Luke McGuinness

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Dr. Anna Chaimani

Chaire d’ Excellence

Research Center in Epidemiology & Statistics

Inserm/Paris Descartes University

Dear Dr. Chaimani,

**RE: robvis: an R package and Shiny web app for visualizing risk-of-bias assessments**

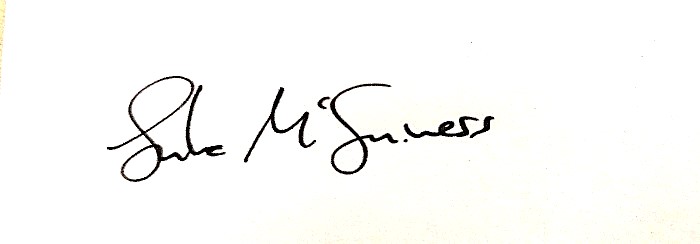
We are pleased to submit our manuscript to Research Synthesis Methods for consideration in response to the solicitation of papers for the special issue of on data visualization methods.

While the field of evidence synthesis software has grown rapidly in recent years, this growth has not been equally distributed across the different aspects of the systematic review process. Several tools are available to aid reviewers in performing title and abstract screening, but no similar time- and error-reducing tool has been proposed for visualizing the results of risk-of-bias assessments.

In this manuscript, we present robvis (Risk Of Bias VISualiation), an R package and Shiny web-app that allows users to create publication-ready risk-of-bias plots quickly and easily. We provide an overview of the tools development and functionality, and walk through creating risk-of-bias plots using the tool. Finally, we describe a roadmap for future development of robvis and how the tool fits within the current evidence synthesis in R ecosystem.

We believe that this report will be of appreciable interest to the readership of Research Synthesis Methods and will prove a valuable addition to the upcoming special issue on data visualization. In terms of the topics outlined in the call for papers, we believe that this article might fall within the “presenting new visualization tools” and/or “new software development” categories. This work has not been submitted or accepted elsewhere. Thank you for considering our manuscript and we look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Yours sincerely,



Luke McGuinness (on behalf of the authors)