

# Editorial: Research Methods in Neonatal Medicine

We were a little surprised when we realised that our last Editorial Note was published 6 years ago when we introduced Cochrane Review Updates as a new section in *Neonatology* [1]. The purpose of this Editorial Note is to introduce a series of articles on research methods in neonatology. But first, some sad news. We were recently informed of the deaths of two very well-known neonatologists, both of whom made significant contributions to *Neonatology*. Michael P. Sherman from Columbia, MO, USA, who was a dedicated and hard-working member of the Editorial Board, died in September 2017. In February 2018, Jean-Pierre Relier, the second Editor-in-Chief of *Neonatology* (previously known as *Biology of the Neonate*), died in Paris. Professor Relier helped to develop the journal over a 17-year period, from 1986 to 2003. Later this year, we will publish his obituary, and outline his outstanding career and contributions to neonatal medicine in more detail.

Following a request from colleagues on the Editorial Board, we have decided to publish a series of articles on research methods in neonatal medicine. We are delighted to welcome Bill McGuire, from York, UK, who has agreed to be the Guest Editor for this series. Bill is Professor of Child Health at the Centre for Reviews and Dissemination and the Hull York Medical School, University of York. His main research interests are neonatal nutrition and infection, and he is involved in evidence synthesis, randomised controlled trials, and knowledge translation projects that aim to improve outcomes for preterm or sick newborn infants and their families. He is an editor for the

Cochrane Neonatal Review Group and has written many Cochrane reviews. It is our pleasure to have Bill, a member of our Editorial Board, as Guest Editor for this series.

The topics to be covered in the series include: the research cycle (published in this issue) [2], early-stage translational research in perinatal medicine, clinical trials for informing care practices for newborn infants, understanding and improving diagnostic tests, integrating parents and families in research initiatives, evidence-into-policy and practice, global challenges in perinatal health research, and ethics of perinatal research participation.

We hope that our readers, and especially junior faculty members and trainees in neonatal/perinatal medicine, will enjoy and learn from this series on research methods in neonatal medicine to be published in the next 12 months or so. We have recruited an international team of experts in the field to write these articles. We would be delighted to have your feedback on their quality and usefulness in the planning and execution of your future research projects.

Henry L. Halliday, Belfast  
Christian P. Speer, Würzburg

## References

- 1 Halliday HL, Speer CP: Cochrane review update. *Neonatology* 2012;102:126.
- 2 McGuire W, Halliday HL: The research cycle: improving care and outcomes for newborn infants. *Neonatology* 2018;114:2–6.