

Raccomandazioni REWARD. Sessione II

Metodologia, regolamentazione e gestione della ricerca

DISCUSSANT

Gualberto Gussoni

Direttore scientifico Fondazione FADOI

Paolo Giorgi Rossi

Comitato Etico Provinciale di Reggio Emilia

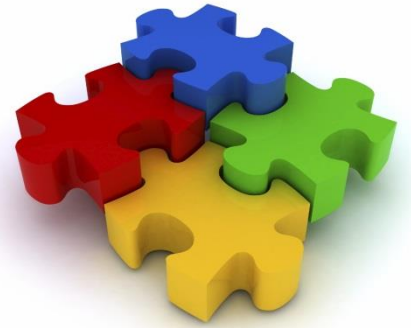
Aldo Maggioni

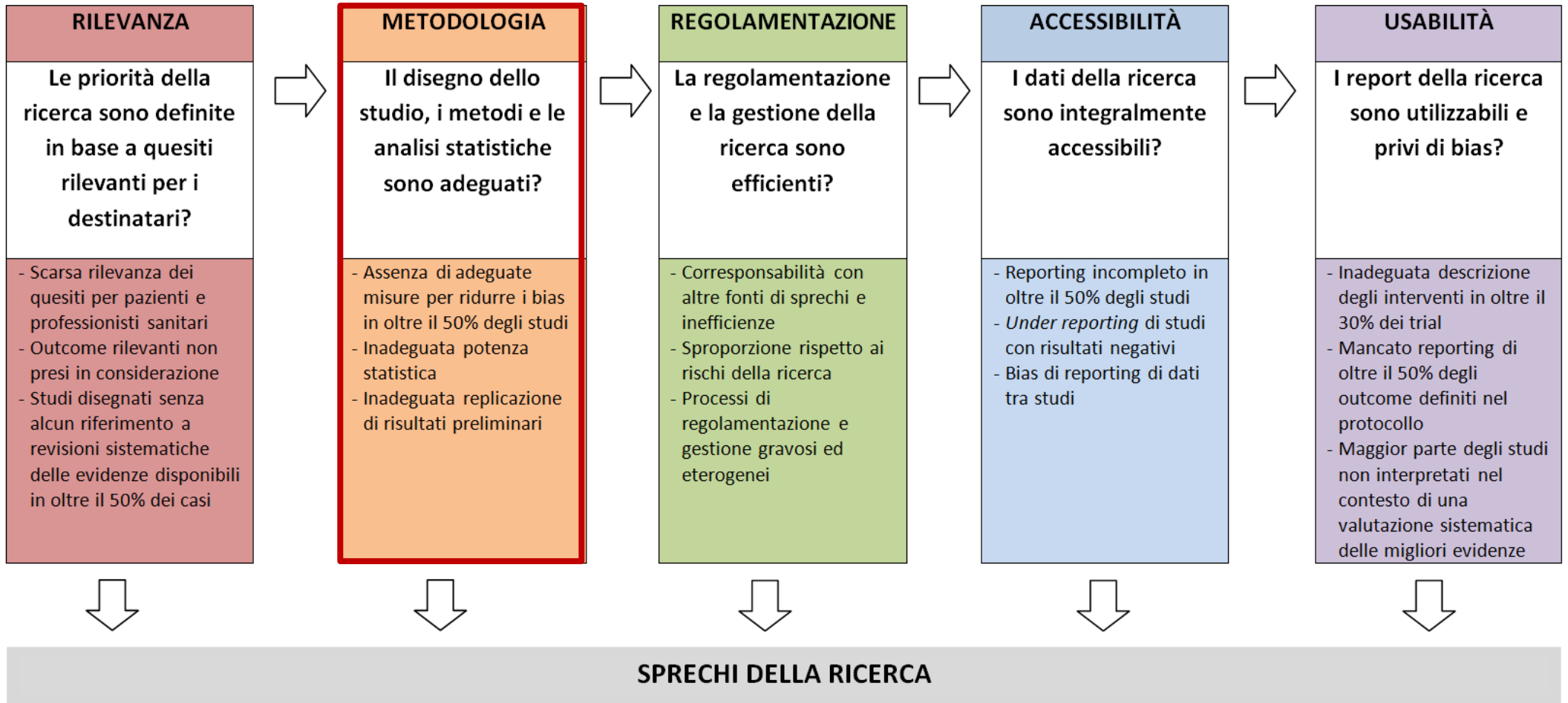
Direttore Centro Studi ANMCO

Pier Mannuccio Mannucci

Fondazione IRCCS Ca' Granda Ospedale Maggiore Policlinico

Editor in Chief European Journal of Internal Medicine





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

Recommendations

- 1 Make publicly available the full protocols, analysis plans or sequence of analytical choices, and raw data for all designed and undertaken biomedical research
 - Monitoring—proportion of reported studies with publicly available (ideally preregistered) protocol and analysis plans, and proportion with raw data and analytical algorithms publicly available within 6 months after publication of a study report
- 2 Maximise the effect-to-bias ratio in research through defensible design and conduct standards, a well trained methodological research workforce, continuing professional development, and involvement of non-conflicted stakeholders
 - Monitoring—proportion of publications without conflicts of interest, as attested by declaration statements and then checked by reviewers; the proportion of publications with involvement of scientists who are methodologically well qualified is also important, but difficult to document
- 3 Reward (with funding, and academic or other recognition) reproducibility practices and reproducible research, and enable an efficient culture for replication of research
 - Monitoring—proportion of research studies undergoing rigorous independent replication and reproducibility checks, and proportion replicated and reproduced

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

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



BMJ

LONDON, SATURDAY 29 JANUARY 1994

The scandal of poor medical research

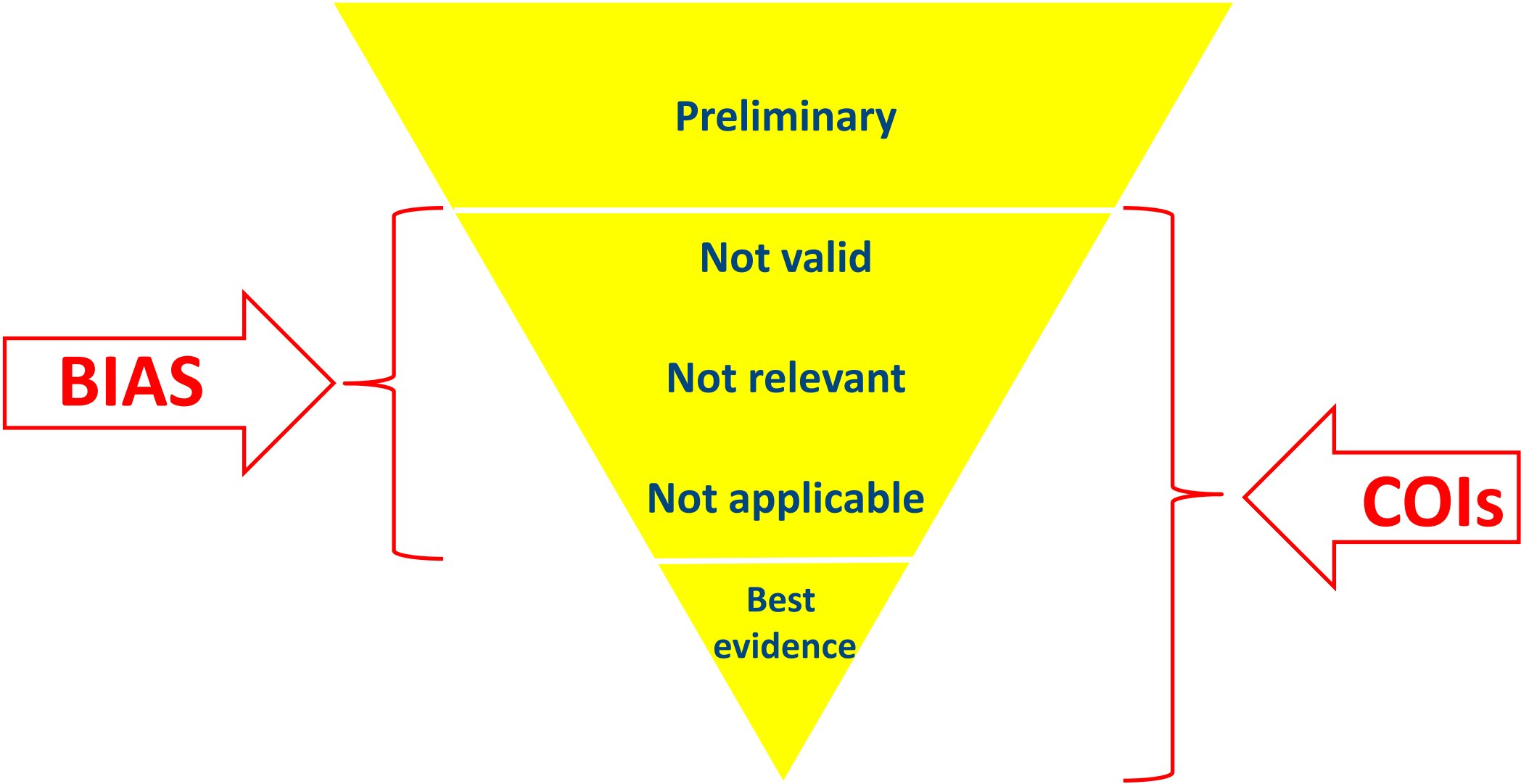
We need less research, better research, and research done for the right reasons

