



Centre and Fields Digest



Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the 11th edition of the Centre & Fields Digest. The Digest provides information particularly relevant to Cochrane Centres and Fields, including consumers, and will include a round-up of pertinent information also published in the Community newsletter and on the Cochrane websites. It is the sister publication to the [Review and Methods Digest](#) published by the Cochrane Editorial Unit, which is sent to CRGs and Methods Groups.

ITEMS FOR YOUR ACTION:

1) Governing Board Members: Call for nominations by 19th December 2016

Nominations are now open for the election of four (4) new internal members of the Cochrane Governing Board. This will be the first election conducted under the updated [Articles of Association](#) and policies adopted following the 2016 [governance restructure project](#).

For more information, please visit the [Cochrane Community](#) website.

2) Consultation on the draft document *Consumer involvement in Cochrane: developing the Statement of Principles*: Feedback by 31st December 2016

During 2015, the [Cochrane Consumer Network](#) undertook its Structure and Function Review, examining key elements about consumer involvement in Cochrane, and the ways in which it is supported. The report from this review is [available online](#); amongst other things, the review showed that the ways in which consumers are currently involved in Cochrane vary significantly across the organisation.

To address these concerns, in 2016 the Consumer Network Executive prepared the [Consumer Delivery Plan to 2020](#). The plan sets out eight key priorities for the development of consumer involvement in Cochrane. The first priority is to “Develop and adopt a statement of principles about consumer involvement in Cochrane”. A shared agreement on the consumer role and how the whole organisation can work with consumers will help make our work clearer, reduce variations and improve our effectiveness. A task group has drafted the statement and your comments are encouraged.

Please visit the [Cochrane Community](#) site to view a copy of the statement and follow the links to the survey. Alternatively, please feel free to write directly to [Richard Morley](#), Consumer Co-ordinator with your comments on the draft, using the following questions as a guide:

1. Why involve consumers?
2. How should consumers better be involved in Cochrane?
3. What principles should guide consumer involvement?
4. What commitments should Cochrane make to its involved consumers?

3) Can you help Cochrane Crowd reach one million classifications before the end of 2016?

[Cochrane Crowd](#), Cochrane's new citizen science platform, is a global community of almost 4,000 volunteers who are helping to classify the research needed to support informed decision-making about healthcare treatments.

The job of the Cochrane Crowd community is to review descriptions of research studies to identify and classify randomised controlled trials (RCTs), a type of study that is considered the gold standard for clinical trials. Reports of RCTs are then fed into Cochrane's Central Register of Controlled Trials, helping Cochrane authors and other systematic reviewers around the world quickly find the evidence they need to help answer important questions about treatments.

Cochrane Crowd has now reached 933, 500 research study classifications and would like your help in a final push to reach one million.

Cochrane Crowd would like your help to achieve [one million classifications](#) by the end of the year. Help Cochrane Crowd get over the line by joining the 48 hour [Citation Screening Challenge](#) on 19-21 December.

4) Equity and Diversity Task Force: Call for members to join the working groups

Cochrane's recently established [Equity and Diversity Task Force](#) is seeking volunteers for three working groups addressing:

- I. Title registration process for Cochrane Reviews (Chaired by David Tovey, Editor in Chief)
- II. Other production issues (Chaired by Dario Sambunjak, Cochrane Learning & Support)
- III. Organizational equity and diversity issues (Chaired by Mark Wilson, CEO).

If you are interested in joining any one of these three working groups, or for more information, please contact [Dario Sambunjak](#).

ITEMS FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

5) Cochrane Library DVD production

We are writing to let you know that the Cochrane Library DVD will cease production, and the last available DVD is Issue 4, 2016. From January 2017, access will be online at www.cochranelibrary.com. The decision has been a hard one to make, but we have assessed the number of subscribers, the ever expanding nature of the Cochrane Library, and its required size on the DVD discs. It has been determined that it is no longer feasible to continue the production of the DVDs. Online access provides access to additional resources and the continuous addition of new content.

Cochrane contributors, including the Contact Person for a Cochrane Review, may be eligible for a complimentary subscription; see details in the Cochrane Editorial and Publishing Policy Resource (<http://community.cochrane.org/editorial-and-publishing-policy-resource/publishing-model/complimentary-access-cochrane-library>). However, from November 2016, the option to select the DVD option will no longer be available. This change will affect the following people currently receiving or eligible for a complimentary subscription:

- Contributors currently receiving the DVD will be automatically changed to receive online access.
- Contributors eligible for a complimentary subscription will only be able to select online access.
- Contact Person for a Cochrane Review published after this date will automatically be enrolled to receive online access.

If you have any queries about the DVD, please contact Wiley customer service (cs-Cochrane@wiley.com). For queries about complimentary subscriptions for Cochrane contributors, please contact Harriet MacLehose (Senior Editor, Cochrane; hmaclehose@cochrane.org).

