



Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to Issue 33 of the Centre & Fields Digest.

This Digest provides information particularly relevant to Cochrane's Geographic Groups 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.

INCLUDED IN THIS ISSUE:

- **Registration for the Lisbon Governance (Mid-Year) Meeting**
- **Cochrane Membership – Next Steps**
- **Cochrane Reviews – Request for comments on guidance**

Please note that Group staff and contributors are not automatically added to the email lists receiving this Digest and other official Cochrane emails, even if they have been added to the Archie database. Staff at Centres and Fields should ensure new colleagues are signed-up to receive emails through the Cochrane email lists by contacting admin@cochrane.org.

ITEMS FOR YOUR ACTION:

1) Join us – Register now for Cochrane's 2018 Governance Meetings in Lisbon. Deadline 4 March 2018

The 2018 Governance Meetings will be hosted by Cochrane Portugal and held at the Tivoli Oriente Hotel in Lisbon, 19-23 March 2018. Governance Meetings are free to attend, but registration is needed to confirm meeting numbers and special requirements.

To register, please visit the [Cochrane Community](#) website. **Registration deadline:** Sunday 4 March 2018

Book your hotel: The Portuguese team have arranged several special hotel rates that are listed in the link above, so make sure to book your hotel before the booking deadlines pass.

2) Next steps for Cochrane Membership

We will soon be writing to everyone in Cochrane about Membership, for two reasons:

- For those eligible, we want them to activate their membership status
- We want everyone to opt in to receiving communications from us in future

All Group staff are eligible for membership - please activate yours when invited!

Who we are contacting

- We need to write to every contact that we hold on our systems.
- We appreciate that some contacts have a higher level of engagement than others, e.g., if you are an author on multiple reviews you are highly engaged in Cochrane work, but if you are a peer reviewer who once did a peer review then you may be surprised to be on Cochrane's systems. We are sending a variety of messages tailored to people's level of engagement, so that everyone receives appropriate messages.

When we are doing this

We will be starting in late November/early December, but we will be phasing the messages over a few weeks, so that, if there are issues, we will have capacity to deal with problems.

Why we are contacting people

We have two primary objectives for the mailings:

1. **Membership:** we will be offering all eligible contributors the chance to activate their membership.
2. **Data protection:** we will be asking everyone to 'opt in' to receive future communications in order for us to be data protection compliant.

We will also be asking people to set up their Cochrane account if they do not already have one. For more information, please see the [Cochrane Community website](#).

3) Request for comments on draft "Interim guidance on how to decide whether to incorporate clinical study reports and other regulatory documents into Cochrane Reviews". Deadline: 22nd December 2017

We invite anyone within the Cochrane Community with an interest in addressing reporting bias in studies included in Cochrane Reviews to comment on this interim guidance to decide whether to include this data. Draft copy of the guidance with a separate downloadable comments sheet and further information is available on the [Cochrane Community website](#).

ITEMS FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

4) Agenda and open access papers now available for the Governing Board's December 2017 virtual meeting.

The agenda and open access papers for the Cochrane Governing Board virtual meeting on 12 December 2017 are [now available](#). Cochrane's governing body is the Board, comprising [13 members](#) of whom some are elected by Cochrane's contributors and some are external members appointed by the Board. The Board is responsible for overseeing the development and implementation of Cochrane's strategic direction.

If you have any questions or comments on the agenda, you are invited to contact the Board Co-Chairs: [Martin Burton and Cindy Farquhar](#).

5) Information about search and browse issues in the Cochrane Library

Customer feedback on the functionality of the Cochrane Library is welcomed. Wiley and Cochrane monitor the feedback, and from time to time, significant issues are raised. There are three issues at the moment that may particularly impact users, including the Cochrane community.

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

6) Feature Review: What factors influence the provision of care by skilled birth attendants in low- and middle-income countries?

New Cochrane evidence synthesis highlights the many factors that influence the care provided by skilled birth attendants. In low- and middle-income countries, many mothers still die during childbirth. Women are encouraged to give birth in health facilities rather than at home so they can receive care from skilled birth attendants. A skilled birth attendant is a health worker such as a midwife, doctor, or nurse who is trained to manage a normal pregnancy and childbirth, and refer the mother and new-born when complications arise.

To read the full review, please see [Cochrane.org](https://www.cochrane.org).

7) Feature Review: Virtual reality for stroke rehabilitation

Many people after having a stroke have difficulty moving, thinking, and sensing. This often results in problems with everyday activities such as writing, walking, and driving. Virtual reality and interactive video gaming therapy involves using computer-based programs designed to simulate real-life objects and events. This may have some advantages over traditional therapy approaches as they can give people an opportunity to practice everyday activities that are not or cannot be practiced within the hospital environment, and patients may spend more time in therapy as the activity might be more motivating.

To read the full review, please see [Cochrane.org](https://www.cochrane.org).

8) Current Cochrane Jobs

There are several opportunities currently available. For more information, please see [Cochrane Jobs](https://www.cochrane.org/jobs).

9) More Cochrane Community news posts and blogs

- [Upcoming events](#)
- **The Recommended Dose: Episode 5 with Paul Glasziou** - Episode 5: Professor Paul Glasziou, Professor of Evidence-Based Medicine, Bond University, Robina, Queensland, Australia; and part-time General Practitioner
- **The Recommended Dose: Episode 6 with Prathap Tharyan** - Psychiatrist and would-be international DJ Prathap Tharyan joins Ray from his home in India this week to explore a fascinating fraction of his work, life, and philosophy

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 [Elaine Carman](#), EA 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.

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