

# **Ridurre gli sprechi e aumentare il valore della ricerca biomedica Un mandato etico**

**Nino Cartabellotta**  
Fondazione GIMBE

# Disclosure sui conflitti d'interesse

- La Fondazione GIMBE, di cui sono Presidente, eroga attività di formazione e consulenza sui temi trattati dalla mia relazione
- Nessun altro conflitto da dichiarare

LE MIGLIORI  
EVIDENZE SCIENTIFICHE  
DEVONO PERMEARE  
TUTTI I LIVELLI  
DECISIONALI DEL  
SISTEMA SANITARIO  
E GUIDARE  
LE SCELTE  
DEI CITTADINI



# ANALYSIS

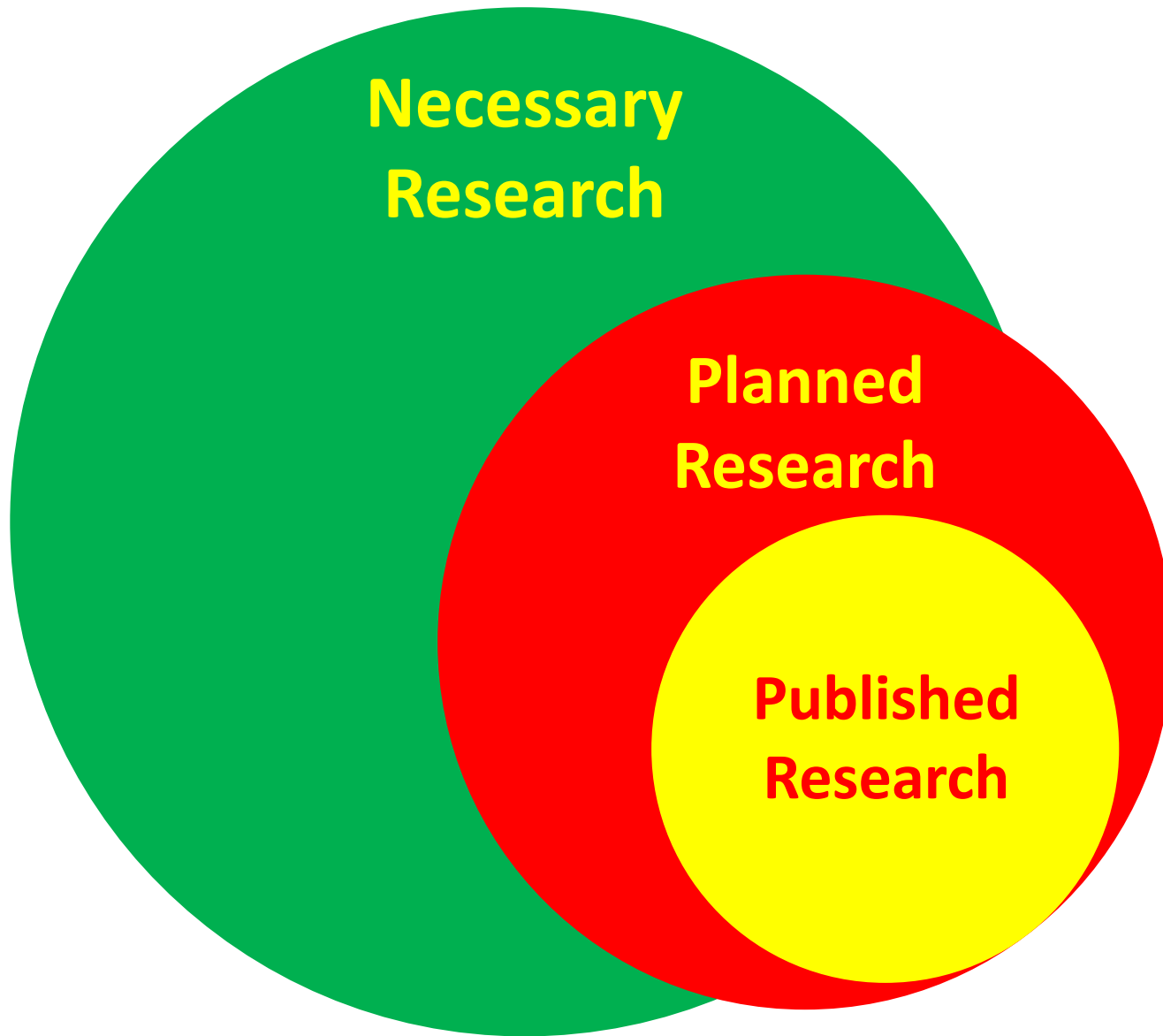
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## ESSAY

### **Evidence based medicine: a movement in crisis?**

**Trisha Greenhalgh and colleagues** argue that, although evidence based medicine has had many benefits, it has also had some negative unintended consequences. They offer a preliminary agenda for the movement's renaissance, refocusing on providing useable evidence that can be combined with context and professional expertise so that individual patients get optimal treatment

Trisha Greenhalgh *dean for research impact*<sup>1</sup>, Jeremy Howick *senior research fellow*<sup>2</sup>, Neal Maskrey *professor of evidence informed decision making*<sup>3</sup>, for the Evidence Based Medicine Renaissance Group



