



30 Years of the Cochrane Collaboration: why and how did it get started? A conversation with some of those who were there at the beginning

Iain Chalmers, J Muir Gray, Jini Hetherington, Jos Kleijnen, Kay Dickersin (video), Mark Starr (video), Paul Garner (video), Xavier Bonfill, Carol Lefebvre (video), Mike Clarke (video), Jimmy Volmink, Karla Soares-Weiser

Trusted evidence.
Informed decisions.
Better health.



Pioneering contributors to the Cochrane Collaboration

In tribute

Chris Silagy

1960-2001

**Chair,
Cochrane Collaboration
Steering Group**



Alessandro Liberati

1954-2012

**Director,
Centro Cochrane Italiano**



David Henderson-Smart

1945-2013

**Reviewer,
Cochrane Neonatal Group**



Monica Kjeldstrøm

1968-2014

**Director,
Information Management
System**



Jack Sinclair

1933-2014

**Co-ordinating Editor,
Cochrane Neonatal Group**



Adrian Grant

1948-2015

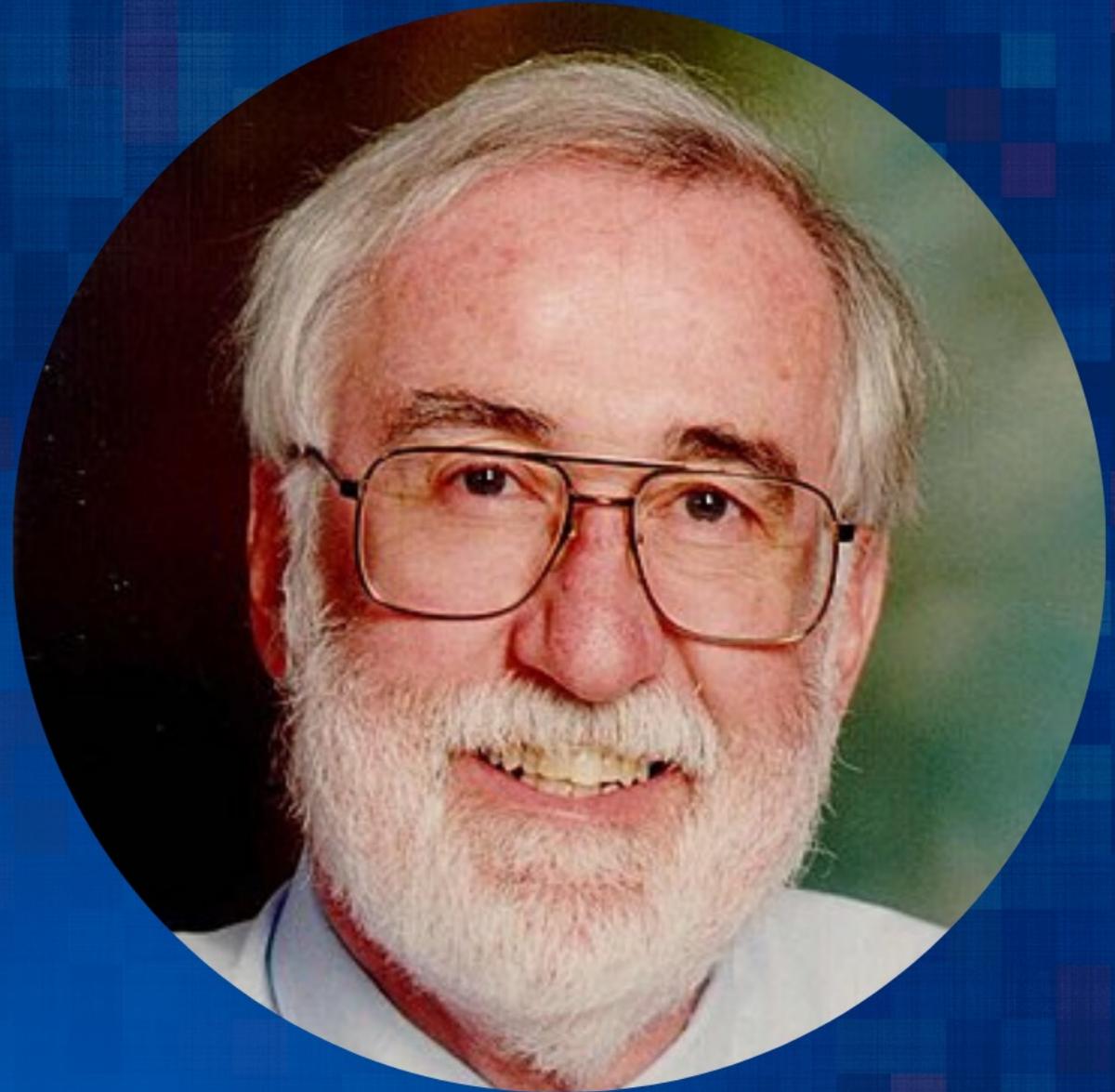
**Co-ordinating Editor,
Cochrane Incontinence Group**



