



Reviews and Methods Digest

I am pleased to be returning to work after my enforced sabbatical! I am very grateful to those of you who contacted me in the period after I received the unexpected news that I needed heart surgery, offering your good wishes. At a difficult time, your messages were very welcome and uplifting. I also owe a debt of thanks to the people who have risen to the occasion to keep things moving forward, despite being catapulted into a completely unanticipated situation. Foremost among these is Karla, who has worked ceaselessly and conscientiously to provide leadership to the CEU and its programme of work. She has been ably assisted by Harriet, Toby and Ruth, and others across the team, and many of you within the CRG community. The CRG Sustainability Project Team of Martin Burton, Nicky Cullum and Jonathan Craig also played an important part in ensuring that that project moved forwards.

Needless to say, I have returned to a period of high activity in the life of Cochrane and the CEU. We have three major projects that will be our primary focus in the next 6-9 months.

The Enhanced Cochrane Library platform has made terrific progress during my absence and as many of you who were able to attend the Global Evidence Summit will have seen, is looking very promising. We will launch it formally in 2017 but that will mark the beginning of a period in which the platform, and thus the nature and functionality of our Library continues to develop over the next few years.

The Governing Board gave its full approval to the proposals for the implementation of our Transformation Programme. As you can see, we aim to move swiftly with the appointment of [Senior Editors](#) and an Editorial Board. Work will follow to get the CRG networks up and running and to implement the findings of the Sustainability Review. Karla will continue to provide day to day

leadership for this programme of work. This is the first of many communications we are planning, and represents the beginning of our Implementation Plan. More will follow in the coming issues of the Digest, and also on our Community website, including an FAQ section that is currently in development.

Finally, the **Governing Board has asked me to lead a strategic review of Cochrane's content:** to consider the changes that will be needed in order that Cochrane continues to be able to provide high quality systematic reviews that meet the needs of future decision makers. Cochrane Reviews have never been static – change is inevitable. How will the future systematic review differ from those we produce now? We will need to consider different and new sources of evidence, new methods, and different types of questions, as well as addressing the clear trend towards increased complexity. I am delighted that Chris Champion will be assisting me in this project, as will other members of the CEU team. However, I will also need to consult and engage with many of you, to develop a strategy that really is fit for the future. As ever, your contribution will be vital.

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1) Cochrane is seeking a new generation of senior leaders for its Review Networks

Cochrane is seeking eight high-performing Senior Editors to lead the new Networks of Cochrane Review Groups (CRGs), covering review production areas of:

- Acute and Emergency Care;
- Brain, Nerves and Mind;
- Cancer;
- Children and Families;
- Circulation and Breathing;
- Long-term Conditions and Ageing (two distinct Networks); and
- Public Health and Health Systems.

Senior Editors will form part of the newly established Editorial Board for the Cochrane Library, **and will be accountable to Cochrane's Editor in Chief.**

Along with CRG teams and the Associate Editor they will be responsible for the oversight of strategic and operational activities within their Network.

Please see [this link](#) for more details.

To apply please send a letter, Curriculum Vitae, and letter of support to recruitment@cochrane.org by Monday 13th November 2017.

2) Decisions from the Cochrane Governing Board meeting - Cape Town, September 2017

Dear Community colleagues,

Your Governing Board met in Cape Town, South Africa, on 10-12 September. Information about some of our key decisions are available [here](#).

More information will be available in due course (as will the full open access minutes) but if you have any questions about these decisions, please contact any [member of the Board](#), or [Lucie Binder in the CEO's office](#).

The Agenda and open access papers are [available here on the Community site](#). The full Minutes will be available soon.

The next Governing Board face-to-face meeting will be during Cochrane's Governance Meeting, 19 -23 March 2018 in Lisbon, Portugal.

With our best wishes,

Cindy Farquhar and Martin Burton

Cochrane Co-Chairs

13 September 2017

3) [Announcing Cochrane Colloquium Edinburgh 2018](#)

The 2018 Cochrane Colloquium will be held in Edinburgh at the International Conference Centre in Scotland from 15th to 18th September 2018. It will be hosted by Cochrane UK.

The theme of the Colloquium will be:

'Cochrane for all – better evidence for better health decisions'

This will be a Colloquium for everyone. It will welcome newcomers to Cochrane from all parts of the world and from all backgrounds. One of the key aims is to increase the involvement of patients, carers and family members (healthcare consumers) in our work. As such, the Colloquium 2018 will be a [Patients Included](#) event that is co-designed, co-produced and co-presented by healthcare consumers and where everyone's input is valued equally.

The Colloquium 2018 will focus on the key goals of Cochrane's Strategy to 2020, looking through the eyes of healthcare consumers and in partnership with them:

- Producing evidence
- Making evidence accessible
- Advocating for evidence
- Effective and sustainable organization

For more information, please read the [full official announcement](#). Individuals are also welcome to share their suggestions for the 2018 Colloquium through an online survey, which can be found at the bottom of [this blog](#).

To keep up to date with plans for the Cochrane Colloquium Edinburgh, please visit uk.cochrane.org and follow on Twitter: [@CochraneUK](https://twitter.com/CochraneUK) and [#Cochraneforall](https://twitter.com/#Cochraneforall). Registration is scheduled to open in late 2017, and more details on dates, registration and the scientific programme will be announced in the coming months.

