PhD Committee

Systematic review and meta-analysis: Introduction to Cochrane methodology, MESÖC01

Systematisk översikt och meta-analys: Introduktion till Cochrane-metodologi

1.5 credits   Third cycle

General information

The course is full-time and open to all doctoral students at the Faculty of Medicine. Researchers with PhDs can participate subject to the availability of places. This course includes a part of the new Cochrane Interactive Learning.

Language of instruction

English

Purpose

The aim of the course is to provide a basal-medium understanding of the systematic review and meta-analysis used in Cochrane at an international level, incorporating both theoretical and practical perspectives. This knowledge is fundamental in enabling the assessment of clinical studies. In addition, this knowledge can be used to carry out different types of systematic reviews, for example reviews of animal studies.

Learning outcomes

On completion of the course, the participants shall be able to:

- prepare protocols for a systematic review
- describe basic principles for carrying out and interpreting meta-analyses
- distinguish between different types of risk of bias
- describe conditions for Cochrane systematic reviews, nationally and internationally.

Course content

The course provides a broad introduction to methodology for Cochrane systematic reviews. The course introduces basic concepts for the following subjects: writing Cochrane protocols, searching for studies, selecting studies and collecting data, study quality of studies and risk of bias (GRADE methodology), analysing and interpreting data, reporting results, short introduction to health economics.

Approved by the PhD Committee on 27 November 2017, applies from 1 January 2018

Amended by the PhD Committee on 15 October 2019, valid from 15 October 2019

Course design

The course comprises three full days, which are compulsory and based on the active participation of the students, as well as two days of independent study. A mixture of different teaching forms such as lectures/discussions, interactive online Cochrane learning resources (e.g. training.cochrane.org/interactive learning), training on Cochrane software (Revman), practical exercises and group discussions will be applied in order to fulfil the learning outcomes for the course. The empirical examples presented during the course will be based on relevant Cochrane articles.

Assessment

The participants will each be given an individual assessment (Pass or Fail) through an interactive online resource for each subject in the course content. There is also a requirement for active involvement in the course, and attendance is compulsory.

Grades

Pass and Fail.

Entry requirements

The requirement for admission to the course is to be enrolled for third cycle studies at the Faculty of Medicine.

Reading list

During the course period the participants are expected to read:

- Systematic reviews (1 page)
  http://handbook-5-1.cochrane.org/index.htm#chapter_1/1_2_systematic_reviews.htm
- Rationale for well-formulated questions *(1 page)*:
  http://handbook-5-1.cochrane.org/index.htm#chapter_5/5_1_1_rationale_for_well-formulated_questions.htm
- Logistics of doing a review *(4 pages)*: *http://handbook-5-1.cochrane.org/index.htm#chapter_2/2_3_logistics_of_doing_a_review.htm*

Information on articles included in the reading list will be provided during the course (1 or 2 articles, max 10 pages).