Table of contents

Contributors ix
Acknowledgements xiii
Abbreviations xv
Foreword xvii

Preface 1

Chapter 1. The role of epidemiology in cancer hazard identification by the *IARC Monographs* programme 5
1.1 Overview of cancer hazard identification in the *IARC Monographs* programme 6
1.2 Methods for evaluating human cancer studies in cancer hazard identification 9
1.3 Examples of current approaches to bias consideration in *IARC Monographs* evaluations 12
1.4 Minimizing conflicts of interest in cancer hazard identification 15
1.5 False-positives and false-negatives in cancer hazard identification: the *IARC Monographs* experience over more than 50 years 16
1.6 Conclusion 19
References 21

Chapter 2. Causal diagrams to evaluate sources of bias 23
2.1 Introduction 24
2.2 Causal DAGs to evaluate sources of bias 24
2.3 Example: building a DAG for opium consumption and lung cancer 39
2.4 DAGs and specific sources of bias 41
2.5 DAGs and multiple sources of bias 51
2.6 Signed DAGs 53
2.7 Use of DAGs in evidence synthesis 56
2.8 Summary 57
References 60

Chapter 3. Confounding: a routine concern in the interpretation of epidemiological studies 63
3.1 Introduction 64
3.2 Evaluating control for confounding 65
3.3 Tools for assessing bias due to confounding 73
3.4 Summary 82
References 84

Chapter 4. Information bias: misclassification and mismeasurement of exposure and outcome 87
4.1 Introduction 88
4.2 Qualitative evaluation of the direction of bias due to errors in exposures 90
4.3 Tools for quantifying bias due to errors in exposure 100
4.4 Outcome misclassification 110
4.5 Summary 116
References 119

Chapter 5. Selection bias and other miscellaneous biases 123
5.1 Introduction 124
5.2 Identifying selection bias in cohort studies 125
5.3 Identifying selection bias in case–control studies 132
5.4 Tools for assessing and adjusting for selection bias 139
5.5 Other miscellaneous biases 149
5.6 Summary 154
References 155

Chapter 6. Incorporating bias assessments into evidence synthesis 159
6.1 Introduction 160
6.2 Frameworks for incorporating bias assessment into evidence synthesis 161
6.3 Developing the bias-review process 162
6.4 Methods for studying multiple biases 167
6.5 Summary 172
References 173

Chapter 7. Study reporting considerations to facilitate quantitative bias assessment with access to original data 175
7.1 Introduction 176
7.2 Reporting considerations to aid graphical approaches to identify biases 177
7.3 Confounding 179
7.4 Information bias due to exposure and outcome misclassification 184
7.5 Selection bias 189
7.6 Conclusions 199
References 200

Annex 1. Evolution of the *IARC Monographs* Preamble from early investigations and reviews in the 1960s until the present day 203
A1.1 The beginnings: cancer in occupational groups 204
A1.2 Tobacco smoking and the emergence of new epidemiological methods 204
A1.3 1972: the first *IARC Monographs* 205
A1.4 1972–1980: *IARC Monographs* Volume 17 and Supplement 1 206
A1.5 1981–1990: *IARC Monographs* Supplements 4 and 7 206

A1.6 1991–2010 207
A1.7 2011 until today 207
References 208

Annex 2. Examples for which worked spreadsheets or R code are provided 211

Annex 3. Incorporating bias assessments into evidence synthesis 213
A3.1 Multiple-bias analysis: worked examples 214
A3.2 Overview of multiple-bias analysis of the data of Aliramaji et al. (2015) using pseudo-data and bias-factor approaches 217
A3.3 Sensitivity analysis 226
A3.4 A potential probabilistic multiple-bias analysis strategy 226
References 228

Index of examples 229

Index of tools 241

Disclosures of interests 243