

# Identifying and addressing the Operational Challenges of Pragmatic Trials

GetReal work package 3

October 6, 2016



The research leading to these results has received support from the Innovative Medicines Initiative Joint Undertaking under grant agreement no [115303], resources of which are composed of financial contribution from the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme (FP7/2007-2013) and EFPIA companies' in kind contribution.  
[www.imi.europa.eu](http://www.imi.europa.eu)

# The why and how of pragmatic trials

Rick Grobbee

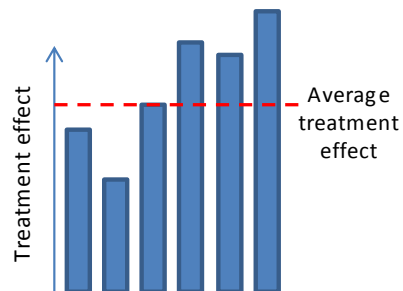
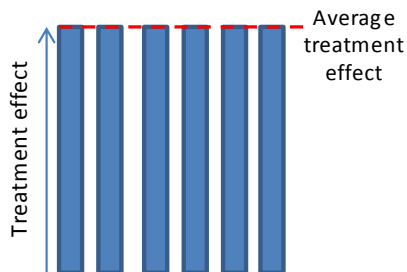
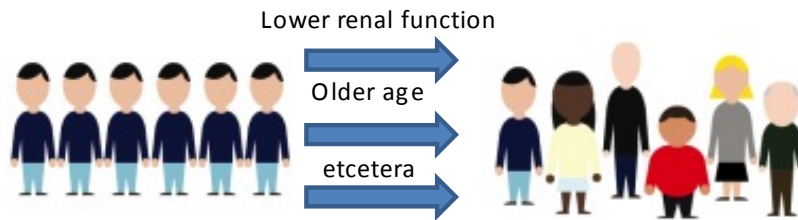
Julius Center, UMCU, the  
Netherlands



The research leading to these results has received support from the Innovative Medicines Initiative Joint Undertaking under grant agreement no [115303], resources of which are composed of financial contribution from the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme (FP7/2007-2013) and EFPIA companies' in kind contribution.  
[www.imi.europa.eu](http://www.imi.europa.eu)

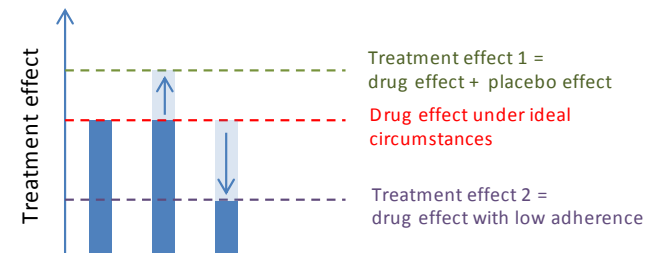
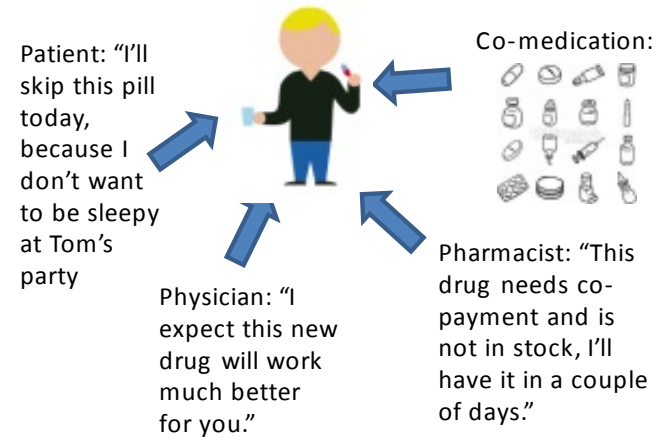
## Generalizability of study results to patient population of interest

