



**Hands-on training in
SYNTHESIS OF EVIDENCE IN
ANIMAL EXPERIMENTATION**

**from information to
knowledge through
systematic reviews**

15th of February 2013, Nijmegen

Course Information

ZonMw organises, in collaboration with SYRCLE (SYSystematic Review Centre for Laboratory animal Experimentation) and PAO Heyendael, a one-day workshop entitled:

SYNTHESIS OF EVIDENCE IN ANIMAL EXPERIMENTATION **From information to knowledge through systematic reviews**

‘Synthesis of evidence’ refers to structured and transparent methods to thoroughly analyse studies already conducted and published in a particular field. In clinical research, one type of synthesis of evidence, namely systematic review, is already common practice. In the field of animal experimentation, however, systematic reviews are still rather uncommon, even though recent publications have shown that they have several important advantages. For example, systematic reviews may help improve the scientific quality of animal experiments, they may prevent unnecessary (duplication of) experiments and they may improve the translation of animal data to the clinic, thereby increasing patient safety. In addition, meta-analyses may provide quantitative summaries of the results of the animal studies on a certain topic.

In this workshop, you will be introduced to the concepts of synthesis of evidence and systematic reviews of animal studies and to the differences between these review methods and classical, so-called narrative reviews. Both the advantages and the limitations of systematic reviews will be discussed. Moreover, you will get the opportunity to actually practice the steps of which systematic reviews typically consist. Through this practical experience you will get a good idea about the added value of systematic reviews and about the possibilities and efforts needed for conducting such a review in your own field of research.

Since 2009, SYRCLE has been developing education, tools and guidelines to promote and facilitate the performance of systematic reviews of animal studies.

Invitation

We cordially invite you to participate in this hands-on training in systematic reviews of animal experiments.

For whom?

Biomedical researchers directly or indirectly involved in animal experiments and affiliated with Dutch knowledge institutes (universities, academic hospitals, contract research organisations etc.) who want to receive hands-on training in conducting systematic reviews of preclinical research.

Preliminary program

08.30 AM - 05.00 PM

Lecture: Introduction to systematic reviews of animal studies

Part 1. Identifying and selecting relevant studies

Introductory lecture: Identify 'all' relevant animal studies

Computer practical 1a: Develop comprehensive search strategies

Computer practical 1b: Inclusion / exclusion of studies

Part 2. Assessing study validity

Introductory lecture: Validity of animal studies

Workshop assignment 2a: Criteria of validity

Workshop assignment 2b: Risk of bias assessment

Part 3. Data extraction and synthesis

Introductory lecture: Data extraction and meta-analysis

Computer practical 3a: data extraction

Computer practical 3b: data synthesis / meta-analysis

Closure and evaluation

Recommendations

Kim Wever, postdoc at Radboud University Nijmegen Medical Centre: *"Translation of experimental data from animal studies into clinical practice is not straightforward. Systematic reviews can provide valuable clues to support this process."*

Participant of workshop February 10th 2012: *"It will be very useful for my job as scientist."*

Marije Sloff, PhD student at Radboud University Nijmegen Medical Centre, performing a systematic review at the start of her PhD: *"From the start of my PhD, I have a good overview of the available literature."*

Tutors / Experts / Committee

Tutors

Dr Carlijn Hooijmans

Scientific researcher
SYRCLE, Central Animal Laboratory
Radboud University Nijmegen Medical Centre

Dr Marlies Leenaars

Assistant professor
SYRCLE, Central Animal Laboratory
Radboud University Nijmegen Medical Centre

Alice Tillema

Information specialist
Medical Library
Radboud University Nijmegen Medical Centre

Prof Maroeska Rovers

Professor of Evidence-based Surgery
Department for Health Evidence
Radboud University Nijmegen Medical Centre

Dr Rob de Vries

Scientific researcher
SYRCLE, Central Animal Laboratory
Radboud University Nijmegen Medical Centre

Judith van Luijk M.Sc.

PhD student
SYRCLE, Central Animal Laboratory
Radboud University Nijmegen Medical Centre

Invited experts

During the breaks, you will get the opportunity to discuss the advantages and challenges associated with systematic reviews and meta-analyses with (clinical) researchers who actually performed a systematic review of animal studies in their own field of research recently.

Organizing committee

Marit Rensink

Project manager PAO Heyendael
IWOO
Radboud University Nijmegen Medical Centre

Dr Rob de Vries

Scientific researcher
SYRCLE, Central Animal Laboratory
Radboud University Nijmegen Medical Centre

General information

TARGET GROUPS

This hands-on training is for (biomedical) researchers directly or indirectly involved in animal experiments and affiliated with Dutch knowledge institutes. The course is open to and suitable for PhD students, postdoctoral researchers as well as more senior researchers.

WEBSITES

For background information on systematic reviews of animal studies, please visit: www.umcn.nl/SYRCLE.

For practical information and registration regarding the course, please go to: www.paoheyendael.nl/sr150213

VENUE

The training takes place at the Radboud University Nijmegen Medical Centre, Studiecentrum Medische Wetenschappen.

ACCREDITATION/CERTIFICATE

- You will be awarded a certificate upon completion of the course.
- Accreditation can be requested at ABAN.

REGISTRATION

- You can register and take care of the payment online at www.paoheyendael.nl/sr150213.
- The course fee is € 55,- (administration costs only, the course fee is covered by the ZonMw grant).
- Registration will be limited to 20 participants
- If you are unable to attend the workshop of 15 February 2013, similar workshops are planned for 21 June 2013 and 4 October 2013.

Contact

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PAO Heyendaël. If you do not wish to receive mail
from us in the future, please contact our office.*

For more information and registration:

www.paoheyendael.nl/sr150213

