

OBSERVATIONS

BMJ CONFIDENTIAL

Iain Chalmers: Guilty, obsessive, and frustrated

In the latest in its series asking the movers and shakers of the medical world about work, life, and less serious matters, the *BMJ* spoke to a pioneer of evidence based medicine



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EVIDENCE FOR HEALTH

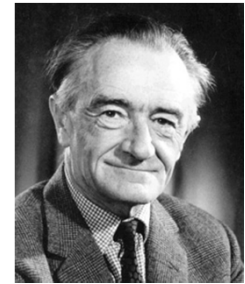
THE ROCK CARLING FELLOWSHIP

1971

EFFECTIVENESS AND EFFICIENCY

RANDOM REFLECTIONS ON HEALTH SERVICES

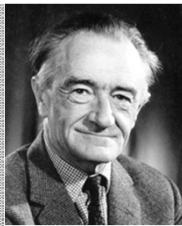
A. L. Cochrane
CBE, FRCP
Dorset
MRC Epidemiology Unit
Cardiff



THE NUFFIELD
PROVINCIAL HOSPITALS TRUST
1972

"It is surely a great criticism of our profession that we have not organised a critical summary, by specialty or subspecialty, adapted periodically, of all relevant randomised controlled trials"

Archie Cochrane, 1979



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Effective Care in Pregnancy and Childbirth

VOLUME 1: PREGNANCY
PARTS 1-V

Edited by

IAIN CHALMERS MURRAY ENKIN
MARC J. N. C. KEIRSE

Foreword by

ARCHIE COCHRANE

Together with about 100 colleagues, Iain Chalmers embarked on a search for published and unpublished randomized trials to prepare systematic reviews, published in 1989 in a book and an electronic publication

Oxford · New York · Toronto
OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS



In 1992 Michael Peckham, first director of NHS R&D programme, funded the "Cochrane Centre", "to facilitate the preparation and maintenance of systematic reviews of randomized controlled trials of healthcare interventions"

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THE COCHRANE COLLABORATION

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The Cochrane Collaboration: Preparing, Maintaining, and Disseminating Systematic Reviews of the Effects of Health Care

IAIN CHALMERS
*The UK Cochrane Centre
 NHS R&D Programme
 Summertown Pavilion
 Middle Way
 Oxford OX2 7LG, England*

ANNALS NEW YORK ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
 DECEMBER 1993



The Cochrane Collaboration

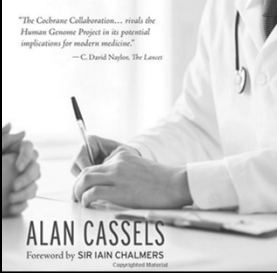
MEDICINE'S BEST-KEPT SECRET

FOREWORD BY
Sir Iain Chalmers

IN 1972, when Archie Cochrane published his seminal work, *Effectiveness and Efficiency: Random Reflections on Health Services*,¹ he asked a vital question: how can we have rational health services if we don't know which of the things being done are useful and which are useless or possibly even harmful?

"The Cochrane Collaboration... rivals the Human Genome Project in its potential implications for modern medicine."
 —C. David Naylor, *The Lancet*

ALAN CASSELS
 Foreword by SIR IAIN CHALMERS



HUMANITIES


CMAJ

CMAJ 2013, DOI:10.1503/cmaj.131213


ESSAY

The Cochrane Collaboration celebrates 20 years

Iain Chalmers poses in his office with 149 portraits of colleagues, mentors, family and others who influenced him. The portrait speaks to the collaborative spirit of Cochrane.


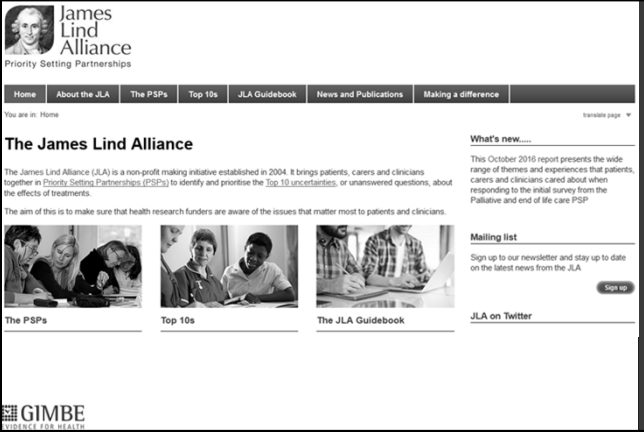



The James Lind Alliance: patients and clinicians should jointly identify their priorities for clinical trials



*Nick Partridge, John Scadding

www.thelancet.com Vol 364 November 27, 2004

James Lind Alliance
 Priority Setting Partnerships

Home About the JLA The PSPs Top 10s JLA Guidebook News and Publications Making a difference

You are in: Home

The James Lind Alliance


The James Lind Alliance (JLA) is a non-profit making initiative established in 2004. It brings patients, carers and clinicians together in *Priority Setting Partnerships (PSPs)* to identify and prioritise the *Top 10 uncertainties*, or unanswered questions, about the effects of treatments.

