



Standards of practice and scholarly integrity

This letter attests to the value, ethics, and scholarly influence of the Meta-Analysis Academy. It is intended to inform prospective learners and institutional stakeholders about who we are, what we do, and the standards by which we operate. At the end of this letter, you will find a list of representative publications led by our alumni, as well as a list of endorsements from former participants in our program worldwide.

Who we are

The Meta-Analysis Academy is a global training platform dedicated to advancing evidence synthesis and meta-analysis methodology across medical and surgical fields. Our mission is to cultivate rigorous, ethical, and clinically relevant scholarly work by equipping healthcare students and professionals with the skills needed to design, conduct, and disseminate high-quality systematic reviews and meta-analyses.

In under three years, our community has grown to learners across 130 countries spanning South America, North America, Europe, Asia, Africa, and Oceania. Our learners, who consist mostly of medical students, interns, residents, and physicians, have authored or co-authored thousands of publications in peer-reviewed journals and presentations in international conferences throughout all medical specialties.

More importantly, we are very proud of the quality of the work of our students. Our alumni have won research awards from the American Heart Association, the European Society of Medical Oncology, Endocrine Society, United European Gastroenterology Week, World Congress of Endoscopy, and countless other global societies.

In addition, they have published at the highest-ranking journals in nearly every specialty. These include JAMA Cardiology, Lancet Global Health, Neurosurgery, Endoscopy, Anesthesia and Analgesia, JAMA Pediatrics, Ophthalmology, JAMA Surgery, European Journal of Haematology, American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Journal of the European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology, European Radiology, Journal of Pediatric Surgery, Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, and others.

These results highlight the rigorous, methodologically sound, and clinically meaningful quality of our training program. Importantly, these publications are entirely driven by our students. We do NOT do publications, nor do we guarantee publications for students. We provide the training, support, and network for collaboration among students, but the intellectual work and responsibility for each publication are solely of study authors.

What we do

Our training program focuses on developing individual skills for each student, so they can conduct systematic reviews and meta-analysis with autonomy. Our structured training program covers:

- Development of research ideas, including feasibility so that projects are not only methodologically robust, but also clinically impactful;
- Structure and scope of research questions with the PICOTT framework;
- Protocol development & registration (e.g., PROSPERO);
- Creation of effective search strategies for biomedical databases and grey literature;
- Screening & data extraction with inter-rater reliability checks;
- Quantitative synthesis in different statistical analysis platforms (e.g. Review Manager, RStudio) for pairwise, single-arm, diagnostic, and network meta-analyses;

- Risk of bias assessment (e.g., RoB 2, ROBINS-I) and certainty of evidence synthesis (e.g., GRADE);
- Reporting aligned with established guidance (e.g., PRISMA) and pre-submission quality control;
- Submission and editorial support, including picking best journals and conference for submissions, cover letters, and rebuttal letters.

Educational model and learner support

The Meta-Analysis Academy does not guarantee publications. Instead, we provide a comprehensive and structured program designed to equip learners with the practical skills required to carry out their own research. We provide extensive support in tutoring sessions to our students, so they can ask questions related to their ideas, methods, statistical analyses, risk of bias assessment, or writing. The support offered in the tutoring sessions or in individual support are best practice recommendations only. Ultimately, all publications of our students and their contents are the exclusive responsibility of study authors.

Our ethical foundation

We teach and uphold the highest standards in integrity, transparency, and accountability. We reject all unethical practices in medical research, including, but not limited to, the commercial sale of authorship, ghostwriting, or honorary authorship. Authorship is to be earned only through substantial, verifiable contributions, in line with international standards (e.g., ICMJE), and we encourage learners to exercise leadership by forming and managing their own research groups responsibly.

While we provide structured education in methods, writing, journal selection, and submission strategies, all scholarly outputs remain the sole responsibility of the authors, and the Meta-Analysis Academy does not assume responsibility for unethical practices undertaken independently by individuals who may or may not have participated in our training program.

Summary

The Meta-Analysis Academy has trained learners across six continents, with alumni contributions to hundreds of publications, including in some of the highest-ranking medical journals worldwide. This record, supported by endorsements from our graduates, reflects a well-established culture of academic excellence, methodological rigor, and scholarly integrity.

We invite you to review the portfolio of publications from our alumni and to connect with our team to learn how our training can strengthen your career as a researcher, clinician, educator, or policy leader. We look forward to welcoming you to our community.

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Journals with publications by our alumni:



**The Meta-Analysis Academy is not affiliated with these journals. These just represent a small sample of the impact of the publications of our students worldwide.*



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