

Subject Outline: Research Methods III



Course: Master of Cosmetic Dermatology (Coursework)

Subject: Research Methods III: Advanced Issues in Evidence Based Medicine

Credit Points: 3

Pre-requisite(s): Research Methods I and II

Year/Semester Delivered: 1/2

Outline:

The subject is supported by the online content/resource module “Research Methods III – Advanced Techniques and Issues in Evidence Based Medicine”

This subject focuses principally on Ethics and Conflict of Interest as they relate to the conduct and reporting of research and the publication/distribution of research findings in medical journals, other professional fora and the world wide web.

Some important principles covered in detail include:

- Publication Bias (eg., in meta-analysis, systematic review etc.),
- Ghost writing in medicine (un-acknowledged assistance with writing) and how this lack of knowledge can be addressed

The role and influence (often negative) on medical research through the involvement of allied groups such as pharmaceutical companies is covered through the detailed study/analysis of case studies.

Other key areas covered in this subject include:

- Restoring Invisible and Abandoned Trials (RIAT)
- COHORT and STROBE initiatives
- All Trials and other ethical dilemmas

Considerable attention will also be given to how to detect and minimize these issues through discussion and analysis of appropriate research papers.

Learning Outcomes:

On completion of this subject students will be able to:

- **SLO 1:** Demonstrate a clear understanding of role of ethics in medical research.
- **SLO 2:** Critically analyse and effectively evaluate research papers and reports.
- **SLO 3:** Analyse and develop strategies to strengthen reporting of observational studies
- **SLO 4:** Identify and assess the effectiveness of strategies to minimise conflicts of interest in medical research

Student Workload:

The following extract for the ACD Academic Awards Framework Policy should be used as a guide to the minimum time a student should spend working on this subject.

“A 3 credit point subject will have a minimum of 36 hours teaching time associated with it ...” per semester.

“1CP will equate to a minimum of 2.5 hours personal study time per week for the student. Over a semester (20 weeks) this equates to 150 hours of personal study time for a 3 CP subject”.

Refer to the Masters in Cosmetic Dermatology Curriculum document for a suggested study pattern for this subject.

Teaching:

- Weekly F2F Lecture/Tutorials
- Weekly virtual classroom session(s) (Webinars) - Includes online discussion contribution
- Student self-paced online study/research

Assessment:

- Formal MCQs
- Written Assignment(s)
- Virtual classroom contributions

Assessment task	Weight	Subject Learning outcomes assessed	Curriculum Learning Outcomes	Due date
MCQ Exam/Quiz	20%	SLO 1 - 4	CLMO 3 – 4, 7	TBA
Assignment 1: Case study report- Publication Bias	25%	SLO 2	CLMO 3	TBA
Assignment 2: Case study Report - STROBE	25%	SLO 3	CLMO 3 , 7	TBA
Assignment 3: Case study report – External Influence on research outcomes	25%	SLO 4	CLMO 3 ,7	TBA
Discussion/webinar Contribution	5%	All	CLMO 3 – 4, 7	Assessed Weekly

Recommended Additional Resources:

- Research Methods III Webinar online
- Greenhalgh T. (2010) How to Read a Paper: The Basics of Evidence-Based Medicine. (4th ed) West Sussex: Wiley-Blackwell.
- Greenhalgh T (1997) How to Read a Paper. *British Medical Journal*, July p315
- Other published papers referred to in the online supporting module.
- Field, A. *Discovering Statistics Using IBM SPSS Statistics*. Sage edge. 4th ed., 2017
- Bad Science - <http://www.badsience.net/>
- Centre for Evidence Based Medicine - <http://www.cebm.net/>

Curriculum Mapping:

Subject Learning Outcome	Curriculum Learning Outcome
SLO 1: Demonstrate a clear understanding of role of ethics in medical research.	CLMO 3 – 4, 7
SLO 2: Critically analyse and effectively evaluate research papers and reports.	CLMO 3
SLO 3: Analyse and develop strategies to strengthen reporting of observational studies	CLMO 3, 7
SLO 4: Identify and assess the effectiveness of strategies to minimise conflicts of interest in medical research	CLMO 3, 7

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