possible modifiers of drug response



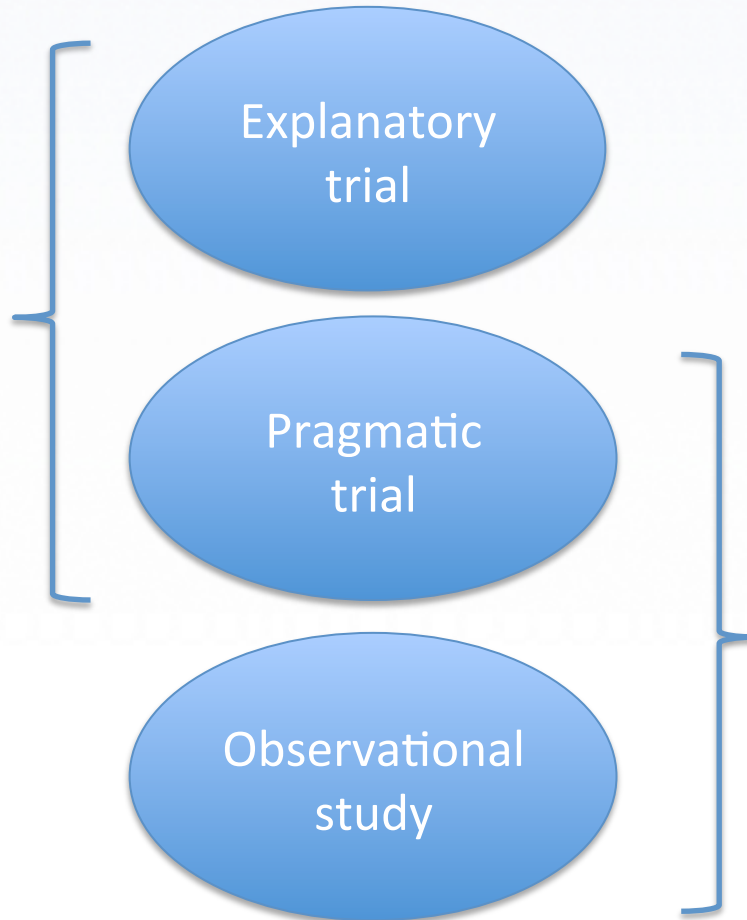
## Drug vs treatment strategy

extraneous factors



# Where do pragmatic trials fit in?

**Randomization**  
=  
no prognostic incomparability between patient groups



**Real World Evidence**  
=  
How does treatment strategy A compare to treatment strategy B (often usual care) in daily clinical practice?