# Omission bias

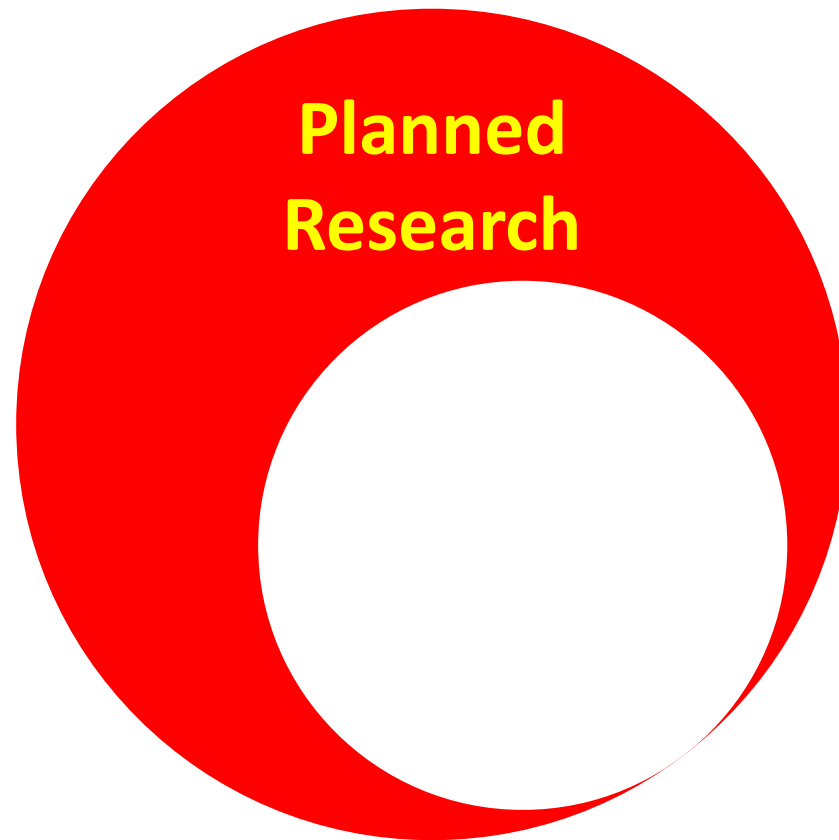


**Necessary  
Research**

**Necessary  
Research**

**Planned  
Research**

# Publication bias

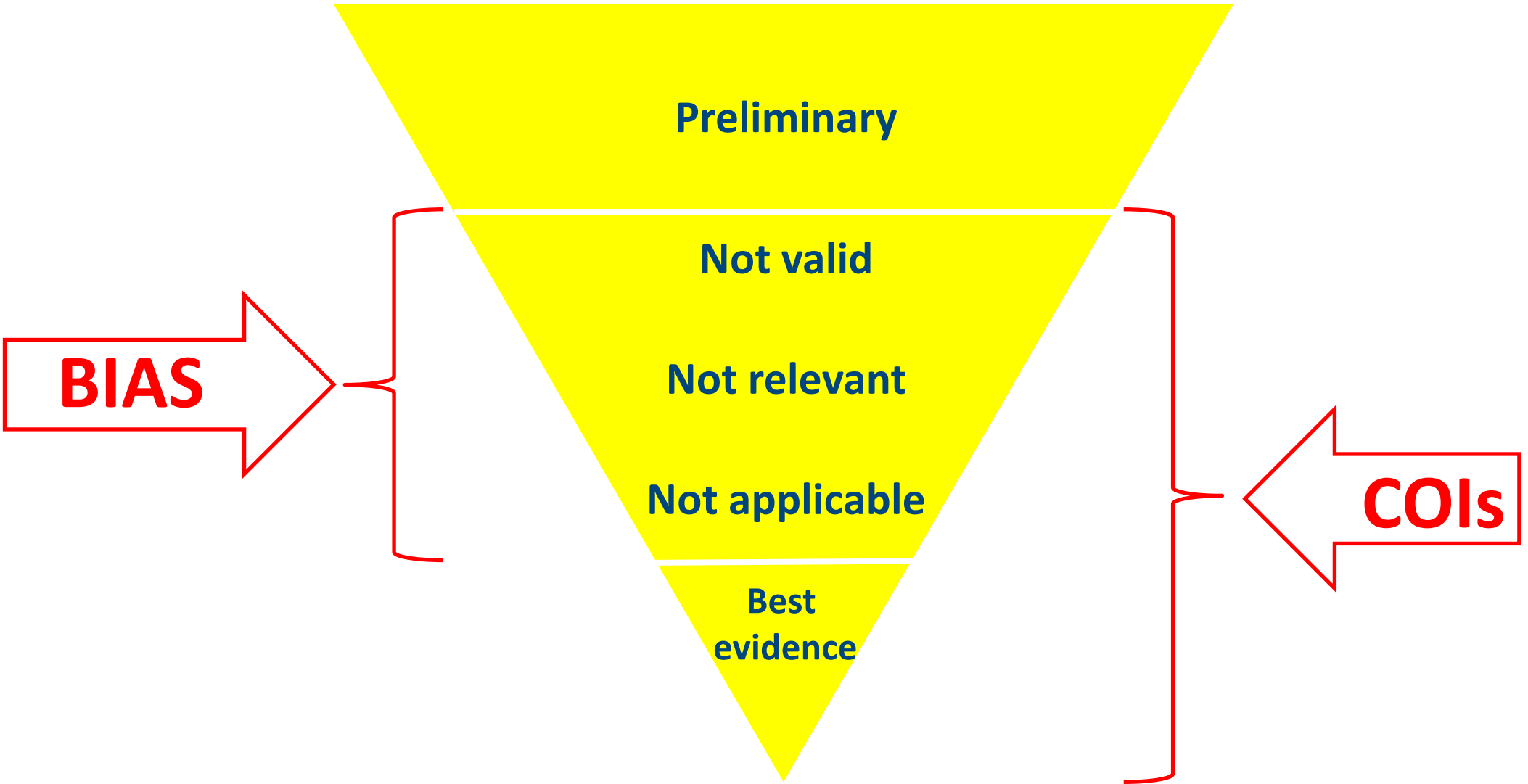






**Published  
Research**

# Critical appraisal



# W Avoidable waste in the production and reporting of research evidence

Iain Chalmers, Paul Glasziou

Lancet 2009; 374: 86–89

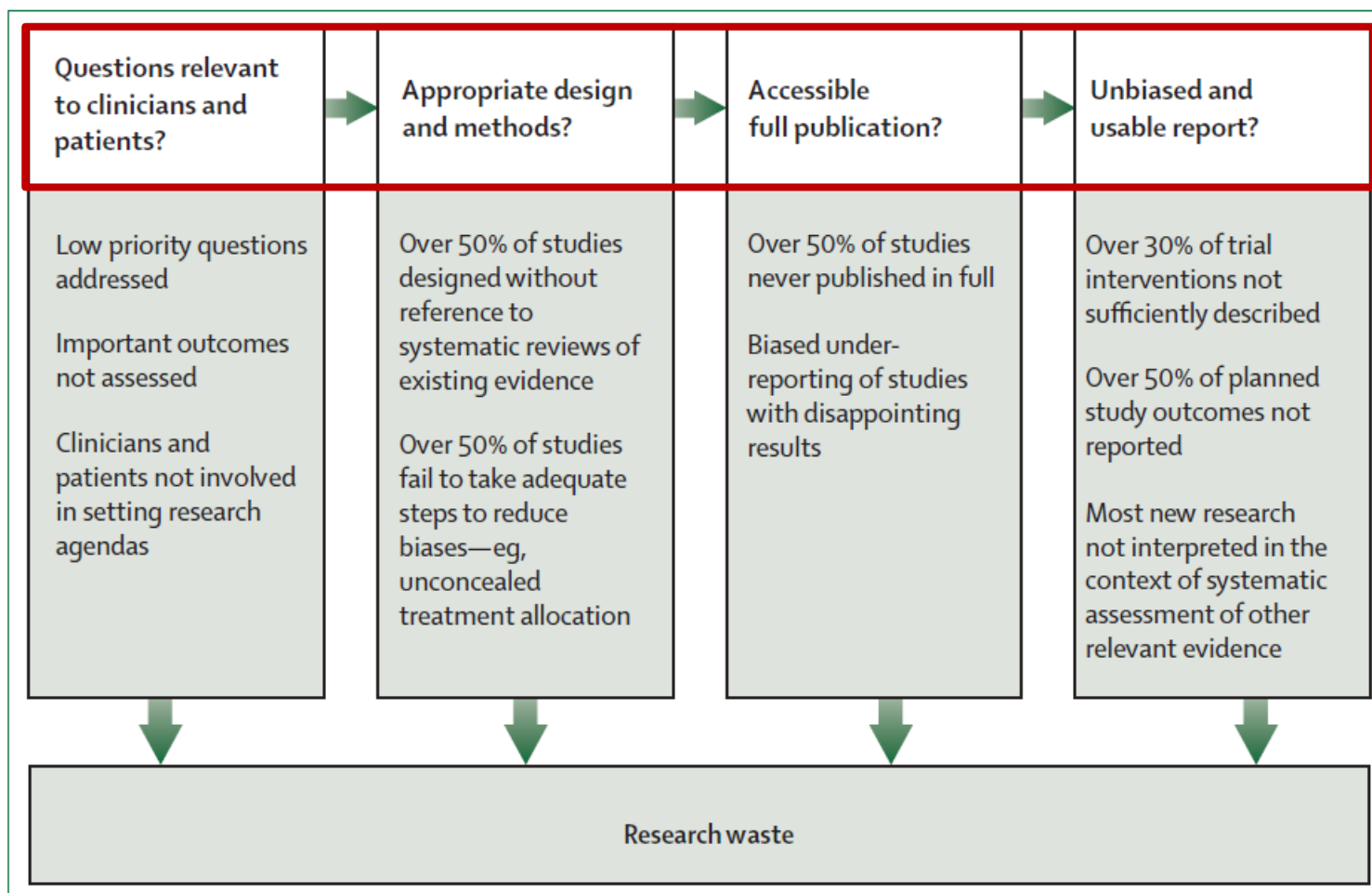


Figure: Stages of waste in the production and reporting of research evidence relevant to clinicians and patients

# THE LANCET

Research: Increasing value, reducing waste - January, 2014

[www.thelancet.com](http://www.thelancet.com)

“By ensuring that efforts are infused with rigour from start to finish, the research community might protect itself from the sophistry of politicians, disentangle the conflicted motivations of capital and science, and secure real value for money for charitable givers and taxpayers through increased value and reduced waste.”

# 42 "wasters"

A Metin Gülmezoglu, Andrew Vickers, An-Wen Chan, Ben Djulbegovic, David Moher, David W Howells, Davina Gherzi, Douglas G Altman, Elaine Beller, Elina Hemminki, Elizabeth Wager, Fujian Song, H Bart van der Worp, Harlan M Krumholz, Iain Chalmers, Ian Roberts, Isabelle Boutron, Janet Wisely, John P A Ioannidis, Jonathan Grant, Jonathan Kagan, Julian Savulescu, Kay Dickersin, Kenneth F Schulz, Malcolm R Macleod, Mark A Hlatky, Michael B Bracken, Mike Clarke, Muin J Khoury, Patrick Bossuyt, Paul Glasziou, Peter C Gøtzsche, Robert S Phillips, Robert Tibshirani, Rustam Al-Shahi Salman, Sander Greenland, Sandy Oliver, **Silvio Garattini**, Steven Julious, Susan Michie, Tom Jefferson, Ulrich Dirnagl

Comment

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Biomedical research: increasing value, reducing waste



Comment

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How should medical science change?



## **Gli sprechi della ricerca biomedica e la crisi dell'Evidence-based Medicine**

Antonino Cartabellotta<sup>1\*</sup>



# Life sciences research in 2010

US\$ 240.000.000.000



**85% wasted**



## Series Papers

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### How to increase value and reduce waste when research priorities are set

Iain Chalmers, Michael B Bracken, Ben Djulbegovic, Silvio Garattini, Jonathan Grant, A Metin Gülmezoglu, David W Howells, John P A Ioannidis, Sandy Oliver

[Full Text](#) | [PDF](#)

### Increasing value and reducing waste in research design, conduct, and analysis

John P A Ioannidis, Sander Greenland, Mark A Hlatky, Muin J Khoury, Malcolm R Macleod, David Moher, Kenneth F Schulz, Robert Tibshirani

[Full Text](#) | [PDF](#)

### Increasing value and reducing waste in biomedical research regulation and management

Rustam Al-Shahi Salman, Elaine Beller, Jonathan Kagan, Elina Hemminki, Robert S Phillips, Julian Savulescu, Malcolm Macleod, Janet Wisely, Iain Chalmers

[Full Text](#) | [PDF](#)

### Increasing value and reducing waste: addressing inaccessible research

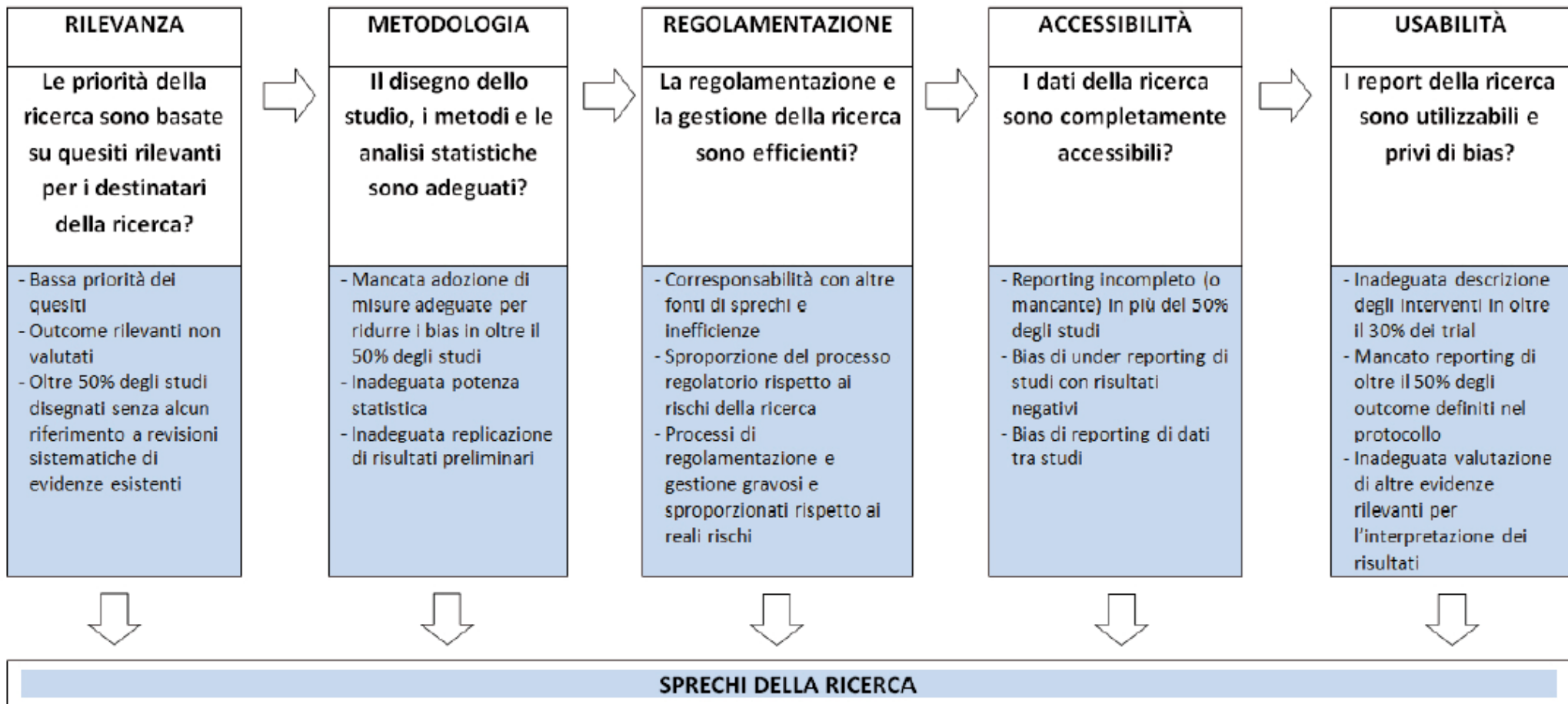
An-Wen Chan, Fujian Song, Andrew Vickers, Tom Jefferson, Kay Dickersin, Peter C Gøtzsche, Harlan M Krumholz, Davina Ghera, H Bart van der Worp

[Full Text](#) | [PDF](#)

### Reducing waste from incomplete or unusable reports of biomedical research

Paul Glasziou, Douglas G Altman, Patrick Bossuyt, Isabelle Boutron, Mike Clarke, Steven Julious, Susan Michie, David Moher, Elizabeth Wager

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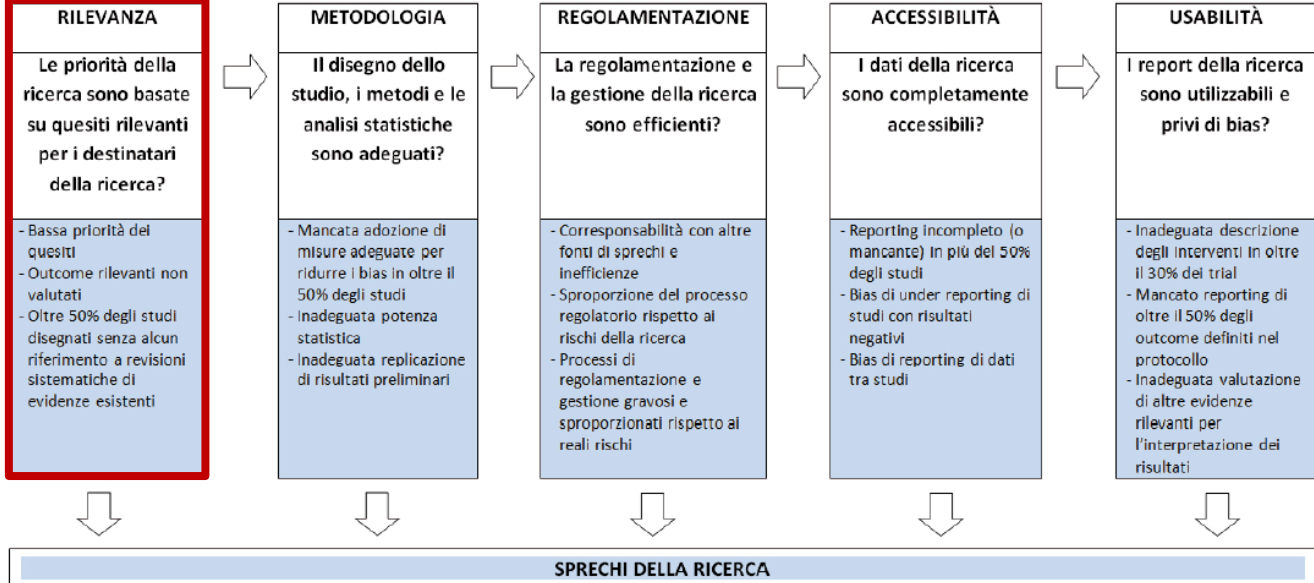
**Figura.** Sprechi e inefficienze evitabili nella ricerca biomedica (tradotta e adattata da Macleod MR et al.<sup>27</sup>)

