

## OP25.1

### **Survey Email Scheduling and Monitoring in eRCTs (SESAMe): a digital tool to improve data collection in clinical trials**

*Trygve Skonnord(1), F Steen(2), A Fetveit(1), M Brekke(1), H Skjeie(1), A Klovning(1,2)*

*(1) Department of General Practice, University of Oslo, Oslo, Norway*

*(2) Centre for Medical Web Research, [www.cmwr.org](http://www.cmwr.org)*

*Corresponding author: PhD Fellow Trygve Skonnord, University of Oslo, Department of General Practice, Oslo, Norway. E-mail: [trygvets@mail.uio.no](mailto:trygvets@mail.uio.no)*

**Background & Aim:** Electronic questionnaires can ease the data collection in Randomised Clinical Trials (RCTs). However, we found no existing software that could automate the sending of emails to participants in electronic surveys. Our aim was to develop such software. **Method:** In an on-going RCT on the treatment of low back pain (the Acuback study), 270 participants are planned to be recruited and included consecutively. Each participant will be asked to fill in electronic questionnaires at 19 defined time-points. This would imply sending 5130 emails if not automated. We searched and tested many applications, but none of them could perform the task.

**Results:** We have developed the web-based application: Survey Email Scheduling and Monitoring in eRCTs (SESAMe) to be able to schedule and send emails in RCTs for the Acuback study. SESAMe monitors responses in electronic surveys and sends reminders by emails or SMS to participants. The response rate for the 19 surveys increased from 76% before we introduced reminders to 93% after the new function ( $p < 0.001$ ). Further development will aim at secure encryption and data storage.

**Conclusions:** The SESAMe software facilitates patient data collection in Randomized Controlled Trials. The application can be used to increase the quality of clinical research in general practice.