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Is this input submitted as an organisational or individual response? Individual

Are you happy for your response to be published by the Academy? Yes

Email from Ian Roberts to Claire Cope

28 July 2015 12:22

RE: Call for evidence- How does society use evidence to judge the risks and benefits of medicines?

Dear Claire

Thank you for the invitation.

I would offer the attached paper as evidence.

Without a doubt the best way to assess the benefits and harms of medicinal products is to conduct large properly randomised controlled trials and then to combine their results in a valid systematic review. However, reviews of small trials are unreliable as the attached paper argues.

best wishes

Ian

Attached Document:

- Roberts I, et al. (2015). *The knowledge system underpinning healthcare is not fit for purpose and must change*. *BMJ* **350**, h2463.