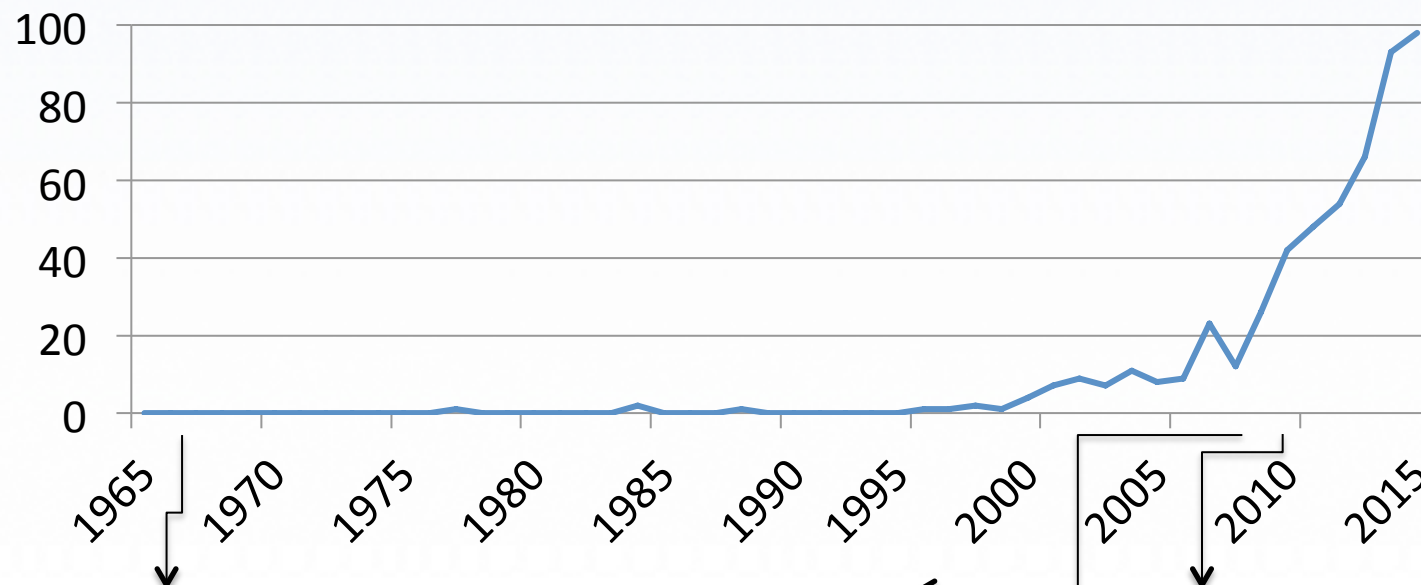
<p>Can treatment work? → EFFICACY</p>	<p><b>WHAT?</b></p>	<p>Does treatment work? → EFFICACY</p>
<p>Hypothesis testing : Assess <u>cause</u> – effect of drug</p>	<p><b>WHY?</b></p>	<p>Compare different strategies. Guide <u>prescribing</u> in daily practice</p>
<p><u>Minimize</u> variation: Rigid protocol, ideal circumstances</p>	<p><b>HOW?</b></p>	<p><u>Maximize</u> generalizability Practical protocol</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>Selective</u> inclusion of participants &amp; sites</li> </ul>	<p><b>WHO?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>Flexible</u> inclusion of participants &amp; sites</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Compare <u>drugs</u> or against <u>placebo</u></li> <li>- Outcomes <u>research</u> relevant</li> <li>- Data collection &amp; monitoring &gt; usual practice</li> </ul>	<p><b>METHOD?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Compare <u>real-world</u> alternatives</li> <li>- <u>Standard</u> data collection and monitoring = usual practice</li> </ul>

**important to decision/policy makers & patients**

**generalizable**

**real-world alternatives**

Number of pragmatic trials\*



\*Based on pubmed search per year on article type "Clinical Trial" with both the words "pragmatic" and "trial" in the title

pragmatic[ti] AND trial[ti] AND ((Clinical Trial[ptyp] OR Pragmatic Clinical Trial[ptyp]) AND ("jjjj/01/01"[PDAT] : "jjjj/12/31"[PDAT]))

1967  
Term "Pragmatic trial" introduced  
Schwartz&Lellouch Journal of Chronic Diseases 1967

2008  
Extension consort statement  
Zwarenstein BMJ 2008

2009  
PRECIS tool  
Thorpe JCE 2009

2015  
Update to PRECIS-2 tool  
Loudon BMJ 2015



Woodcock et al. *BMC Pulmonary Medicine* (2015) 15:160  
DOI 10.1186/s12890-015-0150-8

BMC Pulmonary Medicine

STUDY PROTOCOL

Open Access



## The Salford Lung Study protocol: a pragmatic, randomised phase III real-world effectiveness trial in asthma

Ashley Woodcock<sup>1\*</sup>, Nawar Diar Bakerly<sup>2</sup>, John P. New<sup>2</sup>, J. Martin Gibson<sup>2</sup>, Wei Wu<sup>3</sup>, Jørgen Vestbo<sup>1</sup>  
and David Leather<sup>4</sup>

### Abstract

**Background:** Novel therapies need to be evaluated in normal clinical practice to allow a true representation of the treatment effectiveness in real-world settings.

**Methods/design:** The Salford Lung Study is a pragmatic randomised controlled trial in adult asthma, evaluating the clinical effectiveness and safety of once-daily fluticasone furoate (100 µg or 200 µg)/vilanterol 25 µg in a novel dry-powder inhaler, versus existing asthma maintenance therapy. The study was initiated before this investigational treatment was licensed and conducted in real-world clinical practice to consider adherence, co-morbidities, polypharmacy, and real-world factors. Primary endpoint: Asthma Control Test at week 24; safety endpoints include the incidence of serious pneumonias. The study utilises the Salford electronic medical record, which allows near to real-time collection and monitoring of safety data.

