

The Doug Altman Memorial Lecture

Bayesian Approaches to Randomised Trials: Celebrating the Past 30 Years, Looking Forward to the Future

In 1994, Spiegelhalter, Freedman and Parmar published their landmark Royal Statistical Society discussion paper 'Bayesian Approaches to Randomised Trials'. In the discussion, Doug Altman said 'The authors have made valuable suggestions regarding the analysis and interpretation of clinical trials..... I look forward to seeing their ideas on the presentation of results put into practice in medical journals'.

Thirty years on, those medical journals regularly carry papers where Bayesian thinking informs both design and analysis of trials ranging from small early-stage trials to large, platform trials involving international collaborations.

We will reflect on that journey and then, like Doug, look forward to what further role Bayesian approaches can play in randomised trials.