

The Cochrane-REWARD  
prize for reducing waste  
in research

2018



# 1 Background

*The Lancet* series on adding value and reducing waste in research has documented that much research is wasted because its outcomes cannot be used [1]. The waste occurs during 5 stages of research production: question selection, study design, research conduct, publication, and reporting [2,3]. For each of design, publication, and reporting there is a "loss" of around 50%, which implies a total waste of at least 85%. This translates into an estimated global loss of around \$170 billion per year. (For more information see: <http://rewardalliance.net/documents/articles/>). Much of this waste appears to be avoidable or remediable, but there is little recognition of the need to develop and implement the needed remedies. The Cochrane-REWARD prize highlights both underused "remedies" and the need to invest in research to identify problems and solutions to them.

## 1.1 Aim

The annual Cochrane-REWARD prize gathers, assesses and then publicizes good local or pilot initiatives that have the most potential to reduce waste in research if scaled up globally. Two prizes are awarded annually (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>), but other shortlisted candidates will also be highlighted, and the results publicized on various websites and via social media.

## 1.2 Eligibility criteria

**Any person or organization that has tested and implemented strategies to reduce waste in one of the five stages of research production in the area of health, in which we define health in a broad way to include the range of behavioural, biological, socio-economic and environmental factors that influence the health status of individuals or populations.**

## 1.3 Assessment criteria

All nominations will be assessed using the following criteria:

1. The nominee has addressed at least one of the 5 stages of research waste (questions, design, conduct, publication, reporting) in the area of health;
2. The nominee has pilot or more definitive data showing the initiative can lower waste;
3. The initiative can be scaled up globally;
4. The estimated potential reduction in research waste that the initiative might achieve.

## 1.4 The prize committee

The Prize Committee comprises six to eight members representing Cochrane, REWARD, *The Lancet*, as well as one or two judges not linked to these organisations and initiatives. Criteria for selecting the judges is a proven record of engagement in reducing research waste. Members of the Committee for 2018 are:

- Philippe Ravaud (co-chair) is Director of Cochrane France and author in various Cochrane Review Groups. He co-authored an [article](#) on the possible effects of the Lancet series in 2014, and co-organised the first [REWARD conference](#) with the EQUATOR Network in Edinburgh in 2015.
- Paul Glasziou (co-chair) is professor at the Centre for Research in Evidence-Based Practice (CREBP) at the Bond University in Australia. He is also author in various Cochrane Review Groups. He is the lead author on one of *The Lancet* articles on reducing research waste, and co-organised the first [REWARD conference](#) in Edinburgh in 2015.
- David Moher is a Senior Scientist, Centre for Journalology, Ottawa Hospital Research Institute, Ottawa, Canada. His work focuses on the development of new interventions to maximize the value of research. These approaches need to be tested; successful ones implemented and monitored for change over time.
- Sabine Kleinert is Senior Executive Editor at *The Lancet*. She is the Editor who was responsible

for the original 5-part Series in *The Lancet* on *Research: increasing value, reducing waste* and the editorial lead on *The Lancet* REWARD campaign. *The Lancet* has implemented internal changes in line with some of the recommendations and has taken the messages and recommendations of REWARD to specialist research communities via its Specialty journals.

