Implementing Bayesian augmented control designs into business practice

Insights and reflections on a journey from 'Why?' to 'Why not?'

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Inspired by patients. Driven by science.

Next 15 minutes



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Inspired by patients. * K. Rufibach et al. (2024), Implementation of Statistical Innovation in a Pharmaceutical Company, Statistics in Biopharmaceutical Research Driven by science. BBS webinar 19 March 2025 | Monika Jelizarow, UCB | Implementing Bayesian augmented control designs into business practice

Positioning BACDs in a first step: contribution to a greater mission

High-level schematic of clinical trial phases and **D**ecisions **D** involved:



Greater mission: decision making (next study, whole program, portfolio) with confidence & efficiency.

BACDs contribute to this mission by reducing

- patients-to-decision,
- time-to-decision,
- cost-to-decision.



Think Twice – Design Once.

Reducing barriers through tailored software: Smart Study Design tool



Commitment is key.

To quality throughout. To statisticians. To non-statisticians. To senior management. To ourselves.

In the following: will share some **reflections** on our **journey** from **tool to mindset**.



Reflection 1: seeing the opportunity for **technical leadership**

• Seeing the startup behind the project

- What is the product?
- Who are the customers?
- Who are the investors?

Seeing people development behind task completion

- Effort is long-distance run
- People-focused vs. task-focused planning ('talent factory')

• Seeing the space & need for methodological competence

- Effort is technical AND creative AND operational
- Crucial for effective advertising

Reflection 2: acting like a **partner** to **non-statisticians**

Being proactive about possible concerns

- Not wanting to innovate OR just not understanding the invention?
- Deep dive into prior-data conflict often door-opening
- Helpful material by Historical Data SIG (e.g. 'Sweet spot plot')

Non-statisticians DO appreciate details

- They actually need them
- Not done in one or two sessions BUT
- Demystification = catalyst for engagement

Communication success depends on BOTH sides

- Non-statisticians need to improve too
- Expect (willingness to increase) statistical literacy





Reflection 3: acting like a **partner** to **senior management**

- Transparency is key.
- Interest in business questions: we linked BACDs to UCB's data strategy key driver 'Algorithms As Assets (AAA)'
- Metrics: quantification of implementation success and impact

Example (dummy data):

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Overall avoided **by re-using historical data**:

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- **122** patients-to-decision,
- **10.3** M EUR cost-to-decision, and
- **21** months time-to-decision.

Reflection 4: acting in line with goals, not **Ego**als

Def. Egoal:

noun ; UK /'i:.gəʊl/ ; US /'i:.goʊl/

goal with a slightly irritating capital E standing in front of it, making the goal difficult to be seen, understood or supported by others than capital E itself

Transparency on novelty of BACDs

- 'Andy Grieve was doing this in the 80s.'
- Boosts credibility and openness to try

A. Racine-Poon, A. P. Grieve, H. Fluehler, C. Bartlett and A. F. M. Smith (1985): '[...] such information might serve either to boost the current information provided by very small trials, or to permit some reduction in current sample sizes if experimental resources are scarce.'

• Repetition is OK

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- Does not say one can only do this one thing
- Only says this one thing needs to be repeated

Embracing ALL opportunities

- It does not have to be Ph3 from the start
- Use PoC to generate knowledge, experience, and trust
- Prioritize 'innovation readiness'

• Selling is unhelpful

- Fear of overselling inspires systematic underselling
- Systematic underselling is NOT more responsible

Your turn!



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Thank you.

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