Dave Sackett

1934-2015

**Chair,
Cochrane Collaboration
Steering Group**



Andrew Herxheimer

1925-2016

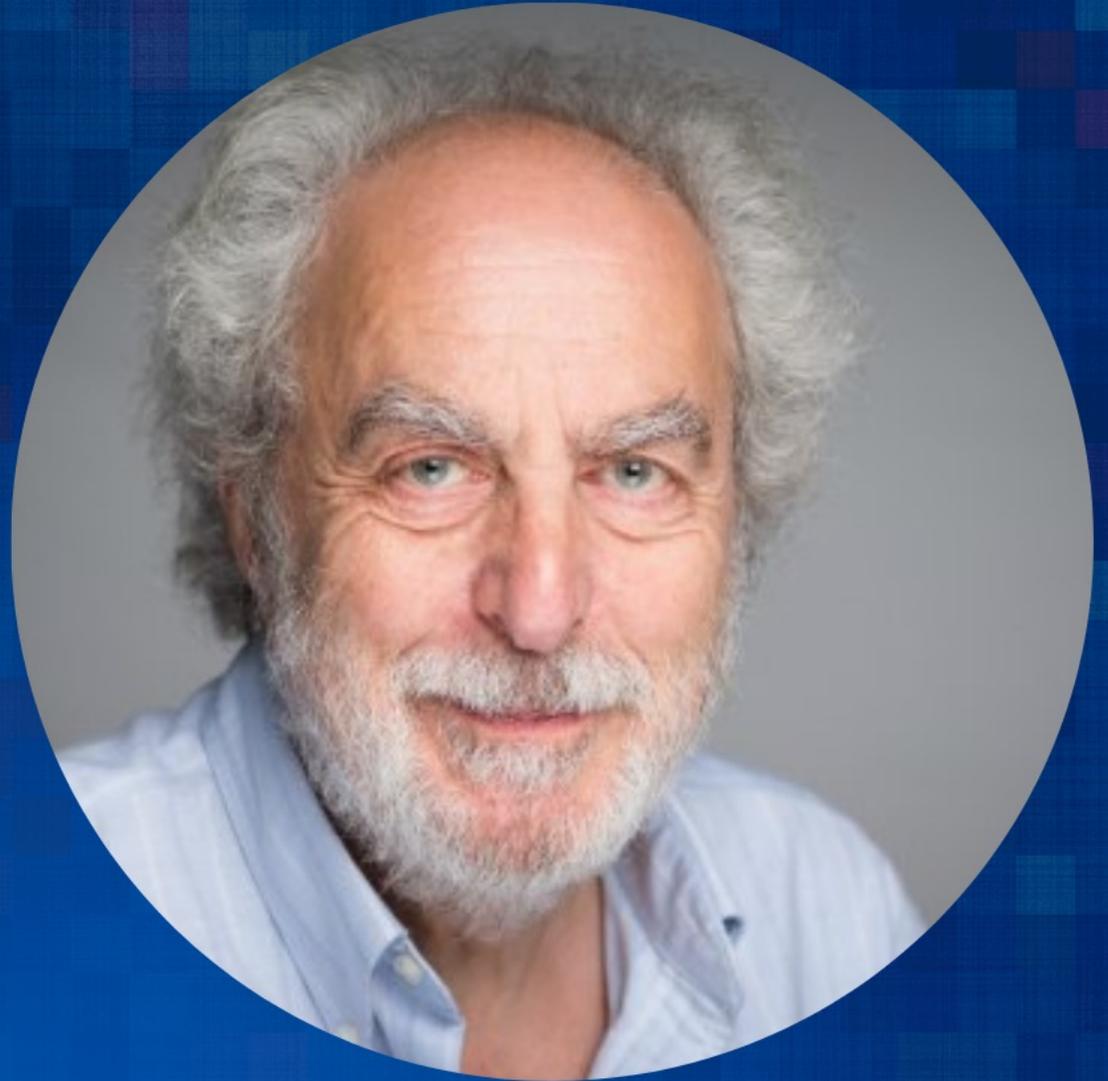
**Convenor,
Cochrane Adverse Effects
Group**



