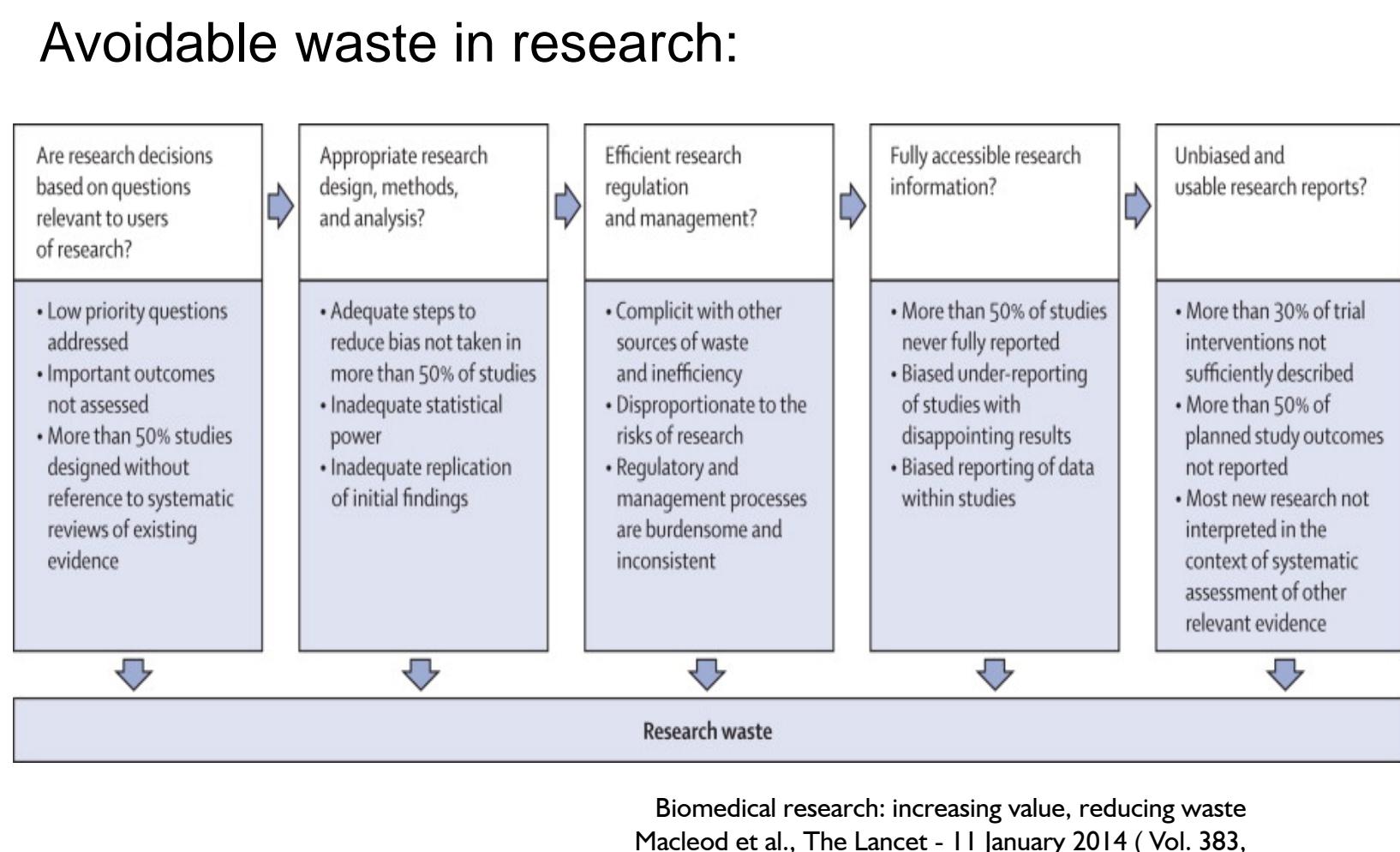




# EBRNetwork – A call to action for evidence-based research

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[ebrnetwork.org](http://ebrnetwork.org)

## BACKGROUND



"While the use of research synthesis to make evidence-informed decisions is now expected in health care, there is also a need for clinical trials to be conducted in a way that is evidence-based."

*Evidence-based research* is one way to reduce waste in the production and reporting of trials, through the initiation of trials that are needed to address outstanding questions and through the design of new trials in a way that maximizes the information gained."

Robinson, Karen A. Use of prior research in the justification and interpretation of University. ProQuest, UMI Dissertations Publishing, 2009. 3392375. clinical trials. The Johns Hopkins

## Evidence-Based Research

Using evidence to inform research so that it is addressing questions that matter in a valid, efficient and accessible manner.