**Discussion:** The Salford Lung Study is the world's first pragmatic randomised controlled trial of a pre-licensed





Design

Operational

Pre-launch

Timely safety reporting

Once-daily inhaler

Real world drug supply

Broad patient inclusion in GP practices

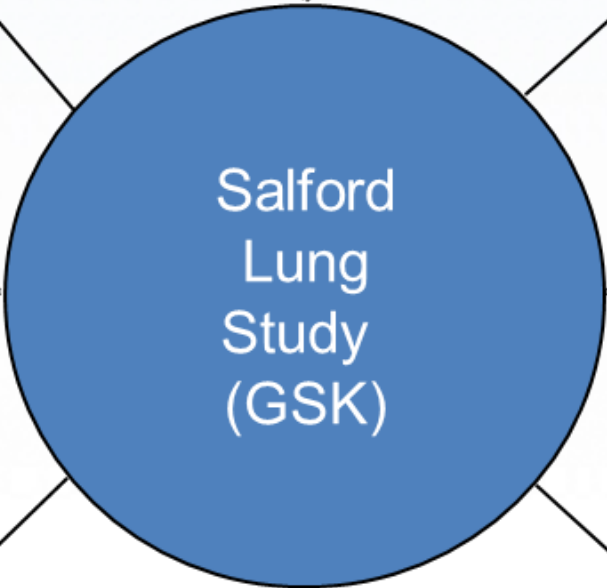
Generalisability beyond Salford

Usual care comparator

GCP, informed consent

COPD exacerbation

Linkage of EHR



Nawar 2013; New 2014





European Heart Journal Advance Access published October 4, 2016



European Heart Journal (2016) 0, 1–9  
doi:10.1093/eurheartj/ehw387

**CLINICAL RESEARCH**

*Thrombosis and antithrombotic therapy*

## Randomized trial of switching from prescribed non-selective non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs to prescribed celecoxib: the Standard care vs. Celecoxib Outcome Trial (SCOT)

Thomas M. MacDonald<sup>1\*</sup>, Chris J. Hawkey<sup>2</sup>, Ian Ford<sup>3</sup>, John J.V. McMurray<sup>4</sup>, James M. Scheiman<sup>5</sup>, Jesper Hallas<sup>6</sup>, Evelyn Findlay<sup>1</sup>, Diederick E. Grobbee<sup>7</sup>, F.D. Richard Hobbs<sup>8</sup>, Stuart H. Ralston<sup>9</sup>, David M. Reid<sup>10</sup>, Matthew R. Walters<sup>4</sup>, John Webster<sup>10</sup>, Frank Ruschitzka<sup>11</sup>, Sir Lewis D. Ritchie<sup>12</sup>, Susana Perez-Gutthann<sup>13</sup>, Eugene Connolly<sup>4</sup>, Nicola Greenlaw<sup>3</sup>, Adam Wilson<sup>1</sup>, Li Wei<sup>14</sup>, and Isla S. Mackenzie<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Medicines Monitoring Unit (MEMO), Division of Molecular & Clinical Medicine, University of Dundee, Ninewells Hospital & Medical School Dundee, Dundee DD1 9SY, UK;

