

Welcome to the third Evidence Aid bi-monthly news bulletin. We have kept the items short and our aim is to keep you informed of progress, plans, and achievements, and to share relevant information from others. Please pass this news bulletin to your friends and colleagues.

1. Priority setting meeting, June 2013

Almost thirty people with different priorities met in early June to look at a list of ten areas that were prioritised by 233 people via a survey. After two days of enthusiastic discussion, thirty priority questions were agreed upon through consensus. We are finalising a short methodology paper about this, which will include the thirty questions, and will be submitted to a journal shortly. It will set out priority areas for systematic reviews to include in Evidence Aid, and provide the wider community with information on questions that people preparing for and responding to natural disasters, humanitarian crises or major healthcare emergencies would like to see answered to through systematic reviews. We will let you know when the paper has been published, in the hope that some of you might get involved in the preparation of the systematic reviews.

2. Conference participation

After a successful week at the WADEM conference with three Evidence Aid posters, and a presentation by Virginia Murray about the first Evidence Aid systematic review on electric fans for heatwaves, Bonnix will represent the Evidence Aid team at the conference on Trauma and Transformation of societies organised by the Government of Flanders in Brussels on 4 July 2013. He will speak about Medical Support and Health Care Organization in disaster setting. Later in the year, Claire will represent the team at the Cochrane Colloquium, (19-23 September, Quebec) with two poster presentations about Evidence Aid. Evidence Aid was also featured in the recent launch of the Centre of Excellence for Public Health in Northern Ireland.

3. Radiation reviews for the World Health Organization

In early June, Mike attended the second meeting of the Guideline Development Group for new WHO Guidelines on the public health response to a radiation emergency. He presented the findings of systematic reviews conducted by Evidence Aid over recent months, which had been helped greatly by contributions from several of the Evidence Aid volunteers. The reviews showed how little comparative research has been done in such circumstances, with very few eligible studies in areas such as evacuation, monitoring and decontamination of the public, and monitoring of food and drinking water. A particular contribution of these reviews to the guidelines is likely to be the inclusion of suggestions for future research. Evidence Aid's work on the Guidelines is ongoing, with systematic reviews underway to examine evidence on the effects of different communication strategies for radiation emergencies.

4. Website

After a long time in the development, our new website is ready to launch. This will be switched on later this month, using our existing web address (www.evidenceaid.org). It has a new and different look and we welcome feedback to evaluate its use and usefulness. We'd like to express our thanks to Zoe and Suniana from John Wiley and Sons who have done much of the work behind this major development.

5. Communications

Finally, you can follow us on Twitter (@EvidenceAid), on our Facebook page (Evidence Aid), via our website (www.evidenceaid.org) and you can also contact Claire using LinkedIn (Claire Allen).

We hope you've found this news bulletin to be informative and helpful. If you would prefer not receive any further bulletins, please let us know.

With best wishes,

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