

Can We Make Meta-analysis Bulletproof?

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Many, perhaps most, meta-analyses are carried out by investigators who have some acquaintance with the basic methods, but are not experts, and who are not well positioned to keep up with the state of the art by following the meta-analysis literature. The results are often disappointing and could even be dangerously wrong. Many members of SRSM, and others, are dedicated to improving the practice of meta-analysis, especially methods; but even with major effort, we probably cannot make meta-analysis bulletproof. How close can we come? What steps should we take? I would like to stimulate discussion and, ultimately, to spur progress.