Doug Altman

1945-2018

**Convenor,
Cochrane Statistics Network**



Murray Enkin
1924-2021

**Managing Editor,
Cochrane Pregnancy and
Childbirth Group**





30
Cochrane
30 years of evidence

The Cochrane Collaboration: How did it get started?

Stage 1

Archie Cochrane's criticism

1972

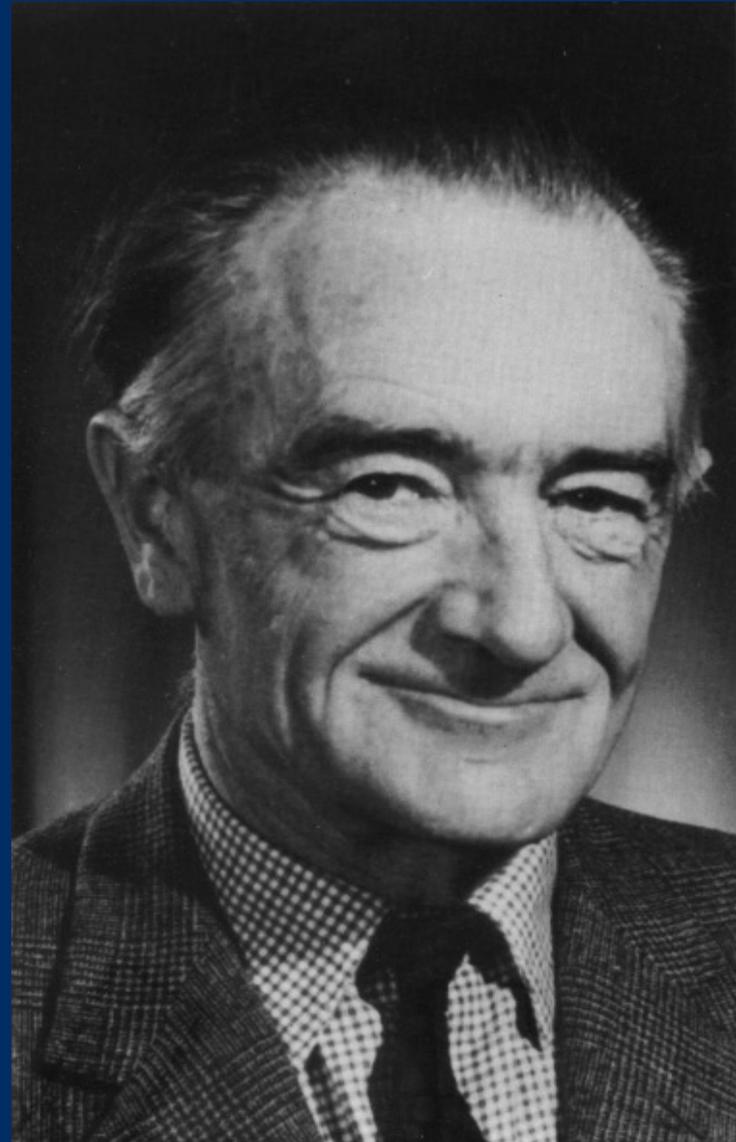
A. L. COCHRANE

Effectiveness and efficiency

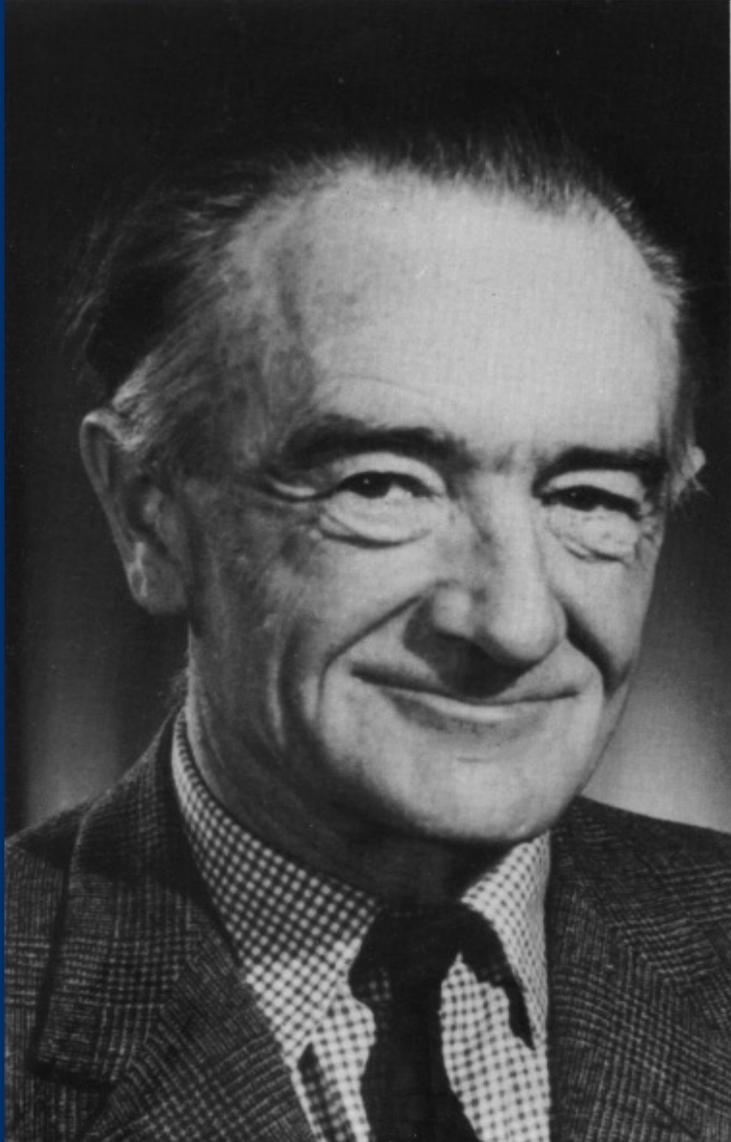
Random reflections on
health services

THE ROCK CARLING FELLOWSHIP

1971



Archie Cochrane emphasized the need for **effectiveness**, **efficiency**, **equity** and **'tlc'** in health care, and drew attention to the importance of evidence from **randomised controlled trials**.



Archie Cochrane

1979

*"It is surely a great criticism of our profession that we have not organised a **critical summary**, by speciality or subspeciality, adapted periodically, of all relevant **randomized controlled trials**."*

Stage 2

Responding to Archie Cochrane's
criticism

1978

The UK Department of Health and WHO funded the National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit to compile a register of controlled trials of perinatal care

**A Classified Bibliography
of Controlled Trials in
Perinatal Medicine
1940–1984**

Prepared by the
National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit,
Oxford, UK, with the support of the
World Health Organization

OXFORD NEW YORK TOKYO
OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS

1985

1985-1989

An international collaboration was convened to prepare systematic reviews of all controlled trials in pregnancy and childbirth.

100+ contributors from
Australia, Belgium, Canada,
Finland, France, Ireland, Italy,
Netherlands, Norway, South
Africa, United Kingdom, United
States of America, and
Zimbabwe, coordinated by the
National Perinatal Epidemiology
Unit