DOUGLAS G ALTMAN



**Published
Research**

Critical appraisal



Essay

Why Most Published Research Findings Are False

John P. A. Ioannidis

Published: August 30, 2005



Essay

How to Make More Published Research True

John P. A. Ioannidis^{1,2,3,4*}

1 Meta-Research Innovation Center at Stanford (METRICS), Stanford University, Stanford, California, United States of America, **2** Department of Medicine, Stanford Prevention Research Center, Stanford, California, United States of America, **3** Department of Health Research and Policy, Stanford University School of Medicine, Stanford, California, United States of America, **4** Department of Statistics, Stanford University School of Humanities and Sciences, Stanford, California, United States of America

Published October 21, 2014



ESSAY

Why Most Clinical Research Is Not Useful

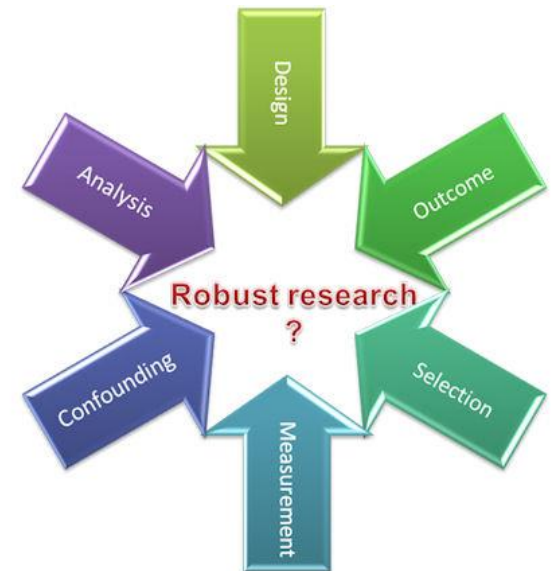
John P. A. Ioannidis^{1,2*}

Published: June 21, 2016



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



The problems

- **Development of protocols and improvement of designs**
- **Effect-to-bias ratio**: la maggior parte degli effetti terapeutici sono modesti ed è difficile distinguerli dai bias
- **Reproducibility practices and reward systems**

RESEARCH

Open Access

Guidelines for randomized clinical trial protocol content: a systematic review

Jennifer M Tetzlaff^{1*}, An-Wen Chan², Jessica Kitchen², Margaret Sampson³, Andrea C Tricco⁴ and David Moher¹

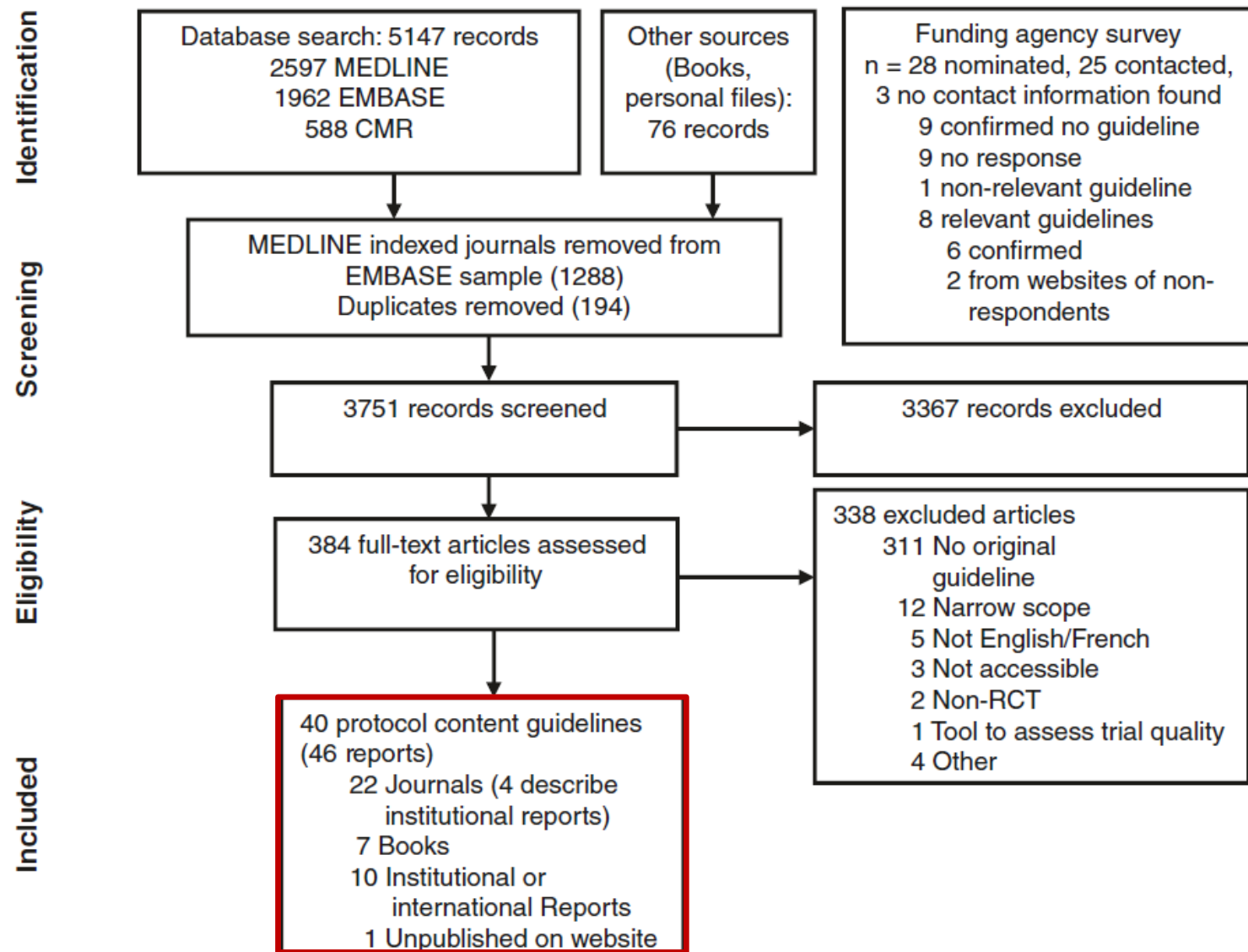


Figure 1 Flow of information through the systematic review.

Linee guida protocolli trial clinici

- Notevole variabilità di obiettivi e raccomandazioni
- Metodologie di sviluppo spesso non descritte
- Raramente riportano:
 - adeguato coinvolgimento degli stakeholders
 - evidenze scientifiche a supporto delle raccomandazioni



FUNDERS



CIHR IRSC
Canadian Institutes of Health Research / Instituts de recherche en santé du Canada



Welcome to the SPIRIT Statement website

The protocol of a clinical trial is essential for study conduct, review, reporting, and interpretation. SPIRIT (Standard Protocol Items: Recommendations for Interventional Trials) is an international initiative that aims to improve the quality of clinical trial protocols by defining an evidence-based set of items to address in a protocol.

SPIRIT Checklist



Publications & Downloads



SPIRIT 2013 Statement: Defining Standard Protocol Items for Clinical Trials

An-Wen Chan, MD, DPhil; Jennifer M. Tetzlaff, MSc; Douglas G. Altman, DSc; Andreas Laupacis, MD; Peter C. Gøtzsche, MD, DrMedSci; Karmela Krleža-Jerić, MD, DSc; Asbjørn Hróbjartsson, PhD; Howard Mann, MD; Kay Dickersin, PhD; Jesse A. Berlin, ScD; Caroline J. Doré, BSc; Wendy R. Parulekar, MD; William S.M. Summerskill, MBBS; Trish Groves, MBBS; Kenneth F. Schulz, PhD; Harold C. Sox, MD; Frank W. Rockhold, PhD; Drummond Rennie, MD; and David Moher, PhD

The protocol of a clinical trial serves as the foundation for study planning, conduct, reporting, and appraisal. However, trial protocols and existing protocol guidelines vary greatly in content and quality. This article describes the systematic development and scope of SPIRIT (Standard Protocol Items: Recommendations for Interventional Trials) 2013, a guideline for the minimum content of a clinical trial protocol.

