Diagnosis and prognosis: clinical and research problems
8-11 October 2014
Gargnano, Italy

The aim of this course is to provide the tools for understanding the methodology underlying the diagnostic test accuracy (DTA) and prognostic studies.

At the end of the course, participants will be able to perform critical appraisals of diagnostic accuracy studies and make extraction and interpretation of data to build DTA meta-analyses. The basis for the design of a diagnostic accuracy study will also be provided.

Audience: clinical and/or researchers interested in appraising the basis of diagnostic and prognostic research. The course will be focused mainly on diagnosis. However, given the parallel between diagnosis and prognosis, and the similarity between their phases, prognosis will also be considered and analyzed.

General principles:
- Basic course to expand the methodological basis of the diagnostic research from the point of view of clinical research (to be able to read and report in writing a diagnostic study);
- The prognosisis considered as a development of the diagnostic phase;
- Main objectives: to critically analyze a diagnostic study (phase2A), learn how to extract the data, and evaluate the quality and transferability of results.

General rules for teachers:
- Teachers should participate actively during the whole length of the course, especially to guarantee an active discussion. The names only indicate who will lead the discussions.
- Some tutors will help to lead the breakout sessions (small groups' activity) and keep up with the time.
- The material for the break-out sessions should be prepared and compiled by those who will lead the preliminary formal presentation of the topic, but it must be shared and approved by all the other teachers well ahead of time.

Examination of the participants:
Participants will be encouraged to divide themselves into four groups, and to choose a topic of interest and prepare a protocol for a primary diagnostic study or a protocol based on a systematic review title of diagnostic studies. The teachers will correct the protocols and individually assess them all.

Faculty:
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