

## **Additional file 1: Literature search strategies for empirical and methodological studies on publication and related biases**

### **MEDLINE Search Strategy**

- 1 \*publications/
- 2 exp publication bias/
- 3 (bias\$ adj3 (publication\$ or disseminat\$ or language\$ or reporting or grey or gray or citation\$ or time delay or time lag or national or country or location or conference or abstract or duplicat\$ or multiple publication\$)).tw,ot.
- 4 ((reference\$ or database\$ or index\$) adj2 bias\$).tw,ot.
- 5 (file adj drawer\$).tw,ot.
- 6 (time adj2 (completion or publication)).tw,ot.
- 7 unpublished research.tw,ot.
- 8 (fail\$ adj2 publish\$).tw,ot.
- 9 Or/1-8
- 10 Limit 9 to yr="1998-2008"

### **Cochrane Methodology Register Search strategy**

- 1 "Study identification" or
- 2 "Information retrieval" or
- 3 "Unpublished data" or
- 4 "Missing data" or
- 5 "Updating and cumulative meta-analysis" or
- 6 "Prospective meta-analysis" or
- 7 "Small study effects" or
- 8 "Small trial bias" or
- 9 "Funding" or
- 10 "Outcome reporting bias" or
- 11 "Bias in review" or
- 12 (bias\* NEAR/3 (publication\* or disseminat\* or language\* or reporting or grey or gray or citation\* or time delay or time lag or national or country or location or conference or abstract or reference\* or index\* or database\* or duplicat\* or multiple publication\*)) in Title, Abstract or Keywords
- 13 from 1998 to 2008 in Cochrane Methodology Register