Clinical trials and systematic reviews of clinical trials cap the top of the evidence pyramid, providing clinicians with the best available information about how to care for patients. Improper registration and non-publication of clinical trials and failure to identify completed but unpublished trials in systematic reviews pose major threats to the quality of this evidence base. Despite recent policies requiring the use of clinical trials registries by journals and the FDA, these threats remain incompletely addressed. Drawing on recently published work, Dr. Timothy Platts-Mills will describe current problems with clinical trials registration and reporting and the methodology of systematic reviews and describe policy solutions that are currently under consideration.

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