

HRI Malta 2017 Pre-Conference Workshop

Making studies count – avoiding common pitfalls in future research

Thursday 8th June 2017, 14.00-17.00

Marie Louise 1, 7th Floor, Radisson St Julian's, Malta

Presenters

Dr Robert Mathie (UK), Dr Elizabeth Thompson (UK), Dr Stephan Baumgartner (Switzerland)

Aims of the workshop

This workshop aims to raise awareness of common pitfalls in homeopathy research that can lead to studies having less impact upon publication than anticipated. Four main pitfalls deserve particular attention: risk of bias, model validity, poor study design and incomplete reporting.

Workshop sessions

The first session will focus on the pitfalls that lead directly to trials being 'down-graded' during external review. **Dr Robert Mathie's** recent systematic review work has shown how few homeopathy trials meet the required standard for trial 'reliability' through risk of bias (RoB) assessment, and how trials of over the counter homeopathic products commonly fail to meet the standards required of high model validity (i.e. how well the intervention reflects 'state of the art' homeopathic practice).

In the second session, **Dr Elizabeth Thompson** will continue the exploration of common pitfalls by focusing on trial design and lessons learned from conducting clinical research, taking practical examples from her own experience in designing and managing homeopathy trials, and how they might have been improved.

In the third session, **Dr Stephan Baumgartner** will look at similar issues that exist within homeopathy basic research. Common design flaws and poor reporting in publications will be explored, alongside current best practice for avoiding these problems such as the *Reporting experiments in homeopathic basic research* (REHBar) guidelines.

In the final session, the three presenters will offer feedback and practical advice on research proposals and ideas provided by the audience, with the aim of optimising their ultimate scientific impact. If you have a project in development and would like an opportunity to discuss it, please make us aware at the time of booking by e-mailing sophiakontakkis@hri-research.org.

Who should attend Recommended for Researchers, Manufacturers, Students and Homeopaths.

Fees & registration **£45 full rate and £35 for students**
Bookings to be made online at www.HRIMalta2017.org/register
Please note that places are limited, so please book early.