# Research: increasing value, reducing waste 1



## How to increase value and reduce waste when research priorities are set

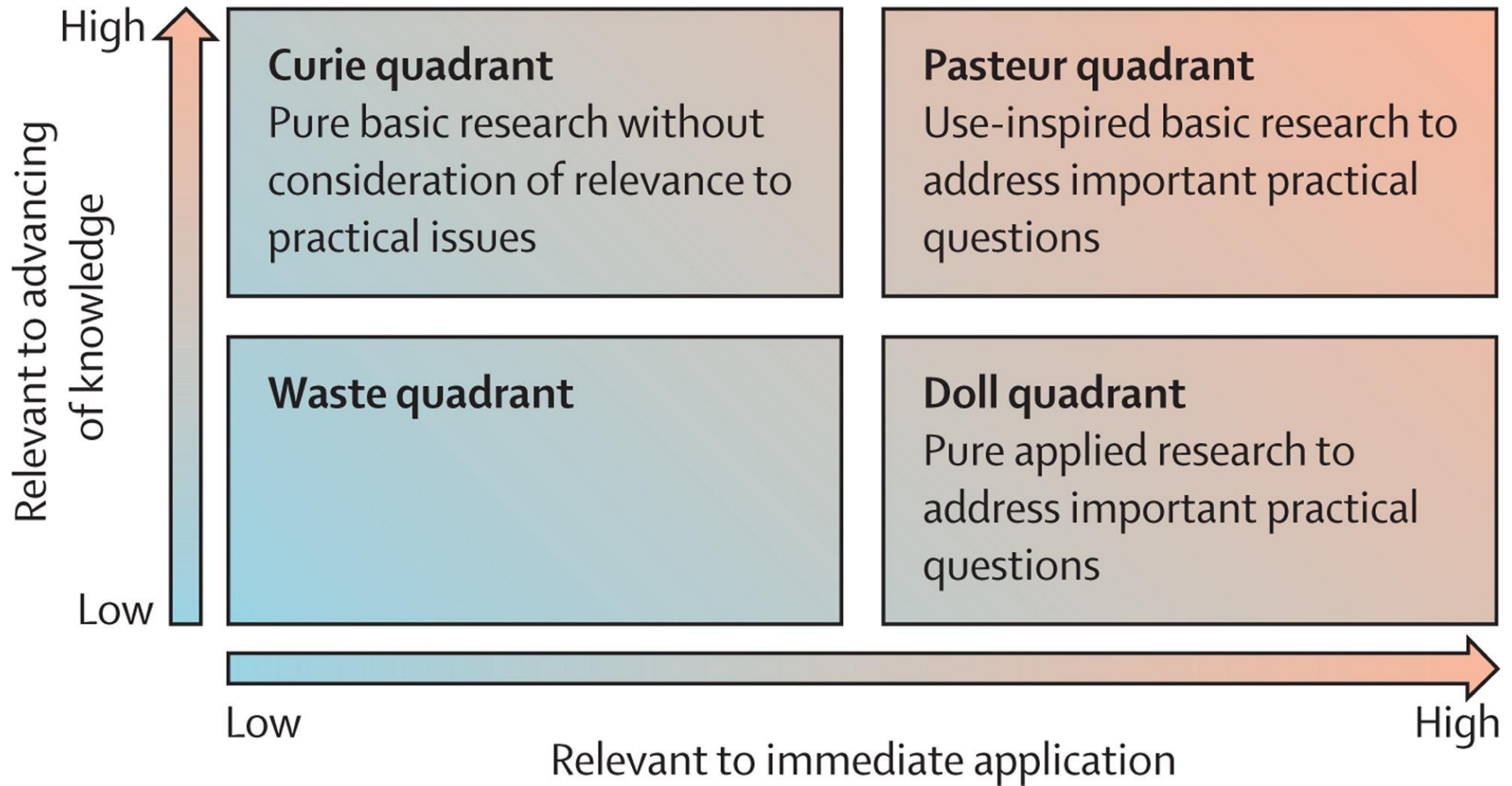
*Iain Chalmers, Michael B Bracken, Ben Djulbegovic, Silvio Garattini, Jonathan Grant, A Metin Gülmezoglu, David W Howells, John P A Ioannidis, Sandy Oliver*



## RILEVANZA

Le priorità della ricerca sono basate su quesiti rilevanti per i destinatari della ricerca?

- Bassa priorità dei quesiti
- Outcome rilevanti non valutati
- Oltre 50% degli studi disegnati senza alcun riferimento a revisioni sistematiche di evidenze esistenti



# Translation of Highly Promising Basic Science Research into Clinical Applications

Despina G. Contopoulos-Ioannidis, MD, Evangelia E. Ntzani, MD, John P. A. Ioannidis, MD

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**PURPOSE:** To evaluate the predictors of and time taken for the translation of highly promising basic research into clinical experimentation and use.

**METHODS:** We identified 101 articles, published between 1979 and 1983 in six major basic science journals, which clearly stated that the technology studied had novel therapeutic or preventive promises. Each case was evaluated for whether the promising finding resulted in relevant randomized controlled trials and clinical use. Main outcomes included the time to published trials, time to published trials with favorable results ("positive" trials), and licensed clinical use.

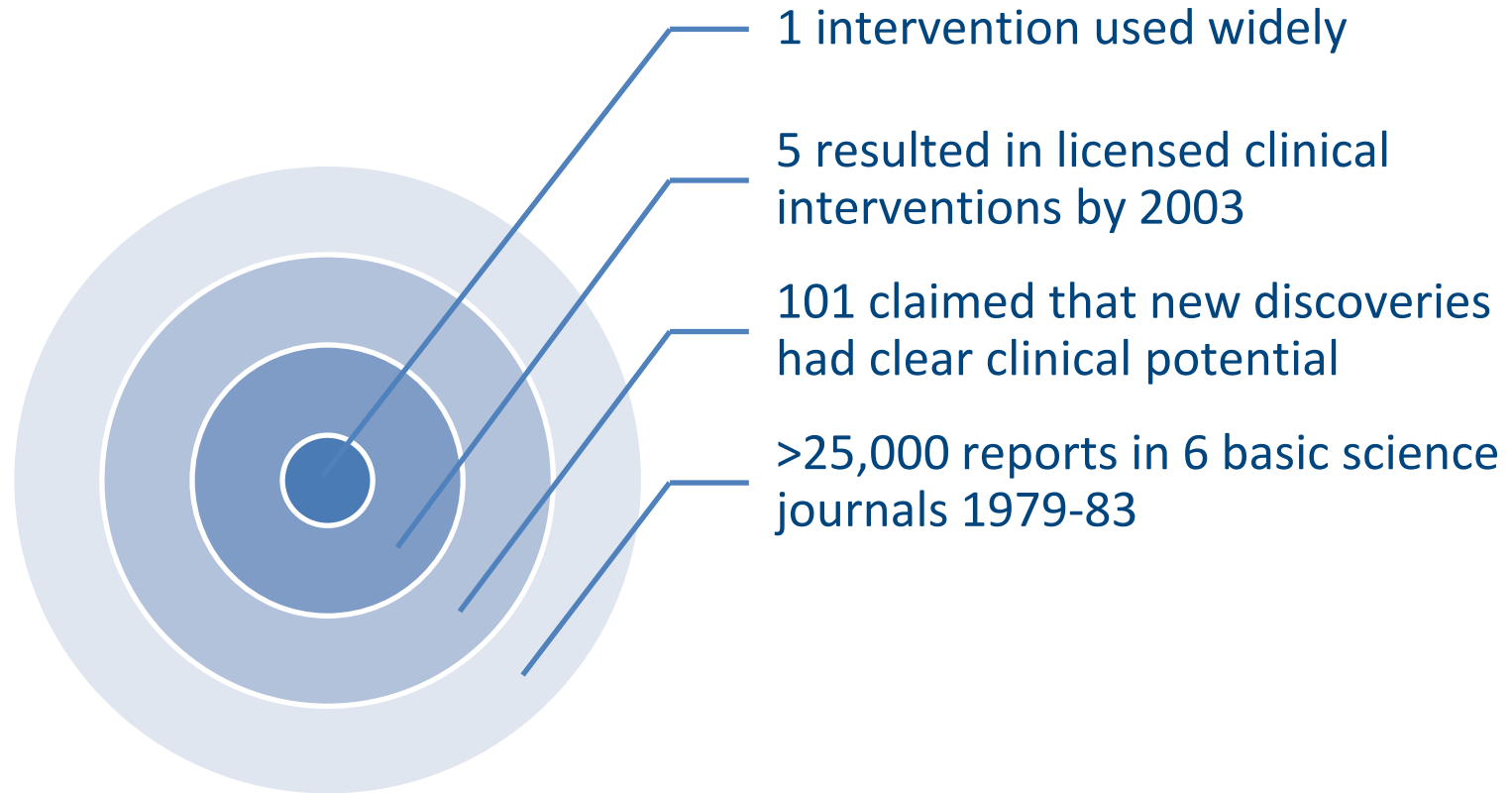
**RESULTS:** By October 2002, 27 of the promising technologies had resulted in at least one published randomized trial, 19 of which had led to the publication of at least one positive random-

ized trial. Five basic science findings are currently licensed for clinical use, but only one has been used extensively for the licensed indications. Promising technologies that did not lead to a published human study within 10 to 12 years were unlikely to be tested in humans subsequently. Some form of industry involvement in the basic science publication was the strongest predictor of clinical experimentation, accelerating the process by about eightfold (95% confidence interval: 3 to 19) when an author had industry affiliations.

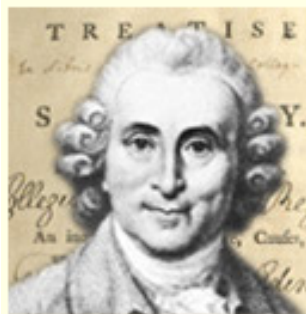
**CONCLUSION:** Even the most promising findings of basic research take a long time to translate into clinical experimentation, and adoption in clinical practice is rare. *Am J Med.* 2003; 114:477-484. ©2003 by Excerpta Medica Inc.

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# L'inefficienza della ricerca di base







# The James Lind Alliance

Tackling treatment uncertainties together

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## Welcome to the James Lind Alliance website

The James Lind Alliance (JLA) is a non-profit making initiative which was established in 2004. It brings **patients, carers and clinicians** together to identify and prioritise the **top 10 uncertainties**, or 'unanswered questions', about the effects of treatments that they agree are most important.

