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## Title pages

**RANDOMISED CONTROLLED CLINICAL TRIALS****CHRISTOPHER J. BULPITT**

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## PREFACE

Bradford Hill has defined a clinical trial as “A carefully and ethically designed experiment with the aim of answering some precisely framed question” [1]. This definition specifies a careful design and requires the provision of adequate controls. Random allocation of treatments to subjects is important to ensure that the treated and control groups are similar. Therefore this book is entitled *Randomised Controlled Clinical Trials*. We can define a randomised controlled trial by rewriting Bradford Hill’s definition as follows, “A carefully and ethically designed experiment which includes the provision of adequate and appropriate controls by a process of randomisation, so that precisely framed questions can be answered.”

I am a firm advocate of Randomised Controlled Clinical Trials but intend to give a balanced view of the advantages and disadvantages of these ethical experiments. This book is directed primarily at the medical research worker, although certain chapters may find a wider application.

When discussing a randomised controlled trial, it is neither practicable nor desirable to divorce theory from practice, however the first ten chapters concentrate mainly on theory, and the remainder focus on practice. The segment on trial design is followed by sections on writing the protocol, designing the forms, conducting the trial, and analysing the results. This book is meant to serve both as a reference manual and a practical guide to the design and performance of a trial.