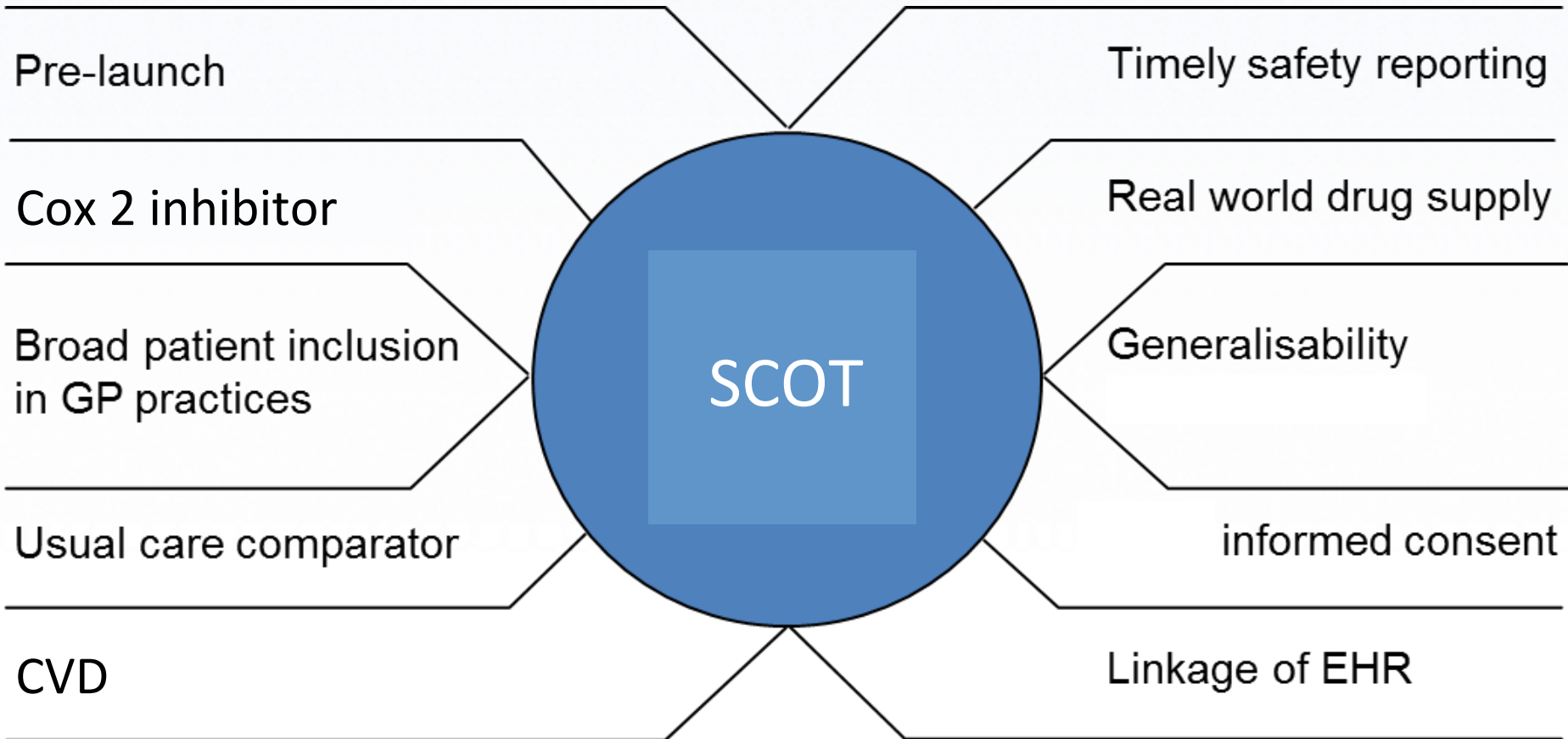
<sup>2</sup>Faculty of Medicine & Health Sciences, University of Nottingham, Queen's Medical Centre Nottingham, Nottingham NG7 2UH, UK; <sup>3</sup>Robertson Centre for Biostatistics, University of Glasgow, Glasgow G12 8QQ, UK; <sup>4</sup>British Heart Foundation Cardiovascular Research Centre, University of Glasgow, 126 University Place, Glasgow G12 8TA, UK;

<sup>5</sup>Division of Gastroenterology, University of Michigan Medical School, 1500 E Medical Center Drive, Ann Arbor, MI 48109, USA; <sup>6</sup>Department of Public Health, Clinical Pharmacology, University of Southern Denmark, J. B. Winslows Vej 19, 2.5000 Odense, Denmark; <sup>7</sup>Julius Center for Health Sciences and Primary Care and Julius Clinical



