

Biomedicine Discovery Seminar Series

Speaker: Magdalena Martínez Queipo

Title: Studying the unmeasurable. The value of qualitative in clinical trials.

NIHR Biomedical Research Centre at Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust & King's College London.

1 de Octubre, 13:30 horas Aula Francisco Grande, IIS-Fundación Jiménez Díaz.
Avda. Reyes Católicos, 2 Madrid



Science aims to understand and explain reality. In the natural sciences this is done via objective quantitative measurements, experiments and observation. A marker of good science is that results should be repeatable under the same conditions.

Clinical trials are set up as objective experiments which aim to measure the changes resulting from an intervention. However, not everything that changes

pre-post intervention with humans can be measured quantitatively. Some of these unmeasurable post-interventional changes that participants report, can provide important information when assessing if the intervention has been successful.

In the past this type of subjective information was considered anecdotal and discarded as unscientific and irrelevant. The trend however is changing. For example, more and more frequently Health Technology Assessments include quantitative and qualitative information when deciding on an interventions' effectiveness.

While positivist objective quantitative research deals with numbers, naturalistic subjective qualitative research deals with words. This seminar aims to explore some of the practical considerations needed to collect this type of "fluffy" qualitative information in a systematic way, analyse the data and make sense of it, and how it can add value and explain reality in the context of clinical trials.

Contacto:

Pedro M. Baptista (pmbaptista@iisaragon.es)

Sara Guerrero Aspizua (sguerrer@ing.uc3m.es) y

Raquel Largo (rlargo@idcsalud.es)