

# Evidence Synthesis: Navigating an Evolving Landscape

**NIHR** | National Institute for  
Health and Care Research

**NIHR Complex Reviews Support Unit**



University  
of Glasgow



UNIVERSITY OF  
LEICESTER



**EVIDENCE SYNTHESIS ECOSYSTEM SERIES**

Future of evidence ecosystem series: 1. Introduction Evidence synthesis ecosystem needs dramatic change

Isabelle Boutron<sup>a,b,c,d,\*</sup>, Perrine Créquit<sup>a,c,e</sup>, Hywel Williams<sup>f</sup>, Joerg Meerpohl<sup>g</sup>, Jonathan C. Craig<sup>h</sup>, Philippe Ravaud<sup>a,b,c,d,i</sup>

**EVIDENCE SYNTHESIS ECOSYSTEM SERIES**

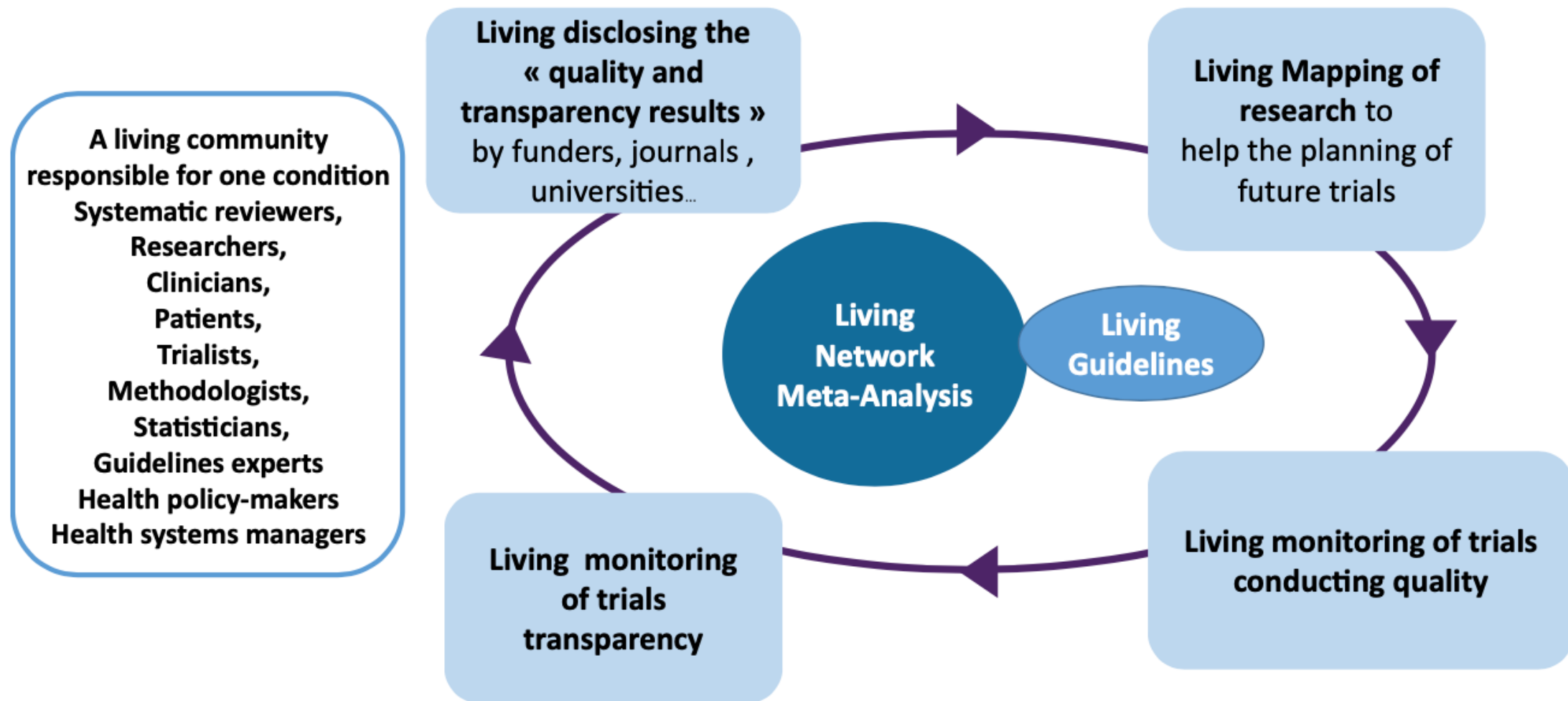
Future of evidence ecosystem series: 2. current opportunities and need for better tools and methods

