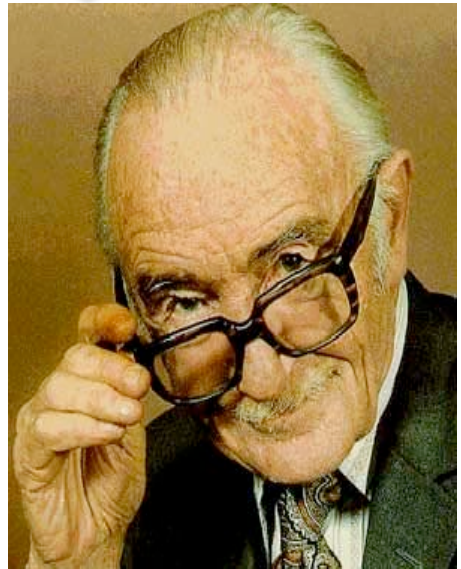
JOINT MEETING OF
IPOS 14th World Congress and
COSA's 39th Annual Scientific Meeting
Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre

13th - 15th November 2012

"It must be remembered that there is nothing more difficult to plan, more doubtful of success, nor more dangerous to manage than a new system. For the initiator has the enmity of all who would profit by the preservation of the old institution and merely lukewarm defenders in those who gain by the new ones."



"What I decided I could not continue doing was making decisions about intervening when I had not idea whether I was doing more harm than good." c1972

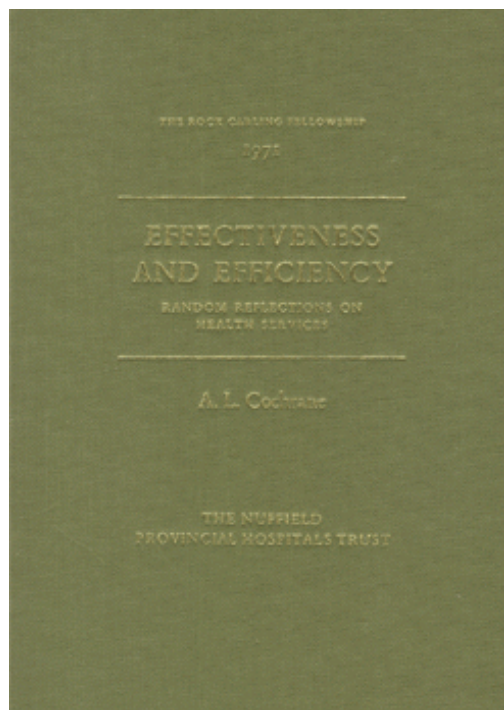




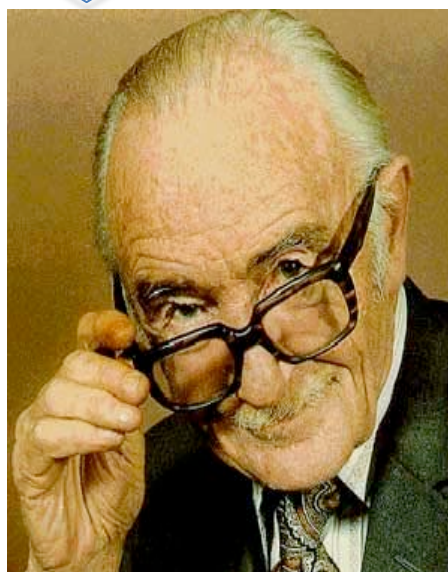
The Cochrane Collaboration

Working together to provide the best evidence for health care

“It is surely a great criticism of our profession that we have not organised a critical summary, by specialty or subspecialty, adapted periodically, of all relevant randomised controlled trials” c1979



c1971



Screening mammography: Does it work ?

Screening for breast cancer with mammography (Review)

Gøtzsche PC, Nilsen M

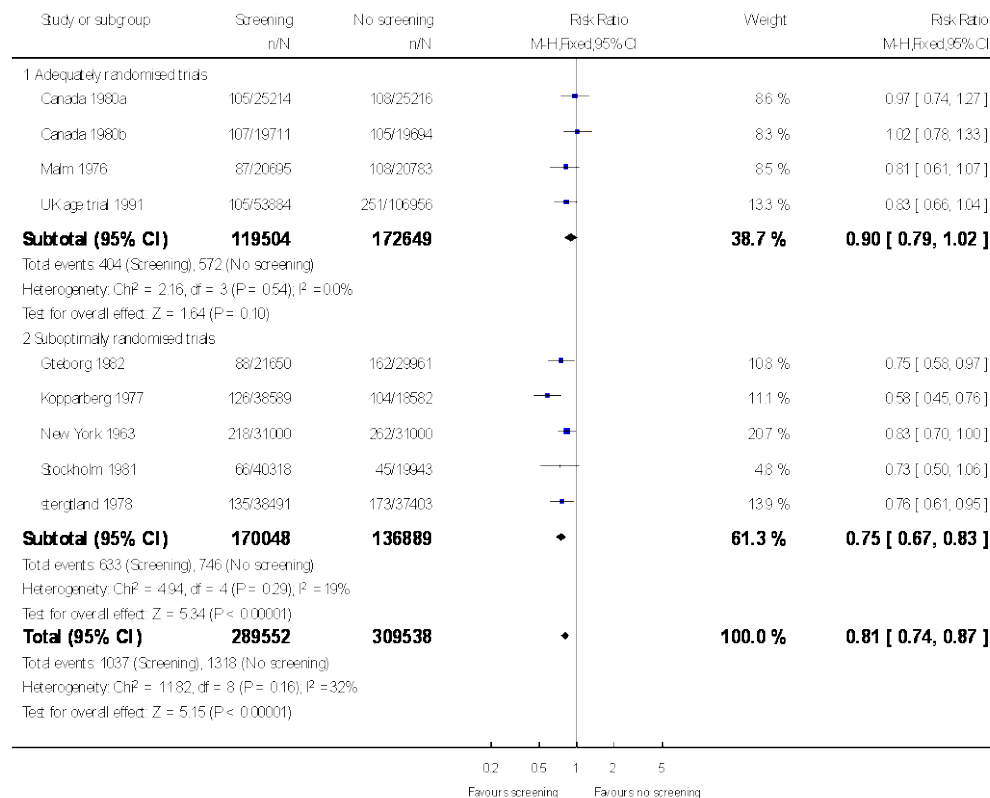


This is a reprint of a Cochrane review, prepared and maintained by The Cochrane Collaboration and published in *The Cochrane Library* 2011, Issue 4

<http://www.thecochranelibrary.com>



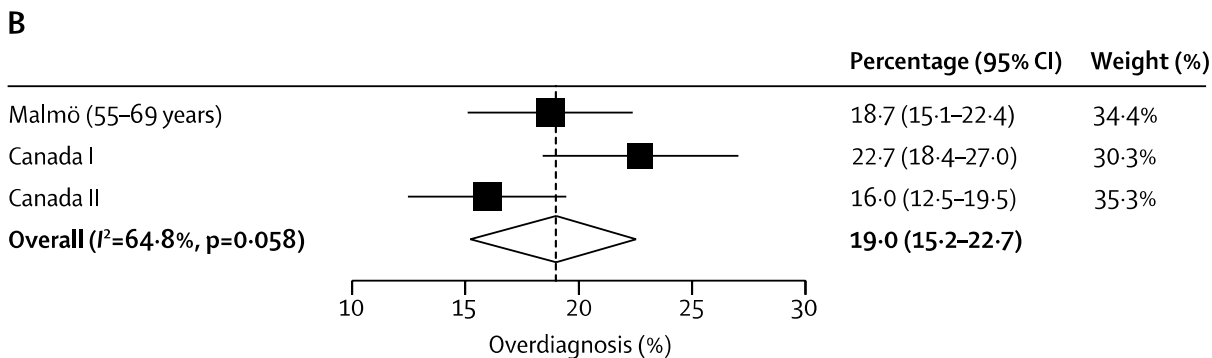
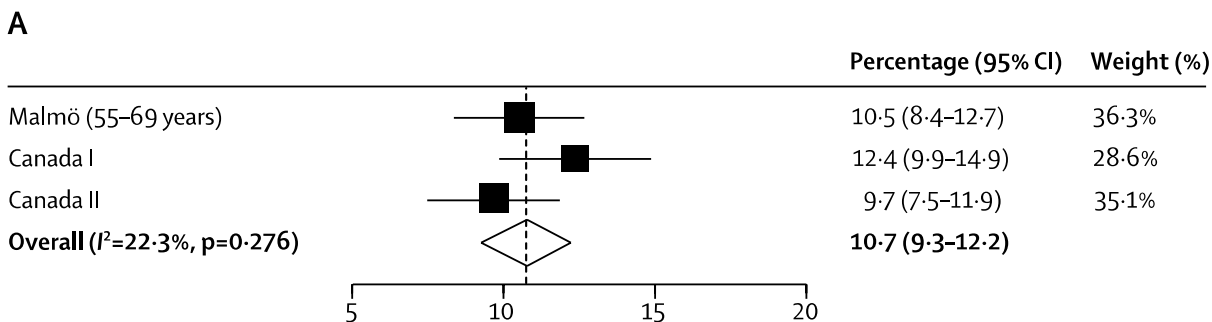
Screening for breast cancer with mammography (Review)
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	A	B	C	D
Malmö I ages 55–69 years	11.7% (82/698)	10.5% (82/780)	18.7% (82/438)	29.1% (82/282)
Canada I	14.1% (82/581)	12.4% (82/663)	22.7% (82/361)	29.4% (82/279)
Canada II	10.7% (67/626)	9.7% (67/693)	16.0% (67/420)	19.8% (67/338)

Numbers of excess cancers are expressed as a percentage of different denominators. A=excess cancers as a proportion of cancers diagnosed over whole follow-up period in unscreened women. B=excess cancers as a proportion of cancers diagnosed over whole follow-up period in women invited for screening. C=excess cancers as a proportion of cancers diagnosed during screening period in women invited for screening. D=excess cancers as a proportion of cancers detected by screening in women invited for screening.

Table 4: Estimates of overdiagnosis in randomised trials without systematic end-of-trial screening of the control group, according to four calculation methods



- CRUK review (Marmot et al *Lancet* 2012) confirmed 20% RRR for screening in 50-79yos
- Affirms likely presence of overdiagnosis (see L panels)
- *“the Panel estimates that for 10,000 UK women invited to screening from age 50 for 20 years, about 681 cancers will be found of which 129 will represent overdiagnosis, and 43 deaths from breast cancer will be prevented. In round terms, therefore, for each breast cancer death prevented about three overdiagnosed cases will be identified and treated.”*

Routine health checks: Does it work ?

General health checks in adults for reducing morbidity and mortality from disease (Review)

Krogdahl LT, Jørgensen KL, Grønhaug Larsen C, Gøtzsche PC



This is a reprint of a Cochrane review, prepared and maintained by The Cochrane Collaboration and published in *The Cochrane Library* 2013, Issue 1

<http://www.thecochranelibrary.com>



General health checks in adults for reducing morbidity and mortality from disease (Review)
Copyright © 2013 The Cochrane Collaboration. Published by John Wiley & Sons, Ltd.

Outcomes	Illustrative comparative risks* (95% CI)		Relative effect (95% CI)	No of participants (studies)	Quality of the evidence (GRADE)	Comments
	Assumed risk	Corresponding risk with intervention				
Total mortality Deaths Follow-up: 4-22 years	75 per 1000	74 per 1000 (71 to 77)	RR 0.99 (0.95 to 1.03)	155,899 (9 studies)	□□□□ high	
Cardiovascular mortality Deaths from cardiovascular causes Follow-up: 4-22 years	37 per 1000	38 per 1000 (34 to 43)	RR 1.03 (0.91 to 1.17)	152,435 (8 studies)	□□□○ moderate	There was substantial heterogeneity which may reflect the different outcome definitions used in the trials
Cancer mortality Cancer deaths Follow-up: 4-22 years	21 per 1000	21 per 1000 (19 to 24)	RR 1.01 (0.92 to 1.12)	139,290 (8 studies)	□□□□ high	



NHS Health Check

Helping you prevent heart disease, stroke, diabetes and kidney disease

Response to the Cochrane Review

Front Page

NHS Health Check –Response to the Cochrane Review

This eBulletin is produced by NHS Diabetes and Kidney Care in conjunction with the Department of Health to support the NHS Health Check Learning Network. This is a useful tool for anyone working in health or social care with an interest in the prevention of vascular disease and vascular risk assessment and management. To subscribe or unsubscribe, please contact [Eleanor Kent-Dyson](#).

In response to demand from NHS Health Check commissioners, we have put together a further assessment of the Cochrane review published on 17th October 2012.

The Cochrane review is a systematic review of the published literature on randomised trials of general health checks. The principal end point reviewed was mortality, for which nine trials provided evidence. A meta-analysis of these trials showed no difference in deaths overall, or from cardiovascular disease or cancer, between intervention and control groups.

The review also comments on comparisons of morbidity between intervention and control groups, although this was not the primary intention of the review and no meta-analysis was possible. Some trials showed differences, but the review authors did not consider these useful, partly as a result of the poor quality of the evidence in many individual trials.

There are some major difficulties in interpreting the results of this review:

(a) There was no specification of what constitutes a 'general health check', its content or its objectives. It is clear that there was significant heterogeneity between different trials. Some interventions included relevant measures such as blood pressure and cholesterol, but not all. In keeping with the 'general health check' terminology, most were not well focused on specific enquiries and tests but included non-specific searches for any abnormal finding including those suggestive of cancer.

- NHS Health Check programme quickly posted an online rebuttal of the Cochrane review
- The Cochrane authors sought to post a counterpoint defending their original SR on the same NHS website, but was denied
- Currently the authors are attempting to publish the scientific and process content of the whole saga in a general medical journal for wider dissemination

MMR and autism: is it real ?

Vaccines for measles, mumps and rubella in children (Review)

Demicheli V, Rivetti A, Debalini MG, Di Pietrantonj C



This is a reprint of a Cochrane review, prepared and maintained by The Cochrane Collaboration, and published in *The Cochrane Library* 2012, Issue 2

<http://www.thecochranelibrary.com>



Vaccines for measles, mumps and rubella in children (Review)
Copyright © 2012 The Cochrane Collaboration. Published by John Wiley & Sons, Ltd.

1.2 to 4.7). Exposure to the MMR vaccine was unlikely to be associated with autism, asthma, leukaemia, hay fever, type 1 diabetes or attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. Crohn's disease, demyelinating diseases, bacterial or viral infections.

Authors' conclusions

The design and reporting of safety outcomes in MMR vaccine studies, both pre- and post-marketing, are largely inadequate. The evidence of adverse events following immunisation with the MMR vaccine cannot be separated from its role in preventing the target diseases.

Early report

Ileal-lymphoid-nodular hyperplasia, non-specific colitis, and pervasive developmental disorder in children

A J Wakefield, S H Murch, A Anthony, J Linnell, D M Casson, M Malik, M Berelowitz, A P Dhillon, M A Thomson, P Harvey, A Valentine, S E Davies, J A Walker-Smith

Summary

Background We investigated a consecutive series of children with chronic enterocolitis and regressive developmental disorder.

Methods 12 children (mean age 6 years [range 3–10], 11 boys) were referred to a paediatric gastroenterology unit with a history of normal development followed by loss of acquired skills, including language, together with diarrhoea and abdominal pain. Children underwent gastroenterological, neurological, and developmental assessment and review of developmental records. Ileocolonoscopy and biopsy sampling, magnetic-resonance imaging (MRI), electroencephalography (EEG), and lumbar puncture were done under sedation. Barium follow-through radiography was done where possible. Biochemical, haematological, and immunological profiles were examined.

Findings Onset of behavioural symptoms was associated by the parents, with measles, mumps, and rubella vaccination in eight of the 12 children, with measles infection in one child, and otitis media in another. All 12 children had intestinal abnormalities ranging from lymphoid nodular hyperplasia to atrophic ulceration. Histology showed patchy chronic inflammation in 11 children and reactive ileal lymphoid hyperplasia in seven, but no granulomas. Behavioural disorders included autism (nine), disintegrative psychosis (one), and possible postviral or vaccinal encephalitis (two). There were no focal neurological abnormalities and MRI and EEG tests were normal. Abnormal laboratory results were significantly raised urinary methylmalonic acid compared with age-matched controls ($p=0.003$), low haemoglobin in four children, and low serum IgA in four children.

Interpretation We identify associated gastrointestinal disease and developmental regression in a group of previously normal children, which was generally associated in time with possible environmental triggers.

Lancet 1998; **351**: 637–41

See [Commentary page](#)

Inflammatory Bowel Disease Study Group, University Departments of Medicine and Histopathology (A J Wakefield FRCS, A Anthony MB, J Linnell PhD, A P Dhillon MRCPATH, S E Davies MRCPATH) and the **University Departments of Paediatric Gastroenterology** (S H Murch MB, D M Casson MRCP, M Malik MRCP, M A Thomson FRCP, J A Walker-Smith FRCP), **Child and Adolescent Psychiatry** (M Berelowitz FRCPsych), **Neurology** (P Harvey FRCP), and **Radiology** (A Valentine FRCP), **Royal Free Hospital and School of Medicine, London NW3 2QG, UK**

Correspondence to: Dr A J Wakefield

Introduction

We saw several children who, after a period of apparent normality, lost acquired skills, including communication. They all had gastrointestinal symptoms, including abdominal pain, diarrhoea, and bloating and, in some cases, food intolerance. We describe the clinical findings, and gastrointestinal features, of these children.

Patients and methods

12 children, consecutively referred to the department of paediatric gastroenterology with a history of a pervasive developmental disorder with loss of acquired skills and intestinal symptoms (diarrhoea, abdominal pain, bloating and food intolerance), were investigated. All children were admitted to the ward for 1 week, accompanied by their parents.

Clinical investigations

We took histories, including details of immunisations and exposure to infectious diseases, and assessed the children. In 11 cases, the history was obtained by the senior clinician (JW-S). Neurological and psychiatric assessments were done by consultant staff (PH, MB) with HMS-4 criteria.¹ Developmental assessments included a review of prospective developmental records from parents, health visitors, and general practitioners. Four children did not undergo psychiatric assessment in hospital; all had been assessed professionally elsewhere, so these assessments were used as the basis for their behavioural diagnosis.

After bowel preparation, ileocolonoscopy was performed by SHM or MAT under sedation with midazolam and pethidine. Paired frozen and formalin-fixed mucosal biopsy samples were taken from the terminal ileum; ascending, transverse, descending, and sigmoid colons, and from the rectum. The procedure was recorded by video or still images, and were compared with images of the previous seven consecutive paediatric colonoscopies (four normal colonoscopies and three on children with ulcerative colitis), in which the physician reported normal appearances in the terminal ileum. Barium follow-through radiography was possible in some cases.

Also under sedation, cerebral magnetic-resonance imaging (MRI), electroencephalography (EEG) including visual, brain stem auditory, and sensory evoked potentials (where compliance made these possible), and lumbar puncture were done.

Laboratory investigations

Thyroid function, serum long-chain fatty acids, and cerebrospinal-fluid lactate were measured to exclude known causes of childhood neurodegenerative disease. Urinary methylmalonic acid was measured in random urine samples from eight of the 12 children and 14 age-matched and sex-matched normal controls, by a modification of a technique described previously.² Chromatograms were scanned digitally on computer, to analyse the methylmalonic-acid zones from cases and controls. Urinary methylmalonic-acid concentrations in patients and controls were compared by a two-sample t test. Urinary creatinine was estimated by routine spectrophotometric assay.