Design

Operational



MacDonald et al. 2016



## Need for guidance and tools

- Operationalization of more pragmatic design choices not always straightforward
- Operational challenges often different than in traditional RCT and unanticipated



# A decision support tool for pragmatic trials

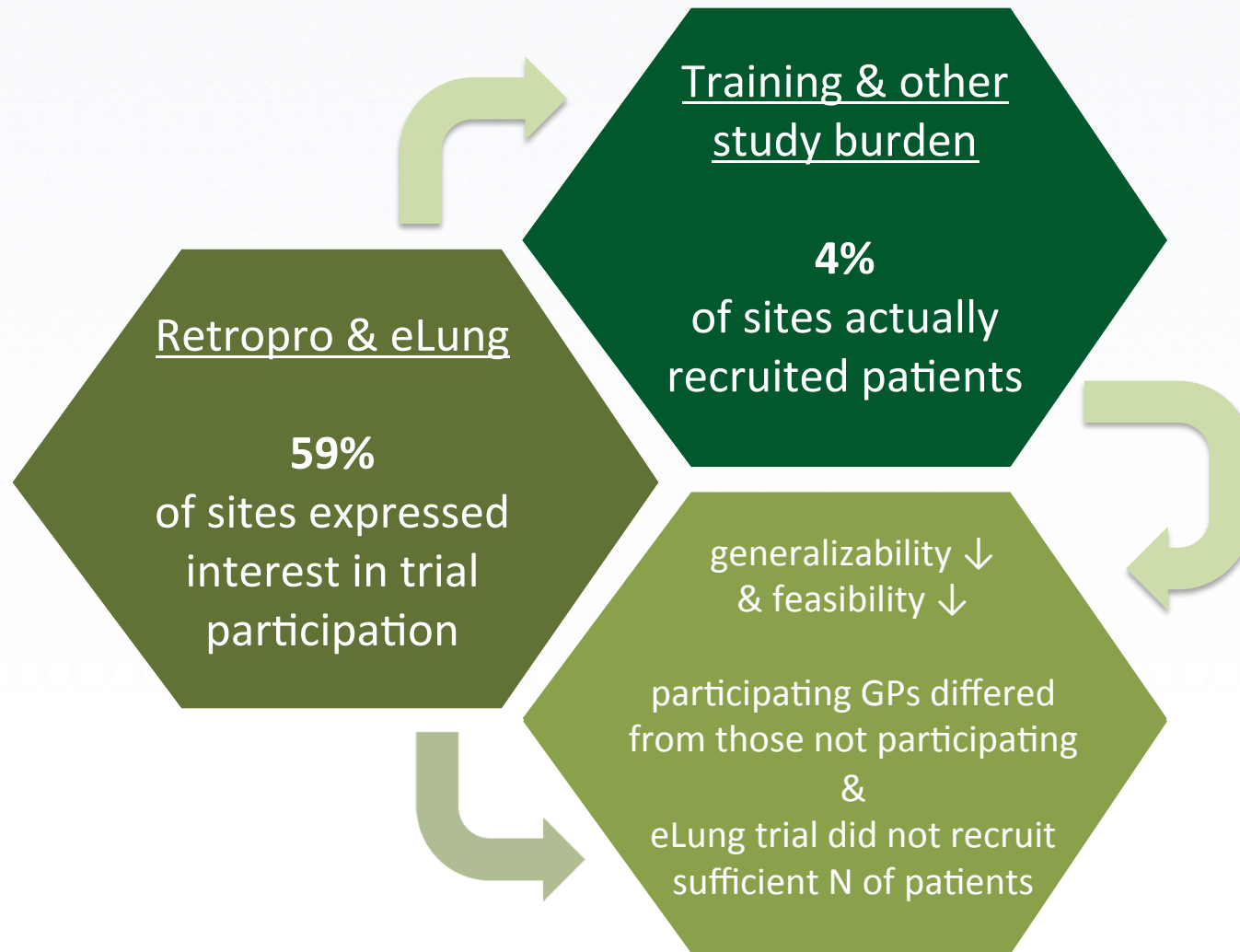
Mira Zuidgeest

Julius Center, UMCU, the  
Netherlands



The research leading to these results has received support from the Innovative Medicines Initiative Joint Undertaking under grant agreement no [115303], resources of which are composed of financial contribution from the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme (FP7/2007-2013) and EFPIA companies' in kind contribution.  
[www.imi.europa.eu](http://www.imi.europa.eu)