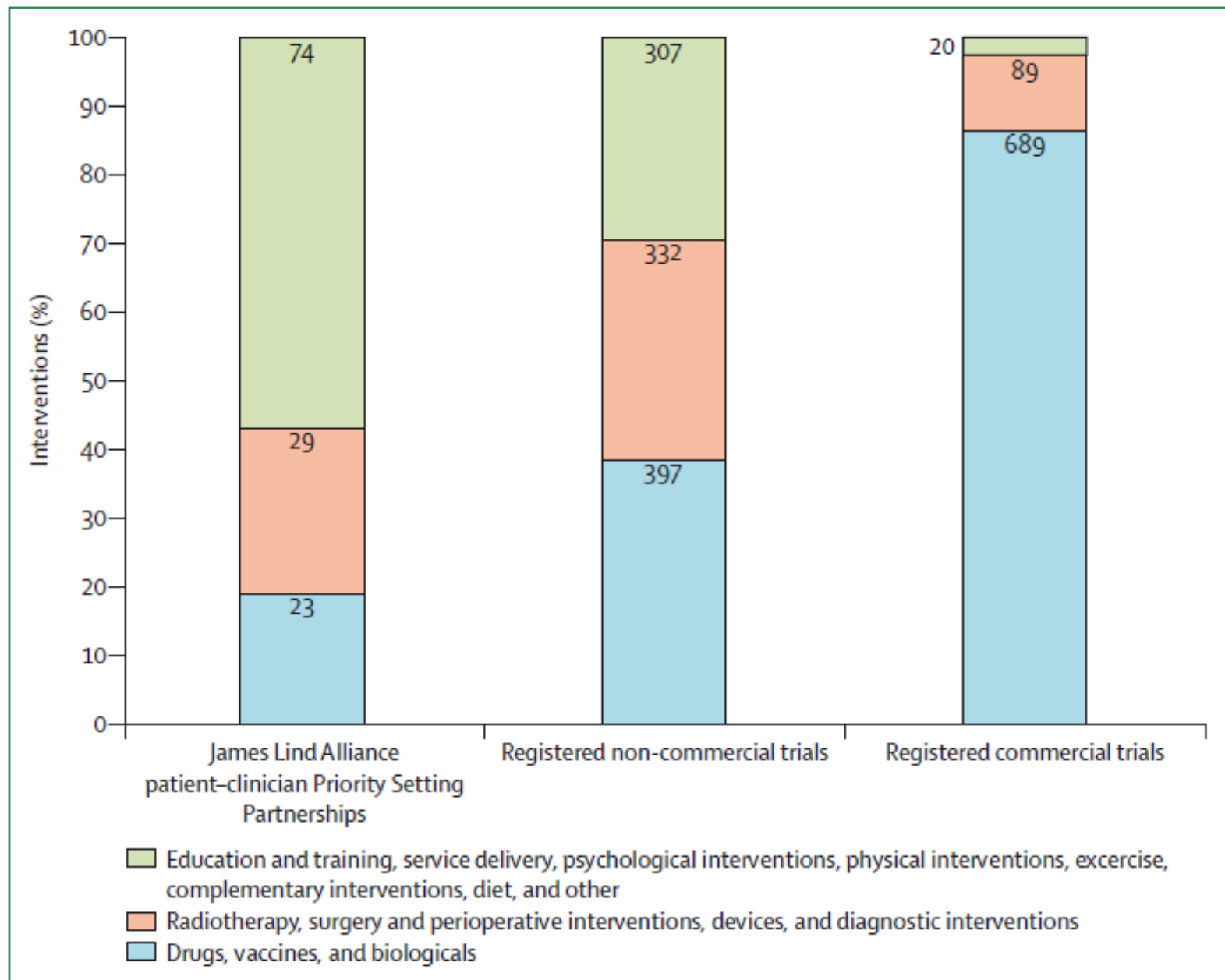
This information will help ensure that those who fund health research are aware of what matters to both patients and clinicians.

This website contains information for those interested in finding out more about the JLA, and those who wish to become involved.

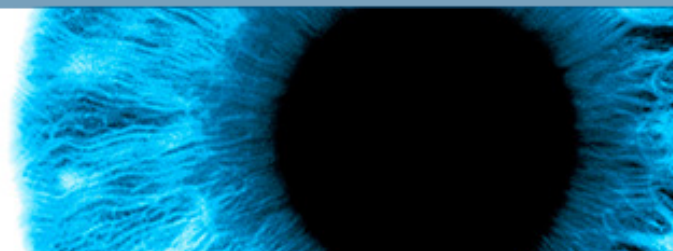
Click [here](#) to hear about what the JLA does, and click [here](#) to watch a video describing the JLA's approach to stakeholder involvement in research priority setting.







**Figure 2: Interventions mentioned in research priorities identified by James Lind Alliance patient-clinician Priority Setting Partnerships<sup>90</sup> and in registered trials, 2003–12**



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- Cancer
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- Ear nose and throat disorders
- Eyes and vision
- Gastroenterological and liver diseases
  - Genetic disorders
- Haematological disorders
  - Health policy
- Immune system diseases
- Infection
- Mental health
- Musculoskeletal diseases
  - Neonatal diseases
- Neurological conditions
- Nutritional metabolic and endocrine disorders
  - Occupational health



*UK DUETs: where uncertainties about the effects of treatment are collected and published*

## What is UK DUETs?

The UK Database of Uncertainties about the Effects of Treatments (UK DUETs) publishes treatment uncertainties from patients, carers, clinicians, and from research recommendations, covering a wide variety of health problems.

## Where do the uncertainties published in UK DUETs come from?

UK DUETs draws on three main sources to identify uncertainties about the effects of treatments:

- patients', carers' and clinicians' questions about the effects of treatment
- research recommendations in reports of systematic reviews of existing research and in clinical guidelines, in which knowledge gaps are revealed
- ongoing research, both in the form of systematic reviews in progress and new 'primary' studies

### James Lind Alliance Guidebook.

Step-by-step guidance to establishing Priority Setting Partnerships.

James Lind Alliance Priority Setting Partnerships (PSPs) have prioritised the uncertainties for the conditions listed below. To see these uncertainties click on the topics below or go to the [JLA Website](#) to see the Top 10 in ranked order.

[Anaesthesia](#)
[Asthma](#)
[Balance](#)
[Childhood disability](#)
[Cleft Lip and or Palate](#)
[Dementia](#)

# Limitato riferimento a revisioni sistematiche

	May, 2009 (n=29)	May, 2012 (n=35)
Claims that clinical trial is the first to address the question	5	5
Contains an updated systematic review that was used to inform trial design	1	1
Previous systematic review* discussed that was not used in trial design	10	13
Contains references to other randomised trials	4	10
Does not contain references to other randomised trials or claim to be the first trial	9	6

Analysis of reports published in *The Lancet*, *New England Journal of Medicine*, *British Medical Journal*, *Journal of the American Medical Association*, and *Annals of Internal Medicine*.<sup>64</sup> \*Systematic review in the topic area of the trial cited.

**Table 2:** Analysis of Introduction sections of reports of controlled trials published in five medical journals in May, 2009, and May, 2012

# What Makes Clinical Research Ethical?

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Ezekiel J. Emanuel, MD, PhD

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David Wendler, PhD

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Christine Grady, PhD

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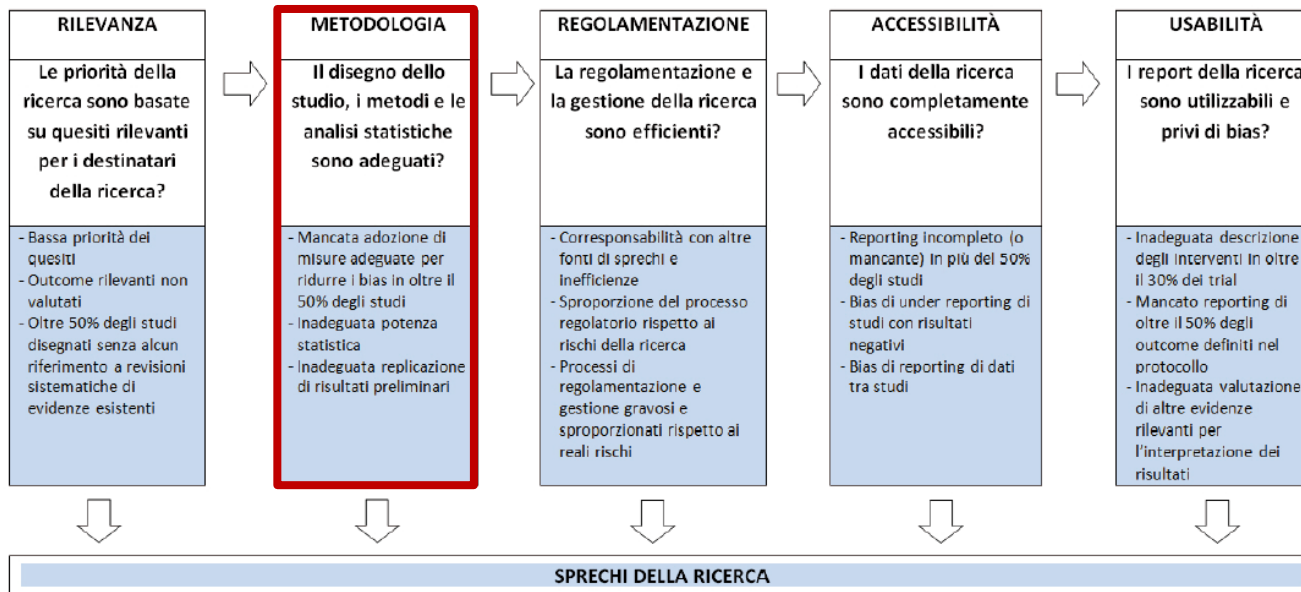
*JAMA. 2000;283:2701-2711*

# Research: increasing value, reducing waste 2



## Increasing value and reducing waste in research design, conduct, and analysis

*John P A Ioannidis, Sander Greenland, Mark A Hlatky, Muin J Khoury, Malcolm R Macleod, David Moher, Kenneth F Schulz, Robert Tibshirani*



## METODOLOGIA

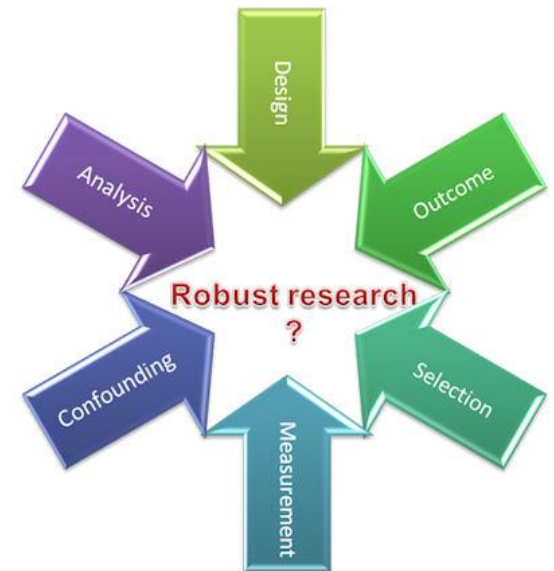
### Il disegno dello studio, i metodi e le analisi statistiche sono adeguati?

