



Maastricht University



3-day Systematic Reviewing Retreat

Date: 14-16 June 2017. The course starts on the 14th of June at 11:00 and finishes on the 16th of June at 15:30

Location: [Rolduc Abbey](#), Kerkrade the Netherlands

Costs: 1800 Euro, including 2-day* all-inclusive accommodation and subsistence for the 3 course days
1650 Euro, excluding accommodation and subsistence

Language: English

*please contact us, if you need additional nights of accommodation



Content

The course will consist of plenary lectures, practicals and small team exercises. Professors Kleijnen and Zeegers will explain in plenary sessions the role of systematic reviews in decision making in health care; and each step in the conduct of systematic reviews of experimental and observational studies in public health and healthcare research. This will include the use of software tools and meta-analysis. The course will provide guidance on how to formulate questions, how to search for studies and how to assess risk of bias of randomized clinical trials, observational studies, including systematic reviews themselves. Course participants are expected to be able to start writing their own systematic review at the end of this course.

Target Audience

This course is aimed at researchers and PhD students who have concrete plans in performing their first systematic review or who will use knowledge from the ever-increasing number of systematic review being done by others. Knowledge of epidemiologic study designs and statistical analyses is a prerequisite. The course is restricted to maximum 20 participants to stimulate cross-fertilization and allow supervision in small working groups.



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Location

During the 3-day course students and teachers will be based at Monastery Rolduc. Rolduc Abbey is one of the most important religious monuments of The Netherlands: it's the largest abbey complex of the Benelux and one of the Dutch UNESCO Top 100 monuments. Food, drink and accommodation is provided. This includes 3 vouchers for evening drinks in the infamous Rolduc Beer Cellar.

Teachers



Professor Jos Kleijnen is a physician, specialised in clinical epidemiology. Currently, he is director of an independent company, Kleijnen [Systematic Reviews Ltd](#), which prepares systematic reviews and health technology assessments for various commissioners, and provides training courses in these areas. In addition, he is professor of Systematic Reviews in Health Care at Maastricht University. Previously, Jos was professor and director of the Centre for Reviews and Dissemination at the University of York; and director of the Dutch Cochrane Centre at the University of Amsterdam. Jos was one of the pioneers of the methods of systematic reviews.

Professor Maurice Zeegers is head of School and director of the [Care and Public Health Research Institute](#) (CAPHRI) at Maastricht University, the Netherlands and past-member of the Statistical Methods Working Group of the Cochrane Collaboration. He has conducted and supervised many systematic reviews of all study designs. He is author of Textbook Epidemiology.

Professors Kleijnen en Zeegers are supported by team of dedicated epidemiologists to facilitate the small group work, Ms Anke Wesselius, Mr. Nikos Stratakis and Mr. Frits van Osch.

Signing-up

Signing-up for the Systematic Reviewing Retreat will be at a first come first serve basis with a closing date on March 1st. For this, please send your completed and signed registration form to secretariaat-caphri@maastrichtuniversity.nl.



Tentative Course Programme Sytematic Reviewing Retreat – Day One – 14 June 2017

DAY 1		
11.00	Welcome and introductions of tutors and course participants	Profs Kleijnen and Zeegers
11.20	<i>Lecture 1:</i> Introduction to Evidence-based Medicine and making and systematic reviews	Prof. Zeegers
12.00	<i>Lecture 2:</i> Critical appraisal of interventions	Prof. Kleijnen
12.45	Lunch	
13.45	<i>Lecture 3 and practical 1:</i> Calculating effect sizes for binary data RR, OR, RD and NNT/NNV	Tutors
14.30	<i>Lecture 4:</i> The well formulated question	Prof. Zeegers
15.15	<i>Lecture 5:</i> Introduction to small team work	Tutors
15.30	Coffee break	
16.00	<i>Practical 2:</i> Critical appraisal of a randomised trial about an intervention	Tutors
17.30	Questions	
17.45	End of day one	



Tentative Course Programme Sytematic Reviewing Retreat – Day Two – 15 June 2017

DAY 2		
09.00	<i>Lecture 6: Identifying evidence: general search techniques and approaches</i>	Mr Franssen
09.45	<i>Practical 3/group work: Formulating your question and searching for evidence (continues after coffee break)</i>	Tutors
10.45	Coffee break	
11.05	<i>Practical 3/group work: Formulating your question and searching evidence (continued)</i>	Tutors
11.40	<i>Lecture 7: Exploring sources of information & search methods for systematic reviews</i>	Mr Franssen
12.30	Lunch	
13.15	<i>Lecture 8: Meta-analysis</i>	Prof. Zeegers
14.05	<i>Lecture 9: Controlled observational studies, design and critical appraisal</i>	Prof. Kleijnen
15.00	Coffee break	
15.20	<i>Practical 4: Critical appraisal of a case control study</i>	Tutors
16.50	<i>Lecture 10: Evaluating evidence, levels of evidence, strength of recommendations</i>	Prof. Kleijnen
17.40	Questions and end of day two	

Tentative Course Programme Sytematic Reviewing Retreat – Day Three – 16 June 2017

DAY 3		
08.30	<i>Practical 5/small groups: Data extraction and assessment of risk of bias</i>	Tutors
10.15	Coffee break	
10.35	Practical 6: Critical appraisal of a systematic review	Tutors
12.00	Lunch	
12.45	Lecture 11 and demonstration: Software for systematic reviews and evidence based methods	Drs Stratakis
13.30	Practical 7/small groups: Analysis and drawing conclusions	Tutors
14.45	Presentation of group work (6 powerpoint slides per group)	Tutors
15.15	End of course	