Children were screened for antiendomyseal antibodies and boys were screened for fragile-X if this had not been done



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MMR scare doctor breaks his silence: Measles outbreak in Wales proves I was right



Discredited doctor who triggered the MMR scare 15 years ago has pinned the blame for the outbreak of measles in Wales on the Government as cases in the Swansea area rises

[Timeline: How the MMR scare story spread](#)

[Full statement by Dr Andrew Wakefield: 'The Government has tried to cover up putting price before children's health'](#)

[Andrew Wakefield's baleful legacy](#)

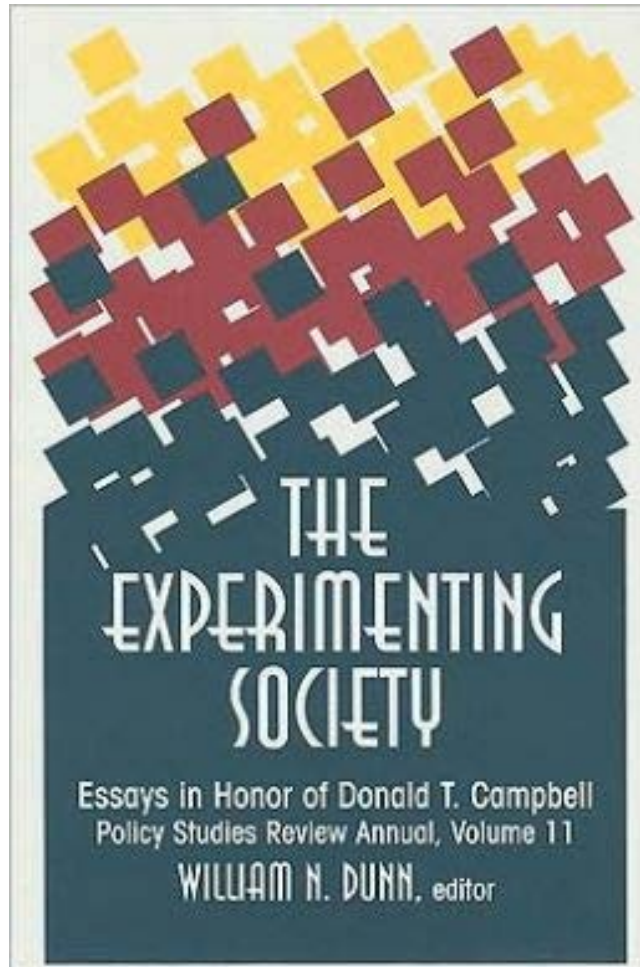
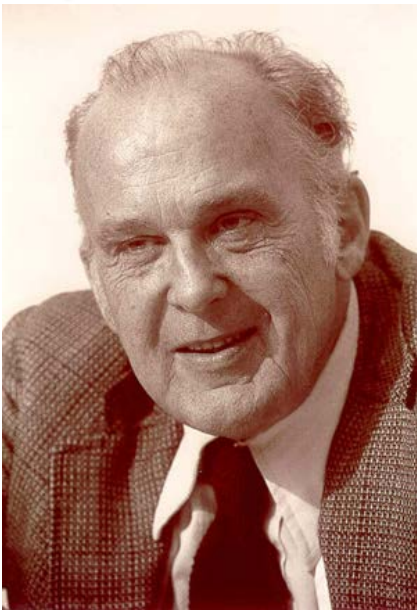


THE CAMPBELL COLLABORATION

What helps? What harms? Based on what evidence?

"...the experimenting society is a process utopia...it seeks to implement that recommendation of Popper's, 'a social technology is needed whose results can be tested by piecemeal social engineering.'"

c1971



Exploratory meeting
in 1999 @



since 2000

Going beyond “Does it work?” Buying in the bizarre health care bazaar...



“I believe that cure is rare while the need for care is widespread, and that the pursuit of cure at all costs may restrict the supply of care...”

– Archie Cochrane, 1972



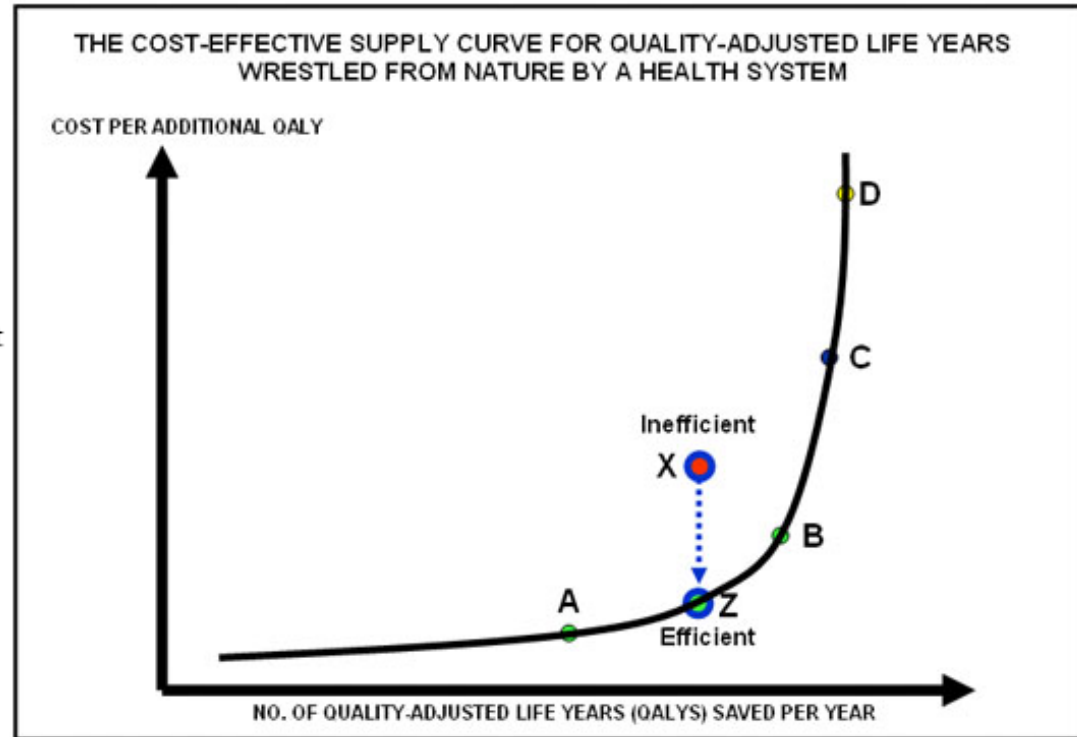
The theory goes...

The Principle of Utility



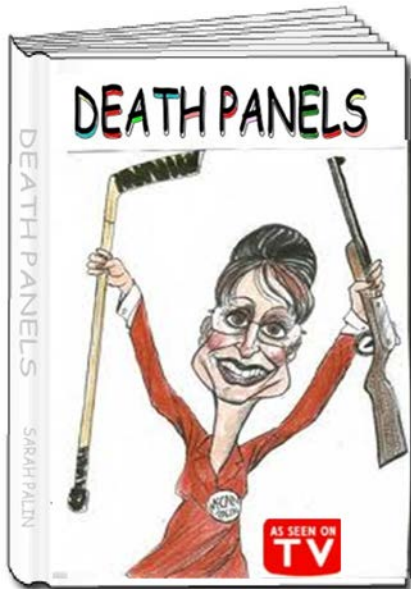
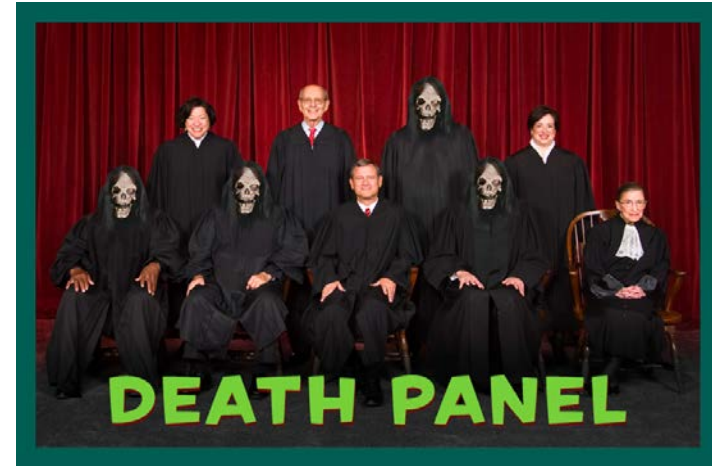
1. Recognizes the fundamental role of Pain and Pleasure in human life.
2. Approves or disapproves of an action on the basis of the amount of pain or pleasure brought about ("consequences").
3. Equates the good with the pleasurable and evil with pain.
4. Asserts that pleasure and pain are capable of "quantification" -- and hence of measure.

Source: www.williamette.edu



Source: Uwe Reinhardt @ NYTimes Economix blog

Reality check...



The New York Times

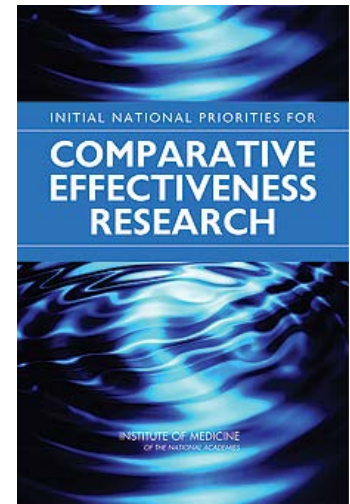
Economix

Explaining the Science of Everyday Life

MARCH 13, 2009, 6:45 AM

'Cost-Effectiveness Analysis' and U.S. Health Care

By *UWE E. REINHARDT*



THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

WSJ.com





Life or death rations

ADAM CRESSWELL, HEALTH EDITOR THE AUSTRALIAN SEPTEMBER 26, 2009 12:00AM

THE grape-sized lump Bronwyn Wells first felt in her left breast was so big, she thought it had to be a cyst because she "couldn't believe a cancer could get that big that quickly". Knowing her scans had been clear eight months earlier and feeling no great sense of urgency, Wells, then aged 41, waited three weeks before she saw her GP. The doctor agreed: probably a cyst. But she referred her to a breast clinic, where the news darkened.

THE GLOBE AND MAIL 

January 16, 2012

Ontario sets out to change the way doctors work

By ADAM RADWANSKI

Upcoming contract talks with the Ontario Medical Association will be about more than wage restraint

RATIONING CARE

Doctors have traditionally had a great deal of discretion in administering care. That's led to a belief among people in and around government that prescriptions or referrals are sometimes offered more to keep patients happy than out of medical necessity – and that setting tighter guidelines for when to write them could save large sums of money.



NHS care hit by more rationing

Rationing of treatment has increased in the NHS and GPs are now forced to apply for funding for IVF treatment, obesity surgery, and for drugs to stop people going blind, a report claims.

American exceptionalism ?

Has rationality prevailed with professionals ?

Basis of clinical practice

Basis for clinical decisions	Marker	Measuring device	Unit of measurement
Evidence	Randomised controlled trial	Meta-analysis	Odds ratio
Eminence	Radiance of white hair	Luminometer	Optical density
Vehemence	Level of stridency	Audiometer	Decibels
Eloquence (or elegance)	Smoothness of tongue or nap of suit	Teflometer	Adhesin score
Providence	Level of religious fervour	Sextant to measure angle of genuflection	International units of piety
Diffidence	Level of gloom	Nihilometer	Sighs
Nervousness	Litigation phobia level	Every conceivable test	Bank balance
Confidence*	Bravado	Sweat test	No sweat

*Applies only to surgeons.

Source: Isaacs & Fitzgerald *BMJ* 1999

Societal values-driven behaviour → Egosyntonic resolution



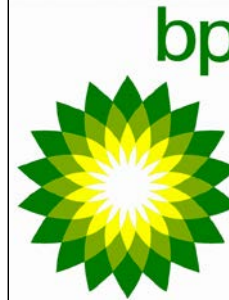
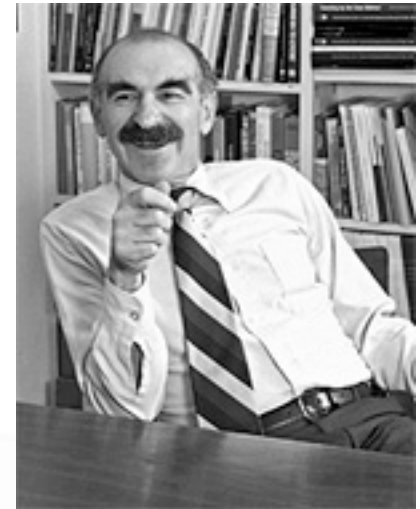
Psycho-oncology writ large

- Primarily concerned with the psychological, behavioural, and ethical aspects of cancer
- Addresses the 2 major psychological dimensions of cancer:
 - psychological responses of patients to cancer at all stages of the disease and that of their families and caregivers
 - psychological, behavioural, and **social factors that may influence the disease process**
- That all cancer patients throughout the world receive optimal psychosocial care at all stages of disease and survivorship

Marketing Myopia

by Theodore Levitt

Sustained growth depends on how broadly you define your business – and how carefully you gauge your customers' needs.



Implementing cancer risk assessment tools in primary care

Prof Jon Emery

Professor of General Practice,
University of Western Australia.

Herman Professor of Primary Care Cancer Research,
University of Melbourne
Director of PC₄





**Cut
your
cancer
risk**

**One third
of cancers
can be
prevented**

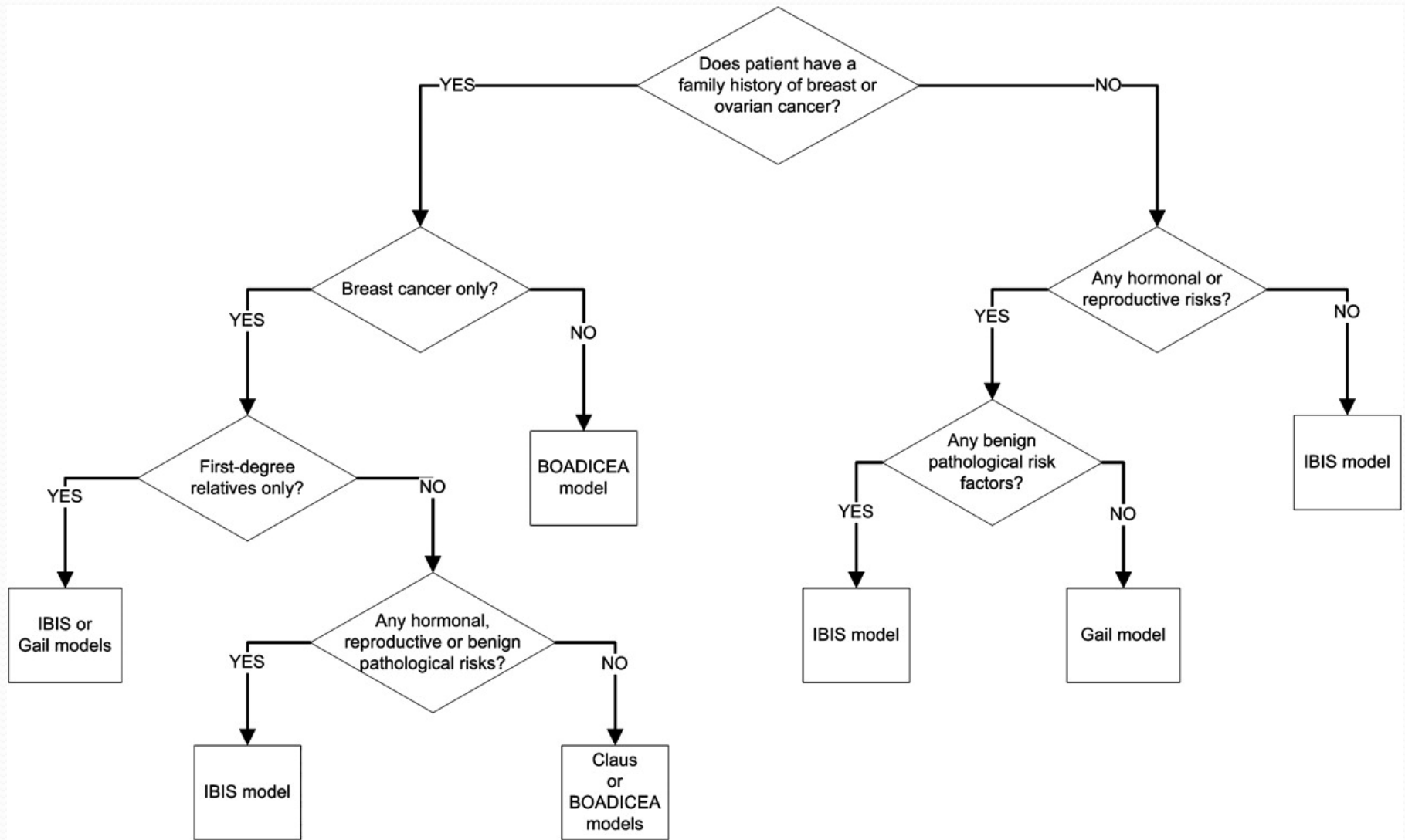


Colorectal cancer risk models

Table 1. Summary of the previously developed CRC risk prediction models (26)

Study	Year	Family History	Environmental factors	Screening	High-risk mutations	Low-risk SNPs	Residual familial risk factors
Ma(68)	2010	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
Imperial(69)	2003	No	Yes	Sigmoidoscopy	No	No	No
Driver(70)	2007	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
Freedman(71)	2009	1 st degree	Yes	Sigmoid/Colonoscopy	No	No	No
Wei(72)	2009	1 st degree	Yes	Sigmoid/Colonoscopy	No	No	No
Colditz(73)	2000	1 st degree	Yes	FOBT, Sigmoidoscopy	No	No	No
Chen(74)	2006	1 st & 2 nd degree	No	No	MMR genes	No	No
Cleveland(75)	NA	1 st & 2 nd degree	Yes	Sigmoid/Colonoscopy	No	No	No

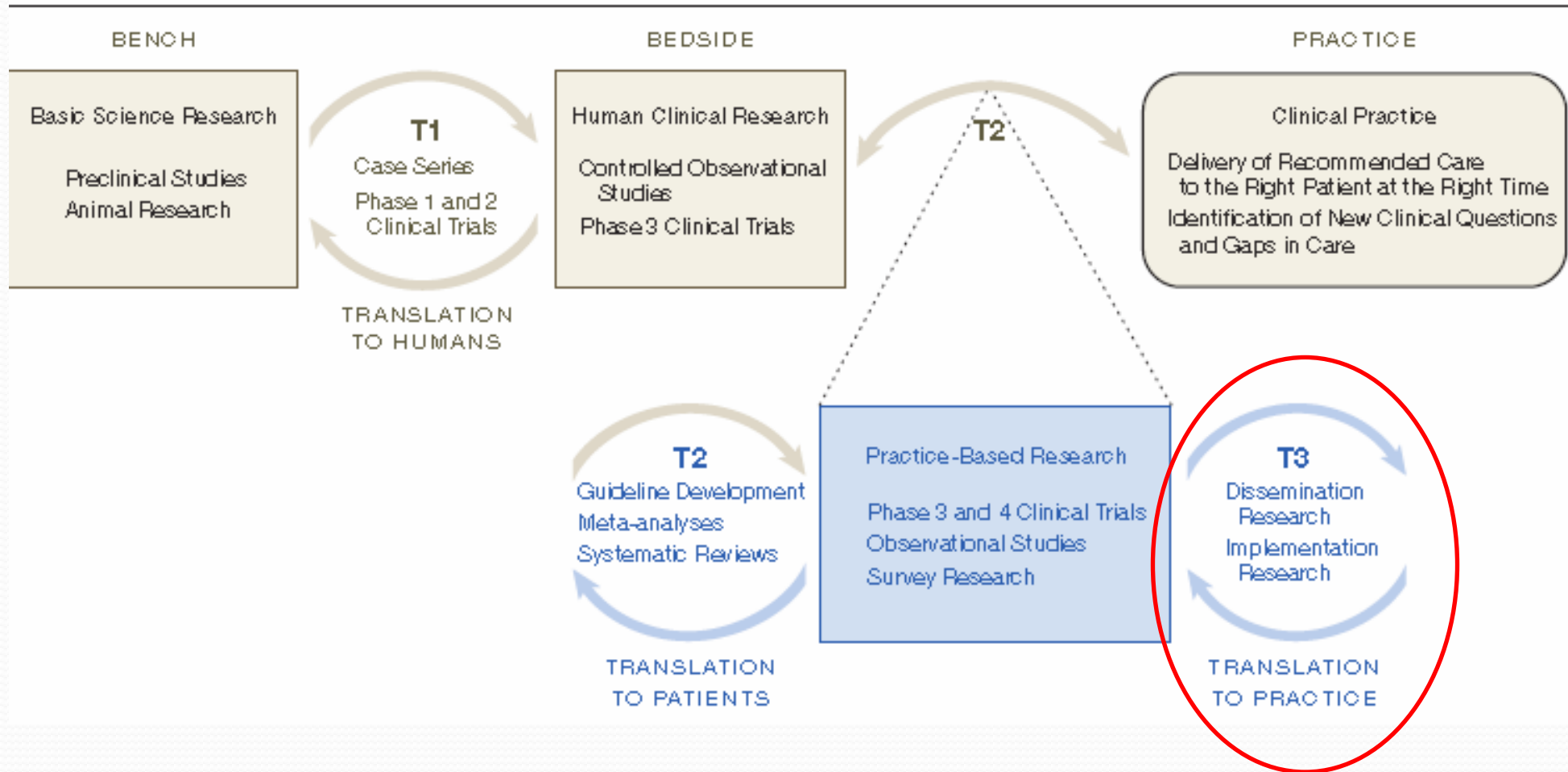
Breast cancer risk models



Amir E et al. JNCI J Natl Cancer Inst 2010;jnci.djq088

Lost in translation

Figure. "Blue Highways" on the NIH Roadmap





How do we get cancer risks models
used in clinical practice?

