

QResearch Scientific Committee

Minutes

(12:00-13:30, 8th July 2021, Teams)

Attending: Stavros Petrou (vice-chair), Julia Hippisley-Cox, Clare Bankhead, Mike Walton, Paul Aveyard, Paula Dhiman, Madhurima Bhadra, Rebecca Harmston, Franco De Crescenzo, Jennifer Camaradou, Hui Guo, Koen Pouwels, Polly Kerr, Rebekah Burrow, Tom Ranger
Claire Meadows (minutes)

Apologies: N/A

Chair: Rafael Perera

1	Welcome and apologies RP welcomed group and any apologies were noted.	
2	Minutes and actions from last meeting Minutes approved as true record of last meeting.	
3	Matters arising from last meeting Team member will liaise with other team member about dates for her seminar. Administrator will take forward her action point on liaising with PHC Comms on effective ways to communicate news on QResearch projects. Team member discussed her action point on making applications more transparent. She has sent out a survey to researchers and is awaiting responses. Other team member suggested shortening the survey to increase responses. Chair suggested letting the potential respondents know about the responses received so far to prompt them to respond.	
4	Declarations of conflict of interest None reported	
5	Applications for discussion OX57 Two team members stepped out. Reviewer has a question about how the applicants are defining smoking cessation for the purposes of the study, and also what impact the PPI	

	<p>participants had on the choice of key outcomes. Reviewer agrees with these questions, particularly about how smoking cessation is defined. How do they categorise non-smokers? Also, is smoking cessation data captured by QResearch? Should the researchers be looking at death from all causes in QResearch, or just cardiovascular disease as specified here in this application? The applicants don't specify what they with do if smoking status is missing.</p> <p>Team member pointed out that the categories of smoker status and smoking cessation methods is in the data specification attached to the application. Regarding smoking cessation reporting, this is collected in GP data. Regarding cause of death, the data is linked to the death registry.</p> <p>Reviewer would like to know why 18-25s have been excluded, and other reviewer would like to know justification for the choice of the instrumental variable. Reviewer agrees with the other reviewer's question and suggested that they look at obesity and body weight as a confounder. Also how are they are going to approach the fact that it's difficult to test for the written assumptions that exist – could be a sensitivity analysis?</p> <p>OX30</p> <p>Team member stepped out.</p> <p>Reviewer confirmed she is happy with the latest round of amendments on this application. Other reviewer confirmed she is also happy, as the applicants have now provided justification for their data request. Application now accepted. Team member to email other reviewer about the decision, as she wasn't present when the application was discussed in this meeting.</p>	
6	<p>Applications approved</p> <p>(Amendments)</p> <p>OX79</p> <p>OX125</p> <p>Lead researchers for both projects have made amendments to add members to their research teams. No further action needed on this at the moment.</p>	

7	<p>Feedback since last meeting</p> <p>OX28</p> <p>OX100</p> <p>Both of these applications have had papers published this month.</p> <p>Regarding the application form - a less structured form may be better allowing applicants to write, and reviewers to read, in a way that suits the individual project.</p> <p>A team member suggested a 'checklist' approach, and team agreed with this idea, adding that the form can contain signposts to relevant sections in the protocol. Team member agrees with the need to evolve the application process.</p> <p>Team member asked team to bear in mind that the form counts as delegated ethics approval, so there are sections in it that definitely have to remain to meet these requirements. One team member believes that having the lay summary first ahead of the scientific questions would help tremendously.</p> <p>Team member will draft a new form and then bring it to the next meeting for comments.</p>	
8	<p>AOB</p> <p>RP is stepping down as chair, with PD stepping into the role in September.</p> <p>The August meeting will be going ahead without SP and JHC.</p> <p>Date of next meeting – August 2nd 1-2:00</p>	