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INTRODUCING YOUNG HOSPITAL PHARMACISTS TO SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH: AN EDUCATIONAL PROJECT SUPPORTED BY A NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR CLINICAL PHARMACY

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Background

Hospital pharmacists in Italy are not as confident as many European colleagues in research activities involving original or published data. Methodological tools such as meta-analysis, pharmacoeconomic analysis and systematic review are insufficiently taught to hospital pharmacists and these skills are rarely part of the educational training for Hospital Pharmacy Students. Scientific Societies should take care of this to encourage data analysis and to improve research skills.

Purpose

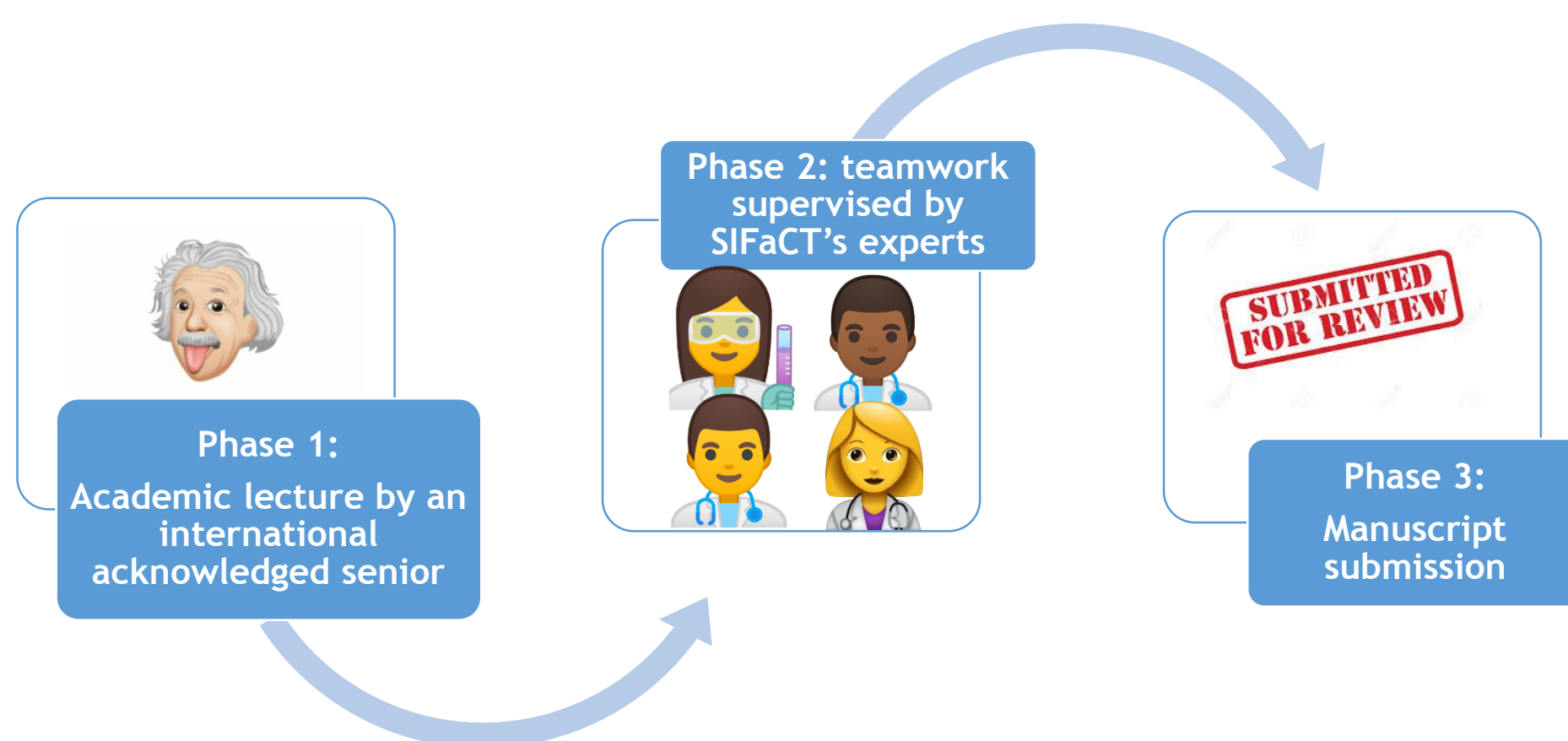
The main purpose of our project is to introduce some young hospital pharmacists to several methodological tools (e.g. meta-analysis, trial-sequential analysis, Bayesian meta-analysis) that allow rational and scientific interpretation of unoriginal data.

Methods

SIFaCT (Italian Society for Clinical Pharmacy and Therapeutics) organized a 5-days event to introduce young hospital pharmacists to specific statistical instruments. The organization provided a first lecture by an international acknowledged leading scientist, followed by teamwork activities and simulations. The project (*“AVVICINARE” = “Bring them closer”*) has an ultimate purpose: to permit young professionals to submit their first own scientific article to a peer-reviewed journal.

Results (1)

15 young professionals were selected and then divided in 5 groups. Each group received a *“scientific challenge”* or an *interesting topic* to investigate.

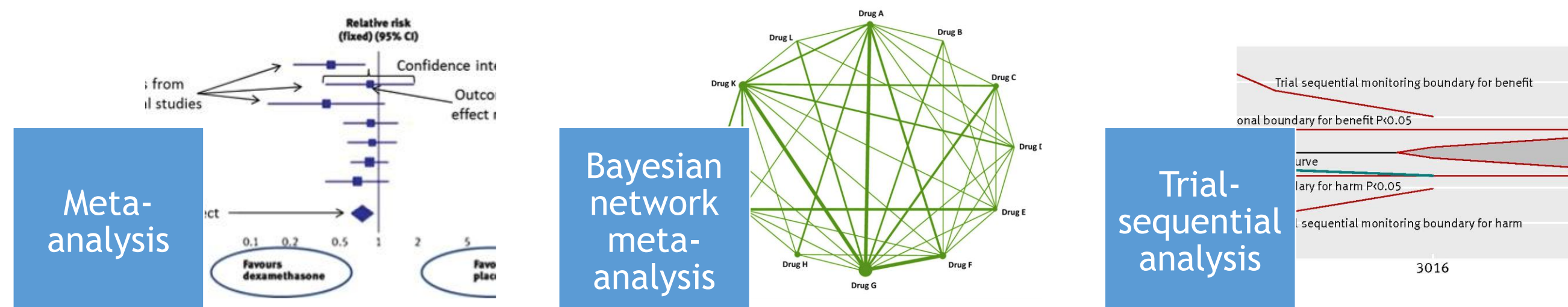


Topics investigated

- Clinical oncology and hematology
- Diabetes
- supplementary dietary intakes in chronic diseases
- Ancillary therapy
- Ophthalmology
- Biosimilars

Results (2)

Every group studied in depth its assigned topic and performed a methodological analysis among the following:



Results (3)

A month after the end of the project, 2 scientific articles have been published by a PubMed indexed scientific journal, one is currently on revision and the last 2 are almost ready for submission.



Trastuzumab biosimilar in metastatic breast cancer: Evaluating equivalence with originator using network meta-analysis

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Safety of intravitreal injections: Non-inferiority of bevacizumab compared with ranibizumab

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Conclusion

Hospital pharmacists should be more confident with several methodological tools. Despite this, education in this field is lacking both from the university programs and scientific societies. We encouraged 15 young colleagues to focus their activities on research with the purpose to take them to a new increased professional awareness. Scientific societies should spend more time, money and energies in these fields.

Acknowledgements

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