

NIHR research – Making the most of your methodologists

UHB Research Day 4th Dec 2015

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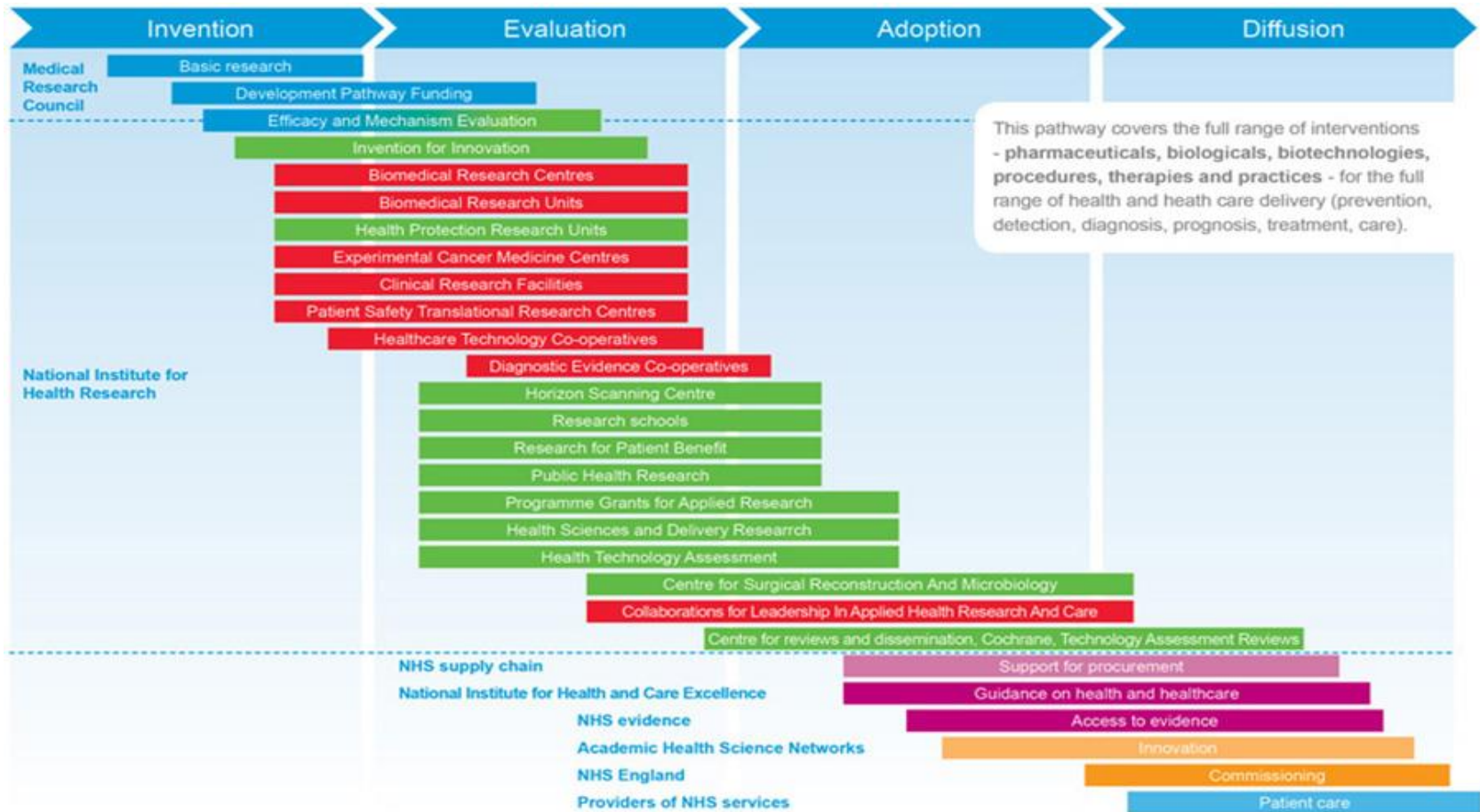
University of Bristol

Lost in translation

Which methodologists to approach?

1. Statistician
2. Health economist
3. Epidemiologist / Triallist
4. Systematic reviewer / evidence synthesis
5. Qualitative researcher
6. Specialist methodologists (e.g. laboratory, activity measurement, dietary assessment, psychometrics, PPI etc.)
7. Data & project management

Does every NIHR grant need a health economist?



<http://www.nihr.ac.uk/funding/funding-for-research.htm>

Finding the right methodologists

- Keep it 'in house' versus call in the expert [based on complexity or clinical area]
- Too many options [R&I, RDS, CTUs, MRC HTMR, CLAHRCWest, BRUs...]
- But not enough methodologists to go around?

Breaking down the barriers

- Get training
- Minimising physical barriers [clinicians / researchers ‘in residence’]
- Find a ‘champion’

🏠 > School of Social and Community Medicine > Short courses > Design and analysis of randomised controlled trials

Design and Analysis of Randomised Controlled Trials

Tutors

Drs Sara Brookes & Niamh Redmond (course organisers), Professor Alastair Hay, Dr Athene Lane, Mrs Joanne Simon, Dr Ceire Costelloe, Dr Chris Metcalfe, Dr Birgit Whitman, Dr Suzanne Audrey, Professor Tim Peters, Dr Jeremy Horwood, Professor Will Hollingworth, Dr Elsa Marques, Professor Richard Morris, Dr Chris Rodgers, Dr Jelena Savovic.