EFFECTIVE CARE IN PREGNANCY AND CHILDBIRTH

VOLUME 1 • PREGNANCY PARTS I–V

VOLUME 2 • CHILDBIRTH PARTS VI–X and INDEX



OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS

ECPC & GECPC



A Guide to

Effective Care

in

Pregnancy

and

Childbirth



Murray Enkin, Marc J. N. C. Keirse,
and Iain Chalmers

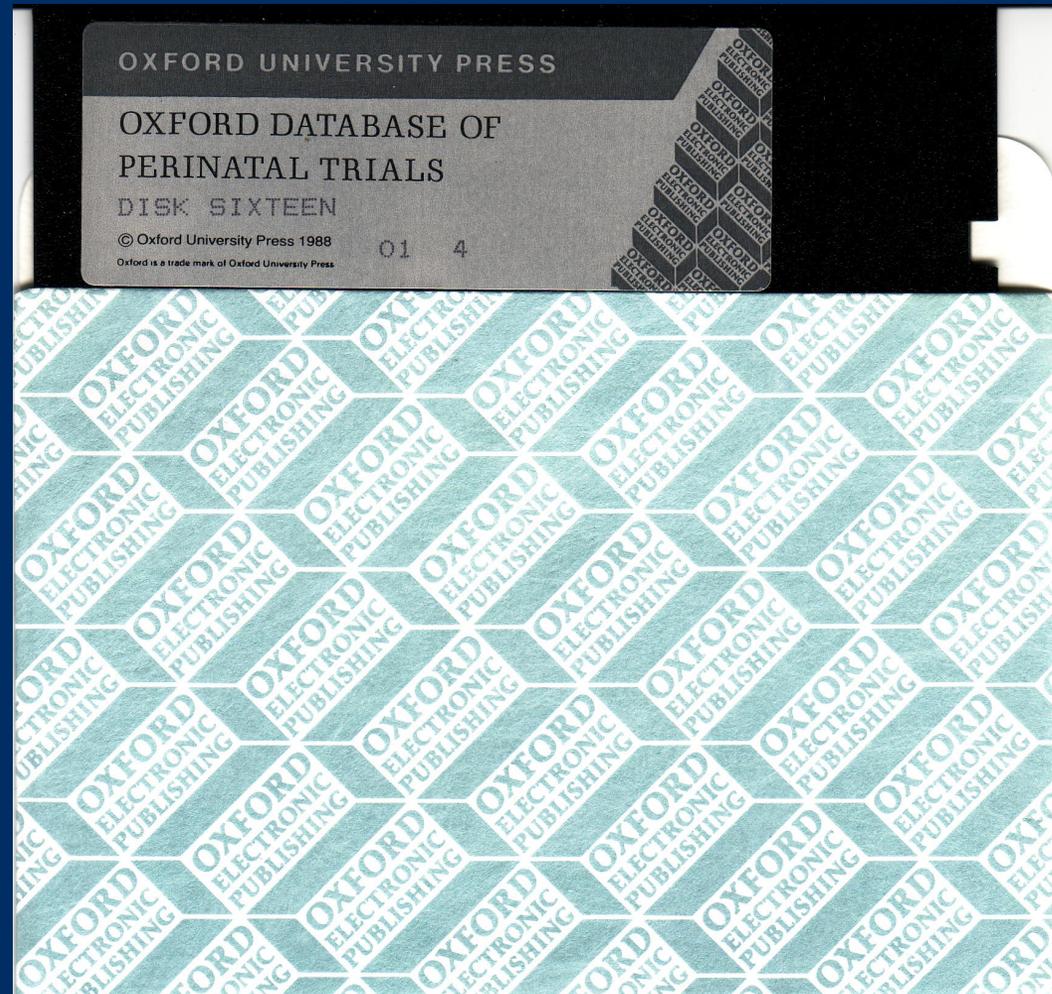
From 1988 to 2023
Updates and corrections of
Cochrane reviews of perinatal
care have been published as
'living reviews' for 35 years,
initially on floppy discs,
subsequently through
the world wide web.

OXFORD
DATABASE
OF
PERINATAL
TRIALS

CHALMERS



ODPT



Excerpt from Archie Cochrane's Foreword in ECPC

"The systematic review of the randomized trials of obstetric practice presented in this book is a new achievement, a real milestone in the history of randomized trials and in the evaluation of care, which I hope will be widely copied by other specialties."

Stage 3

Initiating
The Cochrane Collaboration

February 1992

The success of ECPC, GECPC, & ODPT led the NHS R&D Programme to fund 'a Cochrane Centre'

'to collaborate with others, in the UK and elsewhere, to facilitate systematic, up-to-date reviews of randomized controlled trials of health care'

October 1993

The UK Cochrane Centre convened a 2-day colloquium in Oxford at which c. 80 participants agreed to establish an international Cochrane collaboration

Envisaging and reporting the initiation of The Cochrane Collaboration, 1992-1998.