Will they alter clinician and patient
behaviours?



A FRAMEWORK FOR DEVELOPMENT AND EVALUATION OF RCTs FOR COMPLEX INTERVENTIONS TO IMPROVE HEALTH

This document is a discussion document drafted by members of the MRC Health Services and Public Health Research Board. It is intended to provide a framework for individuals considering the evaluation of a complex intervention. It does not set out a set of required steps in carrying out trials in this area.

April 2000



Developing and evaluating complex interventions: new guidance

Prepared on behalf of the Medical Research Council by:

Peter Craig, MRC Population Health Sciences Research Network

Paul Dieppe, Nuffield Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, University of Oxford

Sally Madhrye, MRC Social and Public Health Sciences Unit

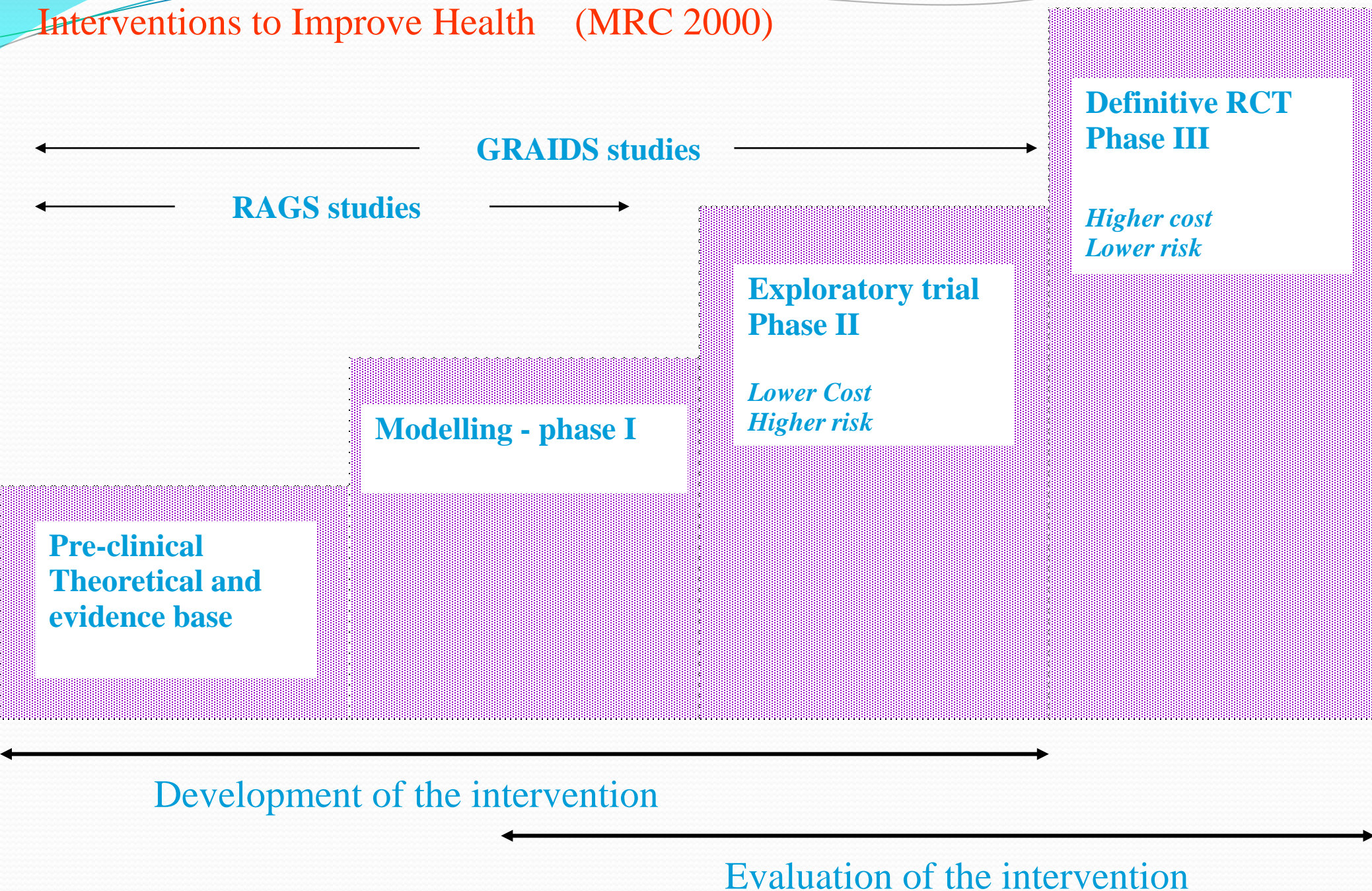
Susan Michie, Centre for Outcomes Research and Effectiveness, University College London

Irwin Nazareth, MRC General Practice Research Framework

Marti Pettison, Department of Public Health and Policy, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

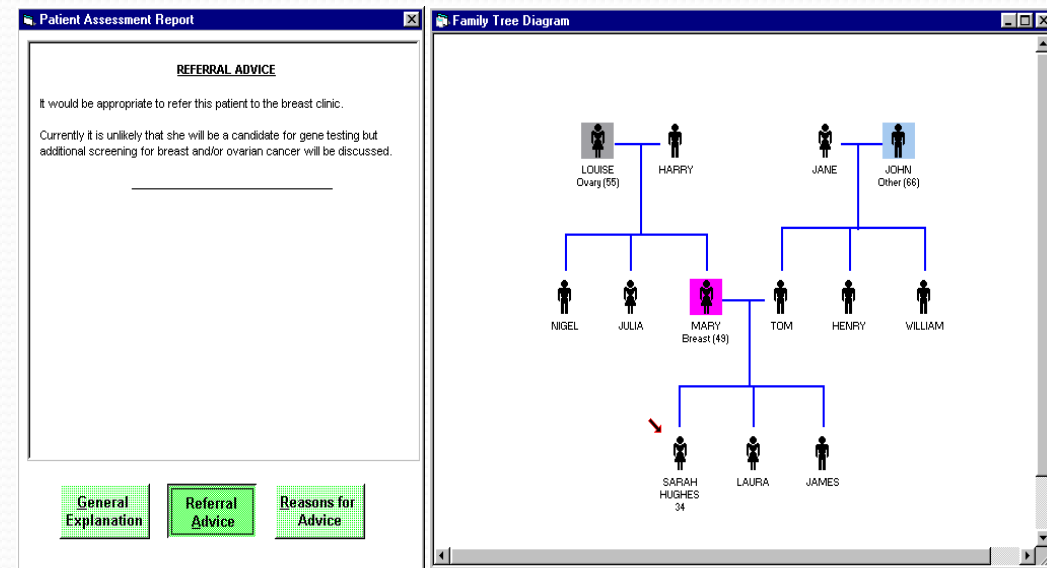
www.mrc.ac.uk/complexinterventionsguidance

Structural Framework for Development of Complex Interventions to Improve Health (MRC 2000)

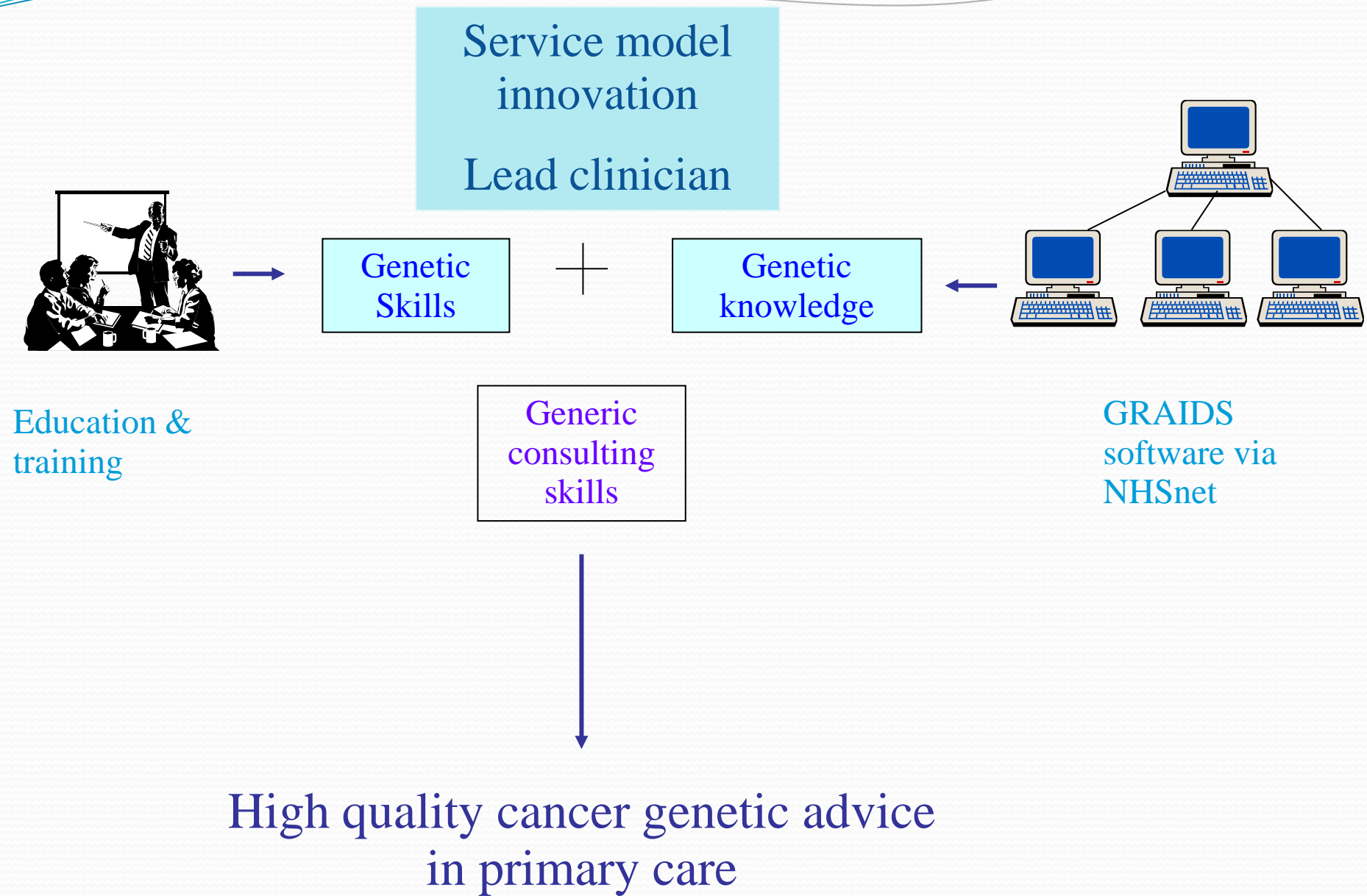


The RAGs Studies

- Risk Assessment in GeneticS
- Computerised pedigree drawing and decision support for breast and ovarian cancer
- Theoretical and Phase 1 studies
 - systematic review of primary care genetics *Fam Pract* 1999; 16: 426-445
 - qualitative study of RAGs *BMJ* 1999; 319: 32-36
 - experimental comparative study of RAGs *BMJ* 2000; 321: 28-32



The GRAIDS Trial

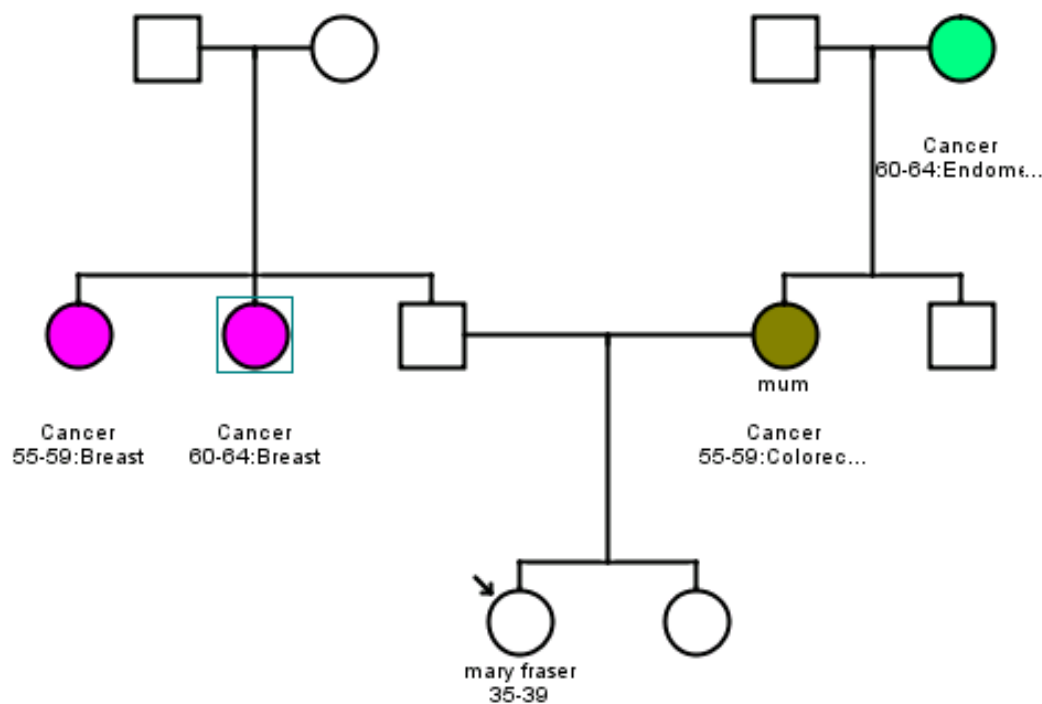


*Emery et al Brit J Cancer 2007;
97:486-493.*

GRAIDS trial design

- Cluster randomisation
 - Stratified by practice size and distance from genetics clinic
- 23 intervention practices: train lead clinician + password access to GRAIDS software
- 22 comparison practices: educational meeting and mailed paper guidelines

General Practice and Primary Care Research Unit, University of Cambridge
The GRAIDS Research Programme



Use this button to

Add Brother

Add Son

Add Step-son

Add Parents

Edit Person

Assess Risk

Add Sister

Add Daughter

Add Step-daughter

Remove Person

Pedigree Key



General Practice and Primary Care Research Unit
The GRAIDS Research Programme



Breast Cancer (UK)

Management Summary

Risk Summary

Patient Printout

Colorectal Cancer (UK)

Clinical Summary (UK)

Risk Report for "mary fraser"

Breast Cancer Management Summary

Although this patient's risk may be slightly higher than that of the general population, it is not raised sufficiently to warrant additional screening or referral to the genetics clinic. This advice is derived from the Eastern Regional Referral Guidelines for Familial Breast Cancer. .

Your patient may wish to hear about symptoms that may be signs of breast cancer, e.g. changes in the shape, appearance and feel of the breasts; a lump in one breast or armpit which is different from the other side or new; any puckering or dimpling of the skin, discomfort or pain in one breast that is different from normal; nipple discharge, rash or a change in nipple position.

[Return to Family Tree](#)

[Institute of Public Health](#)
[General Practice and Primary Care Research Unit](#)
Enquiries: [The GRAIDS Trial team](#)

Lifetime Breast Cancer Risk

The likelihood of the patient developing breast cancer during the patient lifetime, based on the patient family history, is 14%.

In other words, if we chose at random a group of 7 women with this level of risk, by the time that group reached the age of 85, 1 of the women would develop breast cancer; 6 women would remain free of breast cancer.

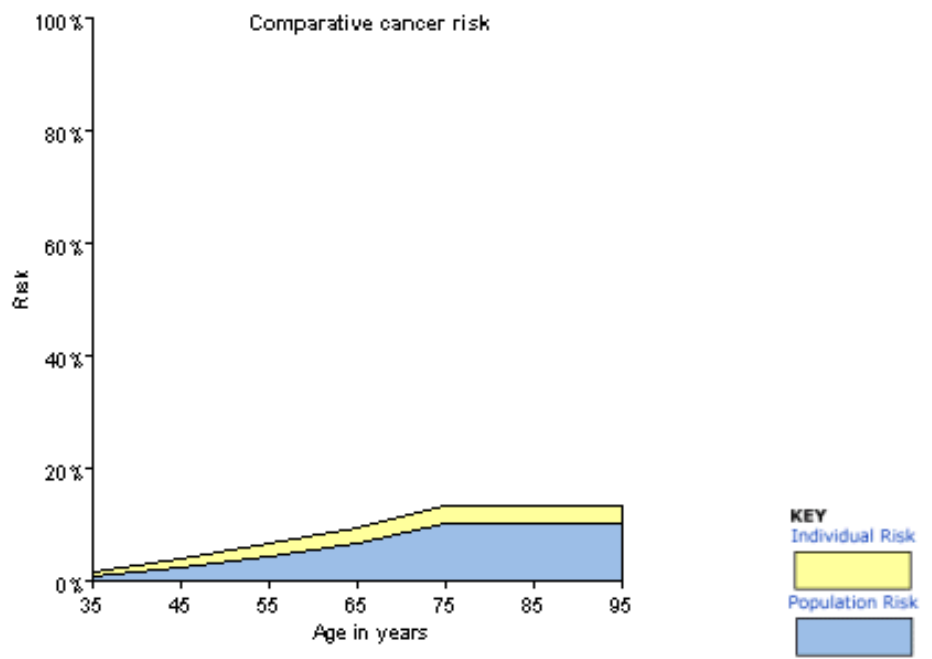


Figure: Breast Cancer Risk Curve. Graph showing the risk for "mary fraser" of developing breast cancer compared to an average woman in the UK.

