

International Federation of Dermatology Clinical Trials Networks Newsletter

Global Collaboration in Dermatology Research

Issue 14– Nov 2016

IJD® module on biostatistics and research methodology

As a part of our endeavour to ensure the qualitative improvement of clinical evidence in dermatology that is generated in India and thereafter gets published, a 10-part module on “Biostatistics and Research Methodology for the Dermatologist” was commenced in the *Indian Journal of Dermatology* this year.

The methodology or designing part of the module is being authored by Dr Maninder Singh Setia, a dermatologist turned epidemiologist, and the analysis or biostatistics part is written by Avijit Hazra and Nithya Gogte, both professors of pharmacology.

The methodology section of the module comprises cohort studies, case-control studies, cross-sectional studies, interventional studies, sampling strategy, systematic reviews and meta-analysis, other study designs (ecologic studies/natural experiments, etc), designing questionnaires/clinical record forms, validity/reliability of questionnaire designing, and

qualitative health research. In biostatistics, the module consists of basics of biostatistics, hypothesis testing, comparing groups with numerical variables and categorical variables, determining sample size, correlation and linear regression, the statistics of diagnostic tests, assessing risk, survival analysis, and some multivariate methods.

Already half of the modules have been published (www.e-ijd.org), and the remaining five are slated to come out in print and online through 2017. As full text of all articles of *IJD* are available free online, It is expected that this module will go some way in being one of the catalysts of high-quality clinical research activity, not only in India, but also elsewhere. This is especially because such an exhaustive and sustained discussion on research design and analysis is an exceptional event among biomedical journals in general, not to speak of the journals specifically belonging to dermatology.

SAUMYA PANDA Module Editor

Editor-Elect, *Indian Journal of Dermatology, Venereology & Leprology*

Cochrane Crowd

Cochrane Crowd is a new initiative that will enable anyone to get involved with Cochrane and help identify the evidence needed to make informed healthcare decisions. This is a great way to get experience in searching and screening for studies, which then go into the Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials, CENTRAL. For more information please see <http://crowd.cochrane.org/index.html>.

CEBD launches on-line critical appraisal training module

The Centre of Evidence Based Dermatology (CEBD), Nottingham, UK has a 5-year plan (2015-2019) to develop teaching material for healthcare professionals with an interest in evidence-based dermatology, both nationally and internationally. As the first stage in this process we have developed a short online e-package on how to conduct critical appraisal of a scientific paper in the field of dermatology. This new resource, which is free of charge and available for use across the world, can be accessed at http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/toolkits/play_15277. Please do circulate this information to those you think may find it useful.



HOME V meeting

The next consensus meeting of the international group (HOME) working on a core outcome set for eczema (HOME V) will take place on 12th-14th June 2017 in **Nantes, France**. This main focus of this meeting will be long term control of eczema, and quality of life and clinical record keeping will also be discussed. Anyone with an interest in core outcomes for eczema is welcome to attend the meeting, and there will be a session on the morning of the 12th to introduce the concepts and methodology, and explain the progress made so far in HOME. Registration for the meeting will be opening shortly and you will be able to book via the HOME website www.homeforeczema.org and you can register your interest by emailing home@nottingham.ac.uk.



New CEBD resources

In July's Newsletter we featured the maps of systematic reviews in eczema and acne produced by the Centre of Evidence Based Dermatology (CEBD).

There are now also maps of systematic reviews in vitiligo and cellulitis on the CEBD website - do take a look:

<http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/research/groups/cebd/resources/maps-of-systematic-reviews.aspx>

MRC Guidance Pack— methods for clinical trials

The [Medical Research Council \(MRC\) Network of Hubs for Trials Methodology Research](#) has recently updated their Guidance Pack. New guidance includes recommendations for maximising the impact of qualitative research in feasibility studies and issues to consider during the design of surgical trials.

Please see <http://methodologyhubs.mrc.ac.uk/advice/network-guidance> for full details.

Save the date

ISAD2018

April 11-13, 2018
Utrecht, The Netherlands

The 10th Georg Rajka Symposium on Atopic Dermatitis will take place 11th-13th April 2018 in

Utrecht, The Netherlands. The local organising committee for this event are:

Carla Bruijnzeel-Koomen (University Medical Center Utrecht)
Marjolein de Bruin-Weller (University Medical Center Utrecht)
Dirk Jan Hijnen (University Medical Center Utrecht)
Joost Schalkwijk (RadboudUMC Nijmegen)
Marie-Louise Schuttelaar (UMC Groningen)
Phyllis Spuls (AMC, Amsterdam)
Bernd Arents (VMCE, Dutch AD patient organisation)



Results of UK DCTN led LIMIT-1 study published

The results of the LIMIT-1 pilot study (comparing imiquimod to surgery for the treatment of lentigo maligna), which was developed with support from the [UK Dermatology Clinical Trials Network \(UK DCTN\)](#), have recently been published in the British Journal of Dermatology. The study demonstrated that there is no need to conduct a full RCT in this area and shows the value of conducting high quality pilot studies. For the full publication see <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/bjd.15112/abstract?campaign=wolacceptedarticle>.

International clinical trials methodology conference

The 4th International Clinical Trials Methodology Conference will take place in Liverpool, UK next year (7th-10th May 2017). Jointly organised by the [MRC Hubs for Trial Methodology Research](#) (mentioned above) and the [Society for Clinical Trials](#) this conference will provide one of the best international platforms for those working in clinical trials to collaborate and discuss new ideas. The programme will include three keynote lectures and a range of sessions and workshops. Chair of the IFDCTN, Prof Hywel Williams, will be speaking at the event about the work of the [National Institute for Health Research Health Technologies Assessment](#) initiative. To find out more about this meeting please see the conference website www.ictmc2017.com.