



Centre and Fields Digest



Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the 16th 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) Cochrane Authors: invitation to stand for election to the new Cochrane Council – deadline TOMORROW 24 February 2017

Cochrane Authors, you are invited to stand for election to the new Cochrane Council! For more information, please see the [Cochrane Community website](#).

The purpose of the Council is to provide:

- A forum for Cochrane Groups to consider high-level matters affecting Cochrane as a whole;
- A mechanism to raise matters and provide input to the Governing Board on behalf of Cochrane Groups (and Authors); and
- A forum to consider matters at the request of the Board and inform Board deliberations.

2) Global Evidence Summit 2017: Call for abstracts open – EXTENDED DEADLINE 15 March 2017

Opportunities to present special sessions, workshops, oral presentations, and poster abstracts is now open for the Global Evidence Summit (GES). This is your chance to be part of the GES and we look forward to receiving abstracts around the theme: *Using evidence, Improving lives*. The GES replaces the normal Cochrane Colloquium this year.

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

3) Registration required for the Mid-Year meeting in Geneva – deadline 16 March 2017

If you are attending the Mid-Year business meetings in Geneva you are required to register via the [Cochrane website](#). The key dates are as follows:

- **Cochrane-WHO training workshop:** Monday 3 April, morning (this is training given by Cochrane to WHO staff. You only need to attend the training morning if you are one of the facilitators)
- **Cochrane-WHO strategic partnership meeting:** Monday 3 April, afternoon (all are welcome to attend this meeting, but please register if you are planning to attend as otherwise you will **not be allowed** into the WHO building)
- **WHO/Cochrane drinks reception:** Monday 3 April, evening (all are welcome to attend the drinks reception, but please register for this event if you are planning to attend as otherwise you will **not be allowed** into the WHO building)

- **Mid-Year Meeting:** Tuesday 4 April - Wednesday 5 April
- **Council meeting:** Thursday 6 April
- **Governing Board meeting:** Wednesday 5 April - Friday 7 April

ITEMS FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

4) Free use of Covidence for Cochrane Groups that are directly conducting non-Cochrane systematic reviews

Covidence is the primary screening and data extraction tool for Cochrane authors, streamlining the production of standard intervention reviews. Covidence's support of key steps in the Cochrane Review process, such as citation screening and Risk of Bias assessment, and improved links with RevMan make the review writing process more efficient. Covidence is a tool framed around a quality user experience, with a focus on being highly intuitive for authors to use, and tailored to Cochrane's methods.

At the Centre Directors' meeting in Seoul, the Central Executive Team confirmed its intention to provide free Covidence access to Centres for work that is undertaken by the Centre on non-Cochrane systematic reviews. We are pleased to confirm that this process is now in place. The Cochrane Editorial Unit will be routinely monitoring the access to Covidence under this agreement to ensure that it is being used as expected.

Who can access Covidence under this agreement?

This will apply to all Cochrane Groups - Centres, Associate Centres, Affiliates, Review Groups, Methods Groups, and Fields.

What can you use Covidence for under this agreement?

This is only for work that is being undertaken directly by the Cochrane Group that is not going to be published on the Cochrane Library, e.g. a systematic review of animal studies. It is important that this benefit is used only by members of the Centre for work that is led by and directly benefits the Centre. This access is not intended for members of your faculty who are also working on non-Cochrane systematic reviews. We also hope that you can help us promote Covidence within your institution and introduce Covidence to your library or other groups that might be interested.

To access Covidence in this way, please email Julian Elliott from the Central Executive Team: julian.elliott@monash.edu.

5) Announcing the launch of the inaugural Cochrane Scientific Committee

The launch of a Scientific Committee will strengthen the scientific integrity and oversight of methodological practice within Cochrane. This important Committee will support the Editor in Chief and the work of our Methods and Cochrane Review Groups, as well as colleagues working in our Centres and Fields across the world. We welcome the support and commitment of these thirteen colleagues. Members collectively bring a wealth of experience and expertise in methods development, and the conduct of systematic reviews with many receiving prestigious awards, honours, and prizes for their work. They hold senior academic and clinical positions, produce highly cited, high impact, including seminal, published work. Members also have expertise in guidelines, awarding and managing grants, software development and support many other high level committees and research organizations.

Further information about the Committee members can be found on the [Cochrane Methods](#) website.

6) Fast Track editorial process

As part of the [Structure & Function Review](#), the Governing Board has requested that the Cochrane Editorial Unit (CEU) looks at ways to speed up publication of high-quality, high-impact reviews, written by capable and experienced Cochrane Author teams. To find out more about this initiative, please read the information provided at the links below.

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

7) Cochrane-REWARD prize: call for submissions – deadline 28 February 2017

The annual Cochrane-REWARD prize gathers, assesses, and then publicizes good local or pilot initiatives that have the most potential to reduce waste in research if scaled up globally. Two prizes are awarded annually, but other shortlisted candidate will also be highlighted. The Cochrane-REWARD prize will highlight both underused "remedies" and the need to invest in research to identify problems and solutions to them.

For more information, please see Cochrane.org.

8) Registration now open for the EQUATOR Publication School 2017

Registration is now open for UK EQUATOR Centre's flagship Publication School, which is designed to build your skills and confidence to achieve success in planning, writing, publishing, and disseminating your research through traditional journals and other publication and media channel.

For more information, please visit the EQUATOR website.

9) Latest Cochrane Community news posts and blogs

- [Archie Update: February 2017](#)
- [Upcoming events](#)
- [Latest Cochrane job opportunities](#)
- [Survey round-up: February 2017](#)

Community blogs:

- [Cochrane Translations: How one volunteer used art to describe his experience as a French translator](#)
- [Vlogshots: sharing Cochrane evidence with moving slides](#)
- [Gynaecological, Neuro-oncology and Orphan Cancers Group: using the James Lind Alliance Priority Setting Partnership model](#)

The Centre & Fields Digest is created by the Chief Executive Officer's Office. 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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