The 33-item SPIRIT checklist applies to protocols for all clinical trials and focuses on content rather than format. The checklist recommends a full description of what is planned; it does not prescribe how to design or conduct a trial. By providing guidance

for key content, the SPIRIT recommendations aim to facilitate the drafting of high-quality protocols. Adherence to SPIRIT would also enhance the transparency and completeness of trial protocols for the benefit of investigators, trial participants, patients, sponsors, funders, research ethics committees or institutional review boards, peer reviewers, journals, trial registries, policymakers, regulators, and other key stakeholders.

Ann Intern Med. 2013;158:200-207.

For author affiliations, see end of text.

This article was published at www.annals.org on 8 January 2013.

www.annals.org

SPIRIT Statement 2013: checklist per il protocollo dei trial clinici

An-Wen Chan^{1*}, Jennifer M. Tetzlaff², Douglas G. Altman³, Andreas Laupacis⁴, Peter C. Gøtzsche⁵, Karmela Krleža-Jerić⁶, Asbjørn Hróbjartsson⁵, Howard Mann⁷, Kay Dickersin⁸, Jesse A. Berlin⁹, Caroline J. Doré¹⁰, Wendy R. Parulekar¹¹, William S.M. Summerskill¹², Trish Groves¹³, Kenneth F. Schulz¹⁴, Harold C. Sox¹⁵, Frank W. Rockhold¹⁶, Drummond Rennie¹⁷, David Moher¹⁸

www.gimbe.org/spirit

Priorità raccomandazioni REWARD



5= Indispensabile



4= Priorità elevata



3= Priorità intermedia



2= Priorità bassa



1= Non è una priorità

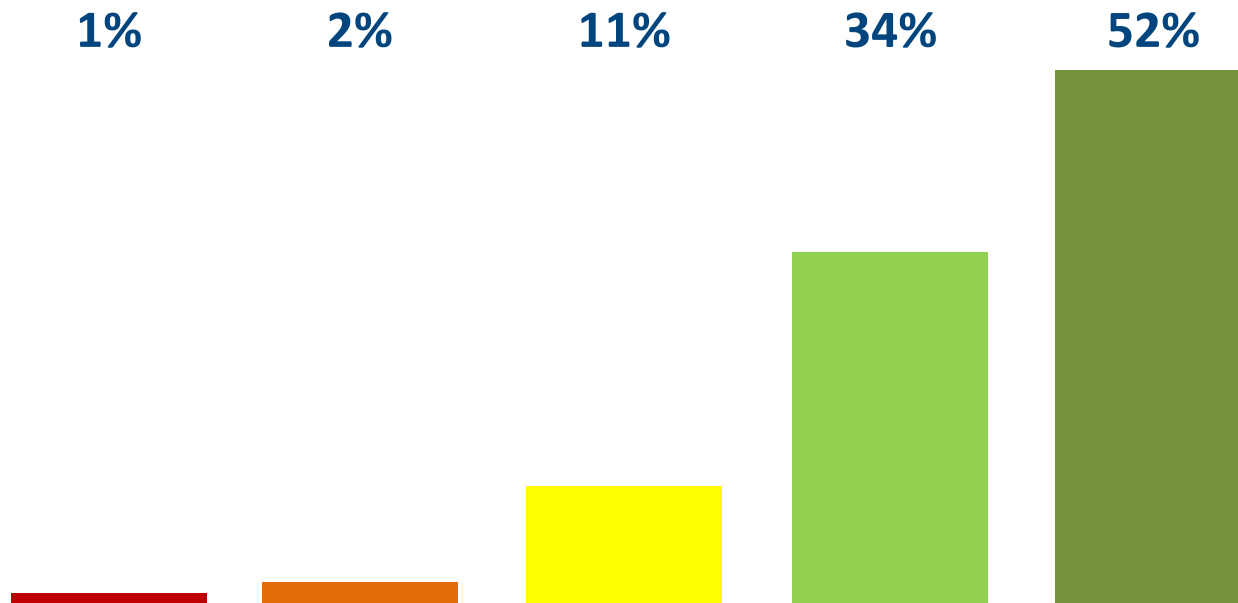
5. Rendere pubblicamente disponibili per tutti gli studi disegnati e condotti: protocolli integrali, analisi pianificate o sequenza delle analisi previste e dati grezzi



Raccomandazione 5

Media
4.33

DS
± 0.83



The problems

- Development of protocols and improvement of designs
- **Effect-to-bias ratio:** la maggior parte degli effetti terapeutici sono modesti ed è difficile distinguerli dai bias
- Reproducibility practices and reward systems

Empirical Evaluation of Very Large Treatment Effects of Medical Interventions

Tiago V. Pereira, PhD

Ralph I. Horwitz, MD

John P. A. Ioannidis, MD, DSc

JAMA. 2012;308(16):1676-1684

Conclusions Most large treatment effects emerge from small studies, and when additional trials are performed, the effect sizes become typically much smaller. Well-validated large effects are uncommon and pertain to nonfatal outcomes.

ORIGINAL ARTICLES

**Science mapping analysis characterizes 235 biases
in biomedical research**

David Chavalarias^{a,b}, John P.A. Ioannidis^{c,d,*}

^a*Centre de Recherche en Épistémologie Appliquée, École Polytechnique - CNRS, 32 Bd Victor, 75015 Paris, France*

^b*Institut des Systèmes Complexes de Paris Ile-de-France, 57–59 rue Lhomond, 75005, Paris, France*