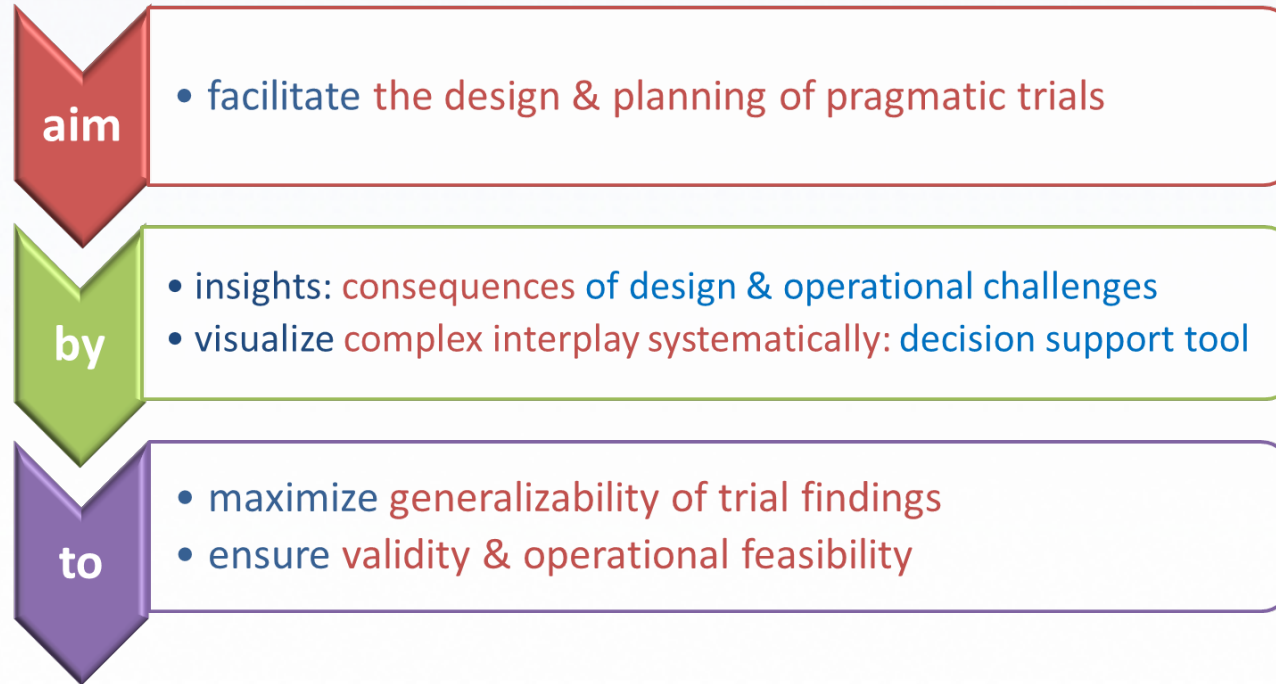




Van Staa 2014



## The goal of PragMagic



### What PragMagic is NOT



- NOT a decision-making tool;
- NOT a checklist to assure (regulatory/ethical) compliance;
- NOT a quality check/verdict on study design.





Firstname Lastname  
Projectname

Settings

Output

Add note

Generalisability

Risk of bias

Precision

IMPLICATIONS

HTA

HC prof.

