Types of Study Designs

**Less BIAS**

**Systematic review** -- Comprehensive, unbiased analysis of research findings on a specific topic which uses a strict scientific design to assess related scientific studies.

**Meta-Analysis:** -- Merged statistical results from a number of related studies.

**Double-Blind Randomized Control trial** – Neither the researcher(s) nor the subject(s) know who is receiving the medication or a placebo.

**Randomized control trial** – Randomly assigns participants into an experimental group or a control group. As the study is conducted, the only expected difference between the control and experimental groups is the variable being studied.

**Cohort studies** – A study where one or more groups of subjects (called cohorts) are followed prospectively and subsequent status evaluations with respect to a disease or outcome are conducted to determine which initial participants or exposure characteristics (risk factors) are associated with the disease or outcome.

**Case Control Study** – A study that retrospectively compares patients who have a disease or an outcome of interest with patients who do not have the disease or outcome (controls). Compares relationship between the risk factor and the disease.

**Case Series** – Samples patients with specific outcomes and specific exposure or just specific exposure. There is no comparison group. (weak study design)

**Case Reports** -- Reports that describe the history of a single patient, or a small group of patients, usually in the form of a story.

**Case Study** -- An intensive investigation of a case involving a person or small group of persons, an issue, or an event.

**MORE BIAS**