

THE USE OF META-ANALYSIS FOR CAUSAL INFERENCE IN HEALTH RESEARCH

Meta-analysis has become a major tool in medical and public health research. There are over 30 journal publications every day with “meta-analysis” in the abstract or as a keyword. We can rarely make a causal conclusion from just one study. So we need ways to assess causal evidence integrating evidence from several or many studies. Meta-analysis can help us do this.

The workshop will examine the critical role meta-analysis can play in causal inference from health studies. Participants will have a hands-on experience in conducting and interpreting a meta-analysis using Excel spreadsheets and data from a set of epidemiological studies.

DATE: Wednesday 12 September 2018, 9am – 5pm

VENUE: Executive Seminar Suite, Wellington Campus

COST: \$50 (including morning and afternoon tea)

To register or for further information, please contact: Barry Borman (b.borman@massey.ac.nz) or Mathu Shanthakumar (m.shanthakumar@massey.ac.nz)



Presented by Professor Allan Smith

School of Public Health, University of California, Berkeley

Allan Smith was born in New Zealand and completed a BSc at the Victoria University of Wellington (1964) followed by MB,ChB (1971) and a PhD in epidemiology at the University of Otago (1975). He has been Professor of Epidemiology at the School of Public Health in the University of California, Berkeley, since 1983, where he has taught courses in occupational and environmental epidemiology, causal inference and meta-analysis. Until recently he directed the Arsenic Health Effects Research Program involving studies of many different health effects of arsenic in drinking water including studies in Argentina, Chile, India,

Bangladesh and the United States. As well as cancer studies, he has directed studies of chronic respiratory disease, pregnancy outcomes, cognitive function in children, arsenic skin lesions, cardiovascular disease, interactions of arsenic with diet and micronutrients, studies of arsenic metabolism, molecular epidemiology studies, and studies of adult diseases following early life exposure. Study designs employed in this work include ecological studies, cross-sectional population studies, case-control studies and cohort studies. He continues his arsenic research program, but as Emeritus Professor has reduced his teaching at Berkeley. Further information is available at <http://sph.berkeley.edu/allan-smith>