[Return to Family Tree](#)

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[General Practice and Primary Care Research Unit](#)
 Enquiries: [The GRAIDS Trial team](#)

Software use and referrals

- Software used 220 times during trial in 23 practices (mean follow-up 17 months)
- Mean 7.7 uses per year per 10,000 registered patients
- Referrals:
 - Intervention: 168
 - Control: 84
- Intervention: 6.4 referrals per practice per year per 10,000 registered patients
- Control: 3.2
- Mean difference 3.1 (95% CI 1.4-4.9. $p=0.001$)

Referrals II

		Intervention	Control	Odds Ratio (95% C.I.)
Proportion meeting referral guidelines	Breast	93% (99/107)	75% (44/59)	4.2 (1.5 to 12.2)
	Bowel	99% (75/76)	92% (23/25)	6.5 (0.5 to 83.7)
	Combined	95% (174/183)	80% (67/84)	4.9 (1.6 to 14.8), p=0.007
Proportion at increased risk determined by RGC	Breast	77% (60/78)	70% (23/33)	1.4 (0.6 to 3.5)
	Bowel	56% (30/54)	85% (17/20)	0.2 (0.1 to 0.8)
	Combined	68% (90/132)	75% (40/53)	0.7 (0.3 to 1.5), p=0.35

Patient outcomes

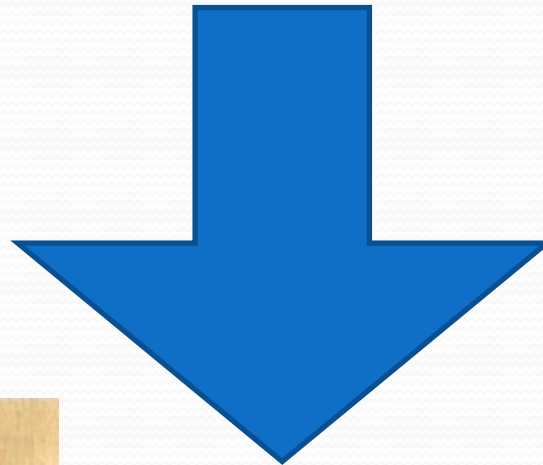
	Intervention arm			Comparison arm	Mean difference between referred populations (95% CI)
	Not referred	Referred	Mean diff		
Knowledge Breast cancer	NA	5.77 n=65	NA	5.66 n=38	0.11 (-1.05 to 1.27)
Colorectal cancer	NA	5.70 n=44	NA	4.86 n=14	0.64 (-1.01 to 2.29)
Cancer worry	4.95 n=57	5.74 n=110	0.79 (-0.19 to 1.76)	7.18 n=51	1.44 (-2.64 to -0.23) p=0.02
Risk perception	4.25 n=51	4.99 n=104	0.74 (0.38 to 1.09)** P<0.0001	5.04 n=47	0.09 (-0.34 to 0.51)



Summary

- Translating cancer risk models requires complex interventions with staged development and evaluation.
- Importance of choice of risk model to translate and potential for unintended consequences
- Practitioner-administered software needs to integrate with local practices and systems to increase likelihood of use.
- Potential to improve assessment and management of people at increased risk of cancer in primary care

Implementation research



Integration into routine practice



Full Paper

The GRAIDS Trial: a cluster randomised controlled trial of computer decision support for the management of familial cancer risk in primary care

J Emery¹, H Morris², R Goodchild², T Fanshawe², AT Prevost³, M Bobrow⁴ and AL Kinmonth²

¹General Practice, School of Primary, Aboriginal and Rural Health Care, University of Western Australia, 328 Stirling Highway, Claremont, Western Australia 6010, Australia, ²General Practice & Primary Care Research Unit, University of Cambridge, Institute of Public Health, Robinson Way, Cambridge CB2 2SR, UK, ³General Practice & Primary Care Research Unit, University of Cambridge, MRC Biostatistics Unit, University of Cambridge, Institute of Public Health, Robinson Way, Cambridge CB2 2SR, UK, ⁴Department of Medical Genetics, University of Cambridge, Addenbrookes NHS Hospital Trust, Cambridge, UK

The objective was to evaluate the effect of an assessment strategy using the computer decision support system (the GRAIDS software), on the management of familial cancer risk in British general practice in comparison with best current practice. The design included cluster randomised controlled trial, and involved forty-five general practice teams in East Anglia, UK. Randomised to GRAIDS (Genetic Risk Assessment on the Internet with Decision Support) support (intervention $n=23$) or comparison ($n=22$). Training in the new assessment strategy and access to the GRAIDS software (GRAIDS arm) was conducted, compared with an educational session and guidelines about managing familial breast and colorectal cancer risk (comparison) were mailed. Outcomes were measured at practice, practitioner and patient levels. The primary outcome measure, at practice level, was the proportion of referrals made to the Regional Genetics Clinic for familial breast or colorectal cancer that were consistent with referral guidelines. Other measures included practitioner confidence in managing familial cancer (GRAIDS arm only) and, in patients: cancer worry, risk perception and knowledge about familial cancer. There were more referrals to the Regional Genetics Clinic from GRAIDS than comparison practices (mean 6.2 and 3.2 referrals per 10 000 registered patients per year; mean difference 3.0 referrals; 95% confidence interval (CI) 1.2-4.8; $P=0.001$); referrals from GRAIDS practices were more likely to be consistent with referral guidelines (odds ratio (OR) =5.2; 95% CI 1.7-15.8; $P=0.006$). Patients referred from GRAIDS practices had lower cancer worry scores at the point of referral (mean difference -1.44 95% CI -2.64 to -0.23; $P=0.02$). There were no differences in patient knowledge about familial cancer. The intervention increased GPs' confidence in managing familial cancer. Compared with education and mailed guidelines, assessment including computer decision support increased the number and quality of referrals to the Regional Genetics Clinic for familial cancer risk, improved practitioner confidence and had no adverse psychological effects in patients. Trials are registered under N0181144343 in the UK National Research Register.
British Journal of Cancer (2007) 96, 000-000. doi:10.1038/sj.bjc.6603897 www.bjancer.com
© 2007 Cancer Research UK

Keywords : :

Why is GRAIDS not in routine practice?

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General Practice and Primary Care Research Unit, University of Cambridge
The GRAIDS Research Programme

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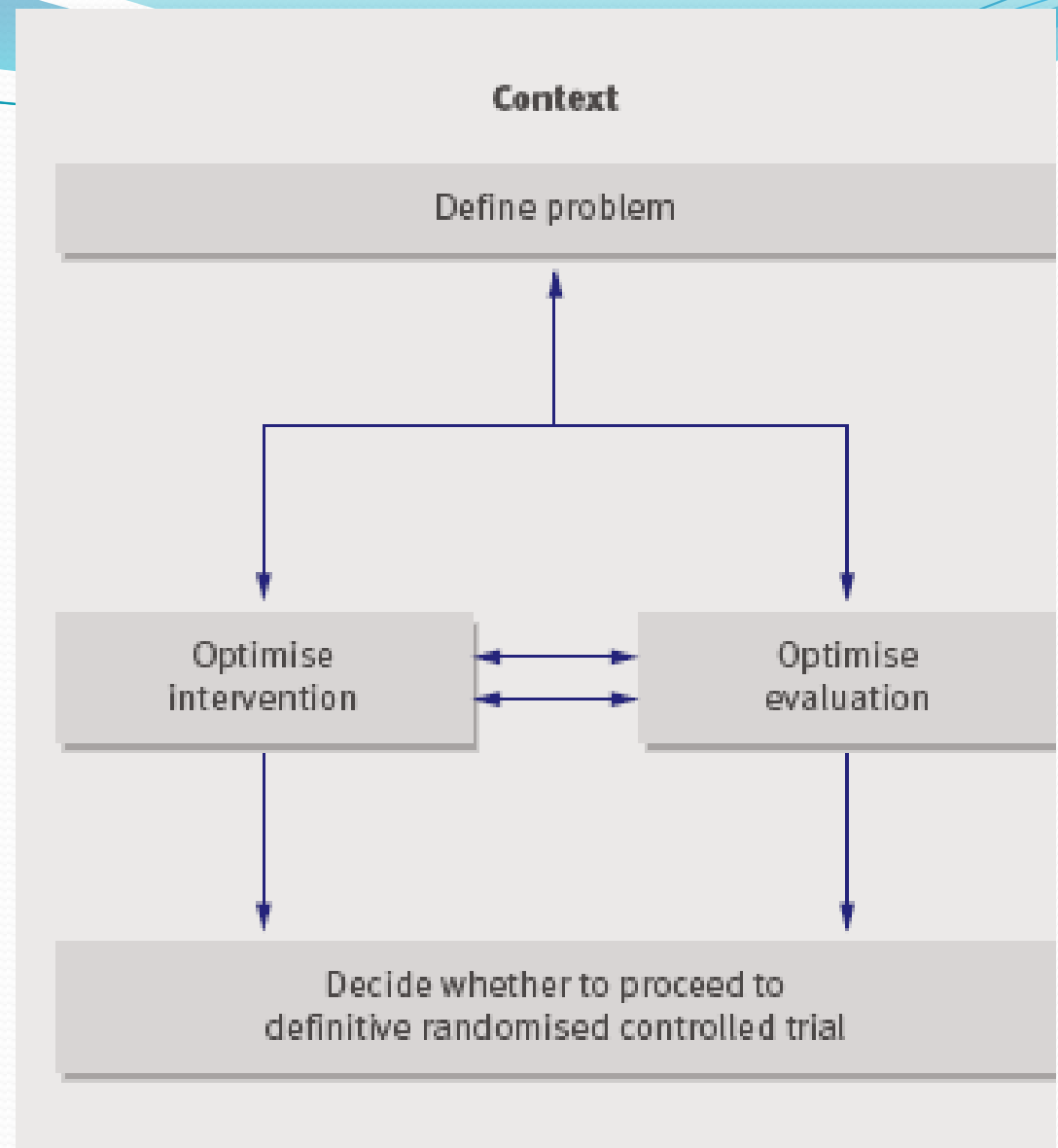
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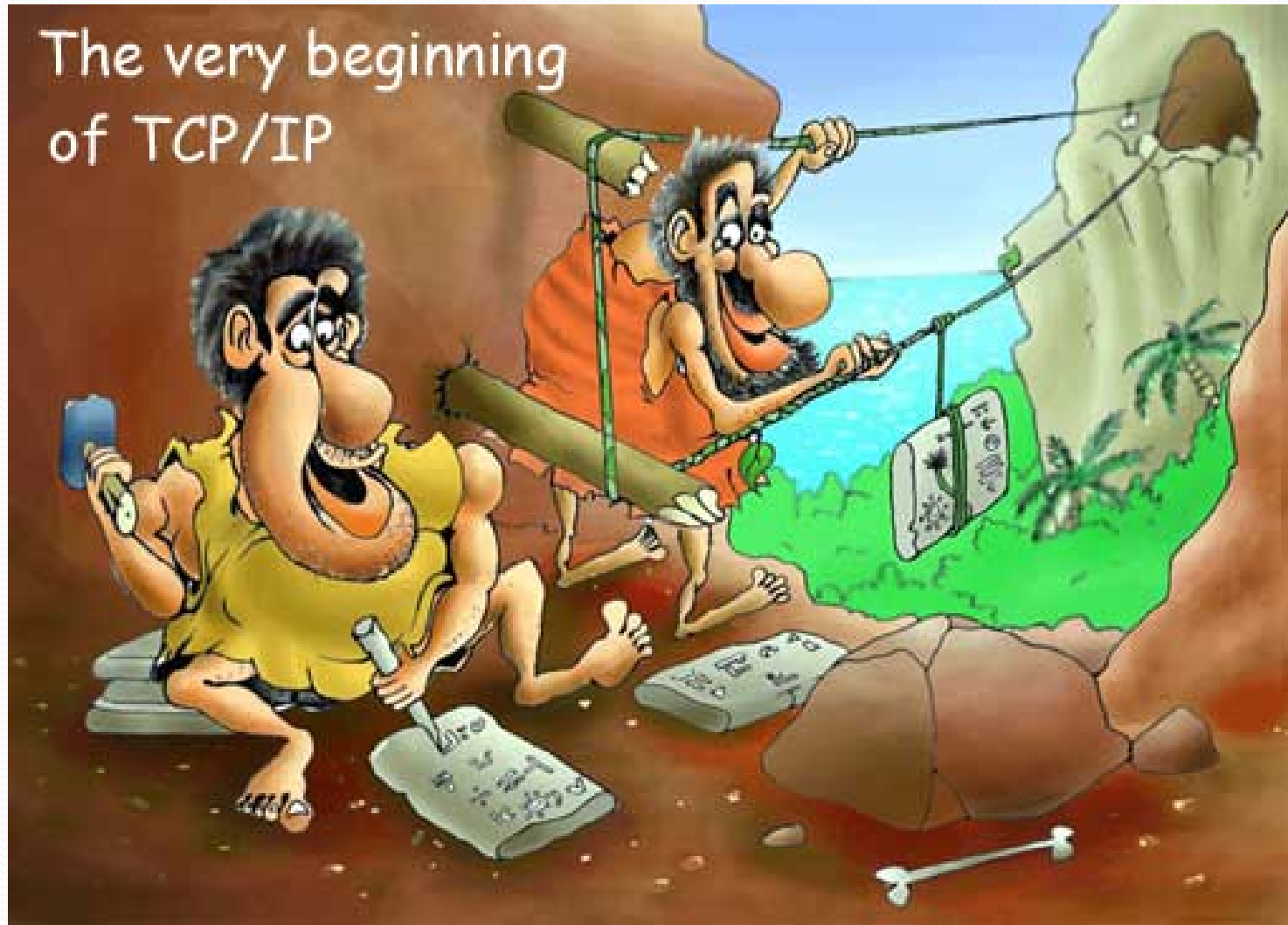
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Context matters



Relation between context, problem definition, intervention, and evaluation for complex interventions

Limited bandwidth in NHSnet



Implementing and evaluating complex interventions, new technologies, and business processes in healthcare is complex and demanding. This website offers a set of conceptual tools and explanatory models (Normalization Process Theory, or NPT) intended to support the work of implementation and evaluation. If you are a researcher, clinician, manager, or someone else who has to practically implement and integrate some form of innovation, this website could help you think through the processes involved. It offers three resources:

* A [toolkit](#) to help you think through your implementation/evaluation problems, and a quick introductory guide to the toolkit that you can [download](#)

* An outline of NPT's [basic concepts](#), and an introductory powerpoint that you can [download](#).

* An introduction to [ways to use](#) NPT in research, along with links to key journal articles and book chapters, and - as we collect them - examples of studies and evaluations that you can download.

[Thinking about implementation using normalization process theory](#)



‘a sociological toolkit that we can use to understand the dynamics of implementing, embedding, and integrating some new technology or complex intervention in healthcare.’

Normalisation Process Theory

- Coherence (sense-making)
 - Do GPs have a shared sense of purpose of the intervention and do they value the potential benefits?
- Cognitive participation (engagement)
 - Do GPs see the point of the intervention and will they be prepared to invest time and energy to work on it?

Normalisation Process Theory

- Collective action (work done to make intervention happen)
 - How compatible is the intervention with existing work practices and does it fit with the overall activities of the practice?
- Reflexive monitoring (appraisal of benefits and costs)
 - Will GPs perceive benefits of the intervention once in use for a while?
 - Can the intervention be improved on basis of GP experience?

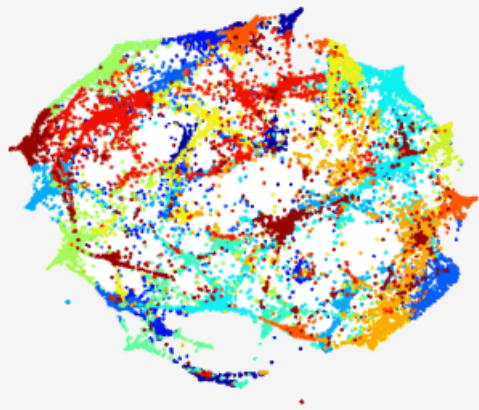


Centre for Research Excellence:
Optimising Screening for
Colorectal Cancer





**KEEP
CALM
AND
LEARN FROM
THE PAST**



Centre of Excellence in
Traumatic Brain Injury Research

Innovations in knowledge organisation: the evidence base in neurotrauma

Russell L. Gruen MBBS PhD FRACS

Professor of Surgery & Public Health, The Alfred & Monash University
Director, The National Trauma Research Institute
NHMRC Practitioner Fellow



MONASH University



LA TROBE
UNIVERSITY



THE UNIVERSITY OF
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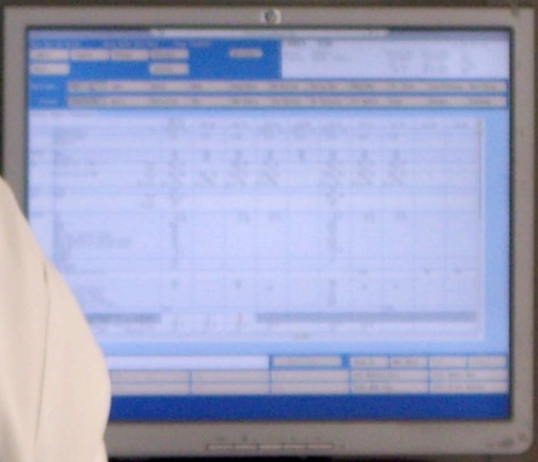
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Ronald
Maier, MD
Surgeon in Chief
Surgery

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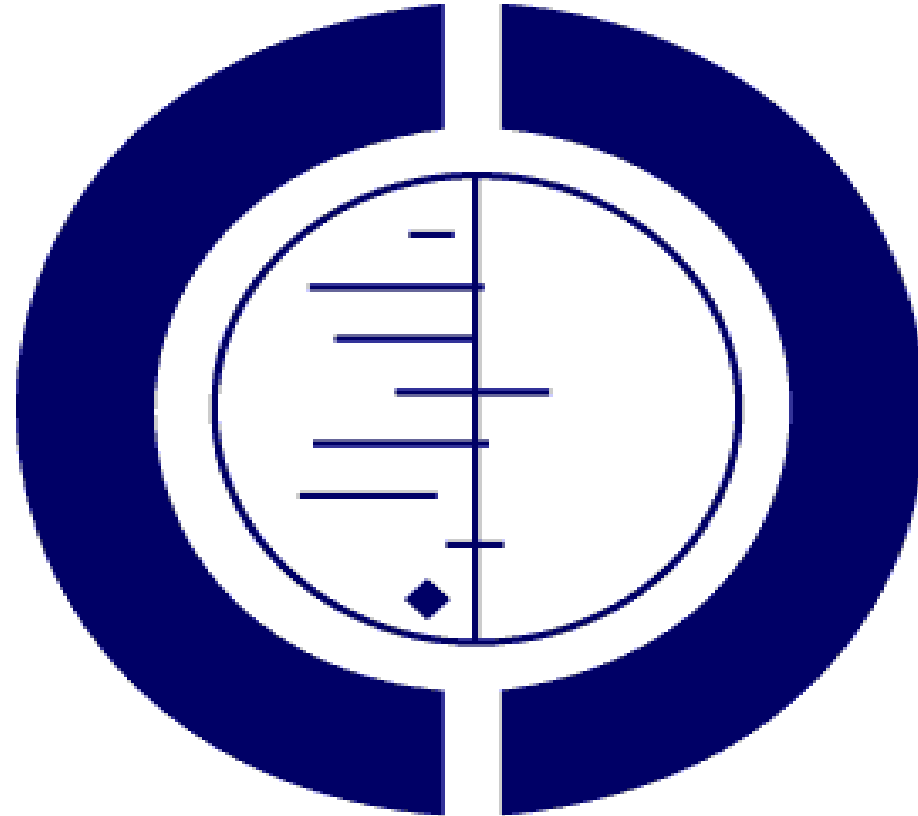


PHILIPS



“It is surely a great criticism of our profession that we have not organised a critical summary, by specialty or subspecialty, of all relevant randomised controlled trials”