The aim of this is to make sure that health research funders are aware of the issues that matter most to patients and clinicians.

What's new....
 This October 2016 report presents the wide range of themes and experiences that patients, carers and clinicians cared about when responding to the initial survey from the Palliative and end of life care PSP.

Mailing list
 Sign up to our newsletter and stay up to date on the latest news from the JLA.

The PSPs Top 10s The JLA Guidebook JLA on Twitter




Essay


 THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF MEDICINE
 Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine, 106(12) 482-491
 DOI: 10.1177/0140758113493563

Tackling treatment uncertainties together: the evolution of the James Lind Initiative, 2003–2013

Iain Chalmers, Patricia Atkinson, Mark Fenton, Lester Firkins, Sally Crowe and Katherine Cowan
 James Lind Initiative, Oxford OX2 7LG, UK
 Corresponding author: Iain Chalmers. Email: ichalmers@jameslindlibrary.org

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 RESEARCH FOR REAL



TESTING TREATMENTS
BETTER RESEARCH FOR BETTER HEALTHCARE

B, E, U, N, C, E, R, T, A, I, N, T, Y,
F, A, I, R, T, E, S, T, S,
B, I, A, S, C, H, A, N, C, E,
R, A, N, D, O, M, I, S, E, D.

Imogen Evans, Hazel Thornton & Iain Chalmers

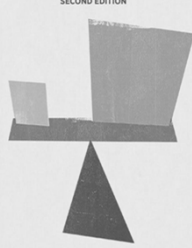
foreword by Ben Goldacre author of *SAD SCIENCE*

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Foreword by Ben Goldacre – author of *Sad Science*

TESTING TREATMENTS


BETTER RESEARCH FOR BETTER HEALTHCARE

SECOND EDITION



Imogen Evans, Hazel Thornton, Iain Chalmers and Paul Glasziou

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 **Testing Treatments interactive**
Promoting critical thinking about treatment claims

Search TTI

Home About Key Concepts Learning Resources The Book Testing Feedback

Key Concepts for critical thinking about treatment claims

1. Claims: are they justified?
2. Comparisons: are they fair and reliable?
3. Choices: making informed choices

Confusing claims about the effects of treatments – from drugs to diets – are everywhere. People need to know how to assess these claims to inform their treatment choices.

The **Critical thinking and Appraisal Resource Library (CARL)** has been created for teachers of children, young people and adults, communicators, advisors, and researchers, who wish to help people assess treatment claims.

Key Concepts for assessing treatment claims provide the foundation for organising the resources in **CARL**. Select a **Key Concept** to display explanatory and illustrative resources.

Key Concept of the week
1.1. Treatments can harm

Resource of the week
Know Your Choices

Dodgy Claim of the week
7 weeks (and more) you shouldn't use in medical news

Helping people think critically about treatment claims


Dove sono le prove?
 Una migliore ricerca per una migliore assistenza sanitaria
 Testing Treatments interactive

Home Chi siamo Testo principale Contenuti extra Il libro Commenti

Benvenuto su Dove sono le prove?

Come si può sapere se una cura è migliore di un'altra o se le prove dei rischi e dei benefici di un trattamento sono attendibili?

La ricerca attuale si occupa di ciò che vorresti sapere? Se la risposta è no, cosa potresti fare per rendere la ricerca sui trattamenti più vicina alle tue esigenze?

Dove sono le prove? Il sito italiano di Testing Treatments interactive (TTI), si rivolge ai pazienti, agli operatori sanitari e a chiunque sia interessato a queste domande.

Ti aiuterà a capire l'importanza di avere delle sperimentazioni ben fatte sugli effetti dei trattamenti e come puoi contribuire a fare in modo che si realizzino.

Per iniziare:

1. Il benvenuto di Iain Chalmers
2. Vai al testo principale
3. Aiuto

Traduzioni del sito
 Questo sito è stato tradotto nelle seguenti lingue:
[Seleziona lingua](#)

Altre informazioni:
[Nuove traduzioni saranno regolarmente aggiunte.](#)

Altre:

- Nuove risorse
 - + Lettera aperta ai ministri europei dell'istruzione
 - + "Cura miracolosa" - una guida per il paziente
 - + Ai Trinta - vogliamo una ricerca trasparente
- Commenti recenti
- Condividi questa pagina
- 40

Vieni a conoscere il sito dal quale sono stati estratti i contenuti principali del sito Testing Treatments interactive italiano.

