

Further reading

(Alphabetic order by title)

- Assessing the Social Impacts of Medical Technologies.
H. David Banta & Joshua R. Sanes. *J. Community Health* (1978) 3, 245-58
A general discussion of the principles for assessing indirect effects of new medical techniques on individuals or on social systems.
- Causal Thinking in the Health Sciences*. Mervyn Susser. Oxford Univ. Press, 1973
A well written book that provides working concepts with which to interpret environmental influences on health.
- Clinical Biostatistics*. Alvan R. Feinstein. C.V. Mosby Co, 1977
An excellent (detailed) discussion of the structure of clinical investigative methods, including the 'architecture' of randomized clinical trials.
- Clinical Trials*. Daniel Schwarz, Robert Flamant & Joseph Lellouch (transl. M.J.R. Healy). Academic Press, 1980
A practical guide for human experimentation in which the important distinction between 'explanatory' and 'pragmatic' approaches is made explicit.
- Conjectures and Refutations: The Growth of Scientific Knowledge*. Karl R. Popper. Basic Books, 1962
A collection of highly readable essays in which Popper develops his thesis that our knowledge grows through correcting our mistakes.
- Controlled Clinical Trials*. Official Journal of the Society for Clinical Trials. Published quarterly by Elsevier North Holland, Inc.
An international journal that publishes articles dealing with the design, methods, and operational aspects of prospective studies with emphasis on controlled clinical trials.
- Design and Analysis of Randomized Clinical Trials Requiring Prolonged Observation of Each Patient*. Richard Peto *et al.* *B. J. Cancer* (1976) 34, 585-612, and (1977) 35, 1-39
An exceptionally clear set of instructions and examples for design and analysis of long term clinical trials; intended for readers without statistical expertise.
- Ethics and Regulation of Clinical Research*. Robert J. Levine. Urban & Schwarzenberg, 1981
A thorough survey of the ethical and legal duties of clinical investigators, including an explication of the President's Commission ... 1981 biennial report on the protection of human subjects.
- The Historical Development of Clinical Therapeutic Trials. J.P. Bull. *J. Chronic Diseases* (1959) 10, 218-48
An interesting review of methods of therapeutic investigation from antiquity (procedures described in the Edwin Smith papyrus, ca 1600 BC) to the period just preceding the modern randomized controlled clinical trial (1949-51).
- How to Read Clinical Journals ... [a series]. David L. Sackett. *J. Can. Med. Assoc.* (1981) 124, 555-8, 703-10, 869-72, 985-90, and 1156-62
An invaluable set of guidelines for approaching the expanding volume of published medical reports. The timely recommendations are designed to assist readers who must separate the 'wheat from the chaff' in claims of innovation in diagnosis, prognosis, and therapy.
- Induction and Intuition in Scientific Thought*. Peter B. Medawar. American Philosophical Society, 1969
A reflective discussion of the shift from Baconian induction to critical experimentation in modern science.
- An Introduction to the Study of Experimental Medicine*. Claude Bernard (Transl. H.C. Greene). Henry Schuman, Inc., 1949
A translation of the classic treatise published in 1865 which describes the successive steps of scientific analysis and Claude Bernard's interpretation of the way in which the mind of a scientist goes to work on a problem.
- The Logic of Chance*. John Venn. Chelsea Publishing Co., 1962
(This 'Fourth Edition' is an unaltered reprint of the third edition published in 1888.)
A classic exposition of the theory of probability; the physical foundations and logical superstructure of the theory are discussed with unusual charm and clarity.
- The Logic of Medicine*. Edmond A. Murphy. Johns Hopkins Univ. Press, 1976
An excellent book that sets out in an engaging manner to cultivate an 'alert common sense' concerning the rules of evidence in medicine.
- 'A Logical Analysis of Medicine'. W.I. Card & I.J. Good in *A Companion to Medical Studies*. R. Passmore & J.S. Robson (Eds.). Blackwell Scientific Publications, 1974 Chapter 60 in this work presents a lucid discussion of the application of decision theory to medicine.
- The Profession of Medicine*. Eliot Freidson. Dodd, Mead & Co., 1972
A fascinating sociological analysis of the profession of medicine: a prime example of the sociology of applied knowledge.
- Radicals and Squares*. Richard B. Darlington. Logan Hill Press, 1975
An introduction to statistics written in a relaxed narrative style, supplemented with very useful chapter summaries and flow-charts.
- Retrolental Fibroplasia: A Modern Parable*. W.A. Silverman. Grune & Stratton, 1980
An interpretive review of the retrolental fibroplasia 'epidemic' and its implications.
- Taking Rights Seriously*. Ronald Dworkin. Harvard Univ. Press, 1977
A well argued definition and defense of a liberal theory of law.

Note that the National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit is a fertile information resource with considerable experience in the organization and management of multi-

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center randomized trials. The Unit is located in Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford OX2 6HE, England.

The Clinical Trials Centre is available to help and advise doctors about to embark on large prospective randomized trials in the treatment of cancer. The Centre is located in Rayne Institute, King's College Hospital Medical School, London SE5 8RX, England.