# Planning a Review or Meta-Analysis

- Is Your Systematic Review Feasible
- Protocol Writing and Registration

## Define a strong research question and hypothesis include:

- Identifying the "primary and secondary aims of the study" through creating a great literature search.
- Scan the current literature to identify gaps in the field. This can be done on PubMed.
- Using the PICO acronym Population, Intervention, Control, and Outcome when formulating the research question.

# **Establishing a Study Team**

- Identify a team lead or project manager to organize project tasks, and ensure that the study protocol is followed.
- Identify "independent reviewers" or team members to verify data, adjudicate study inclusion differences, and identify those that will participate in each step of the review process.

## **Assessing Feasibility**

- How to determine if the project is viable or useful to the literature
- Checking if a review is already done, too little research, etc.

#### References

Muka, T., Glisic, M., Milic, J. *et al.* A 24-step guide on how to design, conduct, and successfully publish a systematic review and meta-analysis in medical research. *Eur J Epidemiol* **35**, 49–60 (2020). https://doi.org/10.1007/s10654-019-00576-5

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