Informazioni su [fonti](#), [contatti](#), [arricchimento e gestione](#), [guida](#) del sito.

The James Lind Library

Illustrating the development of fair tests of treatments in health care

ILLUSTRATIVE TIMELINE



Hippocrates (5th cen...)



Ali-Razi (9th century CE; 4th century AH)



Bin-Sina (c. 980 CE; c. 402 AH)



Romeo
In Typographia Medica
MDCXIII



Bacon, Roger (1592)




Petrarca (14th century)

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The James Lind Library

Illustrating the development of fair tests of treatments in health care


ILLUSTRATIVE TIMELINE




Chan & Yi et al. (1996)




Pearl P et al. (2007)



Savaris T et al. (2012)



THE EQUATOR COLLABORATION


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The James Lind Library

Illustrating the development of fair tests of treatments in health care

BROWSE THE LIBRARY

FAIR TESTS




Despite acting with the best of intentions, health professionals have sometimes done more harm than good to the patients who have looked to them for help. Some of this suffering can be reduced by ensuring that fair tests are done to address uncertainties about the effects of treatments.

Sub-topics:

- The need to address treatment uncertainties
- Treatment comparisons are essential
- Treatment comparisons must be fair

BIASES




Biases in tests of treatments are those influences and factors that can lead to conclusions about treatment effects that are systematically different from the truth.

Sub-topics:

- Design bias
- Allocation bias
- Co-intervention bias
- Observer bias
- Analysis bias
- Bias in judging unanticipated possible effects
- Reporting bias
- Bias in systematic reviews
- Researcher/patience bias and fraud

THE PLAY OF CHANCE




When treatments are compared, any differences in outcome events may simply reflect the play of chance. Increasing the number of events studied in research reduces the likelihood of being misled in this way.

Sub-topics:

- Recording and interpreting numbers
- Quantifying uncertainty
- Using meta-analysis

SERVING PATIENTS



The interests of patients can be served by: improving reports of research, preparing and updating systematic reviews of reliable studies, and using these to inform decisions about treatment.

Sub-topics:

- Improving reports of research
- Preparing and maintaining systematic reviews
- Using the results of systematic reviews

Viewpoint

Lancet 2009; 374: 86-89
Published Online
June 15, 2009

W Avoidable waste in the production and reporting of research evidence

Iain Chalmers, Paul Glasziou

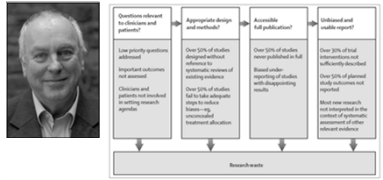



Figure: Stages of waste in the production and reporting of research evidence relevant to clinicians and patients

Profile

Iain Chalmers: maverick master of medical evidence

www.thelancet.com Vol 368 December 23/30, 2006



"I sit somewhere in the interstices between academia and the health service"

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BMJ AWARDS 2014

Lifetime Achievement Award 2014: Sir Iain Chalmers

This award is given to a doctor who has made an outstanding contribution to improving health or healthcare in the UK

Nigel Hawkes freelance journalist, London, UK



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BMJ 2013;347:f6152 doi: 10.1136/bmj.f6152 (Published 30 October 2013) Page 1 of 2

OBSERVATIONS

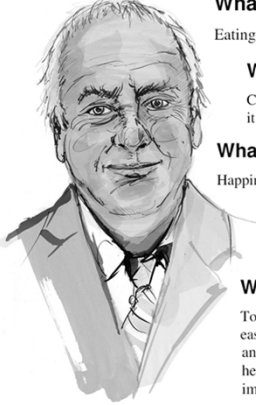
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Iain Chalmers: Guilty, obsessive, and frustrated

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What is your guiltiest pleasure?
Eating more than I should.

Where does alcohol fit into your life?
Champagne deserves its special reputation, but I wouldn't find it difficult to live without alcohol.

What is your most treasured possession?
Happiness, most of the time.

Where are or were you happiest?
In Oxford, at home and at work.

What personal ambition do you still have?
To witness the further development of effective, trustworthy, easy to use, up to date information systems that help patients and clinicians make evidence informed decisions about healthcare and to participate in controlled trials that answer important uncertainties.

Yes Sir, no Sir, not much difference Sir

Mike Clarke Lorcan Clarke Thomas Clarke

J R Soc Med 2007;100:571-572



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ep EPIDEMIOLOGIA & PREVENZIONE

Rivista dell'Associazione Italiana di epidemiologia

ACCESSO UTENTE

ATTUALITÀ

Epidemiol Prev 2012; 36 (1 EPdiMezzo): 3-3

Alessandro Liberati: un ricordo personale

Alessandro Liberati: a personal appreciation

Iain Chalmers



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