- Mancata adozione di misure adeguate per ridurre i bias in oltre il 50% degli studi
- Inadeguata potenza statistica
- Inadeguata replicazione di risultati preliminari



# Methodological issues

- La maggior parte degli effetti terapeutici sono modesti
- E' difficile distinguere gli effetti modesti dai bias
- Nei trial randomizzati effetti del trattamento influenzati da:
  - modalità di generazione della sequenza di assegnazione
  - occultamento della lista di randomizzazione
  - blinding, in particolare se outcome soggettivi
- La ricerca è distorta da numerosi bias



ORIGINAL ARTICLES

Science mapping analysis characterizes 235 biases  
in biomedical research

David Chavalarias<sup>a,b</sup>, John P.A. Ioannidis<sup>c,d,\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup>*Centre de Recherche en Épistémologie Appliquée, École Polytechnique - CNRS, 32 Bd Victor, 75015 Paris, France*

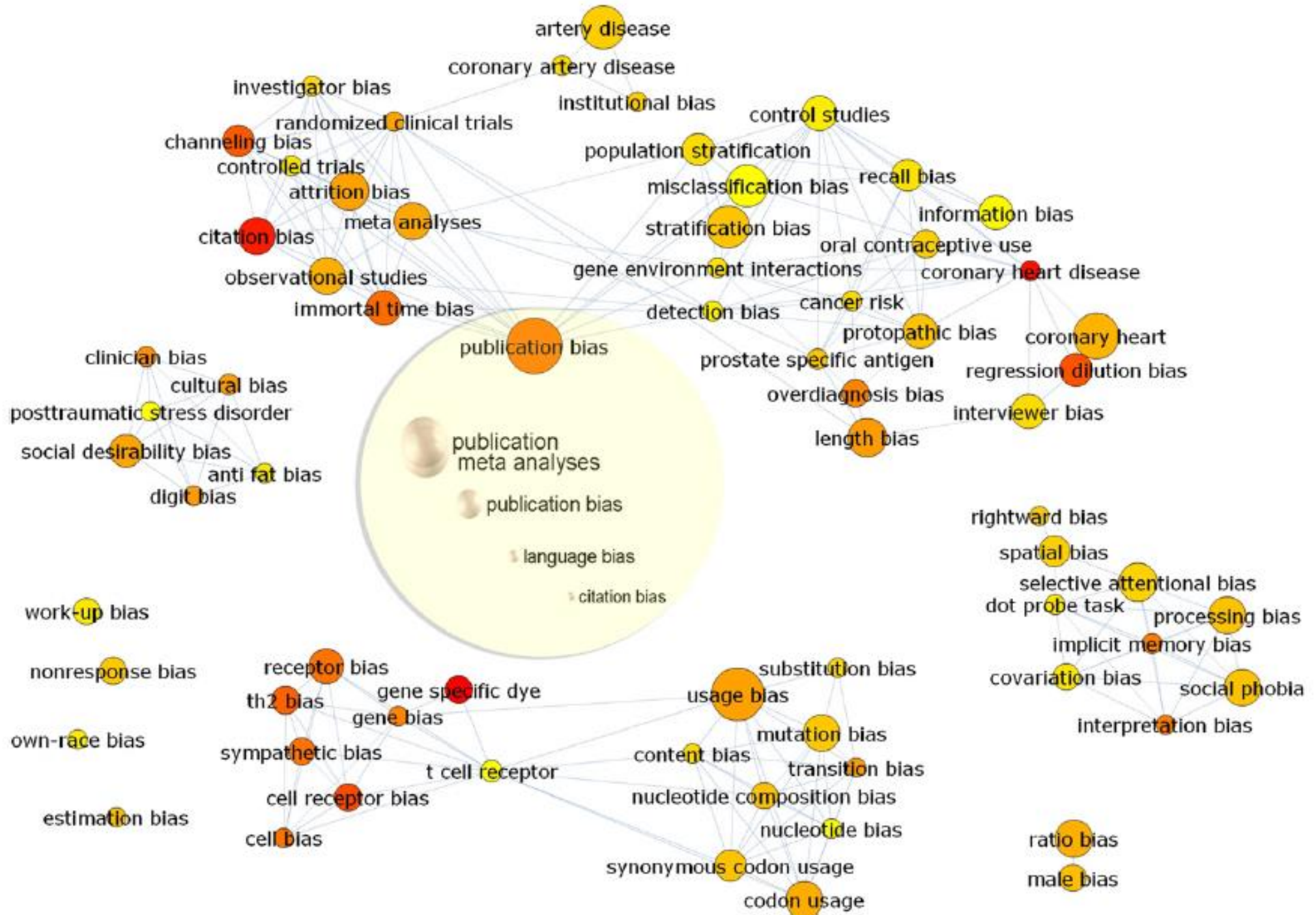
<sup>b</sup>*Institut des Systèmes Complexes de Paris Ile-de-France, 57–59 rue Lhomond, 75005, Paris, France*

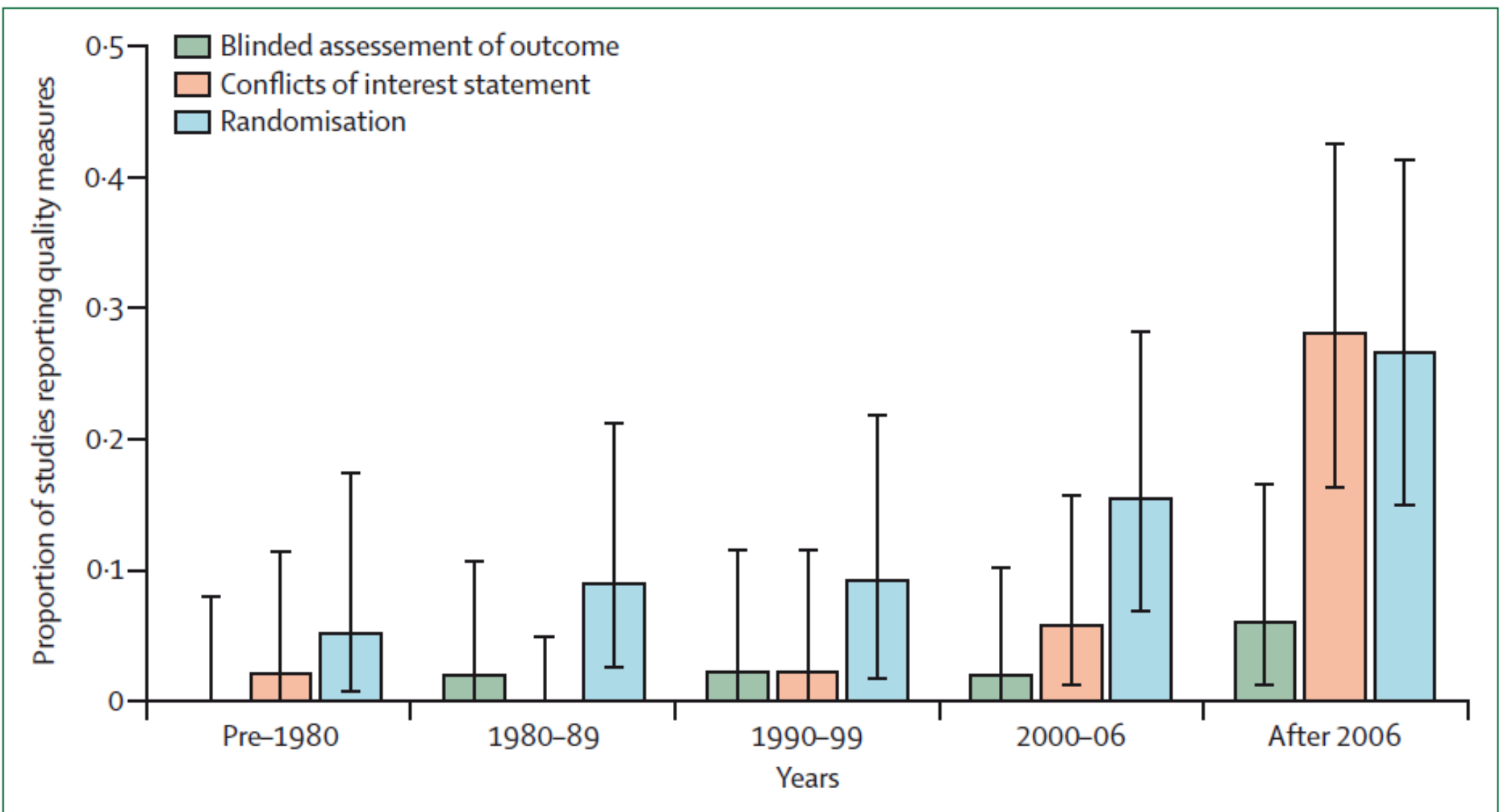
<sup>c</sup>*Department of Hygiene and Epidemiology, University of Ioannina School of Medicine and Biomedical Research Institute,  
Foundation for Research and Technology-Hellas, Ioannina 45110, Greece*

<sup>d</sup>*Tufts Clinical and Translational Science Institute and Institute for Clinical Research and Health Policy Studies, Tufts Medical Center  
and Department of Medicine, Tufts University School of Medicine, Boston, MA 02111, USA*

Accepted 22 December 2009







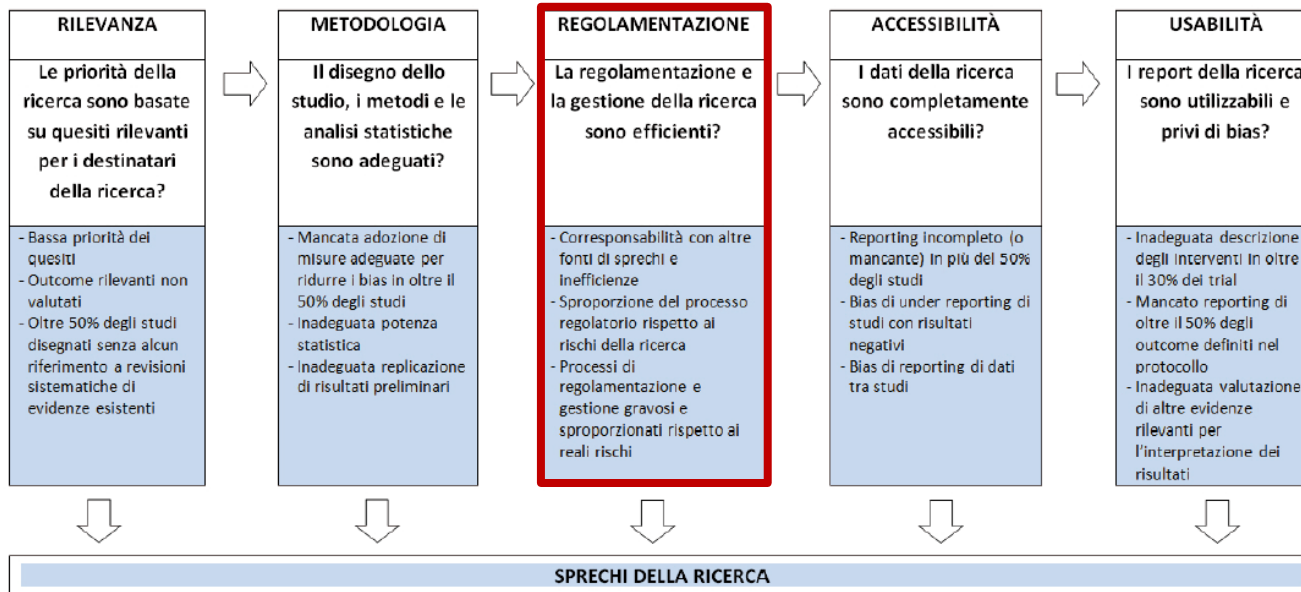
**Figure:** Trends in three methodological quality indicators for reports of in-vivo studies

## Research: increasing value, reducing waste 3



# Increasing value and reducing waste in biomedical research regulation and management

*Rustam Al-Shahi Salman, Elaine Beller, Jonathan Kagan, Elina Hemminki, Robert S Phillips, Julian Savulescu, Malcolm Macleod, Janet Wisely, Iain Chalmers*



# REGOLAMENTAZIONE

## La regolamentazione e la gestione della ricerca sono efficienti?

- Corresponsabilità con altre fonti di sprechi e inefficienze
- Sproporzione del processo regolatorio rispetto ai rischi della ricerca
- Processi di regolamentazione e gestione gravosi e sproporzionati rispetto ai reali rischi



**Panel 1: An example from Sweden of the bureaucracy involved in applications for central research ethics committee approval**

In 2010, a group of researchers in Sweden wanted to pool data from several cohort studies to identify risk factors for subarachnoid haemorrhage. They identified about 20 studies, and spent about 300 h contacting all investigators and getting signed data-sharing agreements and data security processes agreed. Sweden has a central research ethics committee to approve projects. The team recorded the time taken for each step of the approval process. About 200 h of office time was spent on the ethics approval and resubmission process alone. The research ethics committee wanted to see all information that the participants of all cohorts had been given about the purpose of the study. These documents had to be provided as 18 copies and submitted manually. It took the team 6 months to collect all the information sheets from the 20 different cohorts, several of which began recruitment in the 1960s and for which little knowledge about what information was given by whom to whom in the recruitment phase was poor. The research ethics committee eventually had the team advertise in national newspapers about the pooling project, listing all original cohorts so that all individuals who did not want the team to use their data for this project could withdraw their consent for the study. Not one participant withdrew. It took more than 3 years to reach the stage of pooling data from the cohorts, ready for analysis.



