Finding What Works in Health Care: Updating Standards for Systematic Reviews

Webinar Series: Recent Advances in Evidence Synthsis

February 27, 2026

Julian Higgins is Professor of Evidence Synthesis at Bristol Medical School, University of Bristol, where he co-directs two NIHR Evidence Synthesis Groups and co-chairs the Bristol Evidence Synthesis, Appraisal and Modelling (BEAM) Centre. He was previously Chair in Evidence Synthesis at the University of York, and Programme Leader at the MRC Biostatistics Unit in Cambridge. Wide-ranging research interests span all areas of systematic review and meta-analysis. Julian has co-authored over 100 applied evidence syntheses and over 200 papers on evidence synthesis methodology. He has been senior editor of the Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions since 2003.

Haley Holmer, PhD, MPH is a clinical epidemiologist and investigator at Portland VA's Scientific Resource Center for the AHRQ Evidence-based Practice Center Program. Dr. Holmer provides methodological leadership and develops innovative approaches to modernize evidence reviews. Her research interests include evidence synthesis methods to improve the timeliness, rigor, and applicability of systematic reviews for real world decision-making. Previously, Dr. Holmer supported the WHO and US CDC during the COVID-19 pandemic response, helping to produce rapid evidence products and design methodological approaches to inform the development of guidance in the setting of a public health emergency.

Evan Mayo-Wilson is an Associate Professor in Epidemiology. His research focuses on the benefits and harms of health interventions, improving methods for clinical trials and systematic reviews, and increasing research transparency and openness. His current projects including using artificial intelligence to extract and compare the methods and results of intervention studies. He also serves as Co-Scientific Director for peer review of PCORI Research Reports (contracted by KGL Ltd). He is a member of the Cochrane Methods Executive, Associate Convenor of the Cochrane Adverse Events Methods Group, and member of the American Psychological Association Open Science and Methodology Expert Panel. He has authored multiple guidelines for reporting clinical trials and systematic reviews, and he serves as one of five members of the PRISMA Executive, which is responsible for maintaining guidelines for reporting systematic reviews.

Professor Joanne McKenzie is head of the Methods in Evidence Synthesis Unit within the School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine at Monash University, Melbourne, Australia. She leads a programme of research on methods for evidence synthesis, with one key area being methods to present and synthesize results when meta-analysis is not possible. She co-led the PRISMA 2020 statement. She co-chairs the PRISMA Executive and co-directs the Melbourne Branch of the Australasian EQUATOR Centre. She is an active contributor to Cochrane, including being a Co-convenor of the Statistical Methods Group and an author of several chapters of the Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions.