Course Description

This course will provide a comprehensive introduction to comparative effectiveness research (CER). Topics include an overview of CER, stakeholder engagement in CER, designing CER studies, methodologic challenges in doing CER, and recent developments in PCORI and Federal policy. Students will be expected to review and evaluate comparative effectiveness studies as well as actively participate in class discussions. Nearly every class session will include a case study. Through examples, class discussion and homework students will become familiar with the methods for Comparative Effectiveness Research. They will prepare a set of specific aims for a CER project and identify gaps in CER in their field of study.

Course Activities:

Lectures and discussions, reading assignments, critique studies, in-class case-studies.

All registered students are expected to attend the CER symposium on April 14 held at WUSM in the Eric P. Neuman Educational Center (EPNEC). [http://cer.wustl.edu/training-resources/symposiums/2015-symposium.html](http://cer.wustl.edu/training-resources/symposiums/2015-symposium.html) and the March 11 guest lecture (12-1pm) by Benjamin Craig, PhD.

Evaluation:

Evaluation will be based on class participation (20%), a journal article critique (30%), and a final presentation and paper (50%). All students are expected to come prepared to actively participate in class discussions and demonstrate their knowledge of CER as well as complete in-class case studies. Details on the journal article critique and final paper/presentation will be handed out on the first day of class and posted on blackboard.

Competencies:

1. Define CER and its basic tenets.
2. Understand the broader context of CER
3. Identify common methodologies used in CER
4. Be able to identify the appropriate research design for the CER question
5. Identify methodologic challenges of CER
Time and Place: J. B. Richmond Teaching Room, 2nd Floor, Taylor Ave Building, Fri 1 to 3 PM

Instructors
Anke Winter, MD, MSc
wintera@wudosis.wustl.edu

Mary Politi, PhD
politim@wudosis.wustl.edu

Office hours
By appointment

BLACKBOARD
We will use Blackboard to manage our class and access assignment instructions. Blackboard can be accessed at https://bb.wustl.edu/. Log in with your WUSTL Key, and the course should appear on the homepage.

Attendance
Class attendance is required. As a courtesy to other students, you are expected to arrive on time. More than two absences from class may result in a lowered grade. Do not enroll if you have more than two absences already planned. The value of the class stems from the quality of the dialog and conversations with peers and course instructors.

Grade
Your grade will be based on:

- Class Participation (20%)
- Journal article critique (30%)
- Class project paper and presentations (50%)

Grading Scale
A+: 97-100; A: 93-96; A-: 90-92; B+: 87-89; B: 83-86; B-: 80-82; C+: 77-79; C: 73-76; C-: 70-72

Policy on Late Assignments
Late assignments will result in a deduction of one grade point (A+ down to A) for each day late (including weekends) unless prior approval is obtained from the instructor or a compelling situation prevents prior approval (i.e. documented health issues or family emergencies).
Jan 16: Overview of the Course and CER (Dr. Winter)


Methodological Standards and Patient-Centeredness in Comparative Effectiveness Research:

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<td>Jan 23</td>
<td>Consumer Engagement in CER Trials</td>
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<td>Jan 30</td>
<td>CER Systematic Reviews &amp; Meta Analyses</td>
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<td>Feb 6</td>
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<td>Mar 6</td>
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<td>Mar 11</td>
<td>Guest lecture 12-1pm, Doll &amp; Hill room</td>
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<td>Mar 13</td>
<td>Examples and Applications in Urology</td>
<td>Dr. Seth Strope</td>
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<td>Examples of Community Stakeholder Engagement: the community research fellows program</td>
<td>Dr. Melody Goodman</td>
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<td>Moving to Implementation: How does CER Change Practice?</td>
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Class Background material:
IOM initial priorities for CER

PCORI national priorities (adopted May 21, 2012):
http://www.pcori.org/research-we-support/priorities-agenda/


PCORI methods standards (latest update Nov 2013):


Sox., H (2010). Defining CER: the importance of getting it right. *Medical Care; 48*:ppS7-S8

**Jan 23: Consumer Engagement in CER Trials (Dr. Politi)**


**Jan 30: Systematic and CER reviews (Dr. Winter)**


AHRQ also has a slide library for training for systematic reviews with their focus on comparative effectiveness: [http://www.effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/index.cfm/tools-and-resources/slide-library/#slidetrainingmodules](http://www.effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/index.cfm/tools-and-resources/slide-library/#slidetrainingmodules)

**Feb 6: Effectiveness and Pragmatic Trials (Dr. Winter)**


**Feb 13: Designing Prospective Observational CER Studies (Dr. Winter)**


Dreyer, Tunis, Berger, Ollendorf, Mattox, Gliklich, Gliklich. (2010). Why observational studies should be among the tools in comparative effectiveness research. *Health Affairs, 29*: 1818-25


**Feb 20: Overview of Large Databases for Retrospective CER Studies (Dr. Olsen)**

**Feb 27: Patient Centered Outcomes in Anesthesia (Dr. Avidan)**

**March 6: No class due to guest lecture Dr. Benjamin Craig**

**March 11: Guest lecture Dr. Benjamin Craig, 11-12pm, Doll & Hill room**

**Title: Challenges in Health Preference Research: Men, Women, and Children**

This talk will focus on the challenges and recent advances in the preference-based summary of health outcomes for health policy and decision analysis (i.e., QALYs and beyond). [http://labpages.moffitt.org/craigb/default.html](http://labpages.moffitt.org/craigb/default.html)

**March 13: Examples and applications in Urology (Dr. Strobe)**

**March 20: Example of Community Stakeholder Engagement: the community research fellows training program (Dr. Goodman)**

**March 27: No class due to CER symposium**

**April 3: Moving to Implementation: How does CER Change Clinical Practice? (Dr. Lobb)**


Meropol, N.J. (2012). Comparative Effectiveness Research to Inform Medical Decisions: The Need for Common Language. *JCO, 30*, 4192-4194. [http://jco.ascopubs.org/content/30/34.toc.pdf](http://jco.ascopubs.org/content/30/34.toc.pdf)

**April 10: Shared Decision Making (Dr. Politi)**


**April 14:** CER symposium 8am-4pm

**April 17:** No class due to CER symposium

**April 24:** Student Presentations

**May 1:** Student Presentations