
The EQUATOR Network:

Resources and training for better
reporting, better reviewing, and
better editing

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Outline

- Why was the EQUATOR Network set up
- Mission, main goals and activities, main achievements so far
- Future developments
- Funding model
- How to get involved



Need for EQUATOR

- **Sub-optimal quality of health research publications**
- **Large number of RG exist but as yet most have had limited impact**
 - Passive dissemination through publication only - not widely known and used
 - Compliance not required by journals
- **No standardised and widely accepted methodology for the development of RG**
 - Differences between guidelines
- **No tool for RG assessment**
 - Difficult to choose which RG to recommend



EQUATOR: Enhancing the QUALity and Transparency Of health Research

- Set up in 2006
- Grew out of the work of CONSORT and other groups
- Aims to act as an 'umbrella' organisation
 - All areas of health research, all nations
- Key stakeholders:
 - Developers of reporting guidelines
 - Editors & peer reviewers of general and specialty journals
 - Researchers (authors), medical writers, publication professionals
 - Research funders, REC, publishers, major journal subscribers
 - .. Everyone interested in improving the quality of research publications and of research itself



EQUATOR Network

- **Mission statement**

- *The EQUATOR Network seeks to improve the quality of health research literature by promoting the transparent and accurate reporting in scientific journals*

- **Five major goals**

- Resources: internet-based resource centre
- Education and training
- Support in the development, dissemination and implementation of RG
- Assessment of how journals implement reporting guidelines
- Audit of reporting quality across the health research literature



Foundation work

- Map the field of available reporting guidelines
- Carry out a survey to see how are reporting guidelines developed, disseminated and implemented
- Set up a network of representatives of potential stakeholders: reporting guidelines developers, journal editors and peer reviewers, and research funders
- Convene a closed working meeting of those representatives to inform the development of the EQUATOR Network strategic plan and identify priorities for future development
- Develop and promote the EQUATOR Network website that provides collection of available reporting guidelines



Survey of RG developers

- **37 (30) developers of generic RG**
- **Summary points:**
 - Need to harmonise methods used in the development of RG (broadly similar but differ in important details)
 - Lack of dedicated strategies for dissemination and implementation of RG (only 15 indicated any)
 - Major problem – securing sufficient funding for the development, evaluation and dissemination of RG
- **“Poor reporting cannot be seen as an isolated problem that can be solved by targeting only one of the parties involved. A well-coordinated effort, with collaboration between the research and publishing communities, strongly supported by research funders, will likely have a better chance of leading to improved reporting of health research.”**

Simera I, Altman DG, Moher D, Schulz KF, Hoey J (2008) Guidelines for Reporting Health Research: The EQUATOR Network's Survey of Guideline Authors. PLoS Med 5(6): e139



www.equator-network.org



Welcome to the EQUATOR Network website – the resource centre for good research reporting



Too often, good research evidence is undermined by poor quality reporting.

The EQUATOR Network is a new initiative that seeks to improve the quality of scientific publications by promoting transparent and accurate reporting of health research.

[Find out how](#), or [get involved](#).

Highlights

Achieving Transparency in Reporting Health Research

Register for the [conference on Thursday 26th June 2008 at the The Royal Society of Medicine](#).

Resource centre

Find [up-to-date information](#) about the reporting of health research.

Training courses

View [educational materials and training modules](#) for editors, peer

Reporting guidelines



[Go straight to the reporting guidelines](#)

Authors



[Information for authors of research reports](#)

Editors



[Resources for journal editors and peer reviewers](#)

Developers



[Resources for developers of reporting guidelines](#)

Latest news [more news](#)

CONSORT extended

for non-pharmacologic treatments.

[Read the full story](#)

Register now – 26 June

The EQUATOR Network launch meeting, London, UK

[Read the full story](#)



Resource Centre

► Library of health research reporting

Reporting
Guidelines

Editorials
introducing RGs

Authors of research reports

Editors and peer reviewers

Reporting guidelines developers

Library for health research reporting

The EQUATOR Network library currently contains:

- An [introduction to reporting guidelines](#)
- Comprehensive lists of the available reporting guidelines, listed by study type:
 - [Experimental studies](#)
 - [Observational studies](#)
 - [Systematic reviews](#)
 - [Qualitative research](#)
 - [Economic evaluations](#)
 - [Quality improvement studies](#)
 - [Other reporting guidelines](#)
 - [Sections of research reports](#)
 - [Specific conditions or procedures.](#)
- [A comprehensive list of guidelines, listed alphabetically by author](#)
- [Examples of editorials introducing reporting guidelines](#)



The full digital library is under development.

[Join our network](#) and let us know how you'd like it to develop!

Future developments

- **Website upgrade**
 - New features and resources (e.g. online discussion forum, Library for Health Research Reporting)
- **Focus on education and training development**
- **Start new research projects**
 - e.g. RG assessment tool
- **Worldwide coverage**
- **Wider involvement of EQUATOR community**
 - Voluntary committees
- **Building closer relationships with major stakeholders**
 - Research education bodies



Benefits of using EQUATOR resources and training

- **EQUATOR is the only central repository of available reporting guidelines**
 - Easy to find & use
 - Regularly updated
- **Link to EQUATOR from journals 'Instructions to Authors'**
 - Reduce need for frequent updates of I to A
- **Stronger peer review process and better editorial decisions**
 - Improved reliability of publications – increased and loyalty of journal readers



How can you support EQUATOR?

- **Journals**

- Reference EQUATOR in your 'I to A'
- Publish an editorial about the EQUATOR existence and free resources

- **Editorial organisations**

- Reference EQUATOR on your website
- Inform your members about EQUATOR and its resources

- **Research funding organisations**

- Request accurate and transparent reporting of the projects you fund
- Refer to EQUATOR and its resources on your website

- **All**

- Contribute financially to advance EQUATOR resources and activities



Funding model

- **Consortium of funders**
 - Public funders (NHS, MRC, CIHR, ..)
 - Private (publishers, pharma, ..)
 - Other (grants, foundations, ..)
- **Membership organisation**
 - Preparatory documents under development
- **Advice, contacts, offers welcome**



EQUATOR Steering Group

**Doug Altman, Director, Centre for Statistics in
Medicine, University of Oxford, UK**

**John Hoey, Program Director, Community Medicine,
Queen's University, Kingston, Canada**

**David Moher, Director, Chalmers Research Group,
University of Ottawa, Canada**

**Kenneth Schulz, Vice president, Quantitative
Sciences, Family Health International, USA**



Thank you for listening

