

Undertaking a Systematic Review

- Creating a systematic review follows a **strict protocol**
- Medical researchers formulate a **search search** strategy as a component of the protocol that defines:
 1. What will be included in the review, and what won't be (*i.e. relevance criteria*)
 2. What sources will be used (*i.e. databases that will be searched*)
 3. What queries will be issued to each source (*i.e. queries issued to the database*)

Formulating a Query

- After a research question has been defined, a **query is formulated** in order to search literature to answer this question
- In systematic reviews, an (often) complex **Boolean query** is used in order to find citations
- Queries are formatted in an iterative process with the help of an **information specialist** and are submitted to a panel for quality assurance