Evidence Synthesis Ireland Fellowship Scheme
Project Identification Form

Please note: this Fellowship is a primary methodology project in evidence synthesis

Title

Testing new methods for exploring contextual influencers within meta-analytic data in an Irish context

Project Centre/Group Mentor

Joint: Dylan Kneale and Alison O'Mara-Eves at the EPPI-Centre, UCL in London

Project type and methods

Project type: Methods Development: statistical meta-analysis **Methods expected to learn:** using routinely collected data, longitudinal cohort and panel data, and detailed cross-sectional survey data to investigate issues around generalisability in statistical meta-analysis.

Information

Embedded within the UK Dept of Health and Social Care for the *Policy Research Programme Reviews Facility* at the UCL EPPI-Centre and University of York's Centre for Reviews and Dissemination and the North Thames ARC.

Project details

This is a methods development project that seeks to develop and evaluate new approaches for combining data from decision-making contexts with meta-analytic findings. The work will be a continuation of methods development work undertaken in the recently completed project, "Handling Complexity in Evidence from systematic reviews and meta-analyses of Public Health Interventions (CEPHI project)", which was funded by the UK National Institute of Health Research (click here for the protocol). The motivation for this work is the fact that, despite their high regard, our ability to utilise evidence from meta-analyses and systematic reviews is hampered by the lack of connection

between the contexts in which interventions were conducted and the context in which the evidence is to be applied. In this work we seek to develop methods of exploring and enhancing the generalisability of meta-analysis using secondary data analysis and additional synthesis.

Previous work has focused on childhood obesity and decision-making in England. This ESI Fellowship would involve testing the newly-developed methods using Irish data, to determine whether the methods could be used in different decision-making contexts and with different datasets than those used in the original test case scenario. One of the methods will involve recalibration, an early version of which was described here: https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/jrsm.1320

Project current status: Not started.

Any specific/desirable requirements for fellow (e.g. clinical expertise, methodological expertise)

Essential: Quantitative analysis skills, particularly statistical meta-analysis**.**
Desired: experience with secondary data analysis and/or understanding of secondary datasets**.**

Estimated start and completion dates

This work is contingent on the Fellow, so commencement would reflect whenever the Fellow can start. ESI Fellowships in general are expected to be completed within 2 years.