



Education, Education, Education

Recently, members of the *EJOI* Editorial Board asked whether *EJOI* could publish a series of articles aimed at helping readers who don't have a solid methodological background to better understand the role of different types of study design, to improve critical skills for evaluating the validity of scientific articles, and to explain the importance of statistics and related topics.

The Editors thought that this proposal was in perfect agreement with the mission of *EJOI* and we have begun to prepare the series. These 'educational' articles will not be the classic peer-reviewed papers, but will be written in the form of a mini-consensus between four experts in the field. The articles will be written in simple English and provide a general introduction to the topic. Selected references will guide more demanding readers wishing to deepen their knowledge on specific topics.

Potential authors interested in contributing to this series are invited to send us their proposed topics, while readers are kindly invited to send feedback on these articles to allow us to understand how useful they are and what can be done to improve or expand them.

The first article of the series, published in this issue, is authored by Prof Helen Worthington, a dental statistician and the Co-ordinating Editor of the Cochrane Oral Health Group (www.ohg.cochrane.org). The topic might be a little obvious: *What is a systematic review?* However, well-conducted systematic reviews occupy a fundamental place in keeping practitioners up to date on the most recent and relevant developments in medical science. Therefore it is important that systematic reviews, as any other scientific activity, are properly conducted, since poorly conducted reviews may produce biased results that ultimately can harm our patients.

We have scheduled several topics for the next 3 years, and gradually *EJOI* will form a library of concise articles that can be easily consulted and will keep readers updated as improvements in scientific methodology occur.

Marco Esposito
Editor-in-Chief