Regulator

Ethical

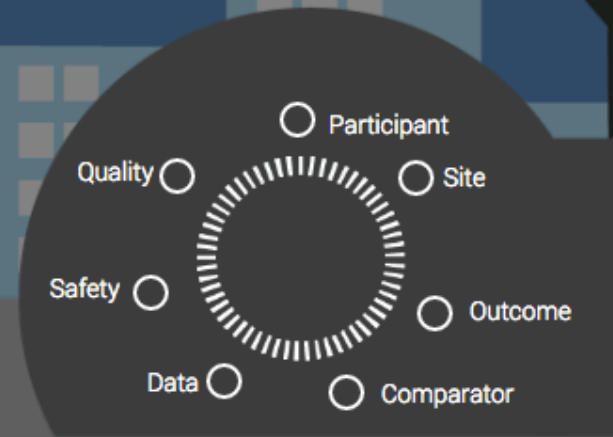
Patient

Duration

Costs



2





Firstname Lastname  
Projectname

Settings

Output

Add note

Generalisability

Risk of bias

Precision

IMPLICATIONS

HTA

HC prof.

Regulator

Ethical

Patient

Duration

Costs



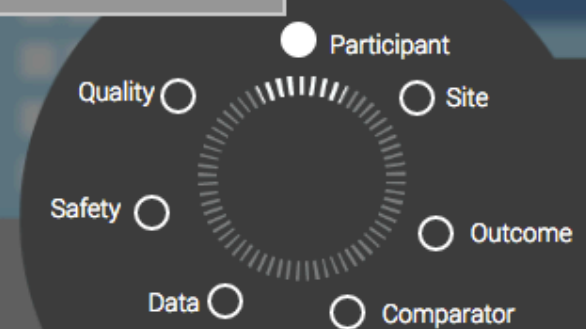
### Questions for patient/participant:

1. Are the health related inclusion criteria broad or restricted?
2. Are non-health related inclusion criteria used?
3. Can vulnerable or special patients be included?
4. Are specific subgroups oversampled?
5. Are Strategies used to improve recruitment?
6. Are strategies to reduce attrition used?
7. Is the population representative of the study population?



2

Participant





Firstname Lastname  
Projectname

- Settings
- Output
- Add note

- Generalisability
- Risk of bias
- Precision
- HTA
- HC prof.
- Regulator
- Ethical
- Patient
- Duration
- Costs



### 1. Are the health related inclusion criteria broad or restricted?

	Generalisability	Risk of bias	Precision	HTA	HC professional	Regulator	Ethical	Patients	Duration	Costs
<input type="checkbox"/> A. Broad health-related inclusion	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
<input type="checkbox"/> B. Restricted health-related inclusion	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Operational challenge										

Previous   Next   Close

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7



2

Participant

Participant

Quality

Safety

Data

Site

Outcome

Comparator



Firstname Lastname  
Projectname

- Settings
- Output
- Add note

- HTA
- HC prof
- Regulator
- Ethical
- Patient
- Duration
- Costs



**1. Are the health related inclusion criteria broad or restricted?**

B. Restricted health-related inclusion

*Operational challenge*

Screening for eligibility is needed

Cost:  
Screening will take additional time and resources.

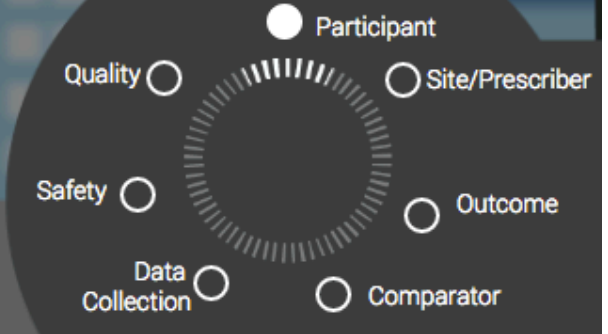
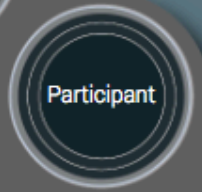
Generalisability  
Risk of bias  
Precision  
HTA  
HC professional  
Regulator  
Ethical  
Patients  
Duration  
Costs

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7

Previous Next Close



2



IMPLICATIONS

## In summary

- Research question defines trial design
  - Increasing emphasis on generalizability to the real world
  - Pitfall: default of explanatory trial
  - Design phase: anticipate on operational challenges & their implications
  - Tool = decision support tool, NOT decision making tool
- 
- Aim to have first version of tool available early 2017

END