David Tovey, Editor in Chief, Cochrane Library, and Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Cochrane

Deborah Pentesco-Gilbert, Editorial Director, Evidence Based Health Care, Publisher, John Wiley & Sons, Ltd.

6) Cochrane and Epistemonikos announce partnership

Cochrane and the [Epistemonikos Foundation](#) are delighted to announce the launch of our official partnership aimed at improving the knowledge base for making decisions in health care and global health policy.

Please see the [Cochrane Community](#) website for more details.

7) REMINDER: Structure and Function changes to Cochrane Centres

Supporting documents for the implementation of Structure and Function reforms to geographic-orientated Groups were approved by the Steering Group (now Governing Board), and endorsed by the Centre Directors, at the Seoul Colloquium. These were:

- [Cochrane's Geographic presence \(Paper 2\)](#)
- [Various process and planning documents for geographic-orientated Groups](#)

- A template for a Collaboration Agreement that will formalize a Centre's accountability to the CEO, to be signed by Centre Directors and/or their host institutions. A copy of this agreement will be made generally available soon. It is intended for Centres and not for Associates or Affiliates.

As a reminder, the Structure & Function reforms that had previously been approved include:

Structure:

- Centre 'Branches' have been re-named to 'Associate' Centres.
- Two new categories, 'Affiliates' and 'Networks', have been established.
- 'Centres', 'Networks', 'Associates', and 'Affiliates' are Cochrane Groups that act with a country or regional focus for the organization - *geographic-orientated Groups*.

Function:

- The functions of Cochrane's geographic-oriented Groups have been divided into four tiers to reflect the incremental increase in functional output of Groups as they progress from Affiliate to Associate Centre to Centre (and possibly, to Network). Tier One covers functions to be delivered by an Affiliate; Tiers One and Two by an Associate Centre; and Tiers One, Two and Three by a Centre or Network. Tier Four is a level of additional optional functions that can be delivered by any of the Groups.
- The key focus of the functions is around managing Cochrane's presence in the country or region: including building partnerships and other stakeholder relationships, and undertaking associated knowledge translation activities to ensure that Cochrane evidence is used in that country or region. The strong emphasis on work that facilitates uptake of Cochrane's outputs within a defined geographical or linguistic area, such as knowledge translation activities, is a significant change for some Groups, but it is critical to achieving Cochrane's mission.

Accountability:

- Networks, Centres, Associate Centres and Affiliates are ultimately accountable to the CEO and through him/her to Cochrane's Governing Board. However, direct accountability is established between the CEO and the Networks and Centres; with the Directors of those Cochrane Groups responsible for the support to and management of the Associate Centres and Affiliates who report to them. The reference Centre concept that over the last 20 years governed the relationships between a Centre and Branch (now Associate Centre) has been changed and instead accountability, mentorship and support relationships between an Associate Centre or an Affiliate and a Centre will be defined on a case by case basis.

8) Update on central support for EU funding

Given the ongoing uncertainty for EU funding of UK Cochrane Groups, as well as the Central Executive Team, due to Brexit, there have been in discussions about what central support was appropriate given that many fewer groups will be able to access EU funding in future.

Please see the [Cochrane Community](#) website for more details.

9) Cochrane UK & Ireland Symposium 2017 - Cochrane: Through the Looking Glass

Each year, Cochrane UK organizes an annual symposium for all its networks, including UK- & Ireland-based Cochrane contributors, researchers, health professionals, students, charities, patient advocates, and other interested groups. This year's symposium will take place at Keble College, Oxford 14th & 15th March 2017 with the theme - Cochrane: Through the Looking Glass.

For more information click [here](#).

10) Latest Cochrane Community news posts and blogs

- [Upcoming events](#)
- [Latest Cochrane job opportunities](#)
- [Survey round-up: December 2016](#)
- [2016 winner of the prestigious Aubrey Sheiham Leadership Award for Evidence-Based Healthcare in Africa announced](#)

- [Heart Group: targeting consumers on World Heart Day](#)
- [Communicating complex evidence: the danger of the misrepresentation and misuse of evidence](#)
- [Sexually Transmitted Infections Group: priority setting in a low/middle income country](#)
- [Reducing research waste – messages from the Cochrane community](#)
- [Screening Notes: Common issues in Summary of Findings tables and how to address them](#)

The Centre & Fields Digest is created by the Chief Executive Officer's Office on behalf of Mark Wilson. We intend to make it available approximately every two weeks and to bring together various items of content that we think will be of interest, to maximise communication and minimise inbox overload. If you wish to submit content please contact [Lucie Binder](#), Senior Advisor to the CEO. We hope that you will find the Digest interesting and informative, and also that it will provide you with opportunities for communicating your views and suggestions.

Best wishes,

Mark

Mark G. Wilson

Chief Executive Officer



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