- Joan Marsh is Deputy Editor of *The Lancet Psychiatry* and Past-President European Association of Science Editors. She is most engaged in raising awareness among authors and editors and improving the publication process but believes that change should really begin with research planning and protocols.
- Merel Ritskes-Hoitinga ([www.ritskes-hoitinga.eu](http://www.ritskes-hoitinga.eu)) is professor in Evidence-Based Laboratory Animal Science at the Department for Health Evidence at the Radboud university medical center, Nijmegen, The Netherlands. She founded [SYRCLE](#) (SYstematic Review Center for laboratory animal Experimentation) in 2012. SYRCLE is dedicated to education, coaching and research in the field of systematic reviews of animal studies. The aim is to improve quality and translation of animal studies for human healthcare. SYRCLE was awarded the joint second Cochrane-REWARD prize in 2017. One of the important factors for awarding the prize was the foundation of a worldwide SYRCLE ambassador network to further promote this field.
- Rustam al Shahi Salma is a professor of clinical neurology and honorary consultant neurologist in Edinburgh. He was the lead author of the article on increasing value and reducing waste in research regulation and management in the [2014 Lancet series](#), and co-organised the first [REWARD conference](#) in Edinburgh in 2015.
- Matthew Westmore is the Chief Operating Officer for the National Institute for Health Research Evaluation, Trials and Studies Coordinating Centre (NETSCC - [www.nihr.ac.uk](http://www.nihr.ac.uk)). The **NIHR's approach is underpinned by the AViR Framework. Matt leads a cross-NIHR programme of work aimed at maximising the impact of research, reducing waste and Adding Value in Research (AViR).** AViR was awarded the first Cochrane-REWARD prize in 2017. Matt is also a co-convenor of an international forum of funders who are interested in sharing best practice.
- Paula Williamson is Professor of Biostatistics. She is Director of the MRC North West Hub for Trials Methodology Research (HTMR), Director of the Clinical Trials Research Centre (CTRC), and Head of the Department of Biostatistics at the University of Liverpool. Paula chairs the University **of Liverpool's Health** and Biomedical Informatics Group and is a member of the Farr Institute through HeRC North. Paula co-founded and has led the COMET (Core Outcome Measures in Effectiveness Trials) Initiative since 2010. COMET was awarded the joint second Cochrane-REWARD prize in 2017. She was appointed as an NIHR Senior Investigator in 2014, gave the Bradford Hill Lecture in 2017, and is current Chair of the MRC HTMR Network.
- Sylvia de Haan is Partnerships Coordinator at Cochrane and will facilitate the work of the prize committee.

All nominations will be sent to the panel members for individual scoring, using the four assessment criteria, after which the panel will meet (face-to-face or virtually) to decide on the two prizes to be awarded for the year.

### 1.5 Funding for the prize

Cochrane will fund the prize of £5,000 in total for the next two years (£2,500 in 2017 and the same in 2018), resulting in a 1<sup>st</sup> prize of £1500 and 2<sup>nd</sup> prize of £1000. Cochrane will only commit to funding the award for two years, at which point, the need for the prize will be reviewed. If it is deemed necessary to continue, funding would need to be found from other sources or Cochrane could decide to continue funding it.

## 1.6 Nominations

Please send nominations to [Sylvia de Haan](#) by May 15, 2018 for the 2018 prize, using the submission form (see page 4) as guideline.

The winners of the 2018 prize will be announced at the Cochrane Colloquium, Edinburgh, 16-18 September, 2018.

Nominations should address the four assessment criteria and provide documented evidence why the nominee should be considered for the prize.

## 1.7 References

1. Chalmers I, Glasziou P. Avoidable waste in the production and reporting of research evidence. *Lancet*. 2009 Jul 4;374(9683):86-9.
2. Macleod MR, Michie S, Roberts I, et al. Biomedical research: increasing value, reducing waste. *Lancet*. 2014 Jan 11;383(9912):101-4.
3. Glasziou P, Altman DG, Bossuyt P, et al. Reducing waste from incomplete or unusable reports of biomedical research. *Lancet*. 2014 Jan 18;383(9913):267-76.

## 2 Submission form

Contact details of the nominee:

Name:

Address:

Organization:

Email:

Phone:

Nominated by (to be completed if this submission form is not completed by the nominee him/herself):

Name:

Address:

Organization:

Email:

Phone:

Have you advised the nominee of this nomination: yes/no

Please address the following questions in your submission/nomination:

1. Describe the initiative and how it has addressed research waste in at least one of the 5 stages of research (questions, design, conduct, publication, reporting) in the area of health (500 words max).
2. Describe any (pilot) data showing how the initiative has lowered research waste (500 words max).
3. Describe how the initiative might potentially be scaled up (250 words max).
4. Provide a justified estimate of the potential reduction in research waste that the initiative might achieve (250 words max).

Attach testimonials, photographs, news clippings, letters of support and similar material to support the submission/ nomination.