



Health Research Board
TMRN
Trials Methodology Research Network

Abstract

Project title:

A Brief Study of Statistician Involvement in Clinical Trials

Institution:

UCD

Project details:

A clinical trial can be defined as a prospective research study involving human participants (healthy volunteers or patients) and assigning them to one or more health-related interventions or treatments and assessing the effects on health outcomes. The clinical research multi-disciplinary team are required to work collaboratively to allow for efficient design, conduct, analysis, reporting, dissemination and implementation of a clinical trial and its findings. One important member of the trial team, is the trial statistician (or biostatistician), who plans and conducts statistical analyses plans and liaises with clinicians and scientists to make statistical inferences about trial results. Statisticians, however, should also be heavily involved in the planning and decision-making prior to the commencement of a clinical trial, in particular concerning choice of endpoint, formulation of hypotheses, study design, and sample size calculation. A clear definition of the roles and responsibilities members in a clinical research team have, can contribute to the scientific integrity of the trial and prevent unnecessary loss of resources. The aim of this 8 week Summer Student Scholarship will be to: conduct a survey of statisticians in Ireland to determine: their primary qualifications and areas of expertise, their level of involvement in clinical trials; how they became involved in trials work; and ascertain their views on how statistician involvement can be enhanced and supported to improve trial design and efficiency. The student will also have the opportunity to find out more about the clinical trials process in Ireland and be introduced to research techniques (including basic literature search strategies) and developing communication skills through meeting trial professionals.

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