**Figure 1: Paperwork required for regulatory review of the research described in panel 1**

# Regulation of Therapeutic Research is Compromising the Interests of Patients<sup>1</sup>

*Iain Chalmers*

James Lind Library, James Lind Initiative, Oxford, UK



# Tre motivazioni principali

- Approvazione di protocolli di trial senza alcuna rilevanza clinica
- Approvazione di protocolli di trial con disegno inadeguato
- Incapacità di mettere in atto azioni concrete per ridurre il bias di pubblicazione



# Seeding trials (trial di "disseminazione")

- Finti studi scientifici il cui vero obiettivo non è produrre nuove conoscenze, ma far familiarizzare i medici con l'uso di un farmaco in arrivo sul mercato
- Non sono etici ed espongono i partecipanti a inutili rischi
- N° elevato di centri sperimentali
- Pochi pazienti richiesti per ogni centro
- Compensi spropositati





## Seeding Trials: Just Say “No”

*Harold C. Sox, MD*

Editor

*Drummond Rennie, MD*

Deputy Editor, *JAMA*

*Ann Intern Med.* 2008;149:279-280.

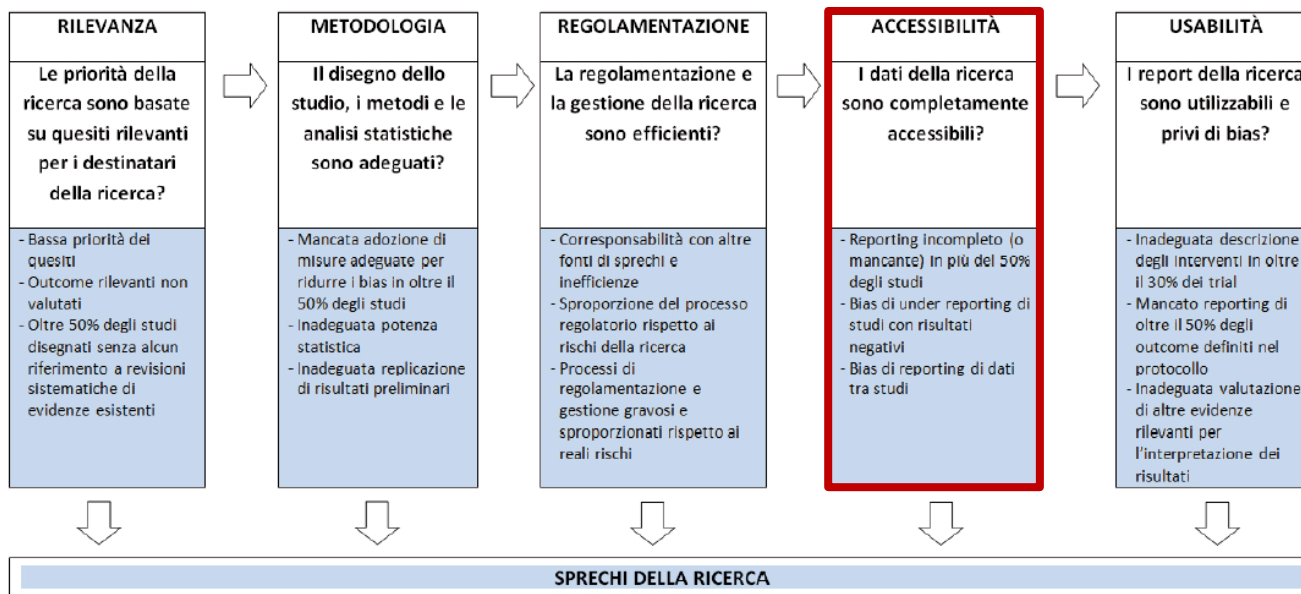


# Research: increasing value, reducing waste 4



## Increasing value and reducing waste: addressing inaccessible research

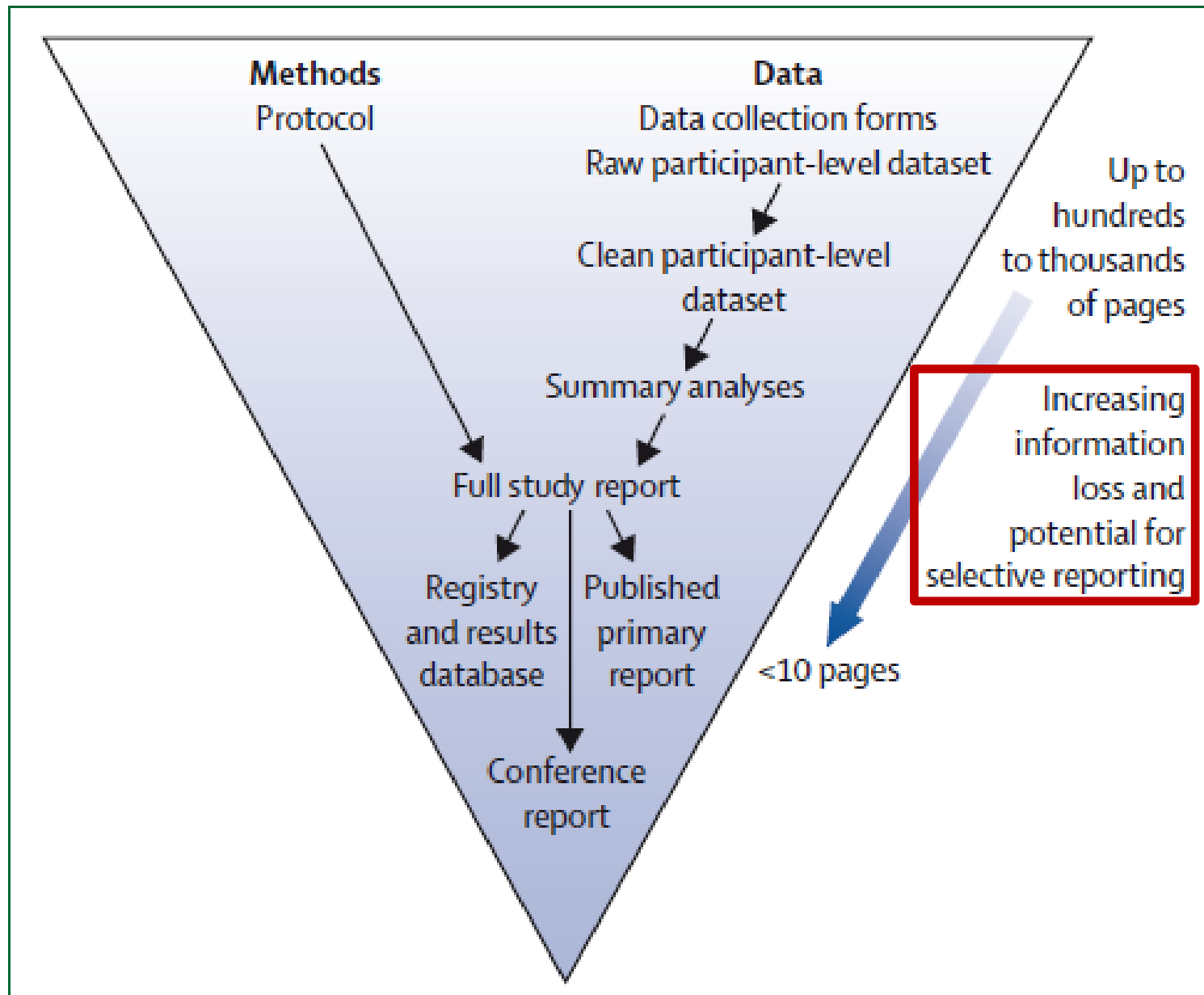
*An-Wen Chan, Fujian Song, Andrew Vickers, Tom Jefferson, Kay Dickersin, Peter C Gøtzsche, Harlan M Krumholz, Davina Ghersi, H Bart van der Worp*



# ACCESSIBILITÀ

## I dati della ricerca sono completamente accessibili?

- Reporting incompleto (o mancante) in più del 50% degli studi
- Bias di under reporting di studi con risultati negativi
- Bias di reporting di dati tra studi



**Figure 4:** Key sources of information about study methods and results, with associated information loss and potential for selective reporting

