ERN Support and Training programme- WP17- EJP RD

Report Workshop Clinical Research: The Basics & Beyond
Workshop in clinical epidemiological research for ERNs

Date/Venue/Format

Dates: September 30th and October 1st 2021
Venue: Hotel Golden Tulip Leiden Centre
Schipholweg 3
2316 XB Leiden
The Netherlands
Format: Hybrid (face-to-face, combined with online)

Numbers (participants, speakers, ERNs represented, patient representatives)

Speakers: Prof.dr. Olaf Dekkers
Prof.dr. Rolf Groenwold
Prof.dr. Frits Rosendaal
Prof.dr. Saskia le Cessie

Participant: 25 participants (21 face-to-face, 4 online)

ERNs: All but two ERNs were represented at the workshop

1. ERN BOND
2. ERN CRANIO
3. Endo-ERN
4. ERN EpiCARE
5. ERKNet
6. ERN-RND
7. ERNICA
8. ERN LUNG
9. ERN Skin
10. ERN EURACAN
11. ERN EuroBloodNet
12. ERN eUROGEN
13. ERN EURO-NMD
14. ERN EYE
15. ERN GENTURIS
16. ERN GUARD-HEART
17. ERN ITHACA
18. MetabERN
19. ERN PaedCan
20. ERN RARE-LIVER
21. ERN ReCONNET
22. ERN RITA
23. ERN TRANSPLANT-CHILD
24. VASCERN

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Analysis of the workshop satisfaction survey

After the workshop, the electronic survey was sent to all participants, both face-to-face and online. The survey was filled out by 15 participants, of whom one online participant. Overall, the outcome of the survey was positive.

In the three added pie charts (percentages are shown), the results from the general questions are shown. Almost all participants rated the overall quality of the workshop as excellent (N=7, 46.7%) or very good (N=7, 46.7%). The lowest rating of the workshop was ‘satisfactory’ (N=1, 6.7%). Three-quarters of participants found the workshop highly useful, and found the content of the workshop just right. However, there were participants reporting that the contents were too easy (N=3, 20.0%), and too difficult (N=1, 6.7%), reflective of the participant’s wide range of training received prior to the workshop.

Several components of the workshop were rated on a Likert scale ranged from -2 to +2 (outcomes reported as mean±standard deviation). The highest rated aspects of the workshop were the date and time, location, and organization of the workshop (all three items scored 1.8±0.4), as shown in the bar figure below. The lowest rated aspect of the workshop was the appropriateness of the objectives set prior to the workshop (score 1.2±0.9).
Nine of 15 participants reported future use the contents of the workshop in their working routine at least monthly.

Several points of improvement were mentioned by the survey respondents:

- Starting the workshop with small introduction of all participants, to get to know each other.
- Increasing the level of difficulty of contents of the workshop, covering even more statistical topics and at a deeper level.
- Keep organizing the meeting in a hybrid form, making it also possible to join the workshop online.
- Increase the focus on rare diseases, small cohorts and potential biases/quality aspects of small-numbered studies even more.
- Increasing discussion among participants by bringing own studies and related questions in a ‘working group’.

2-3 participants’ testimonials

“Excellent speakers, highly informative and well organised.”

“The coverage of the subjects. Professional tutors. Interactions with speakers and other members. Discussions on personal issues with statistics.”

“Because of time issue some information was mentioned quick. If more time available, it would be great to spend more time on those issues.”
If applicable a main result of the workshop (e.g. working group created to do xxxx)

Not applicable

Conclusions, lessons learned, best practice to keep in mind.

Overall, the workshop was a great success, with all participants being positive during the workshop and as well as on the survey afterwards. The fact that the workshop was organized in a hybrid form, we could accommodate participants online at the last minute (due to COVID-19 positive tests, or personal circumstances). For our next workshops, we are going to consider giving out material/manuscripts prior to the workshop, to even out the level of the participants. Moreover, we will ask all participants to prepare a research project or questions to discuss during the forum or working groups.