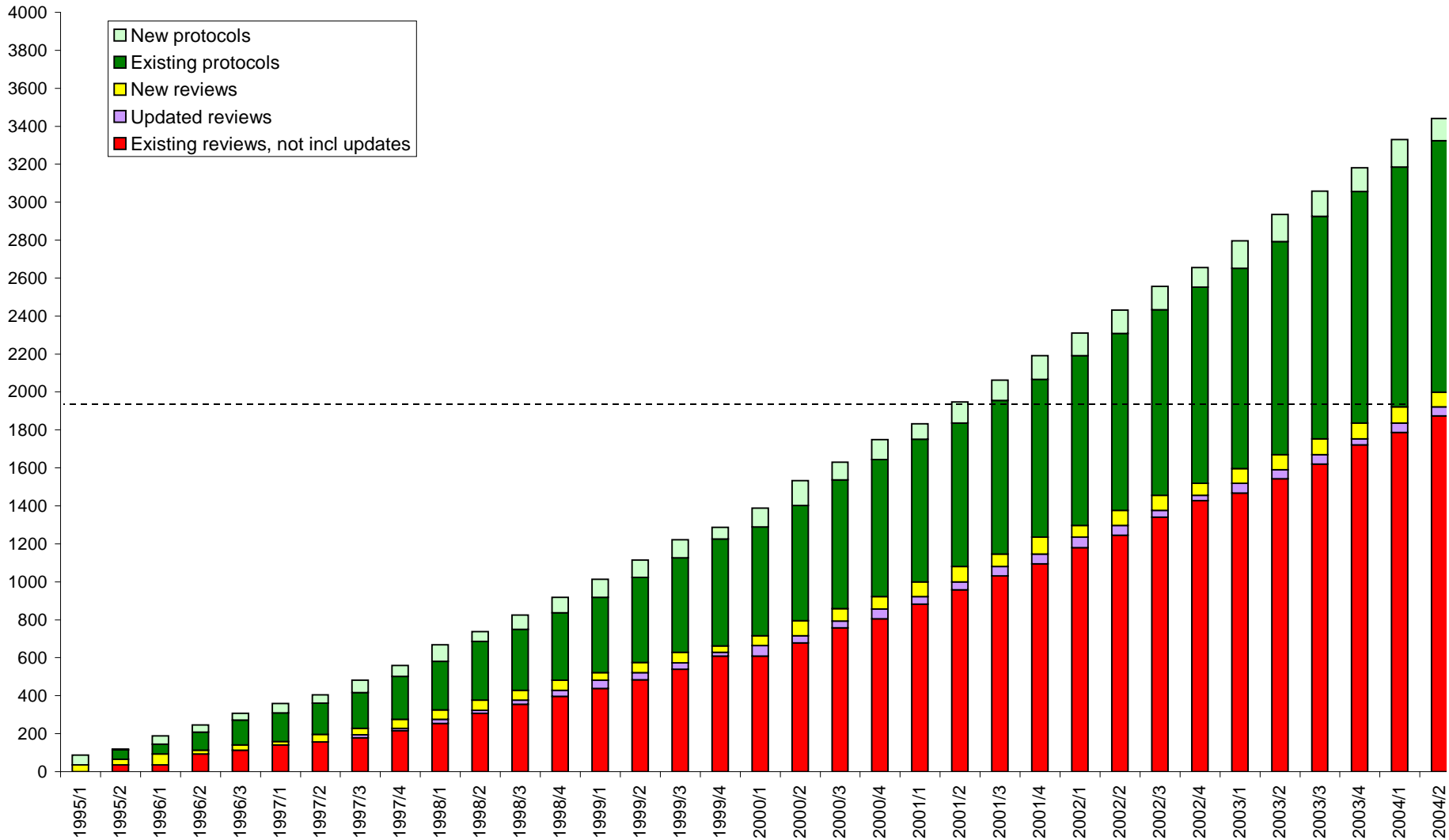
-Archie Cochrane

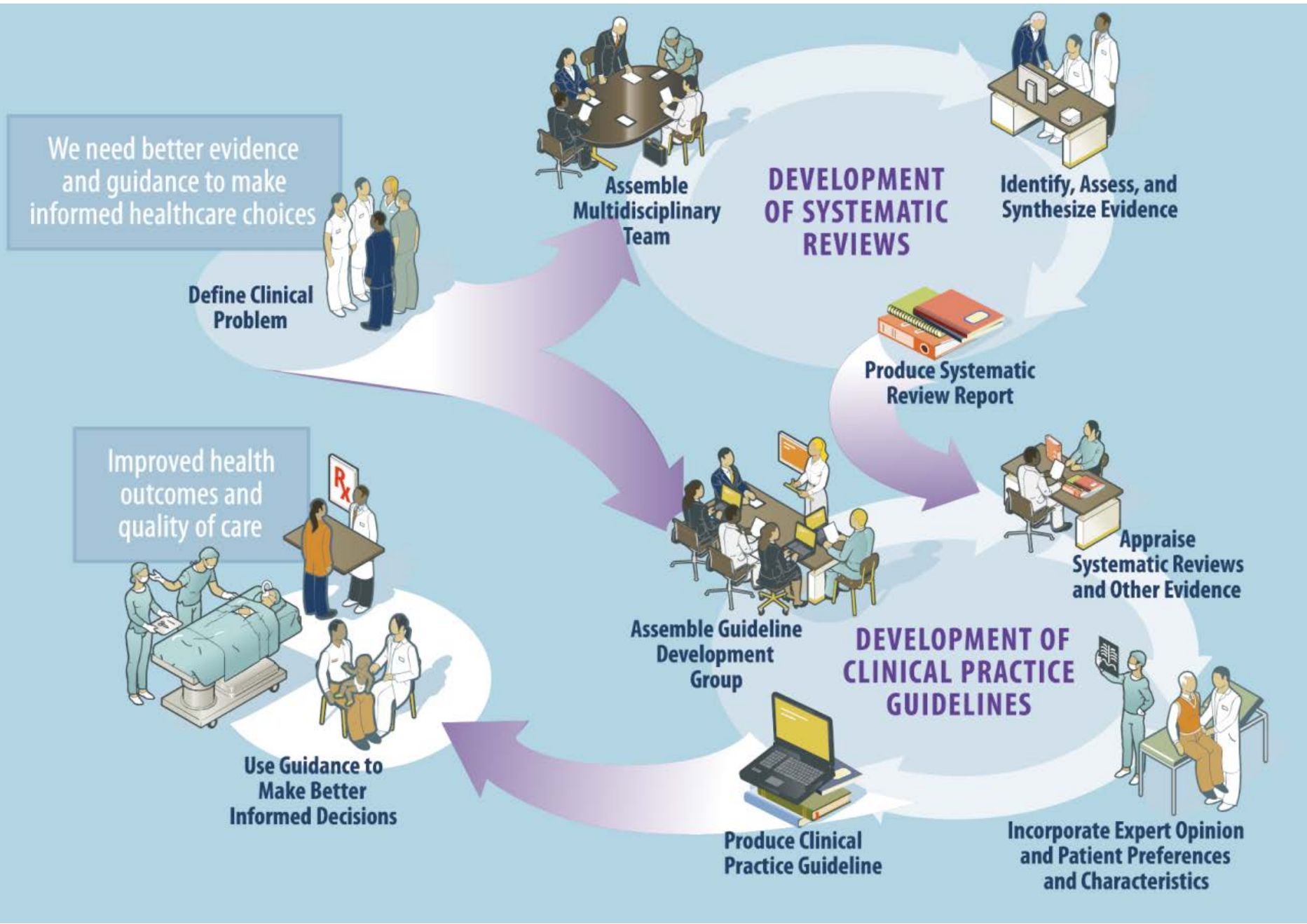


**THE COCHRANE
COLLABORATION®**

Reviews and protocols for reviews on
The Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews
Issue 1/2005

Alderson, 2005





We need better evidence and guidance to make informed healthcare choices

Define Clinical Problem

Improved health outcomes and quality of care



Use Guidelines to Make better Informed Decisions



Assemble Multidisciplinary

DEVELOPMENT OF SYSTEMATIC



Identify, Assess, and Synthesize Evidence



Appraise Systematic Reviews and Other Evidence



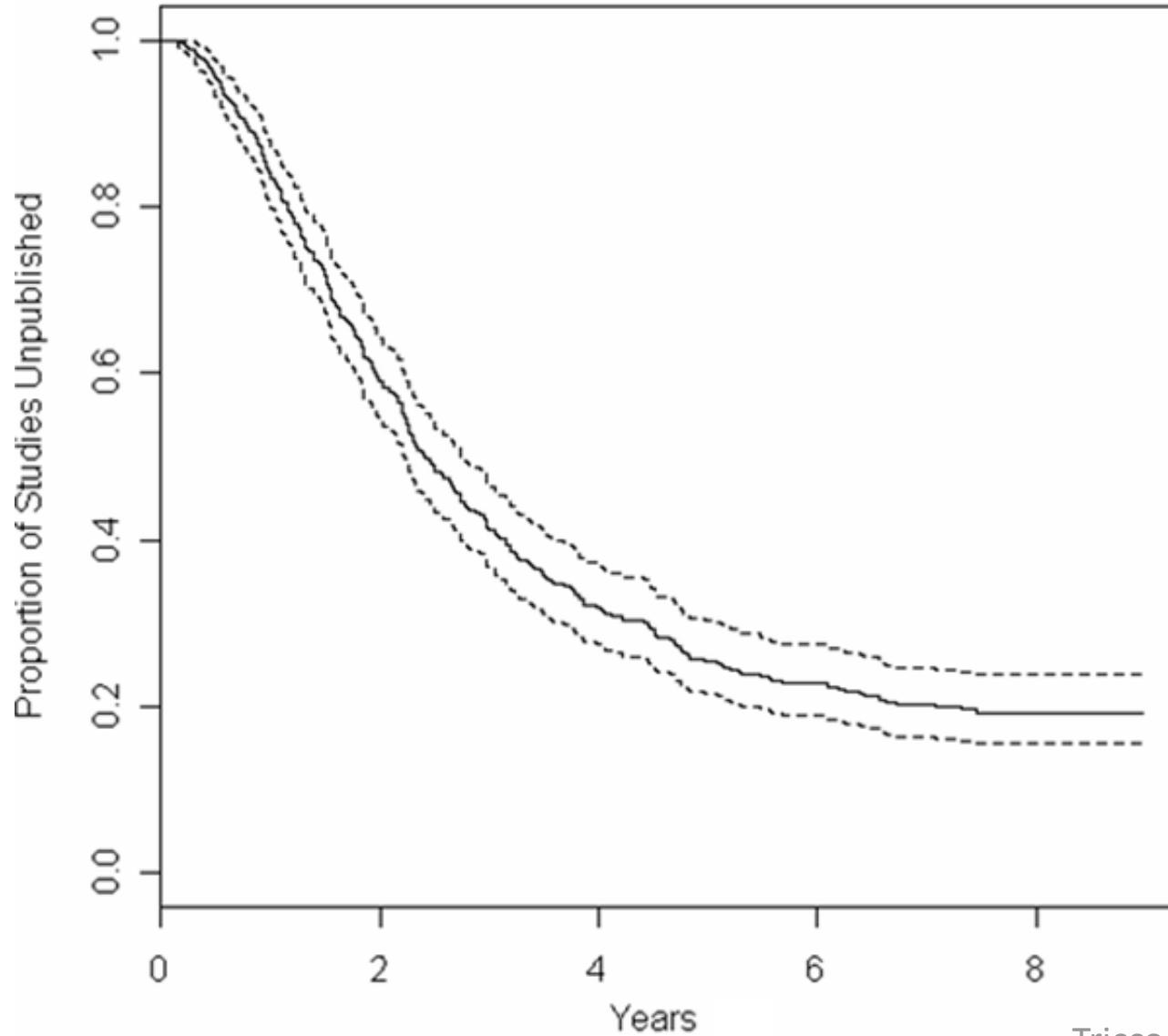
Incorporate Expert Opinion and Patient Preferences and Characteristics

Produce Clinical Practice Guideline

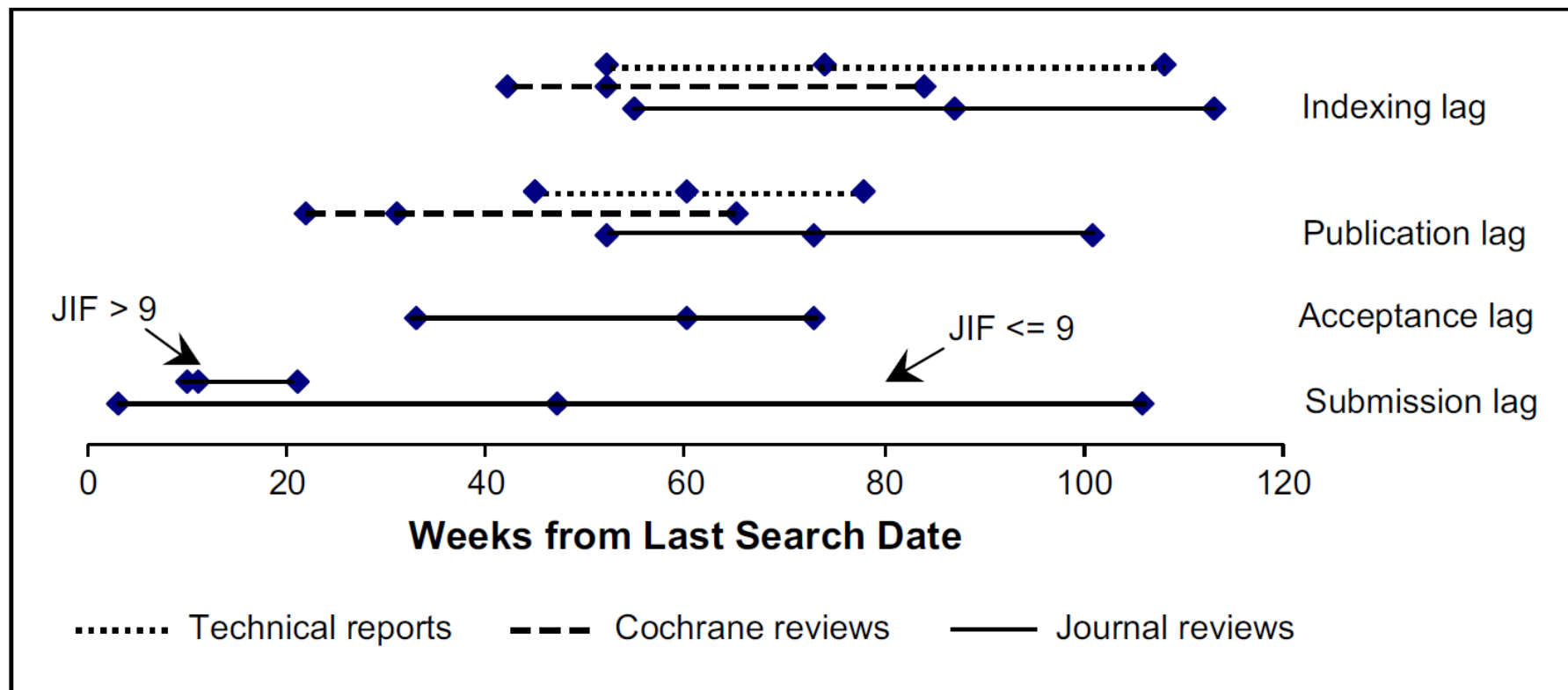
Four key challenges:

- Deluge of biomedical research
- Inefficient business processes
- Duplication of effort
- Poor engagement of end users

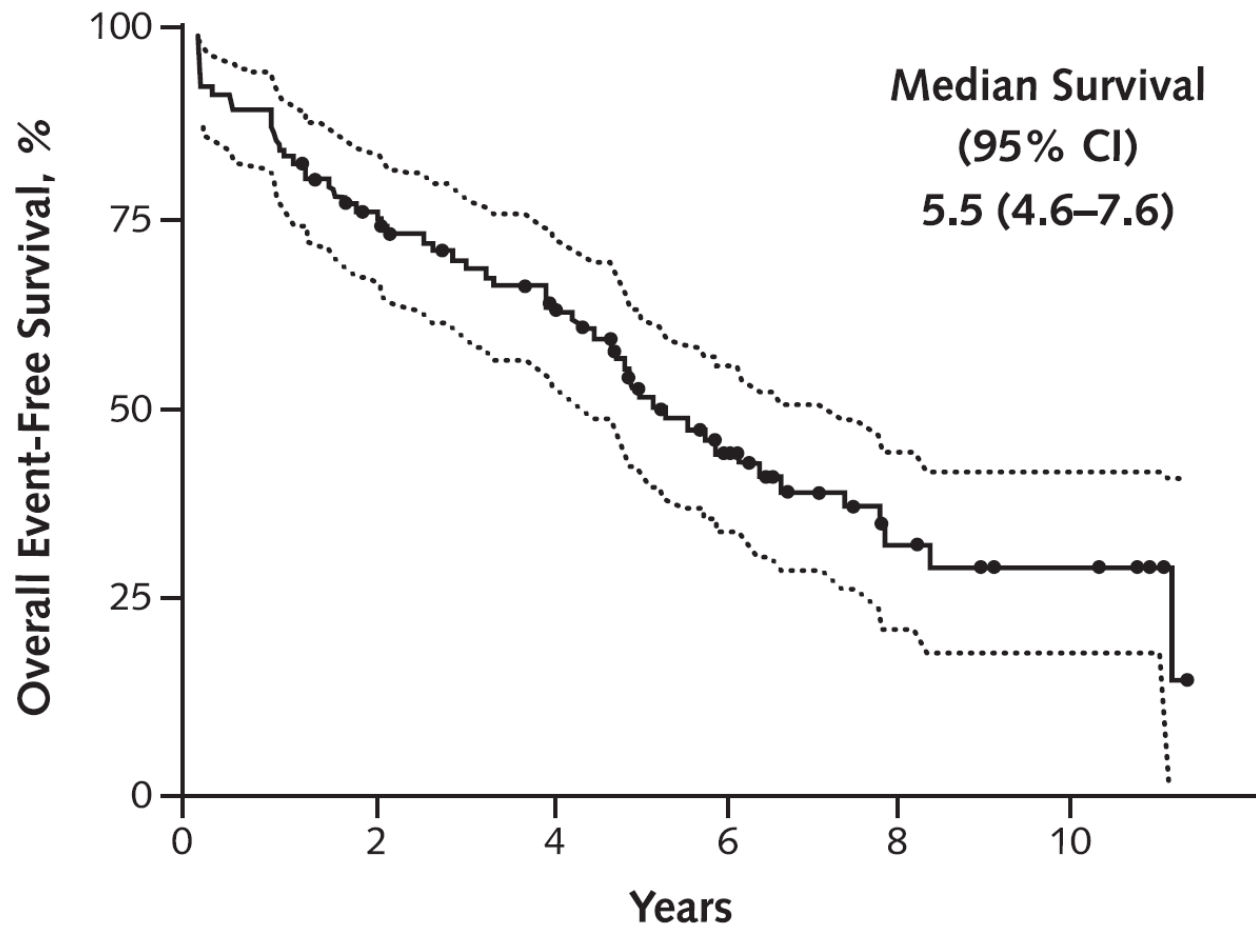
Time to publication of Cochrane reviews



Time from search to publication



Systematic review 'survival'



Systematic reviews
at risk, *n*

100

73

59

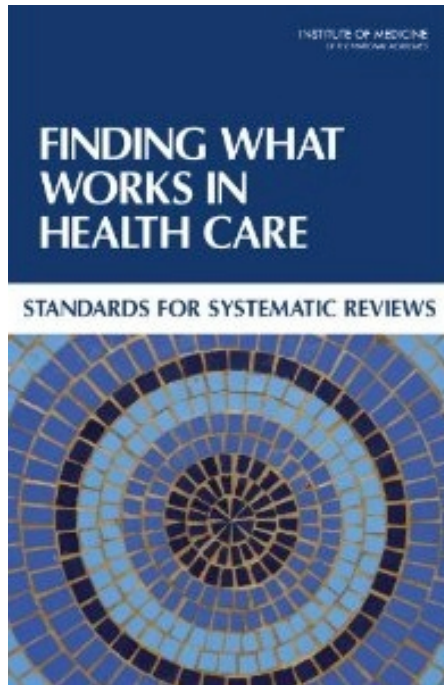
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INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES

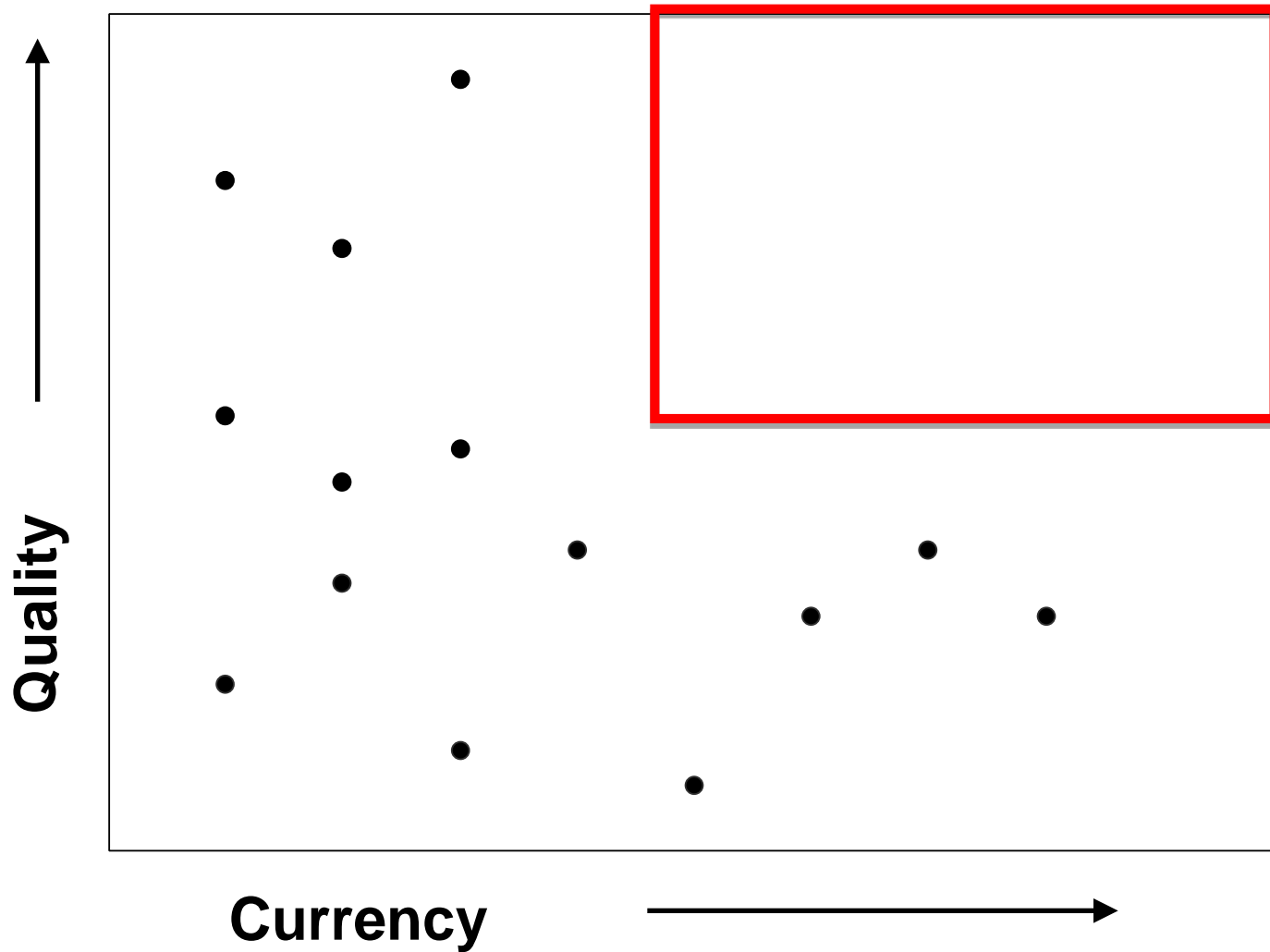


Systematic review standards

“set a high bar
that will be difficult to achieve
for many reviews,
yet the evidence and experience
are not reassuring that it is safe
to cut corners if resources are
limited”