*Easterbrook PJ, Berlin JA, Gopalan R, Matthews DR.*

# **Publication bias in clinical research**

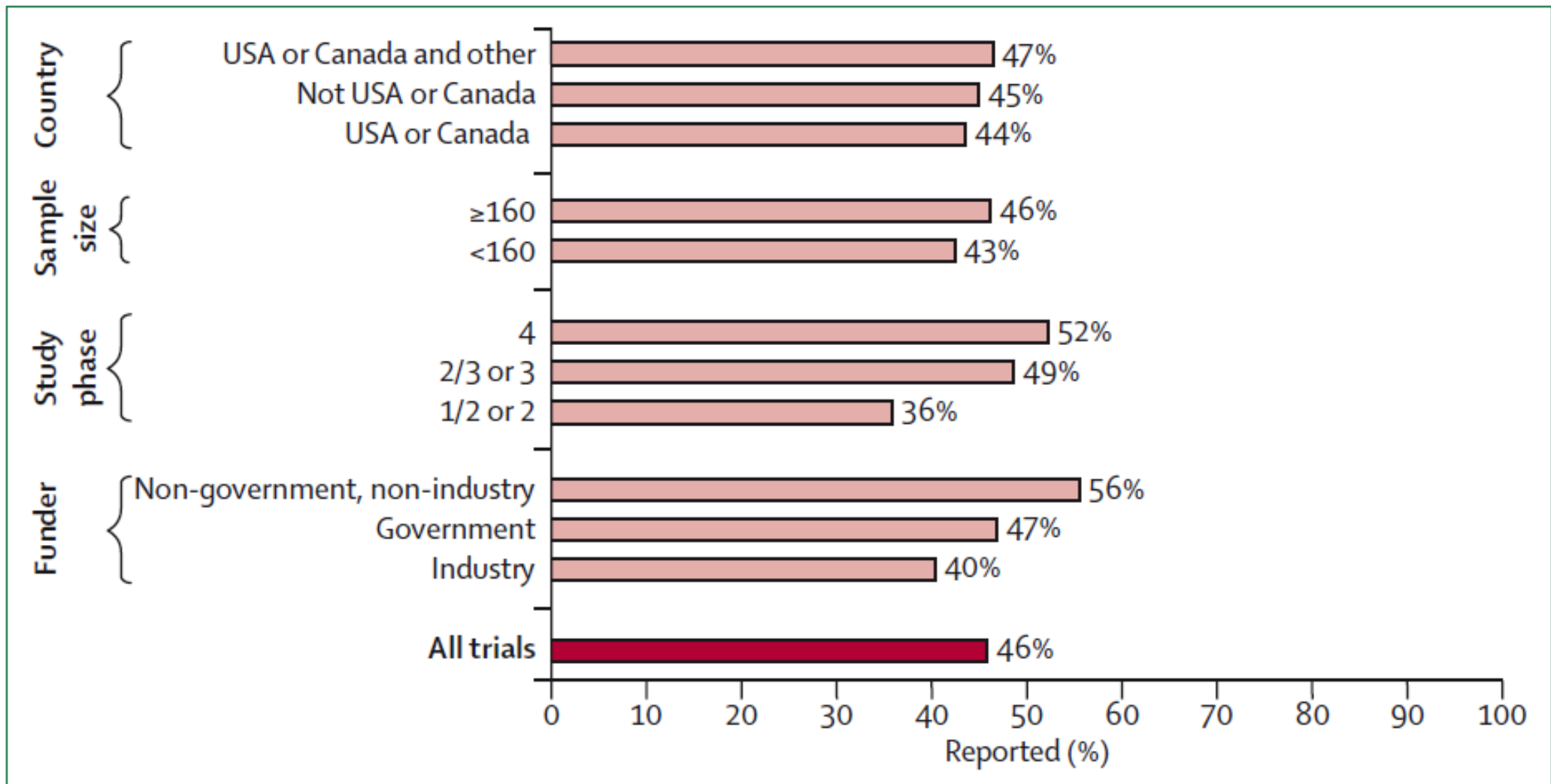
*Lancet 1991;337:867-72*

# Trial Publication after Registration in ClinicalTrials.gov: A Cross-Sectional Analysis

**Joseph S. Ross<sup>1,2\*</sup>, Gregory K. Mulvey<sup>3</sup>, Elizabeth M. Hines<sup>4</sup>, Steven E. Nissen<sup>5</sup>, Harlan M. Krumholz<sup>3,6,7</sup>**

**1** Department of Geriatrics and Adult Development, Mount Sinai School of Medicine, New York, New York, United States of America, **2** HSR&D Research Enhancement Award Program and Geriatrics Research, Education, and Clinical Center, James J. Peters VA Medical Center, Bronx, New York, United States of America, **3** Center for Outcomes Research and Evaluation, Yale-New Haven Hospital, New Haven, Connecticut, United States of America, **4** Amherst College, Amherst, Massachusetts, United States of America, **5** Department of Cardiovascular Medicine, Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, Ohio, United States of America, **6** Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholars Program and Section of Cardiovascular Medicine, Department of Medicine, Yale University School of Medicine, New Haven, Connecticut, United States of America, **7** Section of Health Policy and Administration, Yale University School of Epidemiology and Public Health, New Haven, Connecticut, United States of America

**Published September 8, 2009**



**Figure 2: Reporting of completed trials, by study characteristic**

Data taken from Ross and colleagues' analysis<sup>11</sup> of a random sample of 677 completed trials registered with ClinicalTrials.gov between 2000 and 2007.



# 10 esempi clamorosi

- Oseltamivir
- Rosiglitazon
- Gabapentin
- TGN1412
- Paroxetine
- Lorcainide
- Rofecoxib
- Celecoxib
- Ezetimibe–simvastatin
- Vitamin A and albendazole





# Quali sprechi?

## EU-funded health research from 1998-2006

- 6 billion of euros → 50% unpublished

*Galsworthy MJ et al. Lancet 2012*



# Quali effetti su morbilità e mortalità?

- Rofecoxib 100.000 heart attacks in 1999-2004 (US)
- Lorcainide 50.000 deaths per year in 1980s (US)



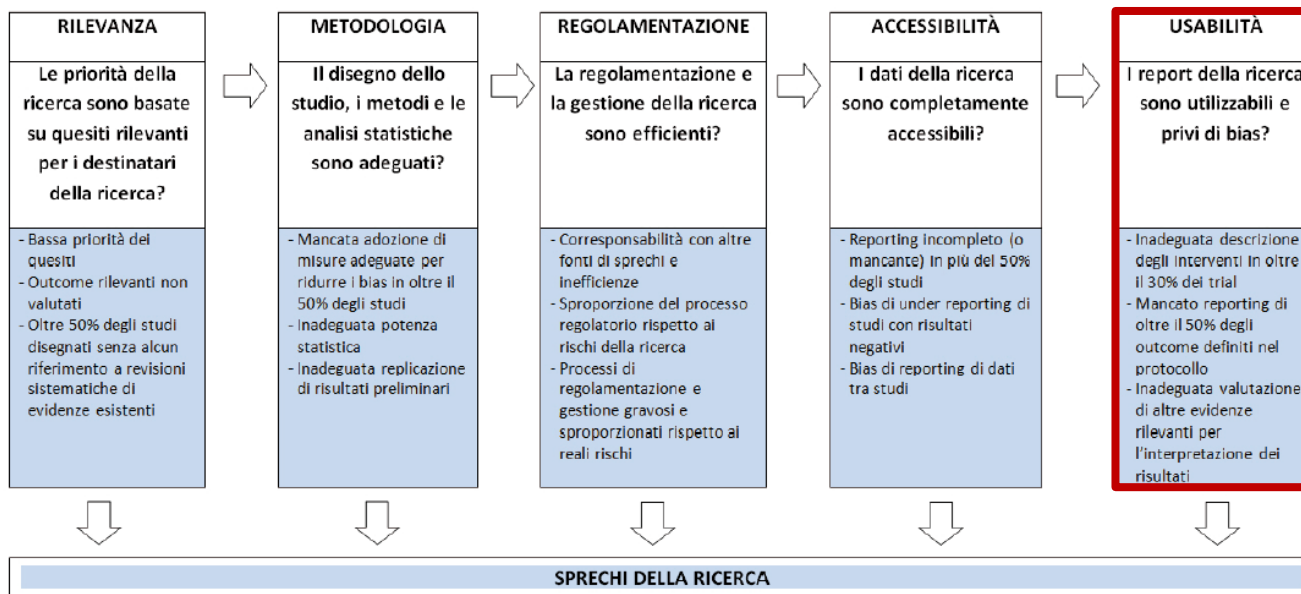
Occultare i risultati dei trial clinici costa vite umane, spreca denaro e espone i pazienti a sofferenze e rischi evitabili: il caso della Lorcainide

# Research: increasing value, reducing waste 5



## Reducing waste from incomplete or unusable reports of biomedical research

*Paul Glasziou, Douglas G Altman, Patrick Bossuyt, Isabelle Boutron, Mike Clarke, Steven Julious, Susan Michie, David Moher, Elizabeth Wager*



## USABILITÀ

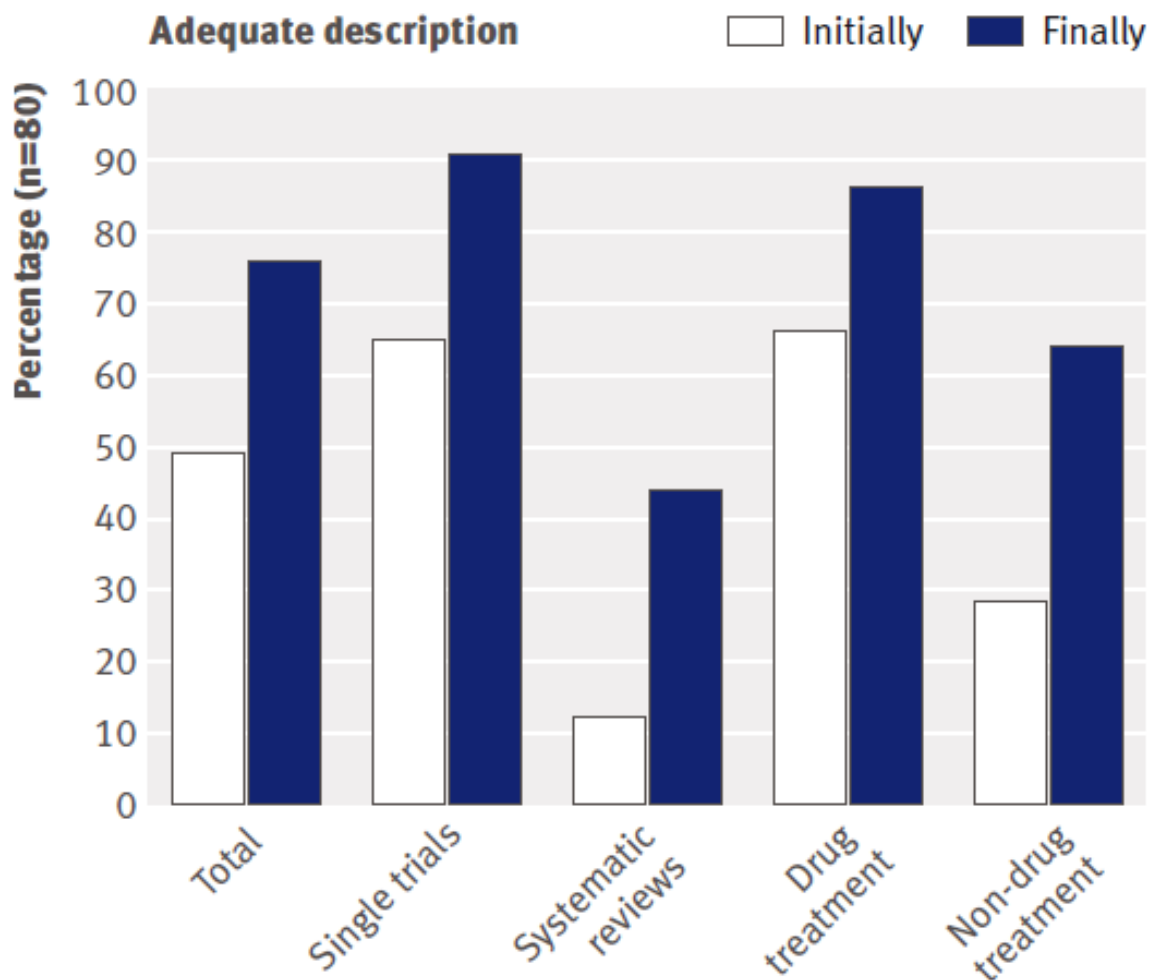
### I report della ricerca sono utilizzabili e privi di bias?

- Inadeguata descrizione degli interventi in oltre il 30% dei trial
- Mancato reporting di oltre il 50% degli outcome definiti nel protocollo
- Inadeguata valutazione di altre evidenze rilevanti per l'interpretazione dei risultati

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# What is missing from descriptions of treatment in trials and reviews?


