

Understanding systematic reviews – an introduction for health professionals

Monday, 7 September 2020
Unisanté, Lausanne

Registration deadline: 15 July

The course gives an introduction into systematic reviews from the perspective of the health professional who wants to understand how they are conducted and what the key issues with their interpretation are. Course participants with further interest in how to perform meta-analysis within a systematic review are invited to attend the four-day course “Meta-analysis: Advanced methods using the Stata software” following in the same week.

Learning objectives:

After the course the participants will know how to

- distinguish systematic reviews in health care from other types of evidence syntheses;
- learn the basic elements of a research question and protocol writing
- identify and understand the key steps of conducting a systematic review;
- read the results of a meta-analysis (forest plot) and of a Summary of Findings table;
- assess the quality of a systematic review;
- find systematic reviews in the Cochrane Library.

Target audience:

- Health professionals, policy makers, researchers, future authors of systematic reviews;
- Patient representatives and other interested lay people with a good understanding of health research;

Prerequisites:

- Basic knowledge of statistical concepts (e.g. mean, median, proportion, rate, confidence interval) is helpful but not mandatory;
- Good command of written English, and at least passive understanding of spoken English.

Contents:

- The course includes a mix of interactive talks introducing the concepts and work in small groups to apply them in selected examples. The group will have a maximum of 20 participants.

Duration:

1 day (approx. 9:00 – 17:00)

Course faculty:

- Dr Erik von Elm, Director Cochrane Switzerland, Center of primary care and public health (Unisanté), University of Lausanne, Switzerland;
- Additional course facilitators of Cochrane Switzerland.

Participation fee (CHF):

Course	Regular	Student	Cochrane author
Systematic Reviews (1 day)	300.-	250.-	250.-
Systematic Reviews + Meta-analysis (5 days)	1'900.-	900.-	1'200.-
Meta-analysis (4 days)	1'700.-	700.-	1'000.-

The fees include coffee breaks, lunch and course documentation. A certificate of attendance will be issued to participants having completed the course.

Please note:

Participants will receive a confirmation of participation and an invoice. The participation fee must then be settled at least three weeks prior to the course. Any withdrawal later than three weeks before the course leads to a charge of 50% of the participation fee. The entire fee remains due to us if you withdraw within one week prior to the course. The course may be cancelled if there are too few registrations. Participants who are unable to attend due to imposed travel restrictions at the time of the course will be refunded.

Enquiries :

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