Advanced Meta-analysis Workshop
May 28-29, 2015

Workshop Summary Brief

The Center for Systematic Reviews in Health Policy and Systems Research (SPARK) in collaboration with the Clinical Epidemiology Unit (CEU) of the Clinical Research Institute (CRI) at the American University of Beirut (AUB) held a two-day workshop entitled “Advanced Meta-analysis”. The workshop took place in Lab 206, Olayan School of Business-Lower Campus, AUB on the 28th and 29th of May 2015.

The workshop was facilitated by Dr. Dimitris Mavridis, a lecturer in Statistics at the University of Ioannina, Greece. Thirty-two participants from multidisciplinary backgrounds joined the workshop. These included academicians, physicians, and junior researchers from the American University of Beirut, Lebanese University, and Université Saint Joseph.

The workshop commenced with a welcome note by Dr. Elie Akl followed by a brief introduction to SPARK and an overview of the workshop agenda. The workshop involved a mix of presentations, discussions, and hands-on activities. During the first day, the morning sessions included presentations and discussions on “effect sizes”, “fixed effects meta-analysis” “heterogeneity”, and “random effects meta-analysis”. In the afternoon, participants were introduced to “publication bias” and “meta-regression.” These were followed by a two-hour hands-on exercise on how to use STATA software and apply it to the concepts learned earlier.

The first half of the second day focused on dealing with missing data which was followed by a hands-on exercise using STATA software. The second half of the second day introduced participant to network meta-analysis followed by a lengthy practical session using STATA software.

The workshop concluded with a reflection on the overall workshop and an open discussion where participants provided their feedback.