1992 **Getting to grips with Archie Cochrane's agenda.**

British Medical Journal [Chalmers I, Dickersin K, Chalmers TC]

1993 **Preparing and updating systematic reviews of randomized controlled trials of health care**

Milbank Quarterly [Chalmers I, Enkin M, Keirse MJNC]

1993 **The Cochrane Collaboration: preparing, maintaining, and disseminating systematic reviews of the effects of health care.**

Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences [Chalmers I]

1997 **The Cochrane Collaboration. In: Non-random reflections on health services research.** *BMJ Books* [Chalmers I, Sackett D, Silagy C]

1998 **The Cochrane Collaboration. In: Armitage and Colton, eds).**

Encyclopedia of Biostatistics. *Wiley.* [Chalmers I, Sackett D, Silagy C]



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COLLABORATION®**

The Cochrane Collaboration

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"The Cochrane Collaboration... rivals the Human Genome Project in its potential implications for modern medicine."

— C. David Naylor, *The Lancet*

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30 years of evidence



Kay Dickersin





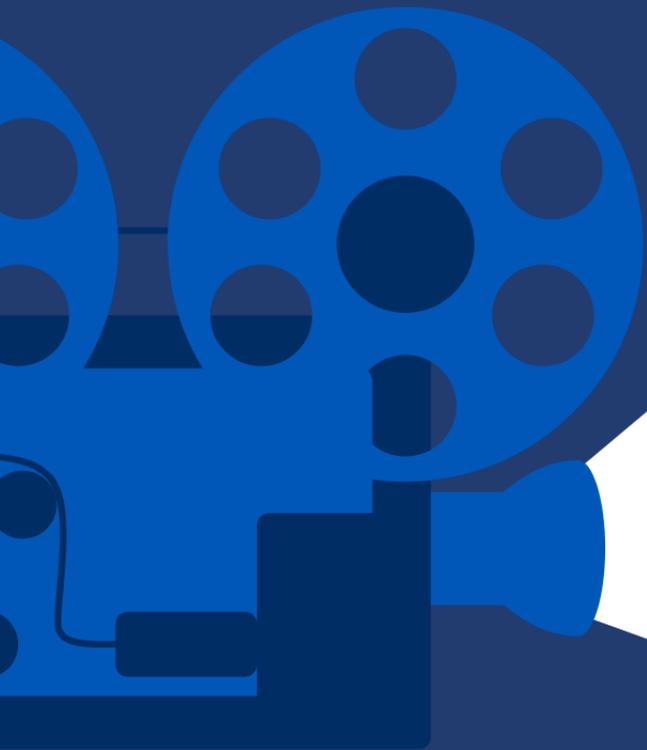
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Mark Starr and Iain Chalmers



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Carol Lefebvre



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Paul Garner



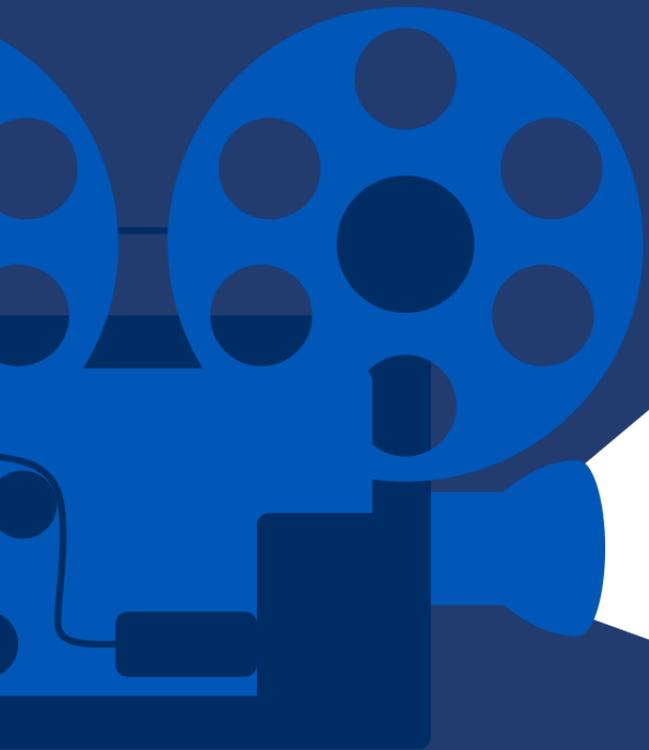
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Alvaro Attalah



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Mike Clarke

Q&A