

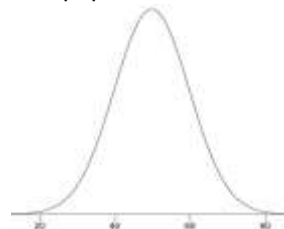
# CAN WE BELIEVE THEIR BELIEFS: IS EXPERT ELICITATION (COST) EFFECTIVE?

Moderator: Laura Bojke

Presenters: Neil Hawkins, Alec Morton, Lotte Steuten

## Background: Focus of the session

- Structured expert elicitation methods are increasingly used to address uncertainties in cost-effectiveness and other analyses.
- An elicitation method is intended to link experts beliefs to a statistical expression of these.
  - “systematic process of formalizing and quantifying, typically in probabilistic terms, expert judgments about uncertain quantities” White paper on elicitation



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## Background: Focus of the session

- Current uses for structured expert elicitation:
  - Characterise uncertainties in an assessment of cost-effectiveness
    - Generating initial estimates of data (various parameter types)
    - Informing future data collection
    - Weights for alternative structural assumptions, e.g. extrapolation beyond observed evidence
    - Bias correction weights for RCT/observational evidence (unobserved heterogeneity)
    - Informing sample size calculations

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## Background: The challenge

- Doubts regarding the utility of structured expert elicitation have been raised:
  - Subjective by nature
  - Can relevant (substantive) experts' perform well as these tasks?
  - Impossible (in many circumstances) to determine accuracy
  - Enormity of the task
- The panel will consider whether expert elicitation is truly useful in addressing uncertainties, or whether it is a costly way of providing false reassurance.

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## The presenters

- Lotte Steuten: *Associate professor, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, University of Washington*
  - Illustrative examples of structured expert elicitation
- Alec Morton: *Professor, University of Strathclyde*
  - Case 'for'
- Neil Hawkins: *Professor, University of Glasgow*
  - Case 'against'



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## Points for discussion

- Is expert judgement really just another form of data?
- Does it really represent a low cost form of evidence?
- Is it primarily useful for early technologies?
- How do we maximise the value of expert evidence?

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## **Is expert elicitation a useful addition to the analyst's toolkit?**

- Unstructured expert opinion poll