Trade-off between quality and currency



The vision

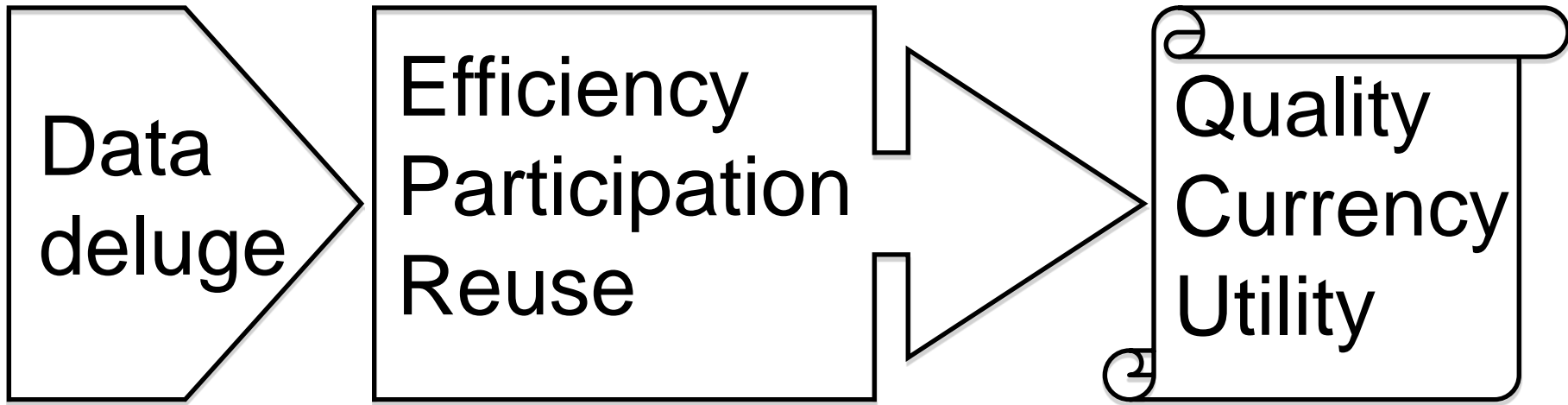
“The updating of trial overviews as new information becomes available may be a task for which electronic publishing has something to offer...

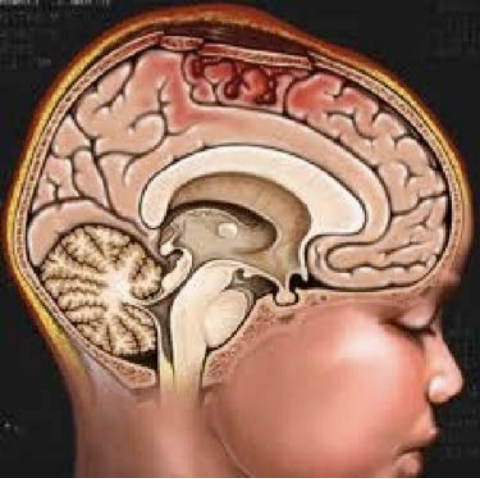
Besides registers of published and unpublished trials and trials in progress or planned, the [*Oxford Database of Perinatal Trials*] will include a library of trial overviews which will be updated when new data become available.”

Living systematic reviews

“comprehensive and authoritative compilations of systematic reviews...
accessible as living web-based resources.”

The journey





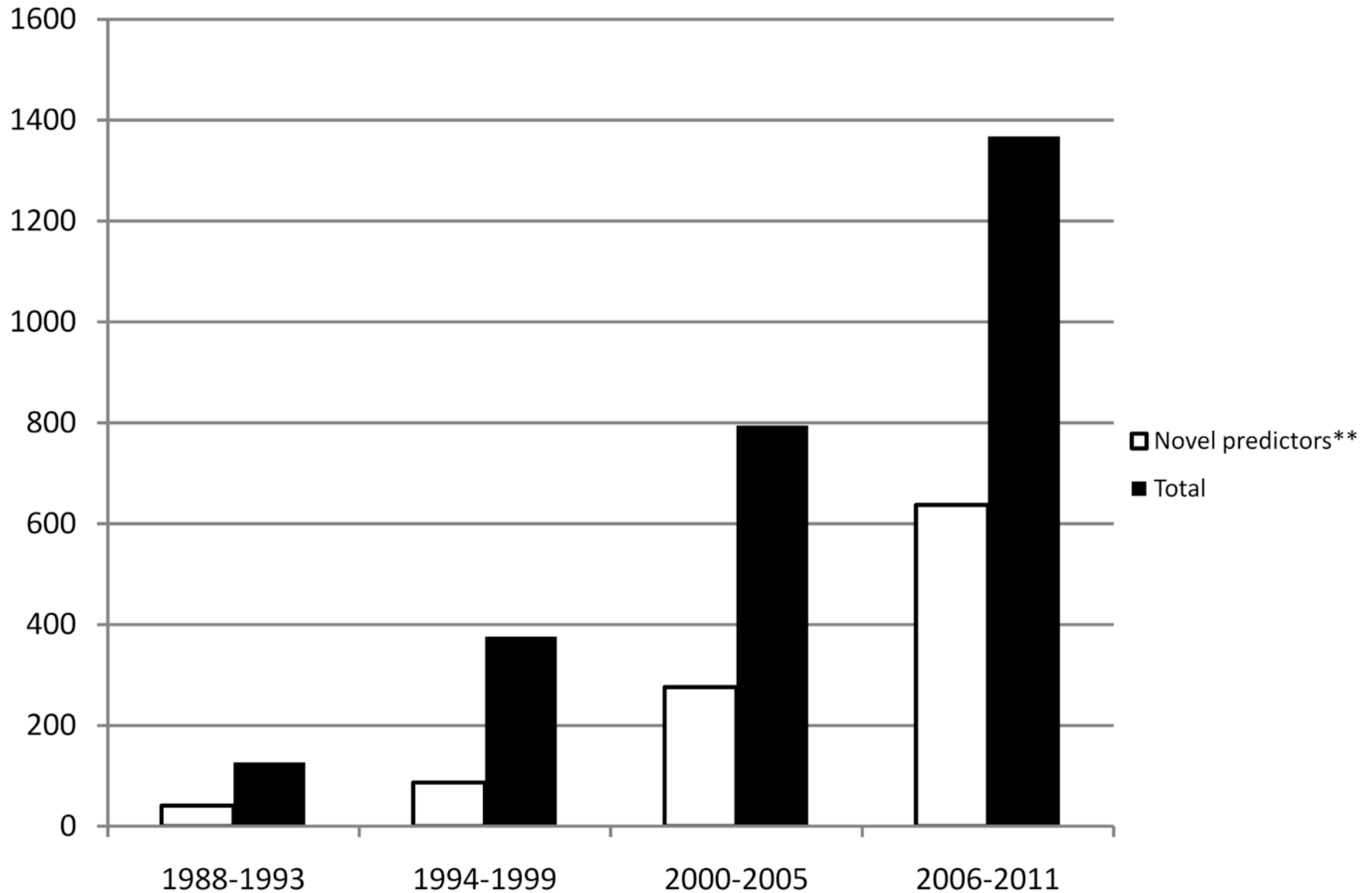
Moderate to Severe Traumatic Brain Injury in Victoria

- Over 600 new cases per year
- Major cause of mortality, long-term disability, individual, family and social loss
- Estimated cost \$2.2 billion/year *
 - Half is attributable to lost productivity
 - Two-thirds borne by individuals

* *Access Economics 2009*

	Year of study	N	Setting	GCS on admission	Mortality	% unfav.	Author
Older observational studies (prior to 1999)							
	1968-1975	700	UK/NL/US	Coma \geq 6hrs	51%	62%	Jennett et al 1977 ¹
Traumatic Coma Data Bank (TCDB)	1984-1987	746	US	\leq 8	39%	58%	Foulkes et al 1991 ²
UK4 Centre	1986-1988	988	UK	\leq 8	39%	57%	Murray et al 1999 ³
European Brain Injury Consortium (EBIC) core data	1995	796	Europe	\leq 12	31%	49%	Murray et al 1999 ⁴
		481*	Europe	\leq 8	40%	60%	
Weighted average					42%	59%	
Observational studies (1999-2005)							
Austria	1999-2004	492	Austria	\leq 8	38%	51%**	Rusnak et al 2007 ⁵
Australasian Traumatic Brain Injury Study (ATBIS)	2000	363	Australia-New Zealand	\leq 8	32%	55%	Myburgh et al 2008 ⁶
	1999-2004	672	Singapore	\leq 8	36%	51%	Ng et al 2006 ⁷
Weighted average					36%	52%	
More recent studies (2005-2010)							
	2005-2007	518	Paris	\leq 8	51%	66%	Darnoux et al 2011 ⁸
Prospective Observational COhort Neurotrauma (POCON) study	2008-2009	339	The Netherlands	\leq 8	46%	60%	Andriessen et al 2011 ⁹
Ontario Prehospital Advance Life Support (OPALS) Major Trauma Study	?	538	Ontario (Canada)	\leq 8	33%***	63%***	Dowling et al 2010 ¹⁰
	2008-2010	748	Latin America	\leq 8	31%	54%	Chesnut et al 2011 ¹¹
Weighted average					39%	60%	

Publications on TBI prognosis 1988-2011



Barriers to compliance with evidence-based care in trauma

Nadine Rayan, MHA, Sunni Barnes, PhD, Neil Fleming, PhD, Rustam Kudyakov, MD, MPH, David Ballard, MD, PhD, MSPH, Larry M. Gentilello, MD, and Shahid Shafi, MD, MPH, Dallas, Texas

J Trauma Acute Care Surg 2012; 72: 585–93.

17% compliance with BTF guidelines for craniotomy, intracranial pressure monitoring, and reversal of coagulopathy

TABLE 3. Independent Predictors of Compliance With T-POC: Multivariate Analysis

Predictor	OR (95% Confidence Interval)
Blunt traumatic injury	1.49 (1.12–1.20)
AIS injury of the head	0.86 (0.81–0.92)
Glasgow Coma Scale	1.04 (1.02–1.06)
Intensive care unit stay	1.49 (1.22–1.82)
Length of stay (d)	1.02 (1.02–1.03)

Using a Cost-Benefit Analysis to Estimate Outcomes of a Clinical Treatment Guideline: Testing the Brain Trauma Foundation Guidelines for the Treatment of Severe Traumatic Brain Injury

Mark Faul, PhD, Marlana M. Wald, MLS, MPH, Wesley Rutland-Brown, MPH, Ernest E. Sullivent, MD, and Richard W. Sattin, MD

J Trauma 2007, **6**: 1271 – 1278

- Proportion with “good” outcomes would rise from 35% to 66%
- Proportion with “poor” outcomes would fall from 34% to 19%

Table 2 Overall Cost Savings and Lives Saved Resulting From Adoption of BTF Guidelines—Total Costs

	Deaths	Direct Medical Costs	Rehabilitation Costs	Societal Costs	Implementation Costs	Total Costs
BTF adoption	3,466	\$ 1,154,116,956	\$ 64,008,683	\$ 3,859,102,789	\$ 60,906,282	\$ 5,138,134,710
Current state	7,073	\$ 1,416,538,024	\$ 107,428,632	\$ 7,696,680,328	\$ 0	\$ 9,220,646,983
Difference	3,607	\$ 262,421,068	\$ 43,419,949	\$ 3,837,577,538	\$ 60,906,282	\$ 4,082,512,273

Calculated medical costs probabilities are subject to rounding errors.



Aims:

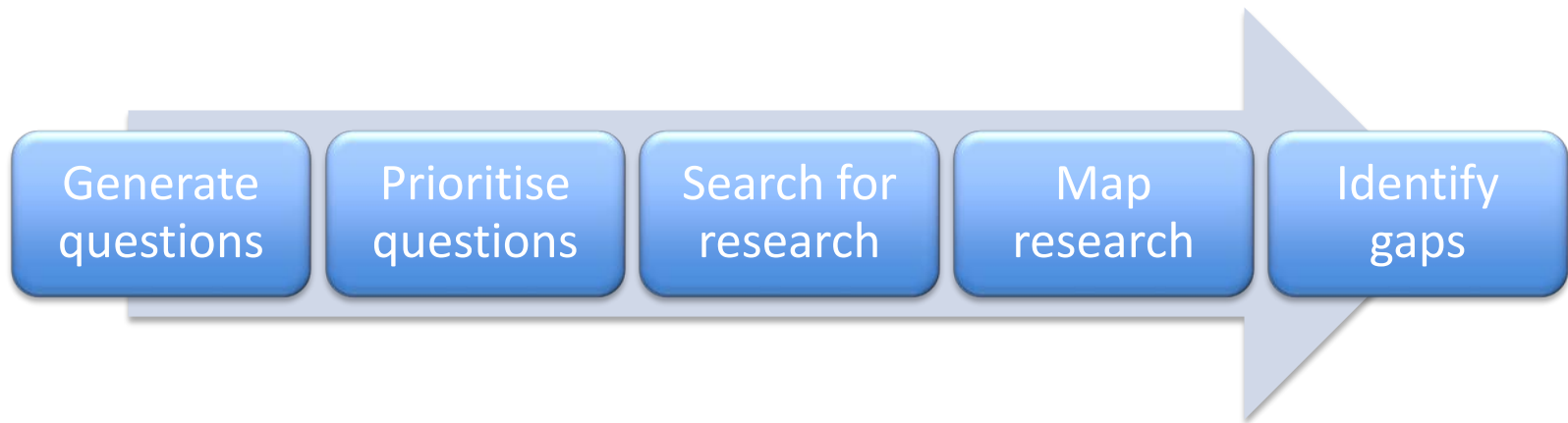
- To improve outcomes for people with TBI
- To create a network of neurotrauma clinicians and researchers with expertise in KT and evidence-based practice
- To contribute knowledge to the field of KT research

NET Program

Theme	Program activity
Theme 1: Evidence Resources	Systematic reviews; Agreement on standards; Locally relevant guidelines
Theme 2: Understanding Practice	Data, Practice surveys & Interviews
Theme 3: Planning & Instituting Change	Theory-informed interventions; Intervention studies, including cluster RCTs
Theme 4: Capacity Building	Training; Clinician fellowships; Networks and collaboration

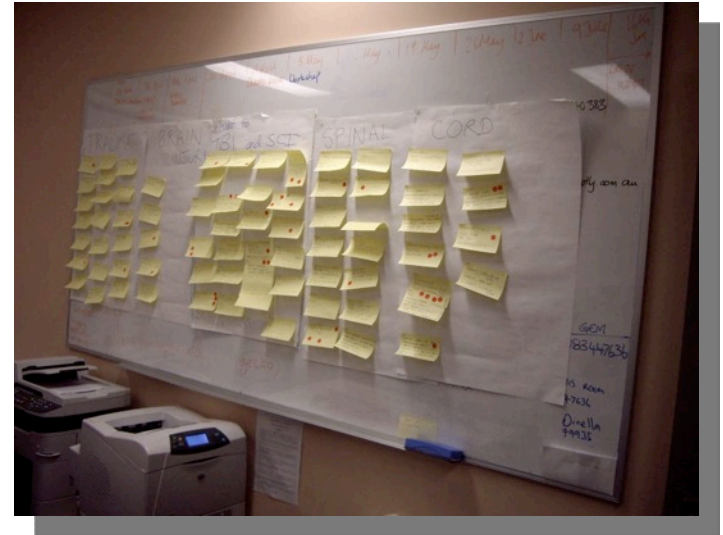
The Global Evidence Mapping Initiative

- Funded in 2007 by the Victoria Neurotrauma Initiative to develop 'evidence maps' to describe the available research in priority topics in Traumatic Brain Injury and Spinal Cord Injury
- Pre-hospital, acute, rehabilitation and long-term care



Generating & Prioritising Questions

- Multiple phases
 - A. Expert consultation
 - B. Preliminary literature search
 - C. Mapping workshop
 - D. Online survey
 - E. Question development
- Wide stakeholder engagement (policy-makers, managers, clinicians, consumers, carers, researchers)





What is the effect of early versus delayed surgery for unstable spinal injuries on clinical outcomes and length of stay in SCI patients?

Comparisons	n	Systematic Review	RCT	Cross Over Studies	Cohort Studies	Case-Control	Interrupted Time Series	Case Series	Cross-sectional	Case Reports	Other	Ongoing Studies
Various timing of stabilisation	1	1										
Various timing of spinal fixation	2	2										
Various timing of decompressive surgery	4	4										
Time of surgery from injury:												
<8h vs. >8h	1							1				
<8h vs. 8-24h vs. no surgery	1		1									
<24h vs. >24h	5				4 (retro.)							1†
<24h vs. >24h vs. Conservative Tx	1							1				
<24h vs. 24-48h vs. >48h	1							1				
<24h vs. 24-72h	2				1 (prosp.)							1
<24h vs. 24-72h vs. >72h	1							1				
<24h vs. 24h-1wk vs. >1wk	1							1				
<48h vs. >48h	1				1 (retro.)							
<48h vs. >48h vs. No Surgery	1							1				
<72h vs. >72h	4				4 (retro.)							
<72h vs. >5d	1		1									
<72h vs. <10-14d	1		1 (pseudo)									
<100h vs. >100h vs. no surgery	1				1 (prosp.)							
<5d vs. >5d	1		1 (pseudo)									
<5d vs. >6wk	1											1
<1wk vs. <1-4wk vs. >4wk	1							1				
<4wk vs. >4wk	1							1				
<1wk vs. <2wk vs. <3wk vs. <4wk vs. >4wk vs. No Surgery	1							1				



<72h vs. >72h (n=4)

Cohort (retrospective)

Chipman JG, Deuser WE, Beilman GJ. Early surgery for thoracolumbar spine injuries decreases complications. *J Trauma* 2004;56(1):52-7.

Croce MA, Bee TK, Pritchard E, Miller PR, Fabian TC. Does optimal timing for spine fracture fixation exist? *Ann Surg* 2001;233(6):851-8.

Mirza SK, Krengel WF 3rd, Chapman JR, Anderson PA, Bailey JC, Grady MS, et al. Early versus delayed surgery for acute cervical spinal cord injury. *Clinical Orthopaedics & Related Research* 1999(359):104-14.

Schlegel J, Bayley J, Yuan HS, Fredricksen B. Timing of surgical decompression and fixation of acute spinal fractures. *Journal of Orthopaedic Trauma* 1996;10(5):323-330.

<72h vs. >5d (n=1)

RCT

Vaccaro AR, Daugherty RJ, Sheehan TP, Dante SJ, Cotler JM, Balderston RA, et al. Neurologic outcome of early versus late surgery for cervical spinal cord injury. *Spine* 1997;22(22):2609-13.

<72h vs. <10-14d (n=1)

RCT (pseudo)

Xiao YQ, Wang YS, Yao M, Qi H, Gao L. Effect of surgical intervention time on nervous function recovery after cervical spinal cord injury. *Chinese Journal of Clinical Rehabilitation* 2006;10(36):167-9.

<100h vs. >100h vs. no surgery (n=1)

Cohort (prospective)

Duh MS, Shepard MJ, Wilberger JE, Bracken MB. The effectiveness of surgery on the treatment of acute spinal-cord Injury and Its relation to pharmacological treatment. *Neurosurgery* 1994;35(2):240-248.



What is the effect of early versus delayed surgery for unstable spinal injuries on clinical outcomes and length of stay in SCI patients?