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

^d*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

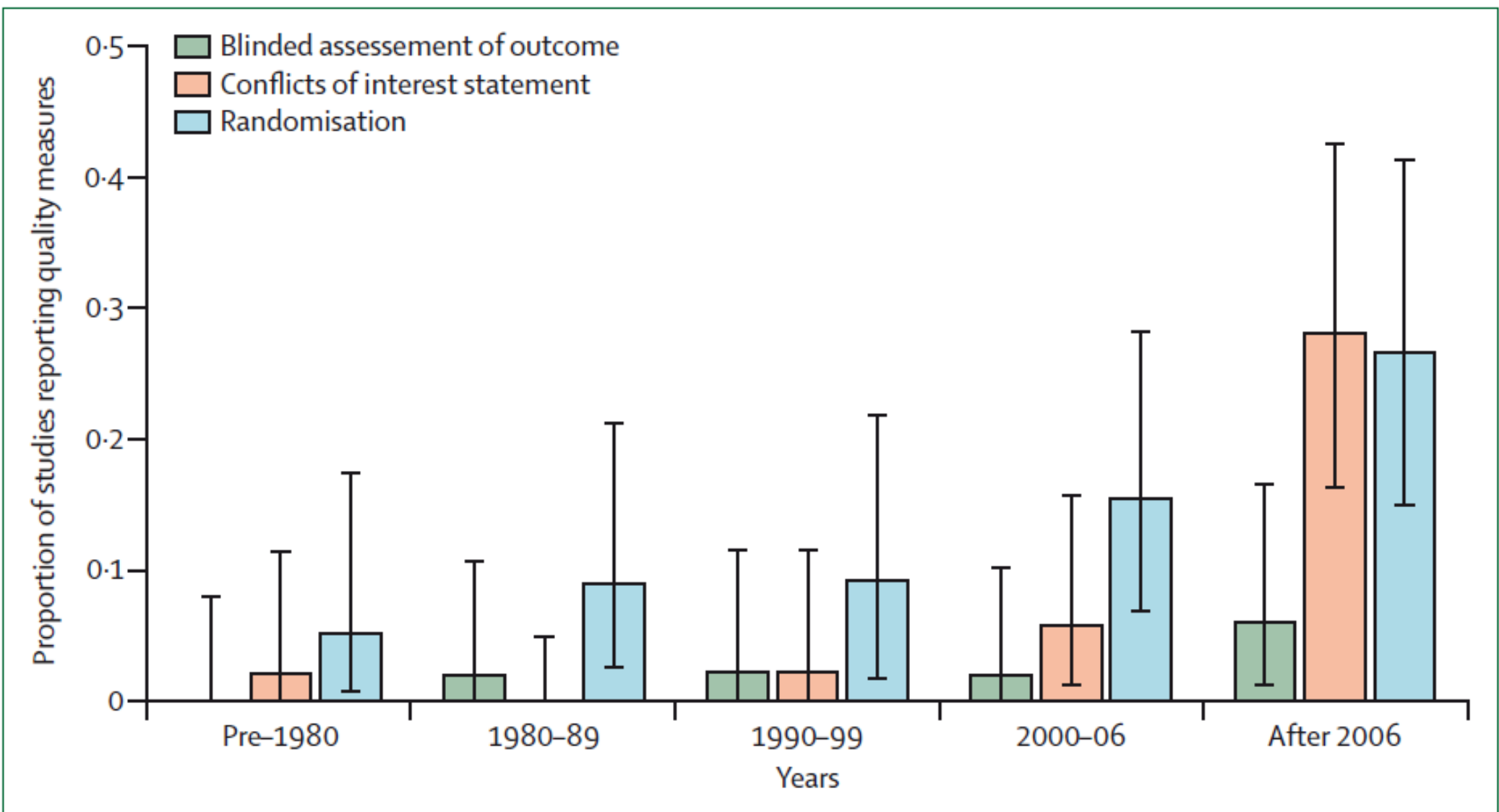
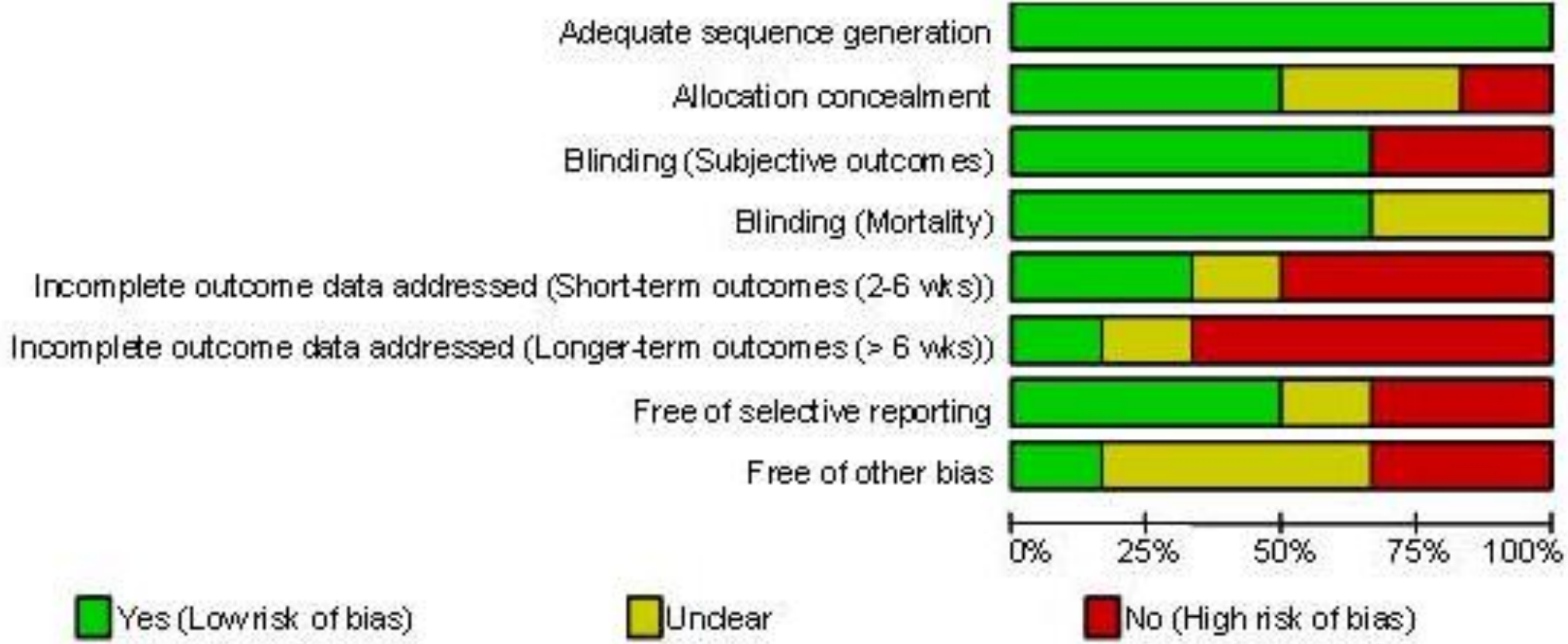


Figure: Trends in three methodological quality indicators for reports of in-vivo studies

The Cochrane Collaboration's tool for assessing risk of bias



Avoidable waste of research related to inadequate methods in clinical trials

Youri Yordanov,^{1, 2} Agnes Dechartres,^{1, 3, 4} Raphaël Porcher,^{1, 3, 4} Isabelle Boutron,^{1, 3, 4, 5}
Douglas G Altman,⁶ Philippe Ravaud^{1, 3, 4, 5, 7}

Cochrane reviews included (n=205)

Trials included in meta-analysis for primary outcome (n=1286)

+

Trials had all domains
at low risk (n=207; 16%)

?

Trials had at least one domain
at unclear risk, others being
at low risk (n=523; 41%)

-

Trials had at least one domain
at high risk (n=556; 43%)

Risk of bias reassessment based on a random sample of
200 trials with at least one domain at high risk of bias

BMJ 2015;350:h809

WHAT THIS STUDY ADDS

We found that part of the waste related to inadequate methods could have been avoided by simple and inexpensive methodological adjustments

Such adjustments could decrease the risk of bias in half of trials at high risk of bias and could transform all domains at high risk to low risk in 12% trials (95% CI 7% to 18%)

In a simulation study correcting for incomplete reporting, this avoidable waste represented 42% (95% CI 36% to 49%).

BMJ 2015;350:h809

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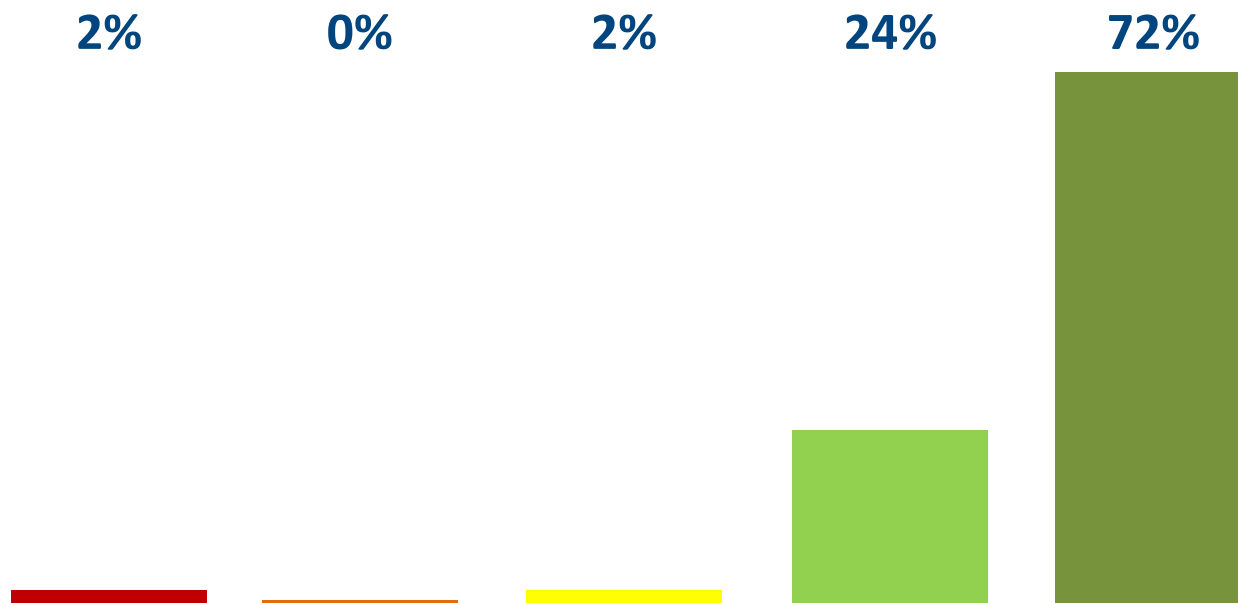
6. Massimizzare il rapporto effetto/bias attraverso:
- aderenza a standard rigorosi nel disegno e nella conduzione degli studi
 - utilizzo di ricercatori con adeguate competenze di metodologia della ricerca
 - sviluppo professionale continuo
 - coinvolgimento di stakeholders senza conflitti di interesse

Raccomandazione 6



Media
4.64

DS
± 0.72



The problems

- Development of protocols and improvement of designs
- **Effect-to-bias ratio**: la maggior parte degli effetti terapeutici sono modesti ed è difficile distinguerli dai bias
- **Reproducibility practices and reward systems**

Reproducibility and reliability of biomedical research

The Academy of Medical Sciences held a symposium in April 2015 to explore the challenges and opportunities for improving the reproducibility and reliability of biomedical research in the UK. The report was published in October 2015.

