

CRG structure and function project: internal advisory group

What's the aim of the project?

The CRG Structure and Function project aims to identify a range of options for changes that will ensure that Cochrane achieves the goals identified in our recently approved Strategy to 2020. It is therefore a vitally important project for the Collaboration, and one that we hope will benefit from the widest possible engagement internally, and amongst external stakeholders.

How will internal input be included?

We want to develop a number of internal groups, all multi-professional and aiming to be diverse geographically, linguistically and also in terms of age, experience and gender, to develop our work on this project.

What's the likely time commitment?

Participation in the groups will be by teleconference and we anticipate that these will last no more than 90 minutes, will be organised to suit people living in different time zones and will each be limited to no more than 20 people.

Expectation that the groups will meet no more than 3-4 times in the next 12 months. We will send out agenda and questions for people to prepare before meeting dates.

What's involved?

We will begin by exploring the challenges and benefits of our current modes of operations, concentrating particularly on the facilitators and obstacles to achieving our strategic goals:

- To create high quality, timely systematic reviews and other synthesised evidence that meet the needs of health decision makers worldwide
- To ensure the widest possible access and use of our evidence by decision makers
- To be effective advocates for evidence
- To build a sustainable and effective organisation

This discussion will lead to further exploration where we aim to identify and consider a range of possible alternative models aimed at supporting Cochrane to achieve the ambitious targets we intend to develop.

Members of the group will be asked to think expansively and critically about where we are now and where we want to be, and to think beyond the confines of the status quo. They will also be expected to be willing to consult amongst their constituent groups, and where appropriate there will be some funding available to support some of the time taken on this work.

What's the outcome?

Our aspirations for this project are also ambitious. We want to provide the basis for Cochrane becoming much more international, to create products that build on the best we currently do and help to shape the systematic review and evidence syntheses of the future, and finally to create learning and professional development pathways for our contributors and employees.

Cochrane needs to attract and retain many more people, not fewer, although we may all need to work somewhat differently in the future if we are to deliver on our agreed strategic goals.

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