Decisions about design informed by systematic review include the selection of meaningful outcomes assessed in a way that enables synthesis across studies; this is especially needed in areas where core outcome sets do not yet exist.

Yet research shows that there is inadequate and biased consideration of earlier research.

## METHODS

International network established in Bergen, Norway in December 2014

Evidence-Based Research Network (EBRNetwork)



Participants at meeting launching EBRNetwork (Bergen, Norway)

## RESULTS

- Formation of steering committee, considering essential stakeholders including patients, researchers, funders and publishers
- Development of presentations and publications for peer-reviewed journals, conferences, website, and social media
- Draft Bergen Statement on Evidence-Based Research

## DRAFT BERGEN STATEMENT ON EVIDENCE-BASED RESEARCH

### Preamble

Researchers, research funders, regulators, sponsors and publishers of research too often fail to use earlier research when preparing to start, fund or publish the results of new studies. To embark on research without systematically reviewing what is already known, particularly when the research involves people or animals, is unethical, unscientific, and wasteful.

### Principles

*No new studies without prior systematic review of existing evidence*

*Efficient production, updating and dissemination of systematic reviews*

### Researchers

	Adequate skills to	Responsibilities
<b>Research Preparation</b>		
Search	Search for relevant completed and ongoing research	<p>List</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sources searched: databases, journal or book reference lists, research registers, etc.</li> <li>Search terms used</li> </ul>
Critical appraisal	Critically appraise the identified research against pre-defined inclusion/exclusion criteria	List criteria used to include or exclude studies (including the exact start and end dates of the search), with no language restrictions
	Assess the risk of bias of identified studies	Report the results of the risk of bias assessment
<b>Research planning</b>		
Evidence synthesis	Synthesise earlier research addressing relevant research questions	<p>Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pooled estimates derived from meta-analyses of the evidence, if appropriate</li> <li>Or</li> <li>Qualitative synthesis</li> </ul>
Scope	Prioritise research question(s) in relation to the totality of earlier and ongoing research	Replicate earlier research when necessary but avoid unnecessary duplication of research
<b>Research reporting</b>		
Evidence synthesis	<p>Perform a meta-analysis</p> <p>Assess the strength of the updated body of evidence for relevant PICO combinations</p>	<p>Update existing meta-analysis</p> <p>Report the results of the assessment of body of evidence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discuss own results in the context of earlier research</li> <li>Describe how own findings add value to the existing evidence</li> <li>State the implications for practice or policy and future research in view of updated systematic review</li> </ul>
Discussion and Conclusion		

### Funding agencies

- Funding agencies are responsible for using systematic reviews of prior research to identify and prioritize research questions/agendas.
- Funding agencies are responsible for assessing whether the questions addressed in proposed studies are adequately supported by systematic reviews of prior research.
- Funding agencies are responsible for assessing whether the designs of proposed studies are adequately supported by systematic reviews of prior research.

### Research ethics committees

- Research ethics committees are responsible for assessing whether the questions to be addressed in proposed studies are adequately supported by systematic reviews of prior research.
- Research ethics committees are responsible for assessing whether the designs of proposed studies are adequately supported by systematic reviews of prior research.

### Editors / Reviewers

- Editors/reviewers are responsible for assessing whether the rationale and design of studies are adequately described within the context of systematic reviews of prior research.
- Editors/reviewers are responsible for evaluating whether the description of earlier research is sufficient to enable interpretation of the results of submitted study reports within the totality of relevant evidence.
- Editors/reviewers are responsible for evaluating whether proposals for further research take account of earlier and ongoing research.
- Editors/reviewers are responsible for evaluating whether proposals for further research include clear descriptions of target populations, interventions, comparisons, and outcome measures.

Other responsible parties to be added include patients, educators and research regulators.

## CONCLUSIONS

The design of new studies, including the choice of outcomes, should be informed by prior research.

The EBRNetwork is an international collaboration that aims to ensure that no new studies are approved, funded or published without systematic review of existing evidence; and works towards more efficient production, updating and dissemination of systematic reviews.

## HOW TO PARTICIPATE?

The EBRNetwork has issued a call for interested individuals and organizations to join together in promoting evidence-based research.

To become a member of the EBRNetwork please contact [info@ebrnetwork.org](mailto:info@ebrnetwork.org)

<http://ebrnetwork.org>

Follow us on Twitter @ebrnetwork



**The Evidence-Based Research Network**