

SHORT TERM SCIENTIFIC MISSION (STSM) SCIENTIFIC REPORT

This report is submitted for approval by the STSM applicant to the STSM coordinator

Action number: ECOST-STSM-Request-CA17117-45509

STSM title: Enhancing Skills on Systematic Review on Medical Researches

STSM start and end date: 01/12/2019 to 14/12/2019

Grantee name: Gülcan TECİRLİ

PURPOSE OF THE STSM:

Training and building capacity in the methods of systematic review especially with regard to the changes of the Cochrane Handbook on risk of bias.

DESCRIPTION OF WORK CARRIED OUT DURING THE STSMS

01/12/2019 I reached to Plymouth from Ankara passing through Istanbul and London.

02/12/2019 Initial meeting to plan the two weeks around both capacity building and working on a project

03/12/2019 We worked through the new Cochrane Risk of Bias tool and Mona assigned three articles for me that I evaluated and compared to her evaluation as part of another project.

04/12/2019 We discuss the results of the risk of bias and Mona send additional articles to focus on areas that I struggled before and we worked on it again. I also met some new members of their team including clinical fellows and PhD students.

05/12/2019 We worked on structuring research questions and how to use it to inform search strategy and screening of the studies. This also included a conversation on appraisal of economic studies. Mona used her presentation that she taught in undergraduate class, RoB of Cochrane Handbook and chapter on economic evaluation. I looked in her presentation and tried to create scenarios to practice formulating PICO.

06/12/2019 We talked about rapid evidence assessment and I chose a topic to focus on and try to conduct a rapid review- the effectiveness of Spinaraza on SMA (spinal muscular atrophy)

07-08/12/2019 I run the search and screened the results and identified some of the articles and start appraisal.

09/12/2019 We talked about different databases and how to design and run a search strategy. I used that to adjust my search strategy for my selected PICO question and screen the articles.

10/12/2019 We talked about using Rayyan as a way to screen the search results. I exported the results of my search strategy in Pubmed and imported them in Rayyan. We discussed how to approach screening, how to approach it quicker and more accurately. We decided to focus on clinical trials. I also attended a webinar by Mona on research priority setting with a focus on underlying evidence of the methods and how to inform choosing systematic review topics.

11/12/2019 We focused on risk of bias of the identifying clinical trials of the screening – we talked about data extraction sheets and I designed and pilot one for my rapid assessment.

12/12/2019 I had one-to-one coaching with Lorna Burns (information specialist at University of Plymouth) and we worked how to adapt search strategies for different databases MEDLINE, EMBASE and others for my rapid assessment. I gave a seminar on how the HTA assessment work at the Turkey Ministry of Health and we had a discussion on the advantages and disadvantages of it and what can be improved.

13/12/2019 This was the last day for STSM, I went to University and we talked with Mona some part of data extraction that I struggled and she showed me details. And I left from University at 3 pm to go back to London.

14/12/2019 I returned back to Ankara via London and Istanbul.

DESCRIPTION OF THE MAIN RESULTS OBTAINED

I learned about new Risk of Bias tool, design and pilot data extraction forms, identifying electronic databases and how to design search strategy and screen results, how to use Rayyan and RevMan. I also did a rapid evidence assessment during that week on the effectiveness of Spinaraza on SMA (spinal muscular atrophy). I had a chance to discuss the HTA methodology in ministry of health in Turkey. I also had an opportunity to get more familiar to the UK academic culture and meet academic fellows, academics and PhD students and discuss their research projects.

FUTURE COLLABORATIONS (if applicable)

My priority is finishing my PhD, however, we might explore whether the rapid review is publishable.