Replicating non-pharmacological treatments in practice depends on how well they have been described in research studies, say **Paul Glasziou** and **colleagues**



**Fig 2 |** Percentage of studies with sufficient description of treatment initially (based only on the published paper) and after supplementary information was obtained

# RESEARCH

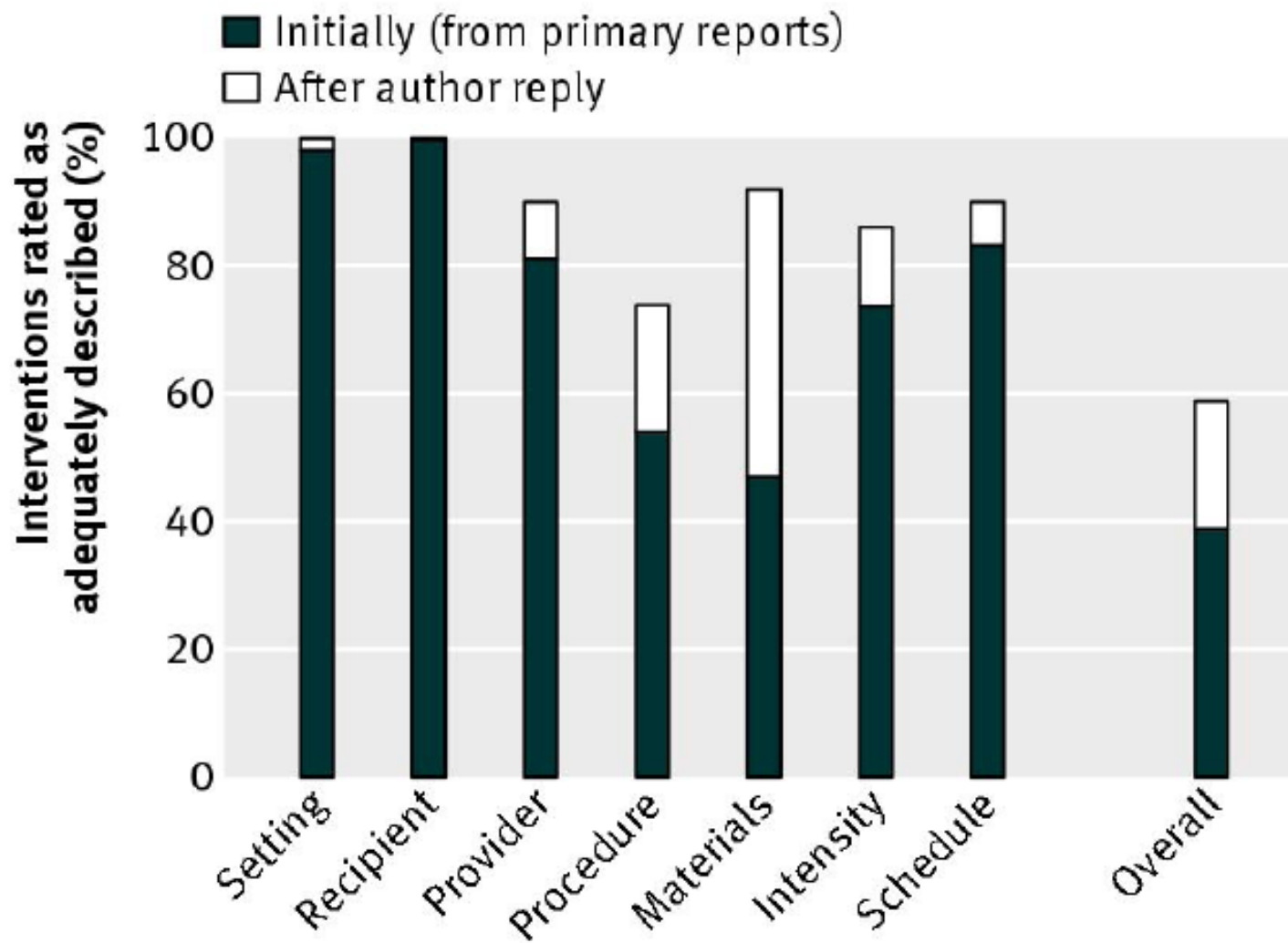
## Poor description of non-pharmacological interventions: analysis of consecutive sample of randomised trials

 OPEN ACCESS

Tammy C Hoffmann *associate professor of clinical epidemiology*, Chrissy Erueti *assistant professor*, Paul P Glasziou *professor of evidence-based medicine*

Centre for Research in Evidence-Based Practice, Faculty of Health Sciences and Medicine, Bond University, Qld, Australia, 4229





**Fig 1** Percentage of interventions rated as adequately described, in primary report and after author reply, for each checklist item

## Abstract

38%, 49%

## Methods

40-89%, 33%

65%, 31%

## Results

50%, 65%,

54%, 92%,

24%, 40%

## Discussion

50%

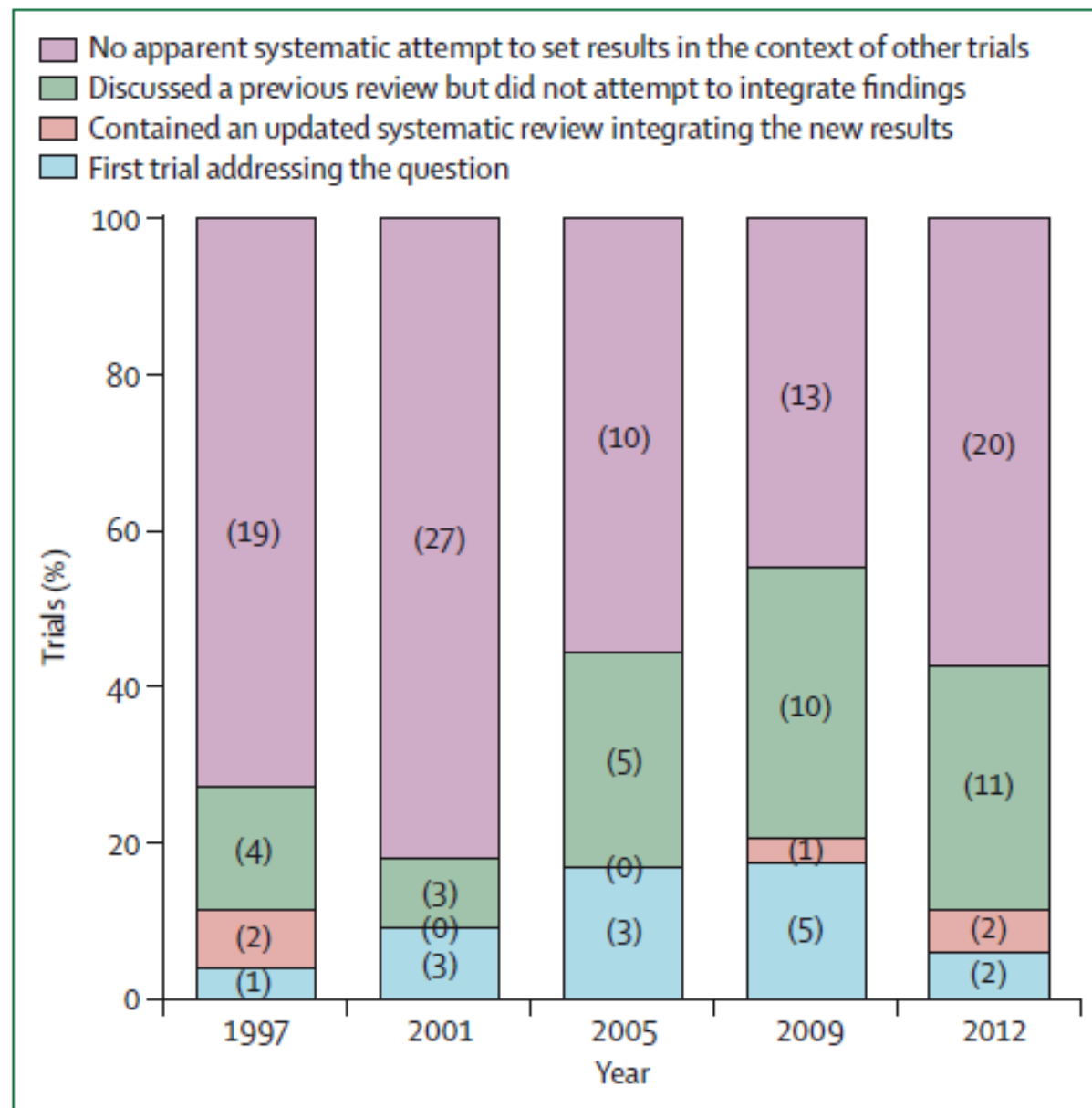
## Data

Almost all

Abstract
Trials: missing effect size and confidence interval (38%); no mention of adverse effects (49%) <sup>72</sup>
Methods
Trials: 40–89% inadequate treatment descriptions <sup>11, 13</sup> fMRI studies: 33% missing number of trials and durations <sup>3</sup> Survey questions: 65% missing survey or core questions <sup>25</sup> Figures: 31% graphs ambiguous <sup>45</sup>
Results
Clinical trials: outcomes missing: 50% efficacy and 65% harm outcomes per trial incompletely reported <sup>6</sup> Animal studies: number of animals and raw data missing <sup>17</sup> (54%, 92%); age and weight missing (24%) Diagnostic studies: missing age and sex (40%) <sup>15</sup>
Discussion
Trials: no systematic attempt to set new results in context of previous trials (50%) <sup>69</sup>
Data
Trials: most data never made available; author-held data lost at about 7% per year

**Figure 3:** Estimates of the prevalence of some reporting problems (see publication column, figure 1).

fMRI=functional MRI.



**Figure 2: Percentage (and number) of trials that set their results in the context of a systematic review by 4 year intervals**  
Data from references 69 and 70.

**+ AllTrials**

## Registrare tutti i trial Riportare tutti i risultati

### Migliaia di sperimentazioni cliniche non sono mai state pubblicate

Le evidenze scientifiche emerse da questi studi sono perdute per sempre e non potranno essere utilizzate da professionisti sanitari e ricercatori, determinando errate decisioni cliniche, mancate opportunità per migliorare la pratica professionale e inutili ripetizioni di trial clinici.

Oltre 500 organizzazioni (associazioni di pazienti, autorità regolatorie, società scientifiche, istituzioni accademiche) e più di 80.000 persone hanno aderito alla campagna AllTrials perché tutti i trial vengano registrati e tutti i risultati riportati.

## Aderisci alla campagna AllTrials

- + Scopri di più e firma la petizione: [www.alltrials.net](http://www.alltrials.net)
- + Invita la tua organizzazione a aderire alla campagna
- + Scrivi un articolo, un post, un editoriale o un comunicato per la newsletter della tua organizzazione
- + Invita amici, familiari e colleghi a firmare la petizione
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# **Ridurre gli sprechi e aumentare il valore della ricerca biomedica Un mandato etico**

**Nino Cartabellotta**  
Fondazione GIMBE

# Regulation of Therapeutic Research is Compromising the Interests of Patients<sup>1</sup>

*Iain Chalmers*

James Lind Library, James Lind Initiative, Oxford, UK



# Tre motivazioni principali

- Approvazione di protocolli di trial senza alcuna rilevanza clinica
- Approvazione di protocolli di trial con disegno inadeguato
- Incapacità di mettere in atto azioni concrete per ridurre il bias di pubblicazione





# Necessarie azioni e reazioni



# Azioni

- Utilizzare checklist standardizzate e condivise a livello internazionale per valutare i protocolli delle sperimentazioni cliniche



- Richiedere il numero di registrazione del trial per confermare in maniera definitiva l'approvazione delle sperimentazioni cliniche



# Reazioni: attenti ai protocolli di trial...

- ...che non fanno riferimento a revisioni sistematiche
- ...con outcome surrogati, di rilevanza clinica non provata
- ...in cui lo sponsor mantiene la proprietà dei dati
- ...vs placebo in presenza di trattamenti efficaci
- ...con disegno di non inferiorità
- ...di disseminazione (*seeding trials*)



# Red flags: survey

Qual è il rischio che i protocolli di sperimentazioni cliniche con una o più *red flag* alimentino gli sprechi della ricerca, senza migliorare la salute di cittadini e pazienti?



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# Why Most Published Research Findings Are False

John P. A. Ioannidis

Published: August 30, 2005

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# How to Make More Published Research True

**John P. A. Ioannidis**<sup>1,2,3,4\*</sup>

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**Published** October 21, 2014



