The Trial Forge Approach

Trial Forge will increase:

- Coordination: let's all agree priority problems in trial methods research.
- Collaboration: let's work together to tackle those priority problems.

Through greater coordination and collaboration, Trial Forge aims to support the dissemination of what we already know about effective ways to design, run, analyse and report trials, as well as faster generation of research evidence to plug specific gaps in the evidence base to support trial decisions.

Collaboration doesn't just mean trialists; this project requires input from the public and patients, health professionals, funders and approvals bodies, spanning both academia and industry.

Inefficiency in trials has been a problem for a long time; it's time for a different approach.

More information

For more information take a look at our website: www.trialforge.org

If that doesn't answer your questions we're happy to help – get in touch with us here:

Email: info@trialforge.com

Twitter: @Trial_Forge

Post: Shaun Treweek
Health Services Research Unit
University of Aberdeen
3rd Floor Health Sciences Building
Foresterhill, Aberdeen
AB25 2ZD, UK

Selected current projects

- DataCat: Using systematic data categorisation to quantify the types of data collected in clinical trials
- ORINOCO: Optimising resource use in outcome collection
- ESP: Using trial managers' experience to predict trial site recruitment success

TRIAL FORGE

A systematic approach to making trials more efficient.

The evidence base for how to make the trials process efficient is remarkably thin. Trial Forge aims to change this.

www.trialforge.com

Trials

Randomised controlled trials are the gold standard for evaluating healthcare treatments; 1000s are done every year.

Essential

Randomised trials are the cornerstone of evidence-based healthcare because they offer the fairest tests of treatments, therapies and initiatives.

Inefficient

The evidence base for how to make the trials process efficient is remarkably thin. Trial Forge aims to change this.

"There's a peculiar paradox that exists in trial execution – we perform trials to generate evidence to improve patient outcomes; however, we conduct trials like anecdotal medicine."

-Monica Shah

Heart Failure Review 2014; 19:135-52.

Small changes add up

In 2012 British Cycling's performance director Dave Brailsford put Team GB's dominance at the Olympics down to marginal gains – the idea that if you break down everything you could think of that goes into riding a bike, and then improved it by 1%, you will get a big gain when you put them all together. Trial Forge aims to do the same for trials.

Trial Forge will make trials more efficient by looking for marginal gains across all trial processes, from research question to dissemination. It will encourage everyone connected with trials to be more skeptical of what we do by asking for the evidence behind all of our trial decisions.

Trial Pathway

The Trial Pathway (the wheel shown below) is the tool Trial Forge will use to guide users through what we do know from trial methods research, where the gaps are and what work is needed to fill those gaps in our knowledge.

Moving to an item on the Pathway ('Recruitment' for example) will take you to collections of resources that provide a clear, succinct bottom line answer, together with more information for those who want it. These items will also provide opportunities to collaborate.