BACKGROUND

The main role of surgery in spinal cord injury (SCI) is to prevent secondary injury to the cord and stabilise the spinal column. Surgery can also help to reduce the magnitude and impact of secondary injury mechanisms (e.g. ischaemia and inflammation) (Ball 2006; Fehlings 2006; La Rosa 2004). Early stabilisation can also help to reduce the morbidity and mortality associated with other injuries, particularly lung and intracranial injuries, and facilitates sitting and mobilising, which minimises the development of pressure areas and decubitus ulcers.

The optimal timing for SCI surgery is unclear (Fehlings 2006). The benefits of early correction of cord compression have been primarily based on animal studies (Carlson 1997; Carlson 2003; Delamarter 1995; Dimar 1999).

This evidence map identified studies investigating the timing of SCI stabilisation surgery.

CRITERIA FOR CONSIDERING STUDIES

The following inclusion criteria were used to identify relevant studies:

Study type, Participants, Phase of Care

See inclusion criteria (Appendix)

Intervention

Timing of surgery in patients undergoing decompression, reduction or fixation surgery



SEARCH STRATEGY

We searched seven English (Medline, CINAHL, EMBASE, PsycINFO, PubMed, ISI Web of Science, and The Cochrane Library); four non-English (LILACS, Panteleimon, IndiaMed, KoreaMed) and two clinical trials databases (WHO – International Clinical Trials Registry, The UK National Research Register) up to October 2008. Search strategies for SCI were combined with pertinent terms for spinal surgery (search strategies available on request). Reference lists of relevant articles were also searched.

An updated search was conducted in February 2010.

YIELD

The number of citations identified from our search strategy, full text reviewed, final included articles and non-English studies are shown in the table below.

Three ongoing studies examining the timing of surgery were identified.

Date Search conducted	Citations	Full Text Articles		Included		
		Search Strategy	Ref. list search	Search Strategy	Ref. list search	Non-English
October 2008	1368	118	20	45	15	7
February 2010*	1683	2	0	0	0	0
Total	3051	140		60		7

Note: * yield from search addressing multiple questions

Ref.: reference

STUDY INTERVENTIONS, DESIGN AND CHARACTERISTICS

Of the 60 eligible studies, there were seven systematic reviews, two randomised controlled trials (RCTs), three pseudo-RCTs, 16 cohort studies, 31 case series and one case report on this topic. Study settings for the primary studies were the USA (46), France (2), Italy (2), with one study each from Austria, China, Germany, India, Iran, Israel, Norway, Turkey, the UK and the United Arab Emirates. The majority of studies (36) investigated adult populations; four studies were mixed population, two paediatric and eighteen did not describe patient age.

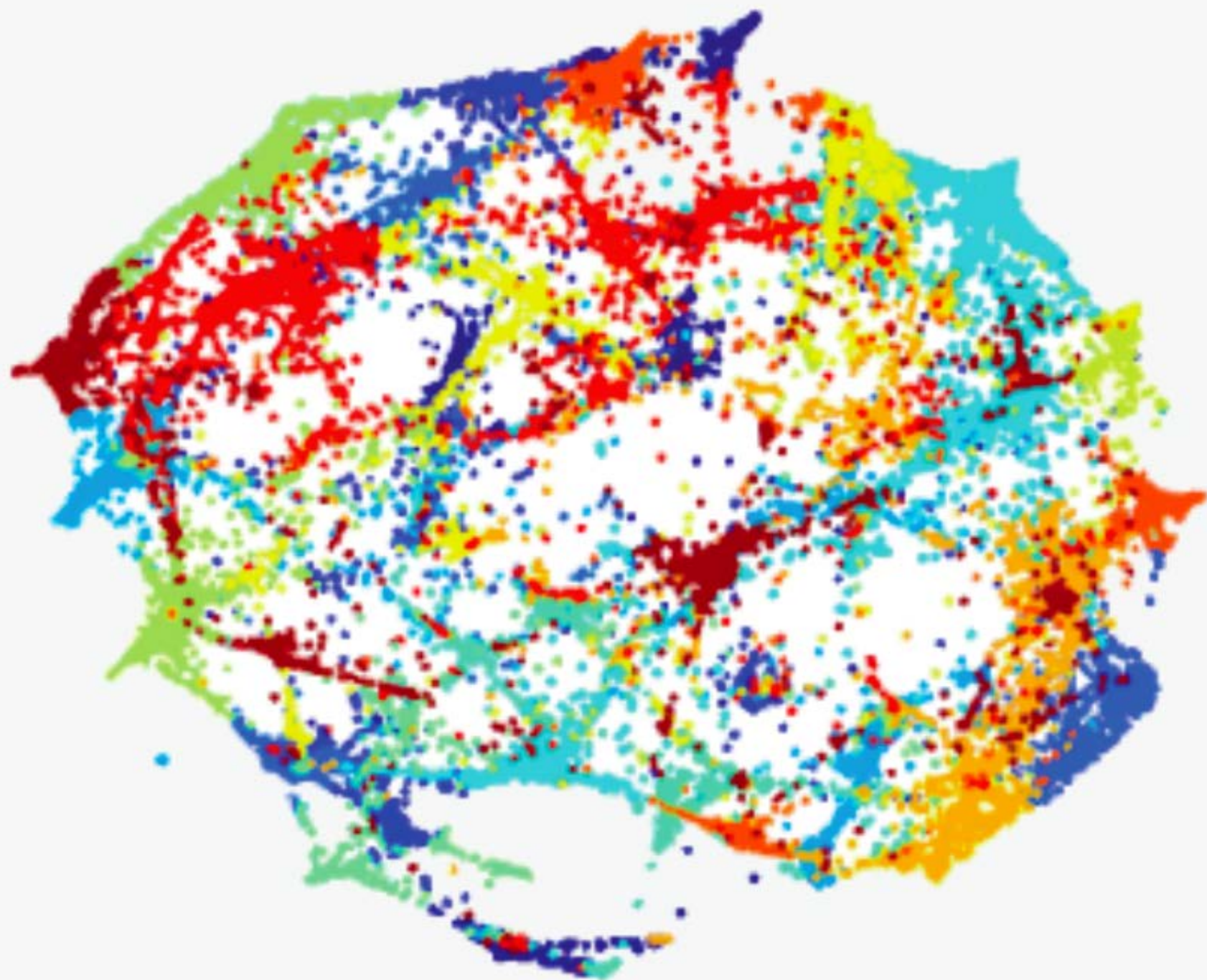
An Overview of Published Research about the Acute Care and Rehabilitation of Traumatic Brain Injured and Spinal Cord Injured Patients

Peter Bragge,¹ Marisa Chau,¹ Veronica Jean Pitt,¹ Mark Theodore Bayley,² Janice Jennifer Eng,³ Robert William Teasel,⁴ Dalton Louis Wolfe,⁵ and Russell Lindsay Gruen¹

TABLE 1. TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY ACUTE NEUROTRAUMA EVIDENCE FROM THE GLOBAL EVIDENCE MAPPING (GEM) INITIATIVE AND THE ACQUIRED BRAIN INJURY EVIDENCE-BASED REVIEW (ERABI): INTERVENTION TOPICS

	<i>Topic</i>	<i>SR</i>	<i>RCT</i>	<i>Other</i>
1.	Pharmacological management for raised intracranial pressure	11	40	78
2.	Pre-hospital intubation	3	0	22
3.	Effectiveness/cost-effectiveness of repeat computed tomography scans	1	0	30
4.	Pharmacological and oxygen neuroprotective/intracranial pressure therapies	0	17	3
5.	Seizure prophylaxis and management	0	13	9
6.	Therapeutic hypothermia for management of raised intracranial pressure	0	8	9
7.	Interventions to promote emergence from coma	0	6	15
8.	Pre-hospital fluid therapy resuscitation	0	6	2
9.	Opioids for analgesia	0	4	5
10.	Surgical management of raised intracranial pressure	0	3	20
11.	Prevention of deep vein thrombosis and pulmonary embolism	0	3	6
12.	Dexamethasone for neurological recovery	0	3	0
13.	Pharmacological therapies for neurological recovery	0	2	6
14.	Hyperventilation	0	1	10
15.	Delayed versus immediate pre-hospital fluid resuscitation	0	1	0
16.	Pre-hospital use of mannitol	0	1	0
17.	In-hospital fluid therapy resuscitation	0	1	0
18.	Therapeutic hypothermia	0	1	0
19.	Models of care including time factors, transport, specialization of acute hospital, staffing profiles	0	0	22
20.	Postural management of raised intracranial pressure	0	0	10
21.	Neurotrauma health care organization and delivery: Inpatient	0	0	3

SR, systematic review; RCT, randomized controlled trial.



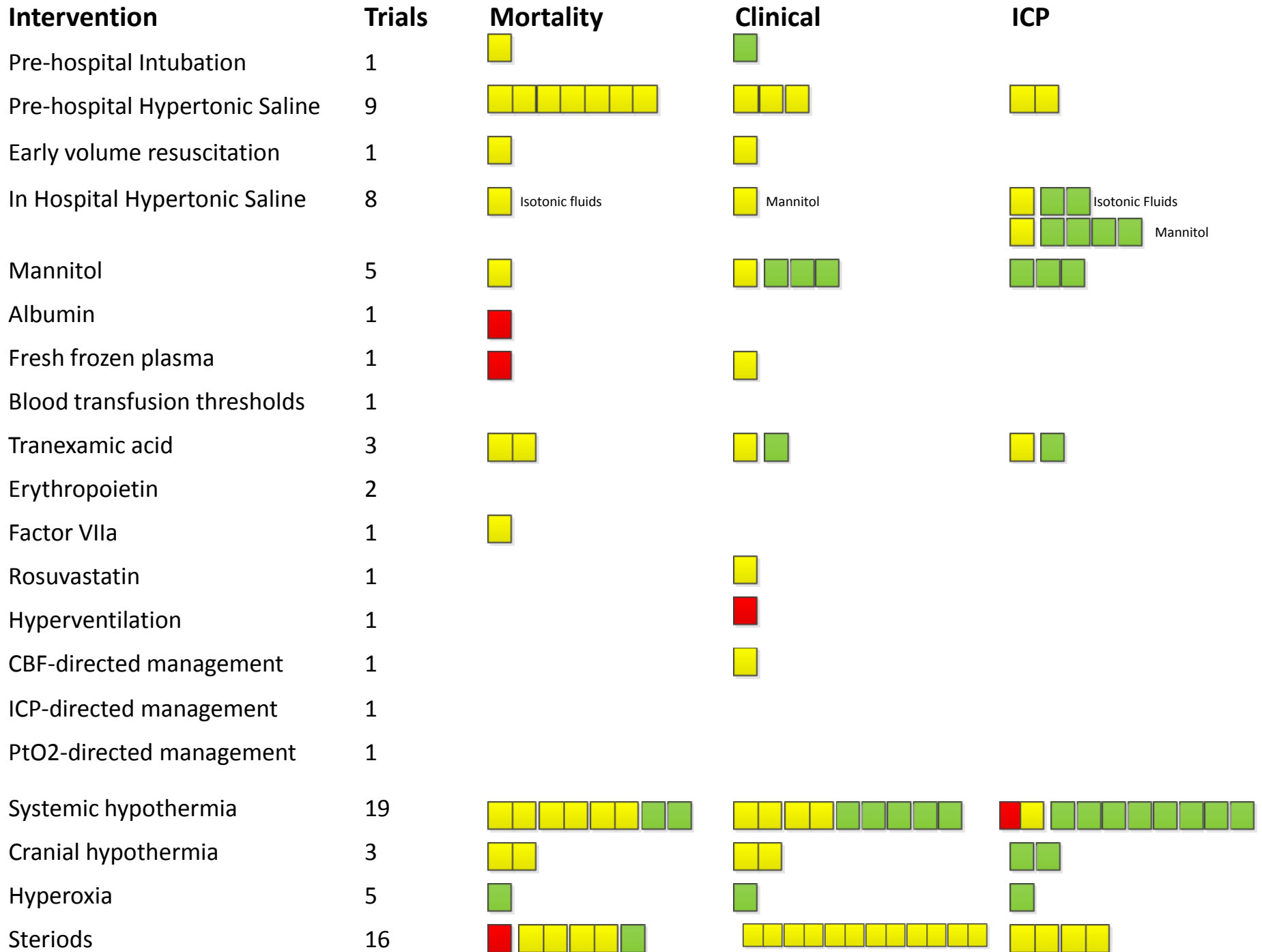
Early management of severe traumatic brain injury

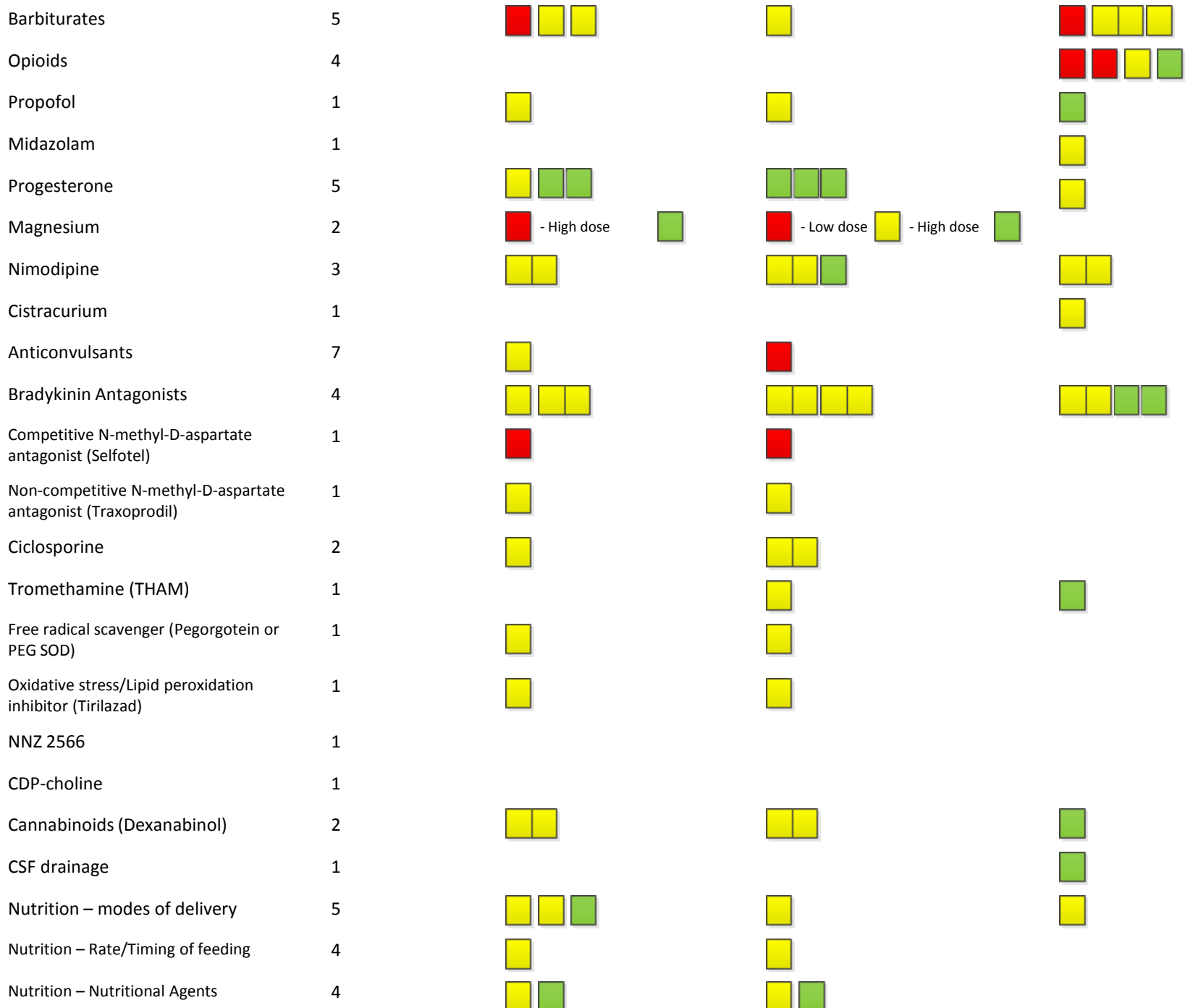
Jeffrey V Rosenfeld, Andrew I Maas, Peter Bragge, M Cristina Morganti-Kossmann, Geoffrey T Manley, Russell L Gruen

Lancet 2012; 380: 1088–98

Intervention	RCTs: Pre-2006	RCTs: 2006–	RCTs: Ongoing	Interpretation of trial findings
Recombinant Activated Factor VII		Kluger 2007 ⁴⁴		One trial has shown recombinant Activated Factor VII to be no different to placebo on mortality or frequency of thromboembolic or adverse events.
Rosuvastatin		Tapia-Perez 2008 ⁴⁵		One trial has shown Rosuvastatin to be superior to placebo on reduction in amnesia time, but no different on clinical outcomes.
Hyperventilation	Muizelaar 1991 ⁴⁶			One trial has shown hyperventilation to be inferior to normal ventilation on clinical outcomes and that the detrimental effects of hyperventilation are lessened by Tromethamine (THAM).
Cerebral blood flow-directed management	Robertson 1999 ⁴⁷			One trial has shown cerebral blood flow-targeted management to be no different to intracranial pressure-targeted management on clinical outcomes, to be superior on frequency of jugular desaturation, but to potentially increase incidence of adult respiratory distress syndrome.
Intracranial pressure-targeted management			Carney 2012 ⁴⁸	
Brain tissue oxygen monitoring-directed therapy			Diaz-Arrastia 2012 ⁴⁹	
Therapeutic hypothermia - systemic	Clifton 2001 ⁵⁰ Jiang 2000 ⁵¹ Marion 1993 ⁵² Marion 1997 ⁵³ Resnick 1994 ⁵⁴ Shiozaki 1993 ⁵⁵	Bayir 2009 ⁵⁶ Clifton 2011 ⁵⁷ Hutchison 2008 ⁵⁸ Hutchison 2011 ⁵⁹ Jiang 2006 ⁶⁰ Lee 2010 ⁶¹ Li 2009 ⁶² Qiu 2007 ⁶³ Su 2010 ⁶⁴ Yan 2010 ⁶⁵ Zhao 2011 ⁶⁶	Andrews 2010 ⁶⁷ Cooper 2011 ⁶⁸	Two trials have shown systemic therapeutic hypothermia to be superior to normothermia on mortality; six trials have shown no difference. Eight trials have shown systemic therapeutic hypothermia to be superior to normothermia on intracranial pressure control; one trial has shown systemic therapeutic hypothermia to be inferior to normothermia on intracranial pressure control; one trial has shown no difference. Five trials have shown systemic therapeutic hypothermia to be superior to normothermia on clinical outcomes; four trials have shown no difference. One trial has shown long-term hypothermia (4 – 6 days) to be superior to short-term hypothermia (1 – 3 days) on intracranial pressure control and clinical outcomes.
Therapeutic hypothermia - local		Harris 2009 ⁶⁹ Liu 2006 ⁷⁰ Qiu 2006 ⁷¹		Two trials have shown local therapeutic hypothermia to be no different to normothermia on mortality. Two trials have shown local therapeutic hypothermia to be superior to normothermia on intracranial pressure control. One trial has shown local therapeutic hypothermia to be superior to normothermia on clinical outcomes; two trials have shown no difference.
Hyperoxia	Ren 2001 ⁷² Rockswold 1992 ⁷³	Rockswold 2010 ⁷⁴ Xie 2007 ⁷⁵	Ruokonen 2011 ⁷⁶	One trial has shown hyperbaric hyperoxia to be superior to standard care on mortality. One trial has shown hyperbaric hyperoxia to be superior to standard care on intracranial pressure control.

continued...







Effect of cognitive rehabilitation on outcomes for persons with traumatic brain injury: A systematic review.

Published: June 1999 , Search last updated: January 1997


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● 32 Studies

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AMSTAR rating **3/11** Low

Abstract

We evaluated evidence for the effectiveness of cognitive rehabilitation methods to improve outcomes for persons with traumatic brain injury (TBI). A search of MEDLINE, HealthSTAR, CINAHL, PsycINFO, and the Cochrane Library produced 600 potential references. Thirty-two studies met predetermined inclusion criteria and were abstracted; data from 24 were placed into evidence tables. Two randomized controlled trials and one observational study provided evidence that specific forms of cognitive rehabilitation reduce memory failures and anxiety, and improve self-concept and interpersonal relationships for persons with TBI. The durability and clinical relevance of these findings is not established. Future research utilizing control groups and multivariate analysis must incorporate subject variability and must include standard definitions of the intervention and relevant outcome measures that reflect health and function.

