Using Non-Randomized (observational) Studies in Evidence Syntheses: A familiar occurrence in the pediatric field

Postdoctoral fellow presenter: Carlos A. Cuello, M.D., Ph.D.
Supervisor: Dr. Karen Choong, Pediatric Critical Care

There is a widely known scarcity of evidence in the pediatric field from randomized controlled trials (RCTs) for many health topic questions, especially in relation to healthcare interventions. This paucity of information usually affects the overall certainty in the evidence and the final recommendations provided in systematic reviews and clinical guidelines respectively. In consequence, many child health professionals must rely on non-randomized (observational) studies of interventions (NRSI) to use in their clinical recommendations. While improving the evidence base of pediatric RCTs is a problem that needs to be addressed, there is also the necessity to engage in obtaining the best evidence available for pediatric clinical questions, whether it is from RCTs or NRSI. Clinicians/researchers need to be aware of the current methods used to assess bodies of evidence of NRSI, what are their strengths, shortcomings, and opportunities for improvement.

Objectives:
- To review the reasons behind using NRSI in pediatric guidelines and systematic reviews.
- To review and learn methods and new approaches for including and evaluating NRSI in evidence syntheses,

All faculty, research staff, allied health staff, and trainees are welcome to attend.

*These are interactive sessions—we want to hear your feedback, questions, and great ideas!*