

WINTER SCHOOL 2023

 19th October 2023

Qualitative research for inclusive trial methodology - working together for better science

It is imperative that trial teams plan, design, conduct and report trials that are inclusive of individuals for whom the findings are relevant. The aim of this Winter School is to build knowledge, awareness, and capacity to inform, support and evaluate equality, diversity, and inclusion in trials through high quality qualitative research. Structured around interactive workshops and knowledge exchange activities, the day will focus on qualitative research across the life cycle of trials, identifying and exploring key areas of inclusive trial methodology.

Location: University of Galway
Room: CA005, Cairns Building
Time: 09:00 – 17:00

STRUCTURE:

Session 1

- Introduction to qualitative research
- Introduction to qualitative research in trial methodology
- Introduction to core concepts of EDI within the context of qualitative research in trial methodology
- Aligning qualitative research to key areas of inclusive trial methodology across the life cycle of trials (planning, design, conduct and reporting)

Session 2

Breakout discussions focusing on EDI within

- Qualitative evidence synthesis contributing to inclusive trial methodology
 - This breakout discussion will provide an overview of qualitative evidence synthesis and its application to trial methodology (with published examples). The process of assessing confidence in the synthesis findings will be examined to identify where evidence of EDI needs further exploration in future trial methodology research.
- Study Within A Trial (SWAT) – qualitative evidence informing inclusive trial methodology
 - This breakout discussion will provide an overview of studies within a trial and how qualitative methods can be used to improve trial conduct. There will be an additional focus on how insights from qualitative research in trials can enhance inclusivity of trials by addressing issues of recruitment and retention.


Summary session

Knowledge exchange activity

- Establish the state of the science in relation to qualitative research for inclusive trials methodology
- Collectively identify future actions and next steps

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SPEAKERS



Dr Laura Jones is an Associate Professor of Qualitative and Mixed Methods Applied Health Research at the University of Birmingham. Laura is an experienced applied health researcher and leads a programme of qualitative and mixed methods research to answer challenging questions around women's and maternal health, and within maternity care. Laura also leads multiple qualitative process evaluations in trials of women's and maternal health. This research focuses on successful and inclusive design, delivery and dissemination of complex trials.



Dr Linda Biesty is an Associate Professor at the University of Galway with 20 years experience using qualitative research to explore a range of health and social questions. A midwife and qualitative researcher by training, Linda's research focuses largely in the fields of maternity care; methodological research using qualitative and quantitative evidence synthesis, and the application of qualitative methodologies to inform trials, trial methodology and core outcome set development.



Dr Catherine Houghton is an Associate Professor in the School of Nursing and Midwifery at the University of Galway. Her current research interests are in qualitative research and evidence synthesis, trial methodologies and psychosocial research in dementia. She is Co-Chair of the Qualitative Research in Trials Centre: (QUESTS) embedded with the HRB-TMRN and co-lead of the Qualitative Research in Trials target group within the Trial Conduct Group of the MRC-NIHR Trials Methodology Research Partnership (TMRP). Catherine is also a co-convenor of Cochrane's Qualitative and Implementation Methods Group.



Dr Andrew Hunter is an Associate Professor in mental health nursing in the School of Nursing and Midwifery at the University of Galway. He has expertise in qualitative research methodologies, specifically grounded theory and the application of these approaches within trials. Andrew is co-chair of The Qualitative Research in Trials (QUESTS) Centre and is leading SWATs using qualitative methods to explore recruitment in trials.

