

TRIAL FORGE: making trials more efficient

Professor Shaun Treweek



@SHAUNTREWEEK

Abstract

Clinical trials have come a long way since James Lind compared lemons and horseradish as treatments for scurvy while onboard the Salisbury in 1747. For a start, there are lots more of them and they are right at the heart of evidence-based medicine. But are trials themselves evidence-based? Why do trials cost so much, struggle to recruit, frequently overrun and very often do not lead to changes in practice, even in the light of clear treatment benefit?

This talk will outline why trials are essential for high quality healthcare before moving on to why we need to think more carefully about the way we design, run and report trials and how we might improve the evidence behind trial decisions.

Biography

Shaun has nearly 20 years' experience as a health services researcher and is active in the field of pragmatic trial design, the design and pre-trial testing of complex healthcare interventions, improved recruitment and retention in trials and the effective presentation and use of research evidence in decision-making.

He is currently building a large, collaborative initiative called Trial Forge (www.trialforge.org) that aims to make the design, conduct, analysis and reporting of trials more efficient. In particular, Trial Forge will highlight what we do and don't know about making trials more efficient and focus efforts on a systematic way of filling gaps in our knowledge

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
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