ebhc CONFERENCE 2026

THE ECOSYSTEM OF EVIDENCE

Navigating the future
of the ecosystem of evidence

Artificial intelligence and digital transformation
in research and healthcare

11th EBHC International Conference
Taormina, 21st – 24th October 2026

#EBHC2026

30th 1996-2026 GIMBE EVIDENCE FOR HEALTH

International Society for Evidence-Based Health Care

ISEHC: EBM Education

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Educating health professionals in evidence-based practice in 2026

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Evolution of EBM

- Early formulation:
  - Formulate question, search individual studies, critically appraise
- Unrealistic – clinicians have neither time nor skills
- Alternative sources of guidance – pre-appraised evidence
  - Systematic reviews
  - Practice guidelines
  - Point of care summaries – UpToDate, Dynamed, McMaster textbook
  - Generative AI

EBM evolution

- Educators have not kept up – slow shift toward recognition
- Now should focus small set observable behaviors
  - Identifying relevant trustworthy evidence sources
  - Interpreting effect estimates and their certainty
  - Recognizing preference–sensitive decision to support SDM
- Formal research evaluations of little help
  - No sustained behavior, impact on patient-important outcomes
  - Experiential evidence

From Evidence to Evidence-Based Resources

Hierarchy of Evidence

for Primary Studies

Different hierarchy of designs for each type of question:

Therapy and harm
1. Randomized trial
2. Observational study
3. Unsystematic observational study

Diagnosis

Prognosis

Differential diagnosis

Level of Processing

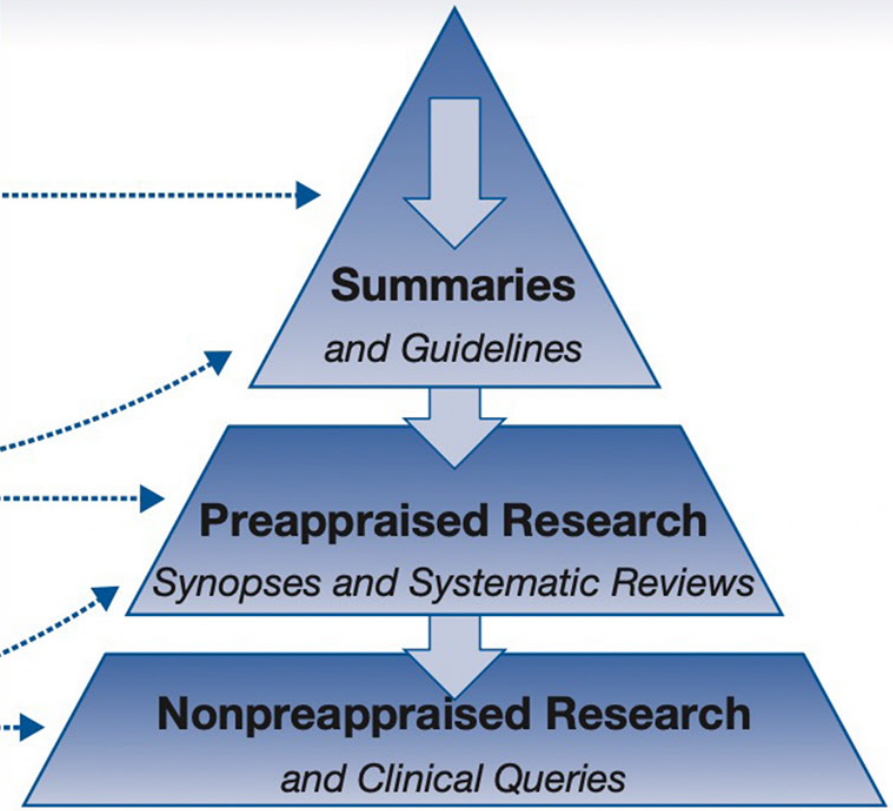
Guidelines decision analyses

Systematic reviews

Primary studies

EBM Resources

to Search for Answers



Recognizing Trustworthy Sources

- Effect estimates and precision presented clearly
  - Benefits, harms, burdens: relative and absolute effects
- Certainty of outcomes
- Transparent link of recommendations to underlying evidence
- Rationale for direction and strength of recommendations
- GRADE frequently used
  - If followed, source will meet these specifications

Guidelines/Point of care summaries

- Clear direction of recommendations (no “consider”)
- Strength of recommendations
  - Strong or weak/conditional
  - Strong clear benefits > harms, burdens
    - All or almost all fully informed make same choice
  - Conditional choice will differ according to values/preferences
    - Shared decision-making – focus on absolute effects
- Clinician skills:
  - PICO formulation surrogate vs PIO, magnitude of effect interpret certainty
- Evidence-based SDM as observable behavior

Generative AI

- Critically appraise evidence
- Summarize evidence from systematic reviews
- Summarize guidelines
- But only get the information if you ask
  - Skills of prompting, verification
- Ongoing work on prompting design, education: meta-prompts

Limitations/Risks, Prevention

- Unclear evidence sources
- Unsupported or outdated claims
- Variable performance across or even within settings
- Confident but incorrect
- Omission of uncertainty, limitations
- Clinician skills/responsibilities
  - Prompt for trustworthy sources
  - Up to date
  - Certainty assessments
  - Applicability to patient at hand
- 2026 basic skill

How to Teach

- Start and finish with the patient
- Role model
  - Summarization of relevant evidence
  - Reasoning of decision-making
- Differentiating value and preference sensitive versus not
- Role of values and preferences in decision-making
- Evaluation observable behavior

Summary

- Observable behaviors
- Unstructured to structured PICO questions
- Identifying relevant evidence sources
- Evaluating trustworthiness
- Interpreting effect estimates
- Interpreting certainty of evidence ratings
- Recognizing preference-sensitive decisions
- Verifying AI outputs against trustworthy evidence sources