Related Reviews

Systematic Reviews



Rees Laura, Marshall Shawn , Hartridge Cheryl, Mackie David, Weiser Margaret, . Cognitive interventions post acquired brain injury. *Brain Injury*. 2007;21(2):161-200.

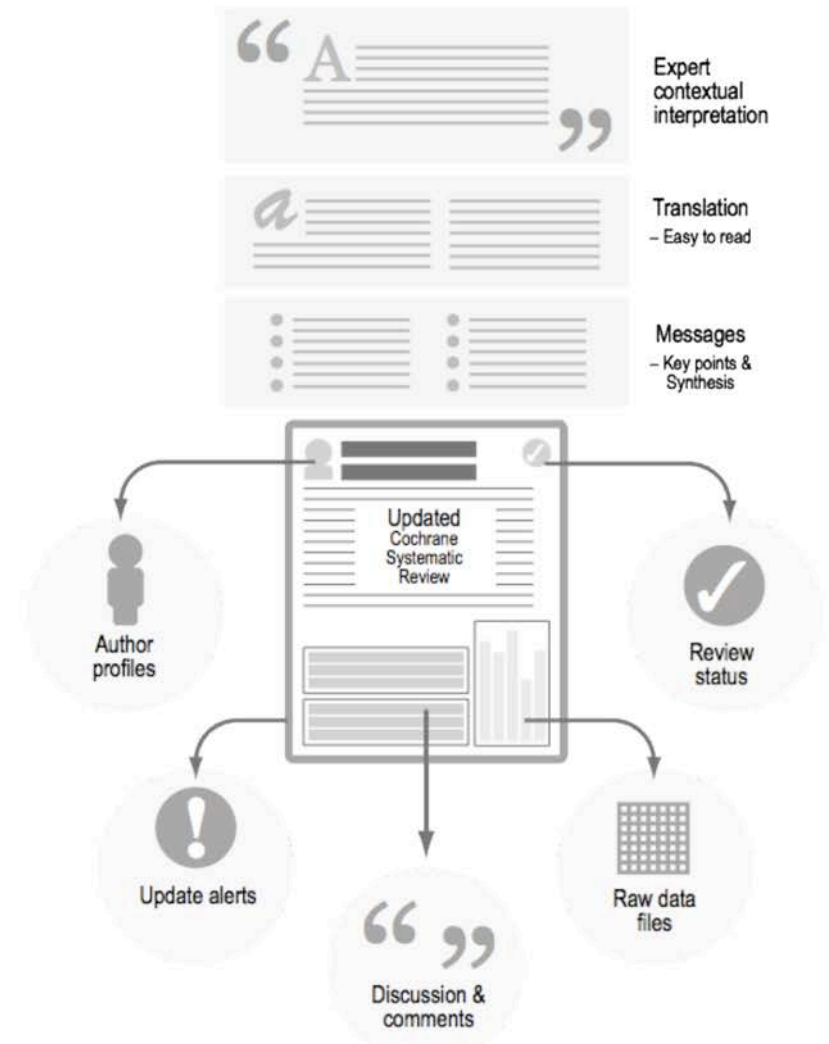


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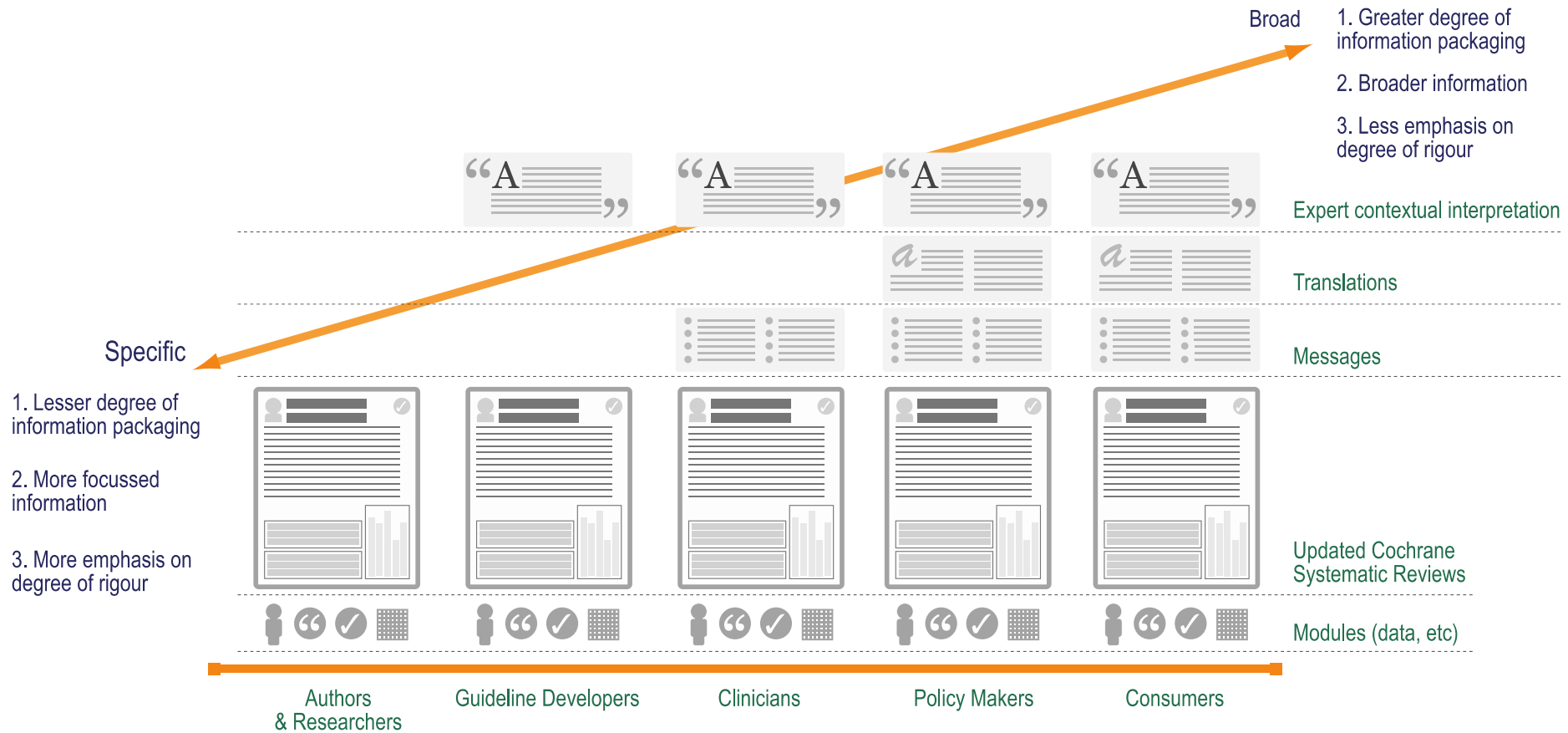
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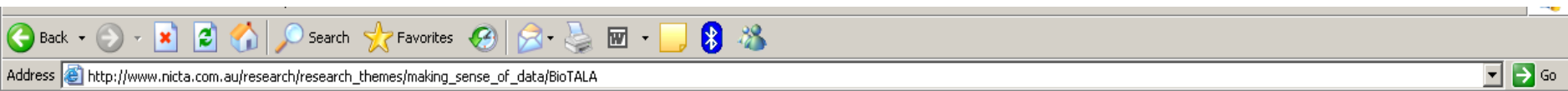
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Processing and management of clinical records and research literature is a critical component of biomedical research and clinical practice. Our biomedical research partners, based in hospitals and institutes in the Melbourne biomedical precinct, have identified this cost as a significant bottleneck in their work, and see a strong need for methods for making sense of large volumes of text. Existing technology addresses neither of these specific needs, nor broader problems of searching and summarising massive specialised collections.

BioTALA --- BioMedical Text and Language Applications --- is developing "text mining" technologies to (semi-)automatically discover and visualise information from genetic and other biomedical research and clinical documents. Drawing on the team's leading strengths in information retrieval and natural language processing, we aim to develop and apply text mining techniques to a variety of practical problems faced by biomedical researchers.

We are developing fundamental algorithms and tools in the context of specific applications, basing our activities on issues identified as significant by our biomedical research collaborators. These biomedical researchers are investigating cutting-edge biomedical and clinical research topics in world-leading research institutes, and have found that issues with text are a critical bottleneck. We are developing innovative technologies that address specific problems identified by our partners where the technologies are deemed to be likely to be of broad value.

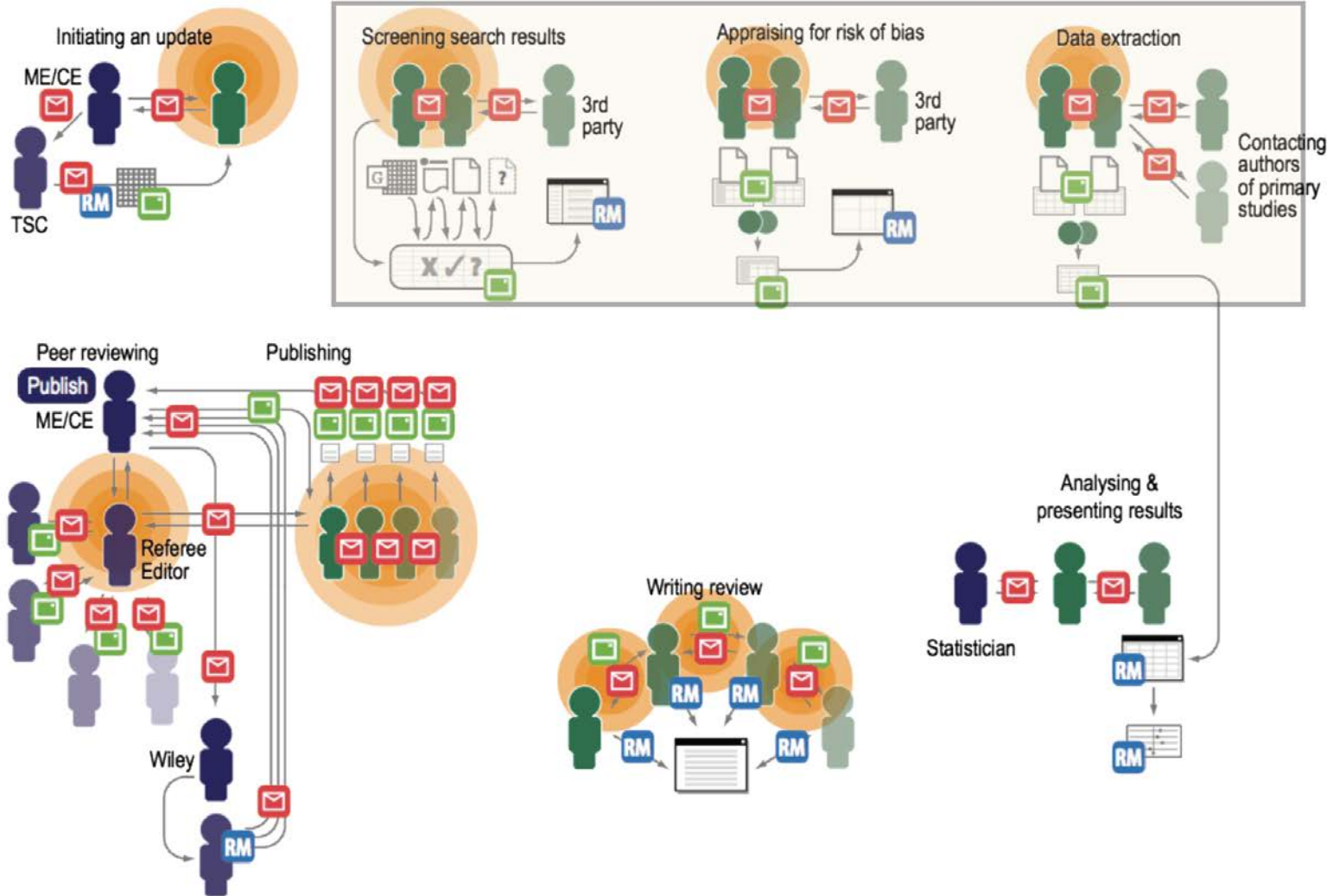
Our Research

Language Technology and Information Retrieval have long histories in the medical domain dating back to the 1960s. Since the completion of the human genome project in 2001, researchers in both areas have become increasingly involved in the information management challenges that have arisen from the rate at which new publications are being added to the bibliome. However, despite the recent flurry of activity by the information retrieval, machine learning, and language technology communities in the biomedical arena, there has not been an enthusiastic uptake of these technologies by biomedical researchers. In an invited talk at the ACL-BioNLP workshop in 2007, Alfonso Valencia (Centro Nacional de Biotecnología, Spain) stated that there is a growing gulf between what computer science researchers perceived to be of interest to biomedical personnel and what pain points these people are actually experiencing on a day-to-day basis. He implored researchers to focus their efforts on tasks that really mattered to the biomedical community.

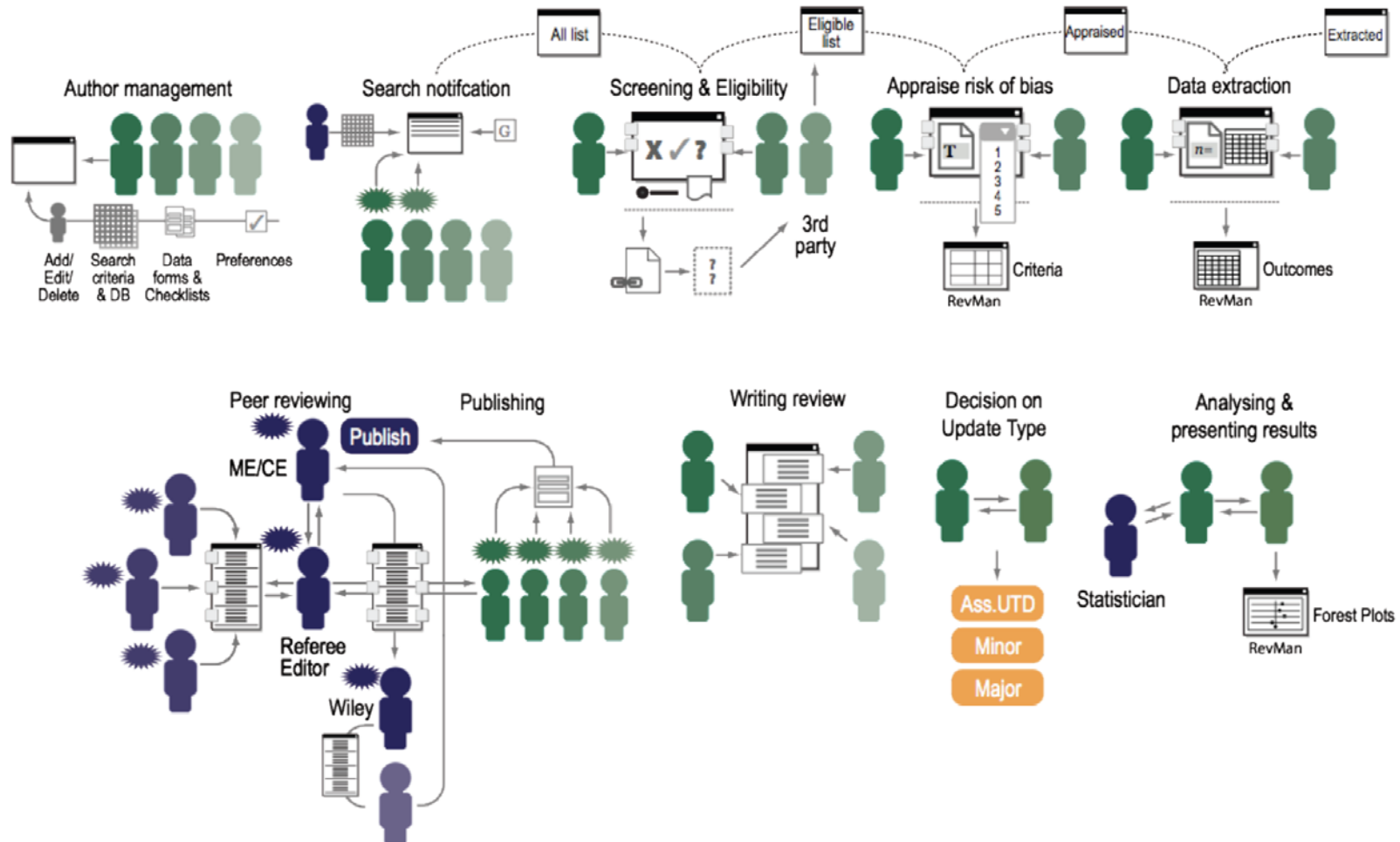
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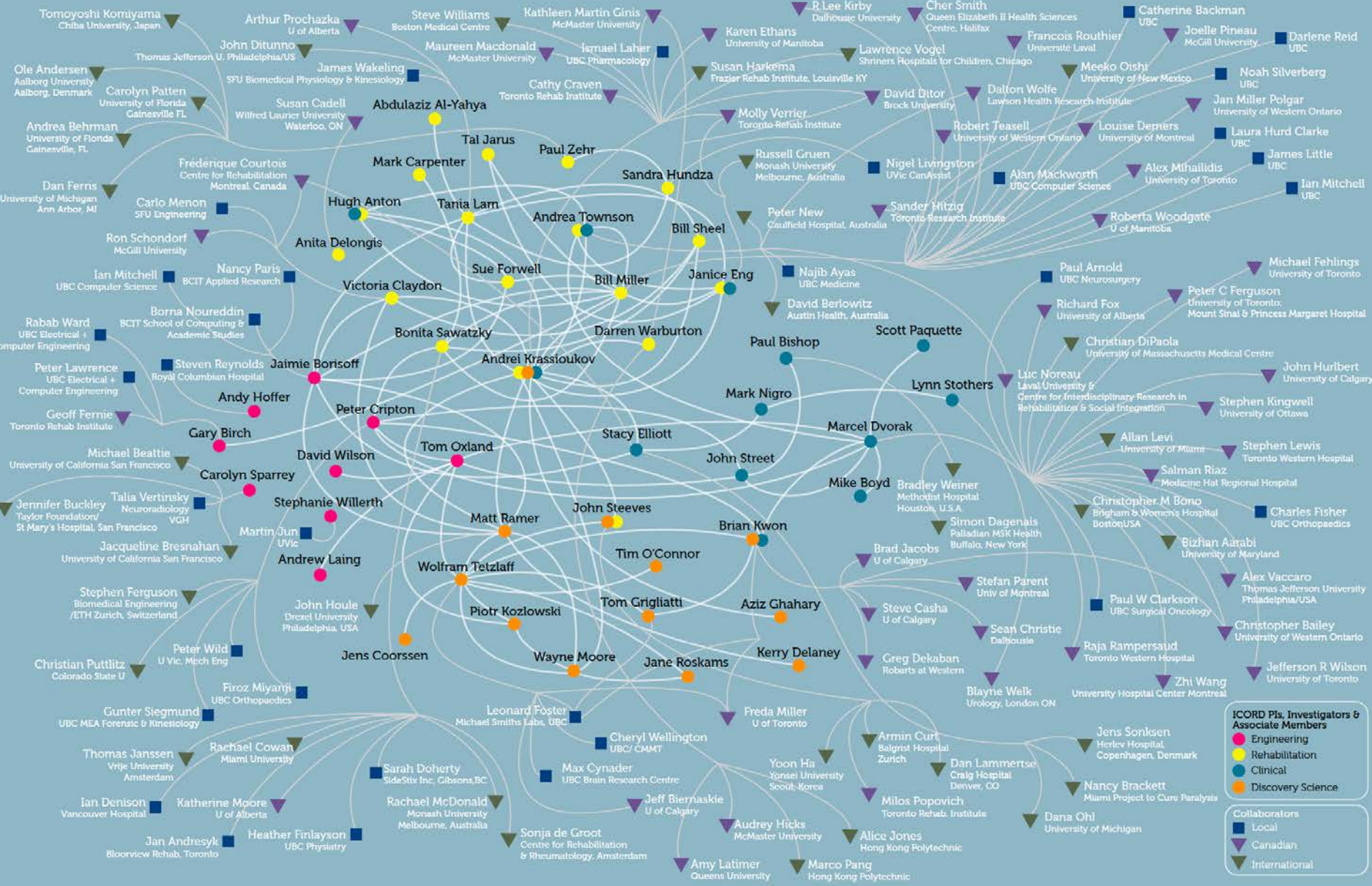
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