Status

Launched

Ongoing





Reproducibility and reliability of biomedical research: improving research practice

Symposium report, October 2015



Data dredging

Also known as p-hacking, this involves repeatedly searching a dataset or trying alternative analyses until a 'significant' result is found.



Omitting null results

When scientists or journals decide not to publish studies unless results are statistically significant.



Underpowered study

Statistical power is the ability of an analysis to detect an effect, if the effect exists – an underpowered study is too small to reliably indicate whether or not an effect exists.

Issues



Errors

Technical errors may exist within a study, such as misidentified reagents or computational errors.



Underspecified methods

A study may be very robust, but its methods not shared with other scientists in enough detail, so others cannot precisely replicate it.



Weak experimental design

A study may have one or more methodological flaws that mean it is unlikely to produce reliable or valid results.

Open data

Openly sharing results and the underlying data with other scientists.



Pre-registration

Publicly registering the protocol before a study is conducted.



Collaboration

Working with other research groups, both formally and informally.



Automation

Finding technological ways of standardising practices, thereby reducing the opportunity for human error.



Open methods

Publicly publishing the detail of a study protocol.



Post-publication review

Continuing discussion of a study in a public forum after it has been published (most are reviewed before publication).



Reporting guidelines

Guidelines and checklists that help researchers meet certain criteria when publishing studies.



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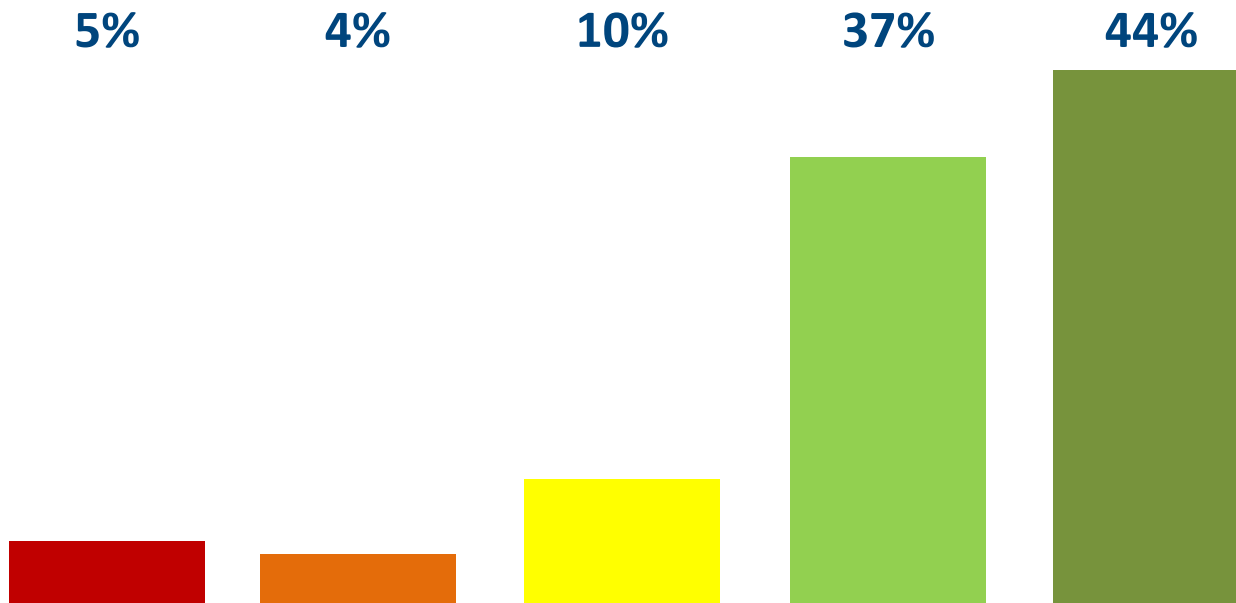
7. Incentivare (con finanziamenti, riconoscimenti accademici o di altra natura) pratiche di riproducibilità e studi riproducibili e sensibilizzare sulla necessità di replicare la ricerca

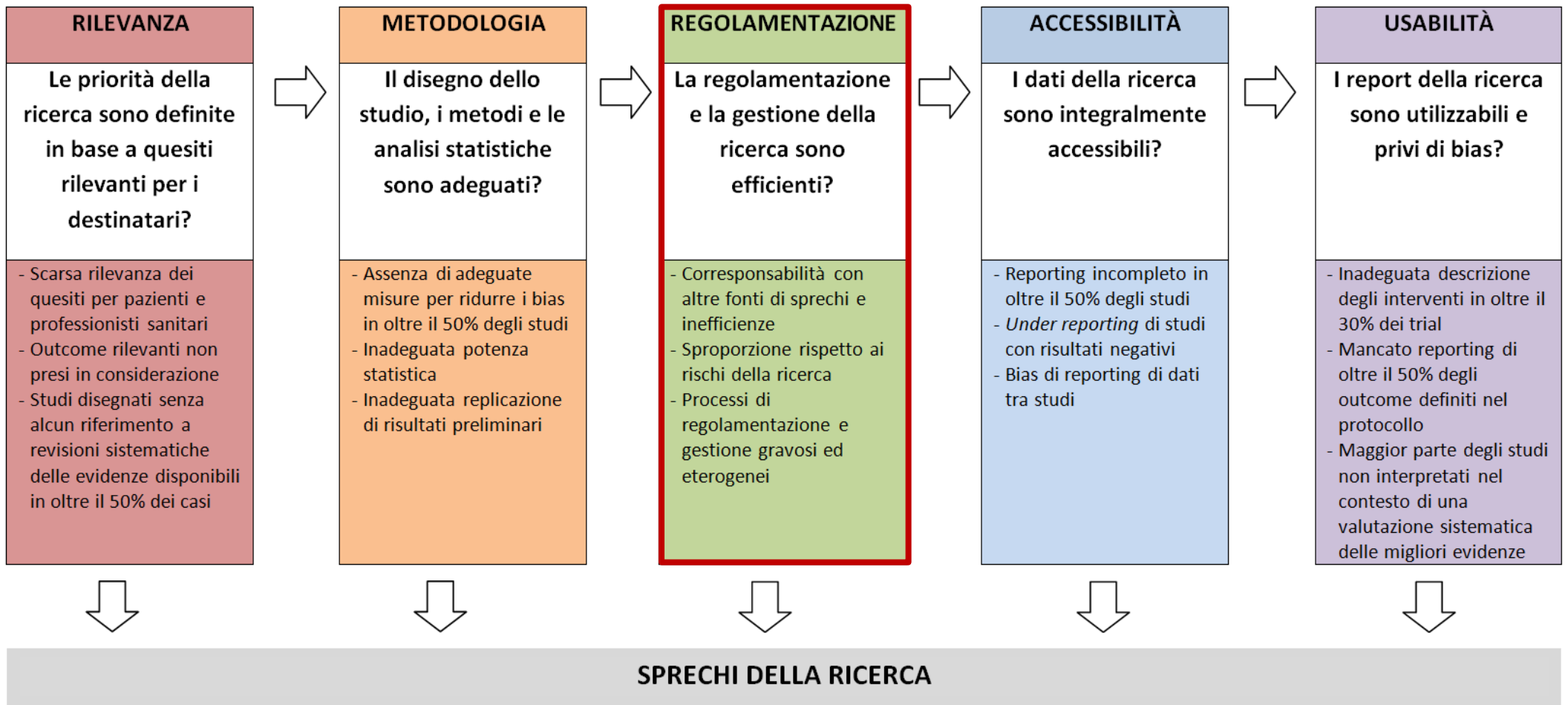


Raccomandazione 7

Media
4.10

DS
± 1.07





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

Recommendations

- 1 People regulating research should use their influence to reduce other causes of waste and inefficiency in research
 - Monitoring—people regulating, governing, and managing research should measure the extent to which the research they approve and manage complies with the other recommendations in this Series
- 2 Regulators and policy makers should work with researchers, patients, and health professionals to streamline and harmonise the laws, regulations, guidelines, and processes that govern whether and how research can be done, and ensure that they are proportionate to the plausible risks associated with the research
 - Monitoring—regulators, individuals who govern and manage research, and researchers should measure and report delays and inconsistencies that result from failures to streamline and harmonise regulations
- 3 Researchers and research managers should increase the efficiency of recruitment, retention, data monitoring, and data sharing in research through the use of research designs known to reduce inefficiencies, and do additional research to learn how efficiency can be increased
 - Monitoring—researchers and methodologists should do research to identify ways to improve the efficiency of biomedical research
- 4 Everyone, particularly individuals responsible for health-care systems, can help to improve the efficiency of clinical research by promoting integration of research in everyday clinical practice
 - Monitoring—people responsible for management of health-care systems or research should measure the proportions of patients who are enrolled in research

La regolamentazione e la gestione della ricerca sono efficienti?

