

June 2020



Dear Colleagues,

We would like to introduce **the new Global Health working group of the Trials Methodology Research Partnership (TMRP)** and update you on recent activities and how we intend moving forward.

Rationale for the TMRP and this working group

The TMRP brings together a number of networks, institutions and partners working in trials and trials methodology research. [Topic-specific working groups](#) specialise in areas relevant to trial methodology. You are welcome to contact us about joining these groups:

- Adaptive designs
- Health economics
- Health Informatics
- Outcomes
- Statistical analysis
- Stratified medicine
- Trial conduct

[Here are some useful examples of Trials Methodology Research](#)

Our own new **Global Health Working Group** was launched so that researchers in low and middle-income countries (LMICs) may both benefit from and contribute to ongoing developments in clinical trials methodology research. We aim to

- 1) Raise awareness of the field and scope of clinical trial methodology research to those in LMICs
- 2) Signpost them to the other topic-specific [Working Groups of the TMRP](#)
- 3) Further increase the capacity for trial methodology research in LMICs through freely accessible information on a [dedicated](#) site
- 4) Respond to queries from those in LMICs wanting guidance on methods, potential collaborators and training opportunities/events
- 5) Manage small [pump-priming grants](#) for LMIC clinical trials methodology research projects

Ideas for taking the working group forward

A core group of people with experience in trials methodology research, and/or trial networks in LMICs will shortly start to guide the working group activities, but we would like everyone to feel free to suggest the direction we could take depending on your needs and wants. Ideally, we could then pull together as a community-of-practice to achieve these. You can contact us via the emails below, or through our dedicated [page](#) where we would like to generate discussion groups. Please drop us an email if you would like to start a discussion.

News

Pump-priming awards: we are delighted with the response to the recent call for applications for these small awards intended to boost small and proof of principle research in LMICs. Congratulations to the 7 successful applicants. Please see [this page](#) for more information about the outcome – we will also work towards supporting some of the unsuccessful applicants where we can over the next year.

Events/training etc.

Many routine face-to-face events/conferences are being postponed or cancelled due to COVID-19 so it is difficult to provide a comprehensive update at this time. However, we'd like to bring these online events and resources to your attention:

- Anna Rosala-Hallas recently presented a [webinar](#) on her work to help define a global health trials methodological research agenda
- The TMRP has also launched a [webinar](#) series featuring presentations from the various working groups
- There is a new [Pop-up COVID-19 site](#) on The Global Health Network with webinars such as “The COVID-19 Open Workshops for Research Implementation” and “Is it ok for research participants to volunteer to be infected?”
- [PANDA](#) – a resource for those keen to learn about adaptive designs, their practical application, potential benefits and limitations.

Funding, collaborations and networking

We are going to start collating funding opportunities specific to clinical trial/research methodology research and relevant to LMICs for presentation on our site – please do send us any such funding so we can share with everyone. As our group progresses we hope that the networking will allow for collaborative work.

Featured LMIC-relevant articles

Ethics of alternative trial designs and methods in low-resource settings [Parts 1](#) and [2](#)

Finally, please forward this email to your colleagues that may be interested in joining and follow us on Twitter [@GHWG TMRP](#)

Best wishes

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