

The Global Health Network Methodology Research Competition guide



The way clinical trials are designed, conducted, analysed and reported should continually be questioned so that they are optimal and responsive for a broad range of stakeholders. As such, the past decade has seen a new field of clinical trials methodology research – research about the way we conduct trials.

Recently, The Global Health Network began collaborating with the new [MRC/NIHR Trials Methodology Research Partnership](#). This partnership will be key to ensuring that researchers in low resource settings may both benefit from and contribute to ongoing developments in clinical trial methodology research. To ensure that the voice of those working in low to middle income countries is heard, The Global Health Network will work closely with a new Global Health Working Group of the MRC/NIHR Trials Methodology Research Partnership.

The beauty of clinical trials methodology research is that anyone involved in trials can (and should) question the methods they use, whether this is about the way a trial is designed, planned, operationalised, analysed, reported/shared. This competition is therefore open to anyone in the clinical trial team, whether you are an investigator, trial coordinator, statistician, data manager, research nurse, pharmacist, trial laboratory scientist, or other member of the trial team.

For those new to clinical trials methodology research, there are lots of examples of research within this very broad field on the [Hubs for Trials Methodology Research](#) website for inspiration. Also consider a Study within a Trial approach. Here are some ideas below, some of which could employ a qualitative or mixed-method approach (tip - [see Global Health Social Science for help with qualitative and mixed methods](#)):

- Comparing participant recruitment methods to evaluate which is best for the trial context
- Exploring participants' perspectives on taking part in a trial and/or what trial outcomes are important to them (including their perspective is an important part of determining core outcome sets for trials, developed through consensus to help compare/combine trial results)
- Investigating the impact of risk-based monitoring on the cost of trials at the site or optimal ways to network with other trial groups within an institution to share facilities and/or staff so that each group has a more sustainable future
- Finding cost-effective, innovative ways to deliver quality training to trial staff in a busy site
- Evaluating the feasibility for sites in LMICs to harness routine data (e.g. electronic health records) to identify suitable potential trial participants or even investigate interventions
- Discovering innovative methods for evaluating interventions for neglected tropical diseases (e.g. see the WWARN Parasite Clearance Estimator, a research tool for assessing antimalarial drug efficacy data) or applying statistical methods

We look forward to receiving your entry and wish you the best of luck!!!