- Corresponsabilità con altre fonti di sprechi e inefficienze
- Sproporzione rispetto ai rischi della ricerca
- Processi di regolamentazione e gestione gravosi ed eterogenei

Regulation of Therapeutic Research is Compromising the Interests of Patients¹

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



Sperimentazioni cliniche: i comitati etici devono proteggere i pazienti da profitti e conflitti

Antonino Cartabellotta¹, Cristiana Forni², Corrado Iacono³

¹Presidente Fondazione GIMBE, ²Responsabile del Centro di Ricerca delle Professioni Sanitarie, Istituto Ortopedico Rizzoli, ³Dipartimento Farmaceutico AUSL di Bologna

Warning to trial protocols...

- ...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*)

Tabella 2. Protocolli di trial a rischio di alimentare gli sprechi della ricerca, senza migliorare la salute dei pazienti

<i>Red flag</i>	Media (DS)*
Mancato riferimento a revisioni sistematiche per giustificare la necessità dello studio	3.22 (\pm 0.70)
Misurazione di outcome surrogati, di rilevanza clinica non provata	3.38 (\pm 0.73)
Proprietà dei dati mantenuta dallo sponsor	3.20 (\pm 0.89)
Confronto vs placebo in presenza di trattamenti efficaci	3.56 (\pm 0.76)
Disegno di non inferiorità	3.01 (\pm 0.77)
Trial di disseminazione	3.28 (\pm 0.75)

*Valori calcolati secondo uno score di rischio 1-4 (1= nessuno; 2=lieve; 3= moderato; 4= elevato)

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.



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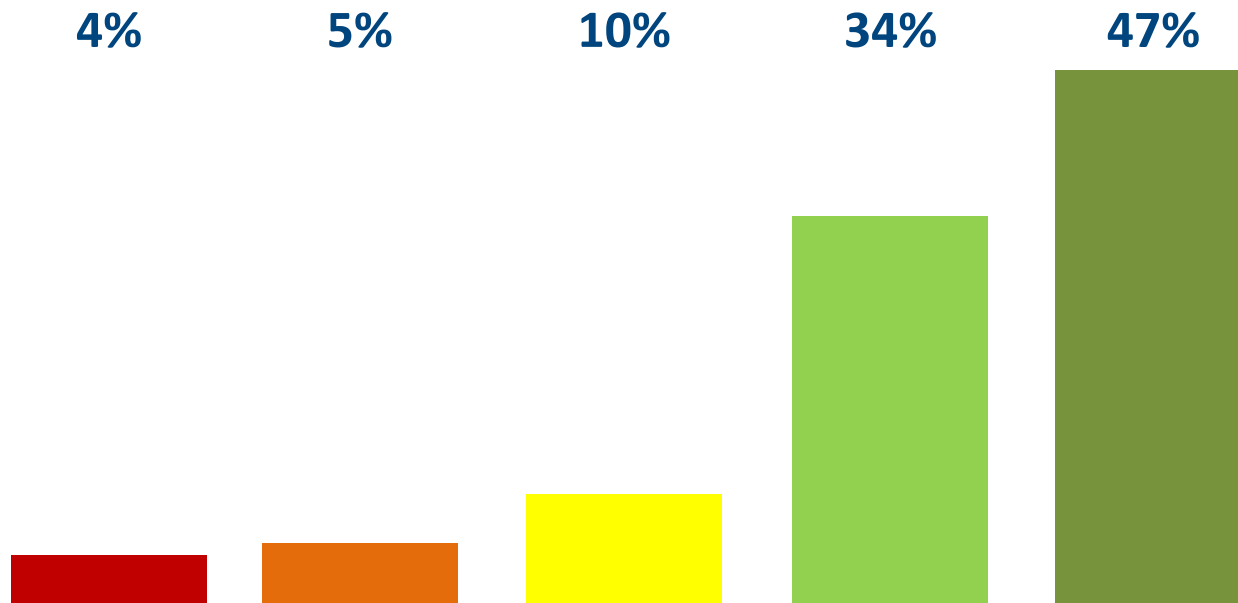
8. I soggetti coinvolti nella regolamentazione della ricerca, forti del loro ruolo, dovrebbero limitare altre cause di sprechi e inefficienze



Raccomandazione 8

Media
4.14

DS
± 1.07



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

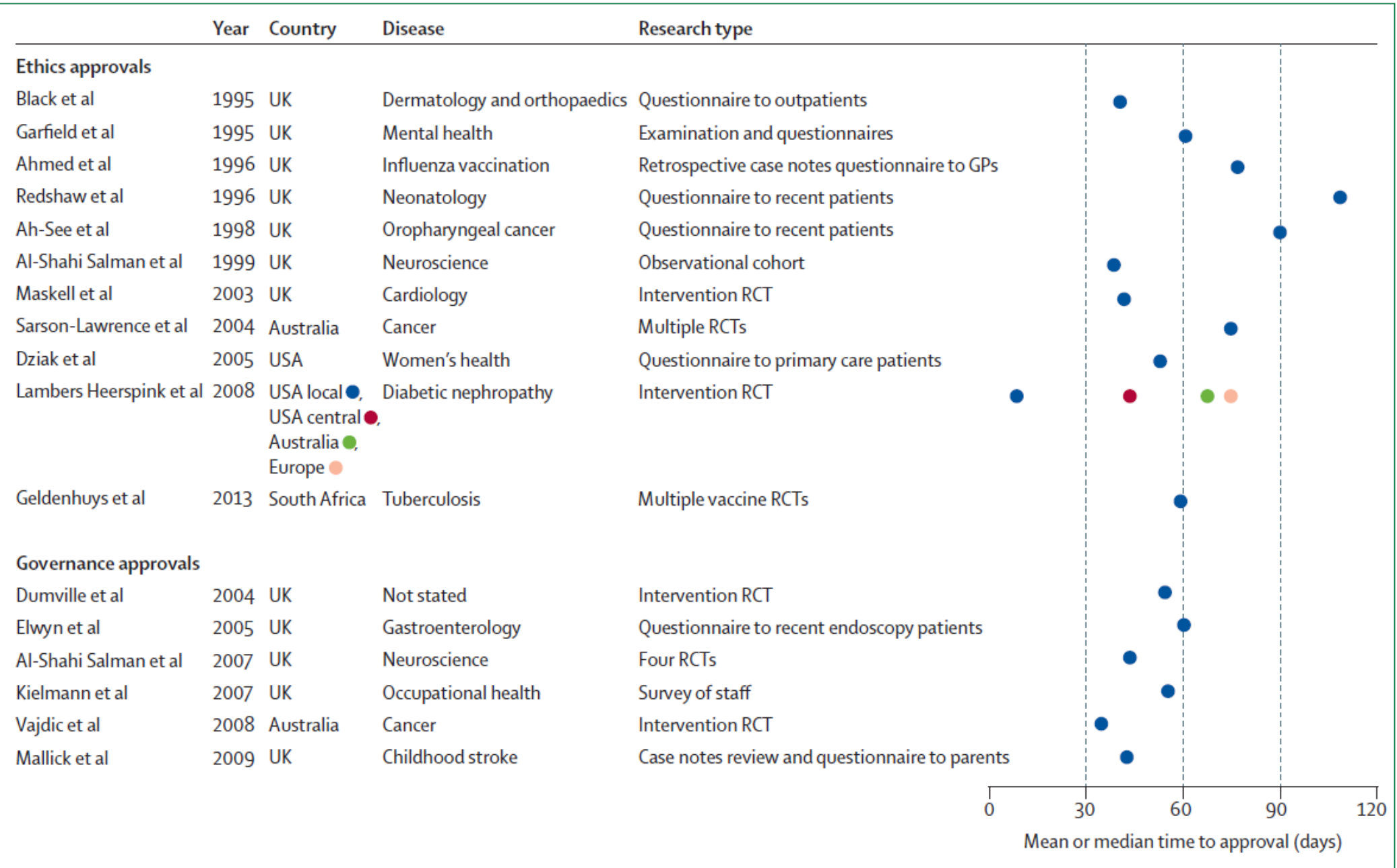


Figure 2: Results of some observational studies describing average (mean or median) delays to ethics or governance approval of clinical research

