

Iain Chalmers, Coordinator, James Lind Initiative

Iain Chalmers qualified in medicine in the mid-1960s. He practised as a clinician for seven years in the UK and the Gaza Strip, and then became a full time health services researcher, with a particular interest in assessing the effects of health care. Between 1978 and 1992 he was founding director of the National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit (www.npeu.ox.ac.uk). Between 1992 and 2002 he was founding director of the UK Cochrane Centre, which convened the meeting that inaugurated the Cochrane Collaboration (www.cochrane.org), a not-for-profit, international organization that prepares, maintains and publishes systematic reviews of the effects of health care interventions. Since 2003, Iain Chalmers has coordinated the James Lind Initiative. This is a programme of work to promote public and professional acknowledgement of uncertainties about the effects of healthcare interventions, and research to address these uncertainties. The principal components of the James Lind Initiative are *Testing Treatments* and *Testing Treatments interactive* (www.testingtreatments.org) and *The James Lind Library* (www.jameslindlibrary.org), which explain and illustrate the rationale for and characteristics of fair tests of healthcare interventions; and the James Lind Alliance (www.lindalliance.org), which promotes research priority setting partnerships of patients, carers and clinicians. Iain Chalmers was knighted for services to healthcare in 2000.