

Programme

Thursday (October 4th)

14.00-16.00, Lectures, Lecture hall, Building No. 53

14.00-14.30 • Opening & Welcome • Alexander Katalinic, University of Lübeck • David Richards, University of Exeter

14.30-15.15 • Challenges of evaluating, synthesising and reporting complex interventions • Ingrid Mühlhauser, University of Hamburg

- Short introduction to the development and evaluation of CI, presentation of the UK Medical Research Council's guidance for the development and evaluation of CI.
- Specific challenges of synthesising CI illustrated by examples from own research on diabetes and hypertension self-management programmes.
- Consequences and requirements for reporting of CI.

15.15-16.00 • Successful literature search strategies: optimising precision and the “number needed to read” • Michael Simon, University of Southampton

- Literature searching for systematic reviews and even more so in the context of complex interventions can be a daunting task.
- This lecture will give guidance on how to develop and assess search strategies for complex interventions on an empirical basis.
- Short reference will be made to available software packages to support this approach.

16.45-17.45

Workshops: Meta-analysis of complex interventions: current methodological limitations and challenges – different views, different challenges (please choose one)

Room A, Institute for Social Medicine, Building No. 50

Experiences from Health Technology Assessments • Dagmar Lühmann, University of Lübeck

- Specific challenges and requirements of systematically reviewing evidence for HTA
- Examples from a recent HTA on fall prevention

Room B, Institute for Social Medicine, Building No. 50

Experiences from Public Health • Ruth Turley, University of Cardiff

- Types of evidence to be considered in public health
- Process information and qualitative evidence
- Examples own and other published reviews in public health.

Room C, School of Nursing, Building No. 37

(Synthesis of) Complex interventions for beginners • Gabriele Meyer, Witten/Herdecke University & Sascha Köpke, University of Lübeck

- Using the example of a recently published study and an own Cochrane review on physical restraint reduction, some basic concepts and questions will be addressed:
 - Defining the intervention.
 - Identifying relevant evidence.
 - Selecting studies.
 - Synthesising study evidence.

Friday (October 5th)

9.30-11.15, Lectures, Lecture hall, Building No. 53

9.30-10.15 • Integration of qualitative and quantitative data in systematic reviews – how far could we go? • Karin Hannes, University of Leuven (via video conference)

- Mixed methods research synthesis: definition, framework, potential and pitfalls, worked examples

10.30-11.15 • Synthesis of qualitative research on complex interventions • Kate Flemming, University of York (via video conference)

- How the synthesis of qualitative research can lead to greater understanding of complex interventions by providing contextual evidence for those interventions.
- Two examples will be provided
 - Exploring the use of morphine to treat advanced cancer pain.
 - Understanding interventions to promote smoking cessation in pregnancy, by exploring women's views.

11.30-13.15, Lectures, Lecture hall, Building No. 53

11.30-12.05 • Cochrane reviews – Are they prepared for synthesis of complex interventions? • Ralph Möhler, Witten/Herdecke University

- The Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions currently offers no specific guidance for systematic reviews of complex interventions.
- The lecture will identify relevant information from the Cochrane Collaboration and other resources to support authors conducting Cochrane Reviews of complex interventions in healthcare.

12.05-12.40 • Meta-regression for determination of active components of complex interventions • David Richards, University of Exeter

- What is meta-regression.
- How can meta-regression address issues in complex interventions.
- When to use meta-regression.
- How meta-regression is used to make sense of the pattern of effects and explore and explain variance in meta-analysis results.
- Implications of meta-regression for improving the quality and effectiveness of health care interventions.

12.40-13.15 • Economic analyses in the context of evaluation of complex interventions • Ch. Markos Dintios, vfa Berlin & Department of Public Health, University of Düsseldorf

- Frequently the evaluation of complex interventions is based on the triad of Donabedian's quality dimensions (structure, process, outcome) in a rather anecdotic or descriptive manner by benchmarking or listing focusing mainly on process or structure.
- An efficient evaluation needs to rely on hard outcomes and the health-economic evaluation of complex interventions has to become more sophisticated to fulfil the respective evaluation requirements.
- There are some international examples of successful economic analyses of complex interventions. A promising approach for the health-economic evaluation of complex interventions offering more depth than simple benchmarking is the efficiency frontier.
- Examples of implementations of health-economic evaluations for complex interventions will be presented.

14.15-17.00, Workshops with three rotating topics (see extra page)

Topic I: What narrative reviews contribute to synthesis of complex interventions • Ruth Turley, University of Cardiff

- Using logica / conceptual models and visual diagrams (such as harvest plots) to organise a narrative review of complex interventions.
- Planning features to be considered for the review.
- Interpreting and presenting results.

Topic II: Evidence linkage in test-treatment trials – Creating complexity • Katrin Balzer, University of Lübeck

- Diagnostic tests as complex interventions.
- Developing and evaluating diagnostic tests according to the MRC framework.
- Evidence linkages as an approach for approximating diagnostic tests' efficacy and safety.
 - Pre-conditions and challenges.
 - Experiences from the evaluation of pressure ulcer risk assessment scales.

Topic III: The contribution of realist reviews to judgments on complex interventions • Brendan McCormack, University of Ulster

- The role of realist reviews in the synthesis of complex interventions
- Examples from own research

17.30-18.15, Plenary discussion, Lecture hall, Building No. 53

Moderation: Gabriele Meyer, Witten/Herdecke University • Sascha Köpke, University of Lübeck

Open topics from workshops with impulse from workshop leaders

- Short summary of workshop discussions by workshop leaders.
- Feasibility of discussed approaches.
- Applicability to different (own) topics.

Saturday (October 6th)

9.30-10.15, Lecture, Lecture hall, Building No. 53

General guidelines for reporting complex interventions • Ralph Möhler, Witten/Herdecke University

- Presentation of different reporting guidelines with relevance for complex interventions, including the Criteria for reporting the development and evaluation of complex interventions in healthcare (CReDECI).
- Discussion of further approaches to improve quality of reporting, including the upcoming CONSORT Extension for Complex Social Interventions.

10.45-12.30, Workshops with two rotating topics (see extra page)

Reporting complex interventions – Quality appraisal • Katrin Balzer, University of Lübeck

- What does 'quality of evidence' mean in terms of complex interventions?
- Discussion of decisions to be made by reviewers:
 - Which studies are to be included – quantity versus quality of studies?
 - Which criteria do matter for appraising the quality of evidence regarding a complex intervention – and how can they be assessed?
 - One checklist for all types of studies OR specific criteria sets for each question?
 - How to summarise the quality of evidence within one and across different studies?
- Consequences for reporting studies on complex interventions.

Reporting complex interventions – Reporting context • Mary Wells, University of Dundee

- Consider the needs of different stakeholders in relation to the reporting of complex interventions.
- Discuss the role of context in trials of complex interventions.
- Identify ways in which contextual issues can be reported more effectively.

13.30-14.30, Small group work, Institute for Social Medicine, Building No. 50

Preparing a joint commentary on the recent Cochrane review on fall prevention in community dwellers (Gillespie et al. 2012)

- Using the Cochrane review as prime example for challenges in synthesising complex interventions.
- Writing a short letter highlighting important problems. .

Drafting ideas for a conjoint research agenda on synthesising and reporting complex interventions (6 working groups)

- Open questions and how these should be addressed by future research.
- Defining research priorities.

15.00-16.00, Plenary discussion & Farewell, Lecture hall, Building No. 53

Research agenda presentation, summary & farewell • Moderation: Gabriele Meyer & Sascha Köpke