16

EvidenceLive

University of Oxford **June 22 - 24 2016**

Waste in independent drug research in Italy: a cross-sectional study

Nino Cartabellotta

GIMBE Foundation

Results: time gap

Mean (\pm SD) 515 (\pm 318) days*

Range 7-2.058 days*

Grant
approval

Contract
with AIFA

Ethical
approval

Administrative
approval[§]

Start

*Data available for 140/204 (69%) studies

[§]From the research center of the PI

LA RICERCA CLINICA COME INVESTIMENTO PER L'ITALIA, DALLE PAROLE ALL'AZIONE - UNA PROPOSTA IN 10 PUNTI

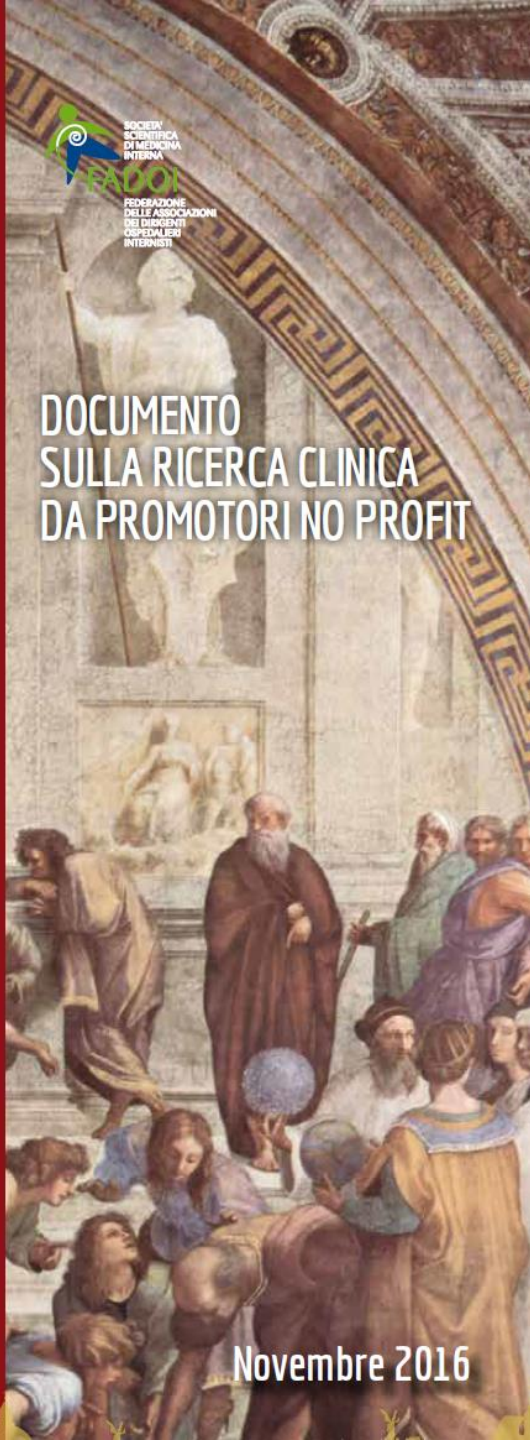
*Elaborato a seguito del
4° Convegno Nazionale
sulla Ricerca indipendente in Italia*

ROMA
Ministero della Salute
8-9 Marzo 2016

SOCIETÀ
SCIENTIFICA
DI MEDICINA
INTERNA
FADOI
FEDERAZIONE
DELLE ASSOCIAZIONI
DEI MEDICINI
OSPEDALIERI
INTERISTI

DOCUMENTO SULLA RICERCA CLINICA DA PROMOTORI NO PROFIT

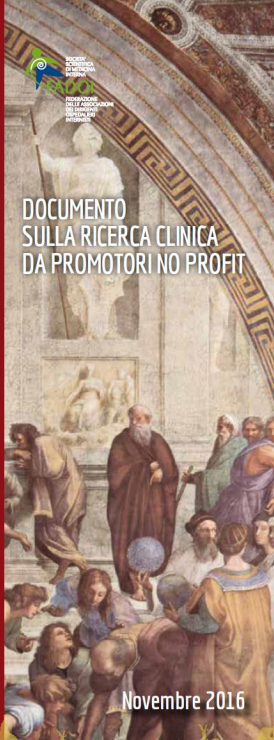
Novembre 2016



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UNA PROPOSTA
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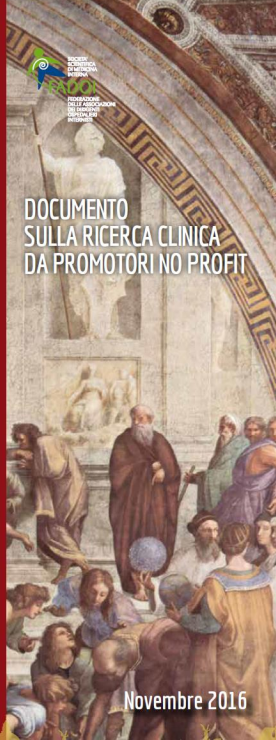
Per prepararsi al Regolamento EU

- Utilizzo dei dati della ricerca clinica
- Assicurazione per la sperimentazione clinica
- Protezione dei dati personali pazienti
- Utilizzo materiale biologico residuo a scopo di ricerca
- Idoneità centri partecipanti a sperimentazioni cliniche
- Valutazione delle sperimentazioni e comitati etici

LA RICERCA CLINICA
COME INVESTIMENTO
PER L'ITALIA,
DALLE PAROLE
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Elaborato a seguito del
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La ricerca no profit e il SSN

- Ruolo della ricerca no profit per il SSN
- Formazione per la ricerca: metodologia, procedure
- Sistemi premianti, re-investimento utili da ricerca
- Figure professionali di supporto alla ricerca

Priorità raccomandazioni REWARD



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REGOLAMENTAZIONE

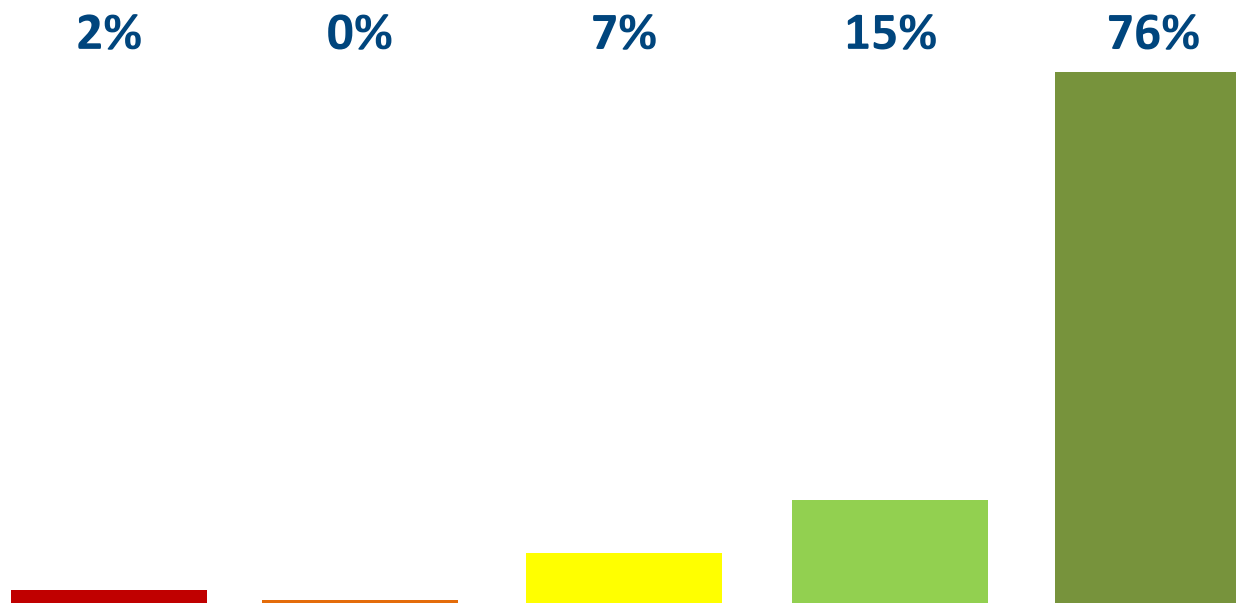
9. Enti regolatori e policy maker dovrebbero collaborare con ricercatori, pazienti e professionisti sanitari per snellire e armonizzare normative, regolamenti, linee guida e processi che regolano approvazione e conduzione della ricerca, assicurando che siano proporzionati ai rischi verosimili per i partecipanti

