

INVITED SPEAKERS

Strengthening poisoning reporting system in Malaysia: Working together for a safer nation



Professor Christopher Weir, a Medical Statistics and Clinical Trials professor at the Usher Institute, University of Edinburgh, is a co-investigator on acute poisoning studies and a member of the UK's Commission on Human Medicines. He trained in statistics at the University of Glasgow and completed a PhD in expert system methodology for acute stroke clinical management. He has worked in UKCRC registered clinical trials units since 2004 and has developed novel statistical clinical trials methodology. Weir's main research interests include evaluating surrogate outcomes, adaptive and platform clinical trials, and cluster-randomised

Observational studies – what is the right design?

Observational research studies have a valuable role to play in medical toxicology, either as a vehicle for generating hypotheses or to guide clinical practice. In this presentation we offer guidance on some key points to consider when designing an observational study. We discuss approaches used to minimize bias, to ensure adequately precise results are, and to maximize the generalisability of the findings. We introduce the STROBE (Strengthening The Reporting of OBServational studies in Epidemiology) reporting checklist and its extensions such as RECORD and explain how these can also offer a helpful guide regarding choices of observational study design. Throughout, we provide practical illustrations of the important design concepts using example studies from medical toxicology.