

## Workshop “Systematic review of animal studies”

### Workshop description

This workshop provides a first hands-on introduction to concept and methodology of systematic review and meta-analysis of animal studies. In clinical research, systematic review is already common practice. In the case of animal experimentation, however, systematic reviews are still rather uncommon, even they have several important advantages: systematic reviews may improve the translation of animal data to the clinic, contribute to patient safety, improve the scientific quality of animal experiments and prevent unnecessary (duplication of) animal experiments. In addition, meta-analyses provide quantitative summaries of the results of the animal studies on a certain topic and often provide new insights without having to use new animals.

Both the advantages and the limitations of systematic reviews will be discussed. You will have the opportunity to practice various steps of the systematic review process, such as comprehensive searching, data extraction and analysis. You will experience the added value of systematic reviews and have the opportunity to explore the possibilities and efforts needed for conducting a review in your own field of research.

### Invitation and target audience

We cordially invite you to participate! The workshop is targeted at junior biomedical researchers considering to conduct their own systematic review of animal studies in the near future. It is also suitable for junior and senior researchers or other staff (e.g. animal welfare officers) directly or indirectly involved in animal experiments, wishing to familiarize themselves with systematic review methodology.

### Costs

This workshop is funded by the ZonMW program “Meer kennis met minder dieren” (“More knowledge with fewer animals”) and is therefore free of charge. Please visit the [MKMD program website](#) for more information.

### Course organisers

This course is organized by the [Radboud university medical center Meta-research team](#).

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### Venue and registration

- Please [complete this form](#) to register (registration will be limited to 20 participants)
- We hope to welcome you at the Radboudumc in Nijmegen. However, depending on the regulations in place at the time, the course may be delivered through online (live) teaching
- If the workshop is held face-to-face, please bring a laptop with wifi connection
- If the workshop is held face-to-face, coffee, tea and lunch will be provided

**Workshop reviews by participants**

*“Very useful, good introduction to systematic reviews and nice that there is a combination of theory and practice!”*

*“Search strategy is in general useful and the next steps you need to perform are useful before you start experiments”*

On average, participants reward our workshop with an 8,5 out of 10!

**Workshop program**

Time	Workshop activity
08:30	Registration
09:00	Welcome and opening
09:05	Lecture: Introduction to systematic reviews of animal studies
09:45	Lecture: Comprehensive searching: how to identify ‘all’ relevant animal studies
10:00	Practical assignment: Developing a comprehensive search strategy
11:00	Practical assignment: Inclusion and exclusion of studies
11:15	Break
11:30	Practical assignment: Extracting study characteristics
11:55	Lecture: Study validity and risks of bias
12:30	Lunch
13:30	Practical assignment: Performing a risk of bias assessment
14:00	Lecture and practical: Data extraction and meta-analysis
15:00	Break
15:15	Practical assignment: Meta-analysis
16:30	Closure and evaluation
17:00	End

We hope to meet you soon! In case of questions, please feel free to contact us!