The DEEP Network

Newsletter Number 1

July 2020

Dear friends and colleagues

Welcome to the first DEEP Network Newsletter. We apologize that you haven't heard from us for a while – we had just got the Network setup and Covid-19 struck. However, we are keen to keep the network going as these issues are going to continue to be important for some years.

This first Newsletter is relatively brief – we will be reliant on your contributions to expand the Newsletter and the activities of the Network. The goal of creating the listserve and Newsletter is communication, a forum for sharing information with one another related to evidence synthesis in epidemiology. So please let us know of any relevant news, particularly if it fits one of the categories listed below.

All of the material in this newsletter will also be placed on our website:

https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/research/centres-projects-groups/degrading-epidemiology-network

1. **The Network**

We currently have 125 members of the Network. In our previous e-mailing, we used 'bcc' to maintain confidentiality, but we warned that in future we would use 'cc', i.e. you will be able to see each other's e-mail addresses. So a few points in this regard:

- **If you don't want to be openly 'cced' into these mailings**, then please let us know as soon as possible, and we will place you in the "bcc" category or drop you off the list according to your preference
- **If you have a colleague who you think would be interested in joining the Network, please forward this to them**. For future inclusion they would need to contact us.
- **Please don't use 'reply all'** unless you are certain that you want everyone to see your e-mail, potentially irritate dozens of colleagues with email clutter, and you are prepared to receive 50 or more 'out of office' messages
- The aim of the newsletter is communication and to keep everyone informed; thus, **if we cite a symposium or publication it does not mean that we are endorsing it**

2**. Activities of DEEP Network members**

Neil Pearce is part of a European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) Committee that has just produced a report on "appraising and integrating evidence from epidemiological studies for use in EFSA's scientific assessments". This will be published soon, and we will provide the link in our next newsletter.

Neil is also involved in a Committee producing a similar report for the UK Committee on Carcinogenicity (CoC) and Committee on Toxicology (CoT).

Many of us in the DEEP Network continue to be involved in discussions regarding the proposed ROBINS-E tool for risk of bias. Once again, nothing is publicly available yet, but we will provide the link as soon as it is.

We would be interested in hearing about any other such reports – for better or worse – which you are involved in, or are aware of.

 In the context of the joint WHO/ILO project on Burden of Work-related Disease, a new risk of bias tool for estimating the prevalence of exposure to occupational risk factors is proposed; see https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0160412017321785

3. **Other relevant activities**

IPCS/WHO and its Chemical Risk Assessment Network are developing a high-level framework document on the use of systematic review methods in chemical risk assessment https://www.who.int/ipcs/events/SRmeeting_US/en/

4. **Recent events**

The Health Effects Institute (HEI) recently held a WEBINAR on: The Big Deal About Big Data, Causal Inference, and Accountability Research which included presentations from Jill Baumgartner (McGill University), Douglas Dockery (Harvard University), Neil Pearce (LSHTM) and Roger Peng (Johns Hopkins University)
Webinar recording: https://youtu.be/ha_Z8EaIcTk

6. **Upcoming events**

The International Society of Environmental Epidemiology (ISEE) meeting in August 2020 includes a mini-symposium session on: How GREAT is GRADE? Taking stock of GRADE for evidence review in environmental epidemiology. Speakers include: Hanna Boogaard)HEI), David Savitz (Brown University), Tracey Woodruff (UC, San Francisco), Francesco Forastiere (Kings College London), and Neil Pearce (LSHTM). We will provide a link if and when one becomes available