Duration

Five days

Dates

20-24 June 2016

Course fee

£1100

Engaging the methodologists

- Approach early (NIHR typically gives 2mths + warning)
- Early 'editable' draft and F2F meetings

Hypocrite alert

Be engaged

- Be prepared (e.g. which funding stream, which key outcomes, costs)
- Don't be afraid to ask questions or say no

Be engaged

We're just starting to plan our evaluation. Which methods should we consider?

All of them.



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Make it a collaboration

The Northern Ireland Hub for Trials Methodology Research



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To search the SWAT list please use 'Find on this page...' (Ctrl + F) within the 'Edit' menu at the top of this page. You are welcome to adopt or adapt one of these if they would like to conduct a piece of embedded methodology research.

SWAT ID	Title	Link (Author(s) & Date)
1)	Site visits by the principal investigator to improve recruitment in a multicentre randomized trial.	SWAT01 Valerie Smith and Mike Clarke (2012 July 22 1151)
2)	Timing and mode of delivery of a self-completion questionnaire.	SWAT02 Lisa Maguire and Mike Clarke (2014 January 21 1306)
3)	Gender of the person signing an invitation letter for a prospective study.	SWAT03 Lisa Maguire and Mike Clarke (2014 January 21 1510)
4)	Description of the study / project in an invitation letter	SWAT04 Lisa Maguire and Mike Clarke (2014 January 21 1448)

Get the budget right

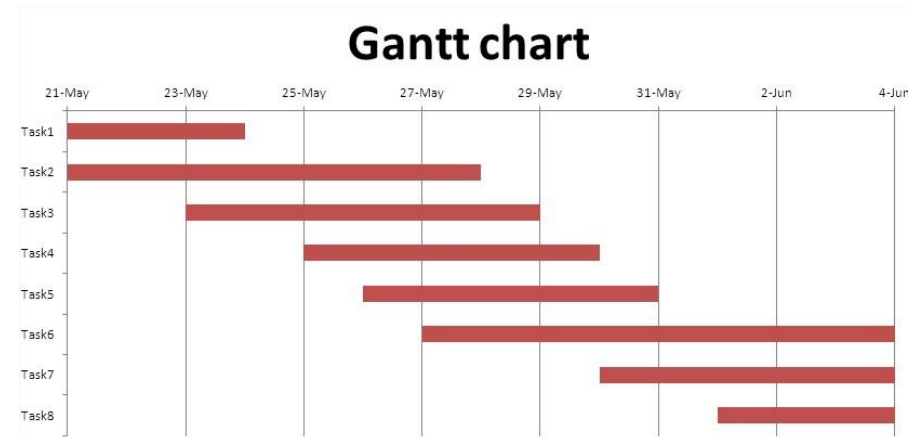
- More than 'What's your % FTE'?
 - Conferences / specific training
 - Computers / software
 - Publications
 - PhDs
- There's a correlation between the money that's put in and the quality that comes out

Early communication

- Start date slippage
- Key appointments
- Get the TMG working
- Choose the TSC wisely

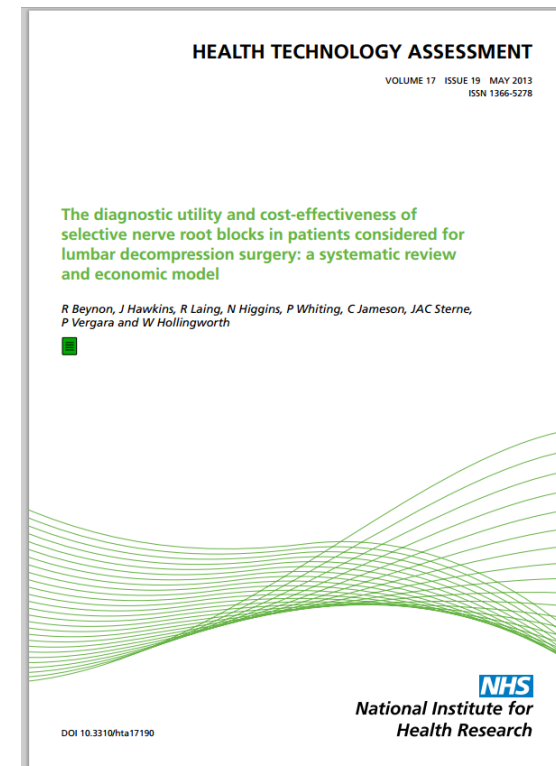
Keeping methodologists on track

- Ethics
- Protocol
- SOPs
- Analysis plan



Nearing the end

- Extension: time : time + cost?
- Co-ordinating data analysis
- Publish as you go
- Co-ordinating the final report



Questions

- What did I miss?
- Reverse the question:
“What could methodologists do to make the most of collaborations with clinical researchers?”