# Results and challenges in estimation for dose-finding designs.

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June 2026

Consider binary responses with dose-response function $F(x) := E(Y|X = x)$ increasing with a stimuli $x$ and aiming to estimate a value of the stimuli, $\mu_\Gamma$, where $\Gamma$ indicates a pre-specified, but unknown, value of the expected response. Motivated by the need to avoid extreme stimuli for cost or ethical response, dose-finding procedures are designed to concentrate stimuli in the region of interest, where $\mu_\Gamma := F^{-1}(\Gamma)$. But getting better estimates using such sequentially informative strategies creates special challenges. Issues include (1) the slope $\eta_\Gamma$ of the response function at the point $\mu$ requires increased attention as it potentially can tell the researcher(s) whether to worry that a small error in the $\mu_\Gamma$ estimate will produce a response rate far from $\Gamma$. (Flournoy, Moler and Sada, 2025). However, the concentration of these designs is contra-indicated for estimating $\eta_\Gamma$. (2) Bias adjustments are needed for MLEs of non-canonical parameters in nonlinear models, but additional bias is induced by the informative adaptation (Flournoy and Oron, 2020) which requires further mitigation. (3) Dependence induced by the informative adaptations is carried in the resulting random dose-specific sample sizes, which are not replicated in a study, and their associated components of the sufficient statistics are lost using likelihood methods. Is there a role for conditioning? (5) Information is lost (as has been reported group sequential designs: Tarima and Flournoy, 2024; Caruso, Flournoy and Rosenberger, 2025). Let's discuss known results raised by informative adaptation in the context of dose-finding designs and new potential approaches.