Perrine Créquit<sup>a,b,c</sup>, Isabelle Boutron<sup>a,b,d,e</sup>, Joerg Meerpohl<sup>f</sup>, Hywel C. Williams<sup>g</sup>, Jonathan Craig<sup>h</sup>, Philippe Ravaud<sup>a,b,c,d,i,\*</sup>

**EVIDENCE SYNTHESIS ECOSYSTEM SERIES**

Future of evidence ecosystem series: 3. From an evidence synthesis ecosystem to an evidence ecosystem

Philippe Ravaud<sup>a,b,c,d,e,\*</sup>, Perrine Créquit<sup>a,c,f</sup>, Hywel C. Williams<sup>g</sup>, Joerg Meerpohl<sup>h</sup>, Jonathan C. Craig<sup>i</sup>, Isabelle Boutron<sup>a,b,c,d</sup>



**Fig. 1.** Developing a culture of continuous improvement of clinical research for a specific disease.

## Best Research for Best Health: The Next Chapter

Our Operational Priorities



Funded by



*NIHR research will need to become much more integrated across disciplines and better serve the more holistic research questions that we will increasingly be asked to address in years to come.*

## **Funding high quality, timely research... that benefits the NHS, public health and social care**

*New methodologies, better use of 'real-world' evidence and the involvement of a wider range of disciplines (including the social sciences and implementation science)...*

*Support the NHS's Accelerated Access Collaborative... to align research, manufacturing and deployment activities, ensuring the rapid delivery of necessary clinical trials and investigations*

# Programme

<b>10:00 – 10.15 am</b>	<b>Welcome and Introductions to the Day</b> <i>Olivia Wu   NIHR Complex Reviews Support Unit</i>
<b>10:15 – 10:45 am</b>	<b>Reflections from the NIHR Complex Reviews Support Unit</b> <i>Terry Quinn, Neil Hawkins, Alex Sutton   NIHR Complex Reviews Support Unit</i>
<b>10:45 – 11:00 am</b>	<b>Q &amp; A</b>
<b>BREAK</b>	
<b>11:15 – 11:45 am</b>	<b>Evolution and Revolution: the future of global evidence synthesis</b> <i>Karla Soares-Weiser   Cochrane Editor in Chief</i>
<b>11:45 – 12:15 pm</b>	<b>Synthesising Evidence for Complex Questions: the NICE Perspective</b> <i>Joshua Pink   Senior Technical Advisor (Methodology), NICE</i>
<b>12:15 – 12:30 am</b>	<b>Q &amp; A</b>
<b>LUNCH</b>	

# Programme

1:15 – 1:45 pm

## **The Challenges of Evidence Synthesis Ahead: the Industry Perspective**

*Christine Fletcher | Vice President, Specialty & Primary Care Statistics, GlaxoSmithKline*

1:45 – 2:15 pm

## **Future of Evidence Synthesis: the NIHR Perspective**

*Lesley Stewart | Programme Director, NIHR Evidence Synthesis Programme*

2:15 – 2:30 pm

## **Q & A**

2:30 – 2:45 pm

## **Closing Statement**

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## REMIT

To support and encourage successful delivery of complex reviews of importance to the NHS, whilst building capacity and capability within the research community

## OBJECTIVES

- To advise on appropriate design and methodological approaches to undertaking complex reviews
- To explore potential solutions to unexpected challenges arising in complex reviews
- To advise on the interpretation of findings of complex reviews
- To highlight areas of unmet need and to support the NIHR in setting future research priorities
- To build capability and capacity within the research community through advice and support
- To build capability and capacity within the research community through training and workshops

*<https://fundingawards.nihr.ac.uk/award/14/178/29>*

# NIHR CRSU in Numbers

**10** Cochrane Programme Grants

**61** Cochrane Reviews

NMA, cNMA, DTA, Sequential analysis, Survival data,  
Value of Information, Realist Synthesis,  
Critical Interpretive Synthesis

**27** **17** Grant applications

**NIHR-funded evidence synthesis**

**1** NICE technology appraisal

**15** publications

Methodological focus

**14** Cochrane reviews

7 Other publications (editorials,  
protocols, monographs)

**4 APPS**

MetaInsight (COVID), MetaDTA  
(Primer)

**31** Training events

**35** Conference presentations

**12** Invited talks



# Key Achievements and Lessons Learned

- “Complexity” has many meanings
- Changing mindsets and building relationships
- Shaping review questions
- Defining relevant evidence (continuum)
- Explore different, but not necessarily state-of-the-art methods
- “Heterogeneity is your friend”
- Maximising the value of the data
- Fast-moving landscape