

Health Research Observatory



Team Leaders



Tom Ling is Director for Evaluation and Audit at RAND Europe and project leader for the Health Research Observatory. He has a background in policy analysis and evaluation based on research and consultancy, and experience of leading complex projects in and around the public sector. His recent work includes evaluations of the delivery of health and related policies for the European Commission, the UK National Audit Office, and the UK Department of Health.



Amanda Scoggins is an Analyst in the Health and Healthcare team at RAND Europe. Amanda is the project manager and a researcher for the Health Research Observatory. Her interests include research evaluation, public health, environmental health, research management, and science and technology policy.

For enquiries about becoming an Observatory member or any further information on the Observatory's activities, contact Amanda Scoggins: e-mail: scoggins@rand.org or tel: +44 1223 353 329.

A RAND Europe Project

Background

In 2006 RAND Europe received seed funding from the Department of Health (England) to develop a **Health Research Observatory**. In its first two years of operation the Observatory has produced a website and two series of products. In 2009 and beyond the Observatory will seek the support and membership of organisations to ensure its activities are self-financing and self-sustaining.

RAND Europe is a division of the RAND Corporation, a non-profit research institution that helps improve policy and decision making through research and analysis.



Westbrook Centre
Milton Road
Cambridge CB4 1YG
United Kingdom
Tel.: +44 1223 353 329
Fax: +44 1223 358 845
Email: reinfo@rand.org

Health Research Observatory

Providing insights to support evidence-based decision making in the policy and practice of health research

www.rand.org/randeurope/healthresearchobservatory

Health Research Observatory

The mission of the Health Research Observatory is to provide insights to support evidence-based decision making in the policy and practice of health research through identifying and assessing international evidence. The Observatory team produces two types of reports.

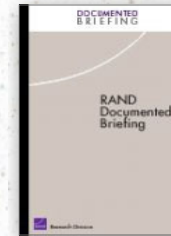
Health Research System Country Reports

Providing an overview of health and medical research in a country, each report describes the:

- **Structure of the Health Research System** comprising an overview of the public and private funders in the system, the funding flows, and how health research priorities are set
- **Processes and Performance of the Health Research System** with the types of funding available to researchers and ways in which research is procured and managed, and how the health research system is performing
- **Outlook** to identify current and emerging health research issues

Reports are based on document review and are peer reviewed by country experts. There are seven country-based reports: Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, Spain, Sweden, and U.S.A. The Observatory will produce four new reports each year, and updates.

“The reports are designed for policymakers, researchers, public and private funding agencies and institutions engaged in health research.”



Thematic Reports

These reports provide an overview of a theme of pressing international importance. The Observatory has produced four thematic reports:

- **Guiding Good Research: Biomedical Research Ethics and Ethics Review**
- **Service User Involvement in Health Research**
- **Health Research Evaluation Frameworks**
- **Comparing Health Research Systems**

Each report is based on international evidence and key informant interviews. The Observatory team intends to produce four new thematic reports a year.

Observatory Membership

RAND Europe seeks support from public or private organisations. Individuals can also become members. The advantages of membership include:

- **Providing input into the Observatory's research priorities**
- **Participating in the research by providing information to the Observatory team**
- **Accessing multi-country specific information on policy, strategies and processes related to health research**
- **Making cross-national comparisons and sharing good practice**
- **Early sighting of Observatory reports**
- **Engaging and collaborating with the Observatory members**

Over time RAND Europe intends to expand the products and activities of the Observatory to reflect the interests of its members. Topics of interest may include:

- **Methods for priority setting**
- **Evaluating the impact of health research**
- **Evaluating peer review systems and electronic grant management systems**
- **Mapping health research expenditures**
- **Mapping the success rates of health research funding**
- **Managing intellectual property in collaboratives**

www.rand.org/randeurope/healthresearchobservatory