MAGIC Response to the DSEN Consultation

Response to: Lawrence Cheung, Kendal Weber, and Tammy Clifford

MAGᴣC
Methods and Applications Group
for Indirect Comparisons

Summary

DSEN MAGIC has been incredibly productive with **61 queries** that are completed/ongoing and **79 associated methods projects** completed that were not funded by DSEN. DSEN MAGIC has the capacity, nimbleness, and internationally-acknowledged methodological expertise to conduct multiple types of knowledge synthesis, from rapid reviews to living reviews for DSEN KUs.

DSEN MAGIC attended the DSEN Evaluation Consultation meeting on February 10th and February 11th 2021. DSEN MAGIC is well-positioned and enthusiastic to collaborate with the development of DSEN 2.0. This 1-pager outlines DSEN MAGIC's achievements, along with our collective feedback to build stronger organizational relationships.

For more information, please contact **Dr. Andrea Tricco (andrea.tricco@unityhealth.to)**, on behalf of the DSEN MAGIC leadership **(Drs. Straus, Hutton, Moher, Wells and Ms. Kelly)**

DSEN MAGIC's Progress

♦ DSEN MAGIC has been working closely with DSEN knowledge users (KUs) since 2011 using an integrated knowledge translation approach on **61 (48%)** of all DSEN queries.

♦ DSEN MAGIC successfully completed **8 rapid reviews** in the 2019-2020 year with 2 to 3 week timelines for DSEN KUs.

♦ DSEN MAGIC completed **79 methods projects** to advance the science of knowledge synthesis, none of which were funded by the CIHR DSEN grant. The dissemination of these methods results ensure that leading edge and innovative methods were made available to the DSEN KUs.

♦ DSEN MAGIC has the capacity, nimbleness, and internationally-acknowledged methodological expertise to complete rapid reviews or living reviews for DSEN KUs needs, addressing concerns raised in the evaluation.

Feedback on the DSEN 2.0 Model

♦ Host organization: The host organization needs to be free of COI from industry, including accepting funding from industry. The host organization must have a strong understanding of complex methods required to conduct all types of KS, including NMA. The host organization must be at arms length; they must not be responding to queries themselves or implementing the queries, as this would be a COI.

♦ Scientific leader: The scientific leader must be free from COI from industry. The scientific leader must have a researcher background with experience in regulatory leadership. The scientific leader must understand the science of KS. The scientific leader should not be a pre-existing DSEN PI.

♦ Funding mechanism: Must have a stable funding mechanism to ensure the long-term sustainability and retention of high-calibre scientists and staff. This will also allow the teams to divert staff (for a short intensive period) to address the need for queries that are urgent in nature, as was the case for the MAGIC team during COVID. If more overhead is being charged for contracts, there may be decreased amount of funds going to queries. There is also a substantial administrative burden on institutes for executing contracts, which may increase timelines. Institutes do not value contracts in the same way as grants, as grants add to the "prestige" of the institute. As well, institutes place less value on evaluating researchers' career progression when they are attracting contracts versus grants.

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