



Richard Lilford

Methodological issues in patient safety and health services research



Professor Richard Lilford
MB BCh PhD MFPHM
FRCOF FRCP is Head of
School of Health and
Population Sciences
and Professor of Clinical
Epidemiology at the
University of Birmingham.
He additionally holds the
position of Director of

Birmingham Clinical Research Academy. Formerly
a consultant in obstetrics and gynaecology, he was
Head of the Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology
at the University of Leeds. His research interests
include the methodology of clinical trials, and patient
safety in labour and maternity wards. He also has a
long-standing interest in the application of Bayesian
analyses to medical and health-related research.

The methodology for the study of service delivery
research and patient safety research is a highly topical
issue – if there is no agreement on methodology,
then how can there be an agreement on research
findings? Richard Lilford will conduct an enquiry into
the epistemology of patient safety research. He will
start by clearing some philosophical ground, dealing
with such issues as 'objectivism vs. subjectivism' and

'quantitative vs. qualitative research'. He will then
discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the various
designs for service delivery research, before concluding
that there is no "one size fits all" solution

Date: Thursday 12 March 2009

Time: 17.30 followed by drinks at 18.45

Place: Room G73, Kings College London,
Franklin-Wilkins Building, 150 Stamford Street,
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To secure a place booking
is required – please reply
to kingspssq@kcl.ac.uk

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seminar of the PSSQ
Forum, to join the forum
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website:
www.kingspssq.org**

King's PSSQ Forum – all welcome