



# EVIDENCE SYNTHESIS IRELAND

## Introduction to Systematic Reviews (Online)

### Background

Health care policy and practice decisions should be based on a synthesis of the global body of evidence rather than relying on individual studies. Cochrane Ireland and Evidence Synthesis Ireland promote evidence-based healthcare policy and practice by supporting high quality, relevant systematic reviews and other synthesised research evidence.

### Aim

This workshop provides authors, at the beginning of the systematic review process, with an in-depth understanding of how reviews are planned and conducted. It offers an insight to the development of a protocol, introducing participants to methodology, search methods, data extraction, risk of bias assessment and meta-analysis.

### Learning outcomes

In this course participants will be enabled to:

- Understand the basic principles of a systematic review
- Identify the scope of their review
- Understand search methods and apply these methods to their search strategy
- Apply the criteria for selecting studies
- Understand the principles of creating a data collection form and of data extraction
- Understand the principles of risk of bias assessment
- Understand principles of heterogeneity and understand the methods for assessing and addressing it
- Attain a basic understanding of principles of meta-analysis

### Date:

**29th & 30th January,  
8th & 9th February 2024**

### Time:

**10:00 – 13:00 / 13:30**

### Skill Level:

**Introductory**

### Facilitators:

**Prof. Declan Devane**

Professor of Health Research  
Methodology, University of Galway  
Director, Evidence Synthesis Ireland  
Director, Cochrane Ireland

**Dr Julie Broderick**

Assistant Professor in  
Physiotherapy,  
Trinity College Dublin

**Ciara Gleeson**

Clinical Specialist Physiotherapist,  
Respiratory Assessment Unit  
St. James's Hospital, Dublin

### Places:

**30 places available for  
individuals who are  
resident on the island of  
Ireland**

### Fee:

**General €150**

**Student €80**

email: [esi@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:esi@universityofgalway.ie) X @EvidSynIRL #evidencesynthesis



# EVIDENCE SYNTHESIS IRELAND

## Introduction to Systematic Reviews (Online)

### Target Audience:

Healthcare professionals, academics, researchers, decision makers and Evidence Synthesis Ireland fellows who have identified a review topic and are ready to begin working on their protocol.

### Teaching Strategies:

The workshop will consist of a mixture of short presentations, led by members of the Cochrane Ireland teaching faculty covering each of the stages of developing a systematic review protocol, small group activities and plenary discussions, providing participants with the opportunity to develop and refine their protocol. This course will include blended learning with two months free access to Cochrane Interactive Learning self-directed learning modules, a number of which will be required study prior to the workshop.

### Course timetable

| Day 1 – 29th January 2024  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Pre-learning:</b> Have completed below modules from Cochrane Interactive Learning |   |
| <b>Module 1:</b> Introduction to conducting systematic reviews                       |   |
| <b>Module 2:</b> Writing the review protocol   |   |
| <b>Module 3:</b> Searching for studies   |   |
| 10:00  | Welcome, introduction of presenters   |
| 10:15  | Defining a review question – defining objectives and creating a PICO            |
| 10:45  | Practical exercise with PICO development  |
| 11:00  | Practical exercise feedback   |
| 11:15  | Break   |
| 11:30  | Writing a protocol  |
| 12:00  | Identifying search terms and searching for relevant studies in a systematic way |
| 12:30  | Practical exercise: developing a search strategy                                |
| 12:45  | Practical exercise feedback   |
| 13:00  | Close   |

email: [esi@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:esi@universityofgalway.ie) X @EvidSynIRL #evidencesynthesis



# EVIDENCE SYNTHESIS IRELAND

## Introduction to Systematic Reviews (Online)

### Course timetable

#### Day 2 – 30th January 2024

**Pre-learning:** Have completed below modules from Cochrane Interactive Learning  
**Module 4:** Selecting studies and collecting data  
**Module 5:** Introduction to study quality and risk of bias

|       |  |
|-------|--|
| 10:00 | Recap and questions on previous workshop   |
| 10:30 | Selecting studies                          |
| 11:00 | Break                                      |
| 11:15 | Practical exercise : assessing eligibility |
| 11:45 | Practical exercise feedback                |
| 12:15 | Assessing risk of bias (2.0)               |
| 13:00 | Close                                      |

#### Day 3 – 8th February 2024

**Pre-learning:** Have completed below module from Cochrane Interactive Learning  
**Recap on Module 5:** Introduction to study quality and risk of bias

|       |   |
|-------|---|
| 10:00 | Recap and questions on previous workshop                                    |
| 10:30 | Practical exercise on Risk of bias  |
| 11:00 | Break   |
| 11:15 | Practical exercise feedback   |
| 11:45 | Data extraction and management; different types and formats of outcome data |
| 12:15 | Practical exercise on Data collection/extraction and management             |
| 12:35 | Practical exercise feedback & open Q&A                                      |
| 13:00 | Close   |

email: [esi@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:esi@universityofgalway.ie) X @EvidSynIRL #evidencesynthesis



# EVIDENCE SYNTHESIS IRELAND

## Introduction to Systematic Reviews (Online)

### Course timetable

| Day 4 – 9th February 2024  |  |
|--|--|
| Pre-learning: Have completed below module from Cochrane Interactive Learning<br>Module 6: Analysing the data |  |
| 10:00  | Recap and questions on previous workshop   |
| 10:30  | Analysis methods for binary data (odds ratio, risk ratio)                            |
| 11:00  | Analysis methods for continuous data (mean difference, standardised mean difference) |
| 11:30  | Break  |
| 11:45  | Introduction to meta-analysis  |
| 12:30  | Exploring heterogeneity; subgroup analysis and sensitivity analysis                  |
| 13:00  | Discussion and questions   |
| 13:30  | Close  |

email: [esi@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:esi@universityofgalway.ie) X @EvidSynIRL #evidencesynthesis