

Elie A. Akl, MD, MPH, PhD

Elie Akl is a tenured Professor of Medicine at the American university of Beirut (AUB), Lebanon. He serves as the Associate Dean for Clinical Research at the Faculty of Medicine, leads the division of General Internal Medicine and Geriatrics (GIMG) at AUBMC, directs the AUB GRADE Center, and co-directs the Center for systematic reviews of health policy and systems research (SPARK). He has a part time appointment in the Department of Health Research Methods, Evidence, and Impact (HE&I) at McMaster University. His research expertise is in systematic reviews, practice guidelines, and conflicts of interest. He serves as a guideline methodologist for a number of North American professional organizations and the World Health Organization. He published more than 500 peer-reviewed papers and has been listed as a one of “Highly Cited Researchers” yearly since 2015.

Joseph Beyene, PhD

Joseph Beyene is a Professor of Biostatistics and the inaugural John D. Cameron Endowed Chair in the Genetic Determinants of Chronic Diseases, Department of Health Research Methods, Evidence, and Impact, McMaster University, Canada. He obtained his PhD in Biostatistics from the University of Toronto. Dr. Beyene’s research interests focus on methodology development for evidence synthesis with application to public health sciences and clinical medicine; integrative statistical methods for high-dimensional data with emphasis on “multi-omics” studies; and general statistical methods for clinical trials and observational study designs. His scientific and clinical application areas span a wide range of disciplines including maternal-child health, nutrition, and rheumatology. He has authored or co-authored over 350 peer-reviewed scientific articles and book chapters across the areas of his training and research interest. In addition to maintaining an active methodological research program, Dr. Beyene is also involved in mentorship and supervision at various levels.

Emma Boyland, PhD

Emma Boyland is a Professor of Food Marketing and Child Health based in the Department of Psychology at the University of Liverpool, where she is Research Lead for the Department and leads the Appetite and Obesity Research group. As an experimental psychologist, her work principally focuses on the food environment, characterising the foods and beverages available, how they are marketed, and how this impacts on eating behaviours (particularly in children). She has extensive experience of knowledge exchange and translation, supporting use of evidence to inform policy progress in the UK and internationally.

Emma is an established global leader in her research field and has authored over 120 peer-reviewed journal articles to date, as well as multiple World Health Organization (WHO) reports and book chapters. Prof Boyland has received more than £4 million in research funding to her institution, from funders including NIHR, MRC, ESRC, and the Wellcome Trust.

Andrew Jones, PhD

Andrew Jones is a Senior Lecturer in Psychology at Liverpool John Moores University. He is an experimental psychologist, with a wider interest in meta-science and evidence syntheses. His research focuses on the antecedents and consequences of unhealthy behaviours, such as alcohol use and poor dietary choices.

He has received early career awards from the British Association for Psychopharmacology and Society for the Study of Addiction. He has authored over 100 journal articles and received funding from NIHR, ESRC, and Public Health England.

M Hasan Murad, PhD

Dr Murad is an epidemiologist and Professor of Medicine at the Mayo Clinic with a career focus on improving the methods of evidence synthesis, translation and integration in practice, policy and guidelines. He directs the AHRQ designated Evidence-based Practice Center (EPC) at the Mayo Clinic, the fellowship program in Preventive Medicine and Public Health and the Masters Program in translational research. He is a co-founder of the US-GRADE Network and has over 950 scientific publications and has participated in over 80 national/international practice guidelines.

George A Wells, PhD, MSc

Dr. Wells is a Professor in the School of Epidemiology and Public Health at the University of Ottawa and Director of the Cardiovascular Research Methods Centre at the University of Ottawa Heart Institute. He is also a Professor in the Department of Medicine at the University of Ottawa. His research interests are in the design and analysis of clinical trials, health technology assessment, statistical methodology related to health care delivery, systematic reviews and meta-analysis, economic evaluations and the development and assessment of decision support technologies for patients and practitioners. Dr. Wells is the author or co-author of over 1050 peer-reviewed articles and over 1050 scientific abstracts. He has been the principal investigator or co-investigator on over 310 research projects.