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Access to Higher Education in India Persistent Issues and the Changing Context

12: Educational Policy toward "Homeland Minorities" in Deeply Divided Societies13: Improving Access to Higher Education for Students from Low Socioeconomic Backgrounds; 14: Higher Education in Africa: Challenges of Development and Gender; 15: The Development of Corporate and Private Universities in Ghana: Effects on Curriculum, Faculty, Access, and Equity; Part III: Europe and Oceania; 16: Access to Higher Education in France: Between Equality of Rights and Meritocracy, a Long Walk to Equality of Opportunities?

17: Equal Opportunity in a Public System: Experiences of Ethnic Minority Students in Dutch Higher Education18: Access to Higher Education for Students with Mental Health Difficulties: An Equal Opportunities Issue; 19: Altruism and Avarice: The Place of Foreign Students in Australian Universities; 20: A Dual Admission Policy: Enhancing Equal Opportunities in Higher Education through Merit-based Admission Policy; Index; About the Contributors

Sommario/riassunto

This volume provides a broad overview of recent higher education policy in a variety of countries, both developed and developing, around the world. Using interdisciplinary methods and analysis, it focuses on how diminishing governmental resources and expanding market forces influence higher education policy in different countries in terms of access, minority status (including ethnic, national and gender groups), affirmative action, quality, and performance.

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Titolo

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Small clinical trials : issues and challenges / / Charles H. Evans, Jr. and Suzanne T. Ildstad, editors ; Committee on Strategies for Small-Number-Participant Clinical Research Trials, Board on Health Sciences Policy, Institute of Medicine

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""Front Matter""; ""Reviewers""; ""Preface""; ""Contents""; ""Executive Summary""; ""1 Introduction""; ""2 Design of Small Clinical Trials""; ""3 Statistical Approaches to Analysis of Small Clinical Trials""; ""4 General Guidelines""; ""References""; ""Appendix A Study Methods""; ""Appendix B Glossary of Statistical and Clinical Trials Terms""; ""Appendix C Selected Bibliography on Small Clinical Trials""; ""Appendix D Committee and Staff Biographies""

Sommario/riassunto

Clinical trials are used to elucidate the most appropriate preventive, diagnostic, or treatment options for individuals with a given medical condition. Perhaps the most essential feature of a clinical trial is that it aims to use results based on a limited sample of research participants to see if the intervention is safe and effective or if it is comparable to a comparison treatment. Sample size is a crucial component of any clinical trial. A trial with a small number of research participants is more prone to variability and carries a considerable risk of failing to demonstrate the effectiveness of a given intervention when one really is

present. This may occur in phase I (safety and pharmacologic profiles), II (pilot efficacy evaluation), and III (extensive assessment of safety and efficacy) trials. Although phase I and II studies may have smaller sample sizes, they usually have adequate statistical power, which is the committee's definition of a "large" trial. Sometimes a trial with eight participants may have adequate statistical power, statistical power being the probability of rejecting the null hypothesis when the hypothesis is false. Small Clinical Trials assesses the current methodologies and the appropriate situations for the conduct of clinical trials with small sample sizes. This report assesses the published literature on various strategies such as (1) meta-analysis to combine disparate information from several studies including Bayesian techniques as in the confidence profile method and (2) other alternatives such as assessing therapeutic results in a single treated population (e.g., astronauts) by sequentially measuring whether the intervention is falling above or below a preestablished probability outcome range and meeting predesigned specifications as opposed to incremental improvement.