- Website: uk.cochrane.org
- Twitter: [@CochraneUK](https://twitter.com/CochraneUK) [#cochraneforall](https://twitter.com/#cochraneforall)
- Facebook: facebook.com/CochraneUK

4) In memory of Fred Wolf

It is with deep sadness that we announce to the Cochrane community that Dr Fredric Wolf PhD died on July 23, 2017 at the age of 71.

Beth Devine and Jeremy Grimshaw have written a moving [tribute to Fred](#), on the Cochrane Community website.

5) First publication using the Fast-Track Service now live on Cochrane Library

The Cochrane Overview *Strategies to reduce antibiotic prescribing for acute respiratory infections in primary care* is the first publication produced with the support of Cochrane's Fast-Track Service. You can access this Cochrane Overview [here](#).

The Fast-Track Service, which part of a pilot offered by the Cochrane Editorial Unit, supports expedited production of high-quality, high-impact Cochrane Reviews. For more information, please visit the [Fast-Track information page](#).

6) First two living systematic reviews now live on Cochrane Library

Cochrane has always envisaged a world where Cochrane Reviews would be updated as soon as new relevant evidence became available. Now, with a new approach to review production and clever application of technology, Cochrane is trialling a way to do just that. Anneliese Synnot of **Project Transform's living systematic review (LSR) team, in partnership with** pilot LSR teams and editorial groups, the Cochrane Editorial Unit and the LSR Network, has now published the first two living systematic reviews on the Cochrane Library:

- Akl EA, Kahale LA, Hakoum MB, Matar CF, Sperati F, Barba M, Yosucio VED, Terrenato I, Synnot A, Schünemann H. [Parenteral anticoagulation in ambulatory patients with cancer](#). Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2017
- Spurling GKP, Del Mar CB, Dooley L, Foxlee R, Farley R. [Delayed antibiotics for respiratory infections](#). Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2017

The above review teams have published a conventional update of an existing Cochrane Review **on the Cochrane Library that will be now be maintained in living mode. They've outlined their** plans for how they will do this in the methods section of the update. The teams will now be undertaking monthly searches to identify any new evidence relevant to their review, and communicating this to readers on the Cochrane Library.

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

7) Cochrane Priority Reviews List (September revision)

The September 2017 revision of the Cochrane Priority Reviews List includes new titles from the Cochrane Airways; Breast Cancer; Developmental, Psychosocial & Learning Problems, Oral

Health; Pain, Palliative and Supportive Care; Gynaecological, Neuro-oncology & Orphan Cancers; Neuromuscular Disease; Skin; and Stroke Groups.

Please see [this link](#) for a list of the ten titles that are now open to new authors.

Cochrane-wide prioritisation remains an important project, with 195 priority reviews or updates published since the project began in January 2015.

Please be aware that all titles in the priority list have author teams in place, except for those mentioned above. If you are interested in one of these open titles please contact the relevant [Cochrane Review Group](#) before submitting a review proposal.

If you would like to contribute more generally to Cochrane's prioritisation work, please contact Ruth Foxlee (rfoxlee@cochrane.org).

Download the Cochrane Priority Review list for 2017 ([September revision](#))

Ruth Foxlee, Information Specialist, Cochrane Editorial Unit,
Karla Soares-Weiser, Deputy Editor in Chief, the *Cochrane Library*

8) New edition of the Cochrane Handbook – chapter editorial peer reviewers needed

We continue to progress substantial updating of the Cochrane Handbook chapters to publish a new hardcopy edition and online version late next year. We seek peer review of all chapters from an editorial perspective on content and application of methods.

We seek both Co-ordinating Editors and Managing Editors willing to undertake peer review of one or more chapters. We want to encourage those working from LMIC regions to step forward. Peer reviewers should be very familiar with the current Handbook and the application of Cochrane methods. If you are interested in volunteering, or would like further information, please contact Jackie Chandler jchandler@cochrane.org.

9) Cochrane Style Manual: recent changes

The Cochrane Style Manual (<http://community.cochrane.org/style-manual>) is your source for guidance on terminology, names, and usage for Cochrane Reviews and other Cochrane content. The Manual is continually revised, and here are some recent additions:

- How to cite Covidence (see [Other reference types](#))
- How to cite a journal article with an article ID rather than page numbers (see [Journal articles](#))
- New guidance on usage and format of the degree symbol (see [Symbols and special characters](#))
- New page on formatting web addresses (see [Website addresses and links](#))
- Guidance on using trial acronyms in trial IDs (see [Reference fields](#))
- New advice on formatting gene and protein names and abbreviated names (see [Character formatting](#))

See [Latest changes](#) for a complete list of major changes. Suggestions for changes or additions to the Cochrane Style Manual are welcome and can be submitted via the [Cochrane Ideas Style Manual forum](#).

10) Closure of the Chicago Satellite of Cochrane Heart

The Chicago Satellite of the Cochrane Heart Group will close in September 2017. The Satellite launched in 2013 with a mission to:

- support existing US-based authors to prepare and update their Cochrane reviews;
- train and support a cadre of new review authors in the methods of the Cochrane Collaboration in collaboration with the US Cochrane to increase the output of the CHG; and
- advocate for evidence-based practice, particularly via utilization of Cochrane reviews, for cardiovascular clinical practice guidelines in the US and worldwide.

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

11) Two new