



Department of Primary Care Health Sciences

2nd floor, 23 – 38 Hythe Bridge Street, Oxford OX1 2ET, UK
Tel: +44 (0)1865 289300, Fax: +44 (0)1865 289 287, E-mail: jose.valderas@phc.ox.ac.uk

6th November 2012

Dr Iveta Simera
Head of Programme Development
Equator-Network
Centre for Statistics in Medicine
Wolfson College Annexe
Linton Road
Oxford, OX2 6UD

Dear Iveta

I am writing on behalf of the Health Services Research and Policy Group at the Department of Primary Care Health Sciences, to congratulate the Equator-Network on the important work it is doing to improve the quality reporting of health research. The presentations at the 2012 EQUATOR-Network Symposium graphically illustrate both the extent and implications of the continuing deficiencies in the reporting of health research.

Failure to report health research accurately, completely and transparently, in a timely manner, is unethical and breaches the implicit social contract that health researchers have with participants in health research. It is also extremely inefficient and a waste of public and academic resources, and impedes evidence-informed decisions by clinicians and policy makers. Poor or failed reporting of health research is also potentially very harmful to patients as it can create a spurious impression of effectiveness where none exists, block the dissemination of knowledge about effective treatments, and prevent adverse effects being identified.

The Health Services Research and Policy Group would therefore like to wholeheartedly endorse the EQUATOR-Network and its excellent work.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'Dr Jose Valderas', with a horizontal line underneath.

Dr Jose Valderas Martinez
Head of the Health Services Research and Policy Group

On behalf of the whole group.