Raccomandazione 9



Media
4.62

DS
± 0.80



REGOLAMENTAZIONE

10. Ricercatori e soggetti coinvolti nella gestione della ricerca dovrebbero:

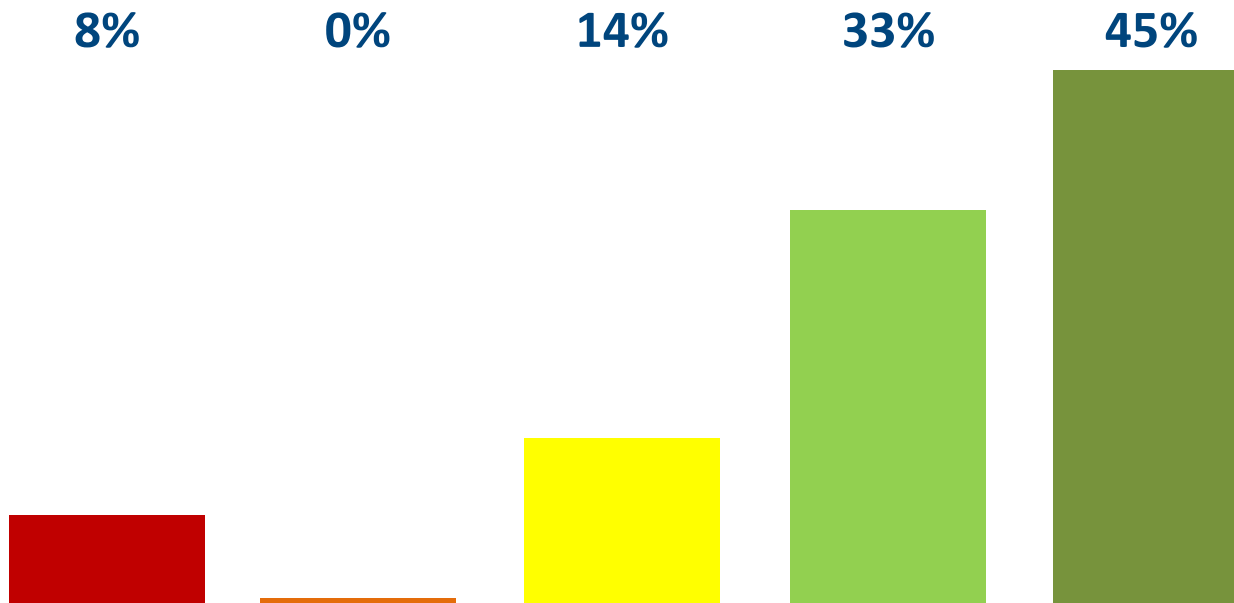
- aumentare l'efficienza dei processi di reclutamento, mantenimento, monitoraggio e condivisione dei dati della ricerca, utilizzando disegni di studio in grado di ridurre le inefficienze
- condurre ulteriori studi sui metodi per aumentare l'efficienza



Raccomandazione 10

Media
4.09

DS
± 1.12



REGOLAMENTAZIONE

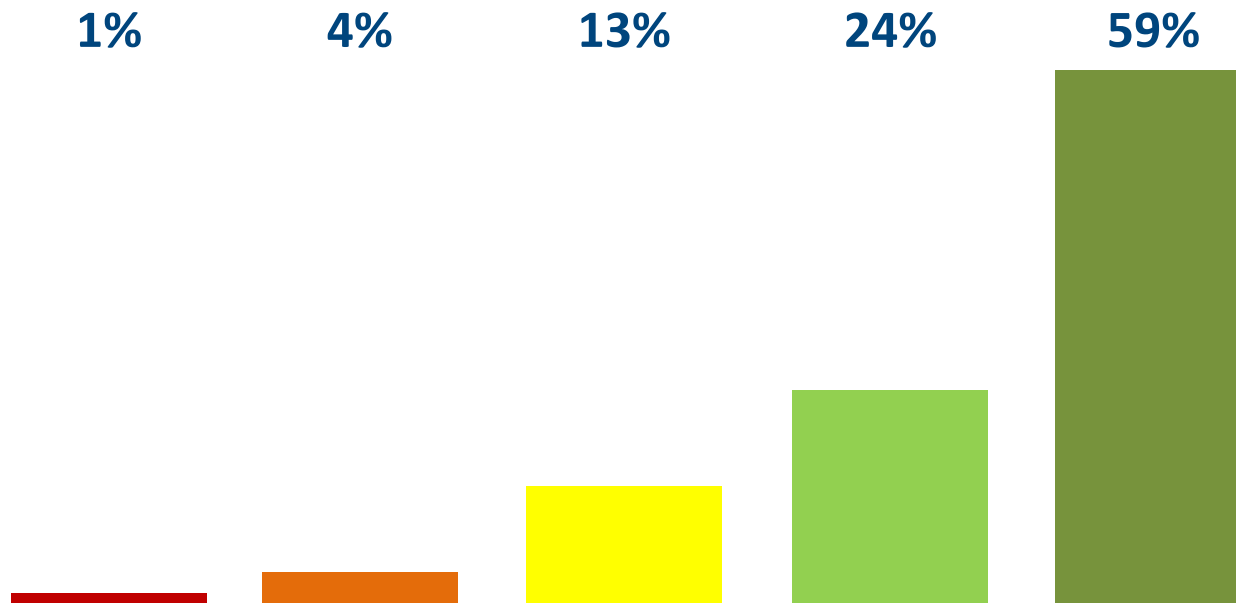
11. Tutti, in particolare chi gestisce organizzazioni sanitarie, possono contribuire a migliorare l'efficienza della ricerca clinica, promuovendo l'integrazione dei suoi risultati nella pratica clinica quotidiana



Raccomandazione 11

Media
4.35

DS
± 0.92



What Makes Clinical Research Ethical?

Ezekiel J. Emanuel, MD, PhD

David Wendler, PhD

Christine Grady, PhD

JAMA. 2000;283:2701-2711

Table 2. Seven Requirements for Determining Whether a Research Trial Is Ethical*

Requirement	Explanation	Justifying Ethical Values	Expertise for Evaluation
Social or scientific value	Evaluation of a treatment, intervention, or theory that will improve health and well-being or increase knowledge	Scarce resources and nonexploitation	Scientific knowledge; citizen's understanding of social priorities
Scientific validity	Use of accepted scientific principles and methods, including statistical techniques, to produce reliable and valid data	Scarce resources and nonexploitation	Scientific and statistical knowledge; knowledge of condition and population to assess feasibility
Fair subject selection	Selection of subjects so that stigmatized and vulnerable individuals are not targeted for risky research and the rich and socially powerful not favored for potentially beneficial research	Justice	Scientific knowledge; ethical and legal knowledge
Favorable risk-benefit ratio	Minimization of risks; enhancement of potential benefits; risks to the subject are proportionate to the benefits to the subject and society	Nonmaleficence, beneficence, and nonexploitation	Scientific knowledge; citizen's understanding of social values
Independent review	Review of the design of the research trial, its proposed subject population, and risk-benefit ratio by individuals unaffiliated with the research	Public accountability; minimizing influence of potential conflicts of interest	Intellectual, financial, and otherwise independent researchers; scientific and ethical knowledge
Informed consent	Provision of information to subjects about purpose of the research, its procedures, potential risks, benefits, and alternatives, so that the individual understands this information and can make a voluntary decision whether to enroll and continue to participate	Respect for subject autonomy	Scientific knowledge; ethical and legal knowledge
Respect for potential and enrolled subjects	Respect for subjects by (1) permitting withdrawal from the research; (2) protecting privacy through confidentiality; (3) informing subjects of newly discovered risks or benefits; (4) informing subjects of results of clinical research; (5) maintaining welfare of subjects	Respect for subject autonomy and welfare	Scientific knowledge; ethical and legal knowledge; knowledge of particular subject population

*Ethical requirements are listed in chronological order from conception of research to its formulation and implementation.