



Welcome message

Many people have told me, and I agree, that they regard the recent meeting of the Co-Eds Board in Geneva as being one of the most successful in recent memory. An important aspect of this success, highlighted by many, was the number of Co-Eds who led or contributed to the discussions, including some people who have not spoken so prominently before. This led to conversations that were highly relevant to the CRG community, and the sharing of ideas and perspectives in a robust but highly supportive environment. In addition, the presence and contribution of the ME, IS and Methods Executive members for large parts of the meeting seemed a very positive change.

One of the most important areas for discussion was the ongoing sustainability review. As the communications relating to the Governing Board decisions show (see below), the paper and recommendations presented by the project team were accepted in full. The team now has the task of completing the individual CRG assessments, communicating their recommendations to Groups, engaging with CRGs during the planning of networks, and developing a strategy for the implementation of networks, that includes the appointment of Senior and Associate Editors. The team will meet periodically to agree its approach. We will then be ready to engage more widely with members of the CRG community and move forward together.

David Tovey
20th April 17

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The Board:.....	4

• approved the Cochrane Knowledge Translation (KT) framework. Next steps will be to develop the implementation plan.	4
• approved the Structure and Function Review Group Sustainability Report and asked the working group to carry on with its work. More information on this will be announced in the coming months.	4
• approved the Fields Structure and Function paper except for the proposed name change to Fields, which needs further discussion; requested that the Central Executive team (CET) work with Fields to develop an operational plan and continue to explore different models for Fields to take on review production.	4
• approved membership thresholds with a few modifications to the tasks required to earn membership. The Board decided that anyone who reaches a membership threshold when currently working for a pharmaceutical or medical devices company could not be a member.	4
• approved the funding request to support the Australian satellite groups with bridge funding.	4
• approved the recommended changes to the electoral procedures for Governing Board , with the additional stipulation that all official communications be under the scope of the promotion policy and should only be used to encourage that members vote, with no references to specific candidates. Nominations for the next round of Board members will open in the next three weeks.	4
• approved the recommendation from the Finance, Audit & Investment Committee that trustee roles within Cochrane remain unremunerated except under exceptional circumstances.	4
• approved the establishment of the three new Cochrane Centres in Austria, Croatia, and Japan. All three Groups will take on the full responsibilities of a Centre; previously they were Associate Centres.	4
• reviewed the latest financial monitoring report of Groups. In future, Groups who fail to complete the financial reports by six months after the deadline will be deregistered.	4
• asked the Funding Arbiter to undertake a new audit of compliance in circa 12 months' time.	4
• agreed the proposed changes to the CEU review screening programme.	4
The agenda and open access papers can be found here . The full minutes will be available soon.	4
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The Board:

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Best wishes,

Lisa Bero and Cindy Farquhar

Co-chairs, Cochrane Governing Board

2) Cochrane Handbook Editorial Team – New editors

The Handbook Editorial Team has recently undergone restructure to increase capacity and provide further involvement and development opportunities.

[Julian Higgins](#), [Rachel Churchill](#), [Miranda Cumpston](#) and Jackie Chandler welcome Senior Scientific Editor [James Thomas](#) and Associate Scientific Editors [Toby Lasserson](#), [Tianjing Li](#), [Matthew Page](#) and [Vivian Welch](#). We are also supported by an Editorial Assistant Laura Mellor.

New roles are assigned to Miranda Cumpston (Implementation Editor) and Jackie Chandler (Managing Editor).

We will maintain updates on Handbook developments [here](#).

3) Cochrane Fast-Track Service: streamlining of the application process

Author teams applying for the [Fast-Track Service](#) should now submit a draft of their review along with their [online form](#). This is to inform decisions at the triage stage – the decision to accept or reject the review for publication will not be made on the basis of this draft. If the application is then accepted onto the Fast-Track Service, authors will submit the final version via the appropriate Cochrane Review Group.

The Cochrane Fast-Track Service is a ‘journal-like’ process whereby high-quality, [MECIR](#)-compliant reviews that require no major revision, can be submitted directly into an accelerated editorial process. For more information about eligibility onto the scheme and details regarding the editorial process, please see the [Fast-Track Service webpage](#). For any other enquiries, please contact Karla Soares-Weiser (ksoares-weiser@cochrane.org) or Helen Wakeford (hwakeford@cochrane.org).

4) Call for applications: Cochrane Review Support Programme - deadline 19 May 2017

We are pleased to announce that the fourth funding round of the Cochrane Review Support Programme (CRSP) pilot is now open. Please see the [Cochrane Community webpage](#) for more details.

There are two important changes to note with this round:

1. The number of grants has been reduced to **eight** (16 grants in total for 2017).
2. We will now offer an **extended due date for complex reviews**. The due date for standard intervention reviews remains the same and shall be not more than 12 months from the date of the award, however for reviews that include complex methodologies or topics, the due date shall be not more than 18 months from the date of the award. More details about the eligibility criteria for the extended due date are available in the [guidance](#).

It is important that applications are made using the [new form and guidance](#). Applications made using the old forms will not be accepted.

Key features of the programme:

- All Cochrane Review Groups may apply for the awards

- Groups may nominate no more than two titles – either new reviews or review updates – from the [December 2016 version of the Cochrane Priority Review List](#). Titles added to the list after December 2016 cannot be proposed for this funding round
- 8 grants of £5,000 each will be awarded
- Reviews must be published a maximum of 12 or 18 months after the awards are notified
- All successful reviews must be submitted to the CEU screening prior to publication
- The funds are intended to accelerate publication of high priority reviews/updates that are already planned or underway and will therefore meet the publication deadline
- We will aim to decide the list of successful reviews and to have notified the applicants by mid-June 2017

Cochrane recognises that these awards are insufficient to meet the full costs of conducting reviews; rather, they are intended to facilitate and possibly accelerate publication of high priority reviews that are already planned or underway.

Applications close at 5pm GMT, **Friday 19 May 2017**.

5) New learning resource on Living Systematic Reviews now available

A webinar video series is now available for those interested in innovative approaches to systematic reviews. Anneliese Synnot from Cochrane Australia talks about Living Systematic Reviews (LSRs) and the pilot Living Systematic Review being undertaken by Cochrane.

You can access the webinar [here](#).

6) Sponsored Group registration for the Global Evidence Summit 2017 – deadline 1 June 2017

A reminder that the deadline for sponsored Group registration for the Global Evidence Summit is 1st June 2017. This covers the cost of registration for one person from each Cochrane Group to attend. Sponsored Group registrants will be required to pay for their own travel, accommodation, optional or additional social events tickets.

Early bird registration: Register before the 30 June 2017 to get over 11% off the standard ticket price for the GES.

7) March for Science - Saturday, 22 April 2017

A reminder that the March for Science is taking place this Saturday in locations around the world.

For more information on the March near you, visit the official [March for Science website](#), or follow the #marchforscience hashtag on Twitter. Please also check Cochrane's main news channel and follow us on Twitter (@cochranecollab) for the latest updates and resources.

8) Would you like to host a future Cochrane Colloquium or Governance Meeting? Deadline for submissions: 28 July 2017

We are looking for Cochrane Groups to host the 2020 and 2021 Cochrane Colloquia, and the 2019, 2020, and 2021 Cochrane Governance Meetings (the new name for the Cochrane Mid-Year Meeting). For more information, please see the Cochrane Community website.

9) GRADE-CERQual for qualitative research Methods Training Event – 13-15th June 2017

Places are still available for the GRADE effectiveness and GRADE-CERQual for qualitative research Methods Training Event on 13-15th June 2017 in Modena, Italy.

Two parallel training streams provide separate events with joint sessions to consider common GRADE concepts. For information please [click here](#).

10) Cochrane Scientific Committee inaugural meeting 18th May 2017

The first meeting of the Cochrane Scientific Committee will be held on 18th May 2017. Further information on agenda and minutes will be made available in due course on the [CSC web page](#).

11) Cochrane Vascular seeks Information Specialist / Systematic Review Methodologist – deadline 21 April 2017

Applications are invited for the post of Information Specialist / Systematic Review Methodologist, to work as part of Cochrane Vascular based in Edinburgh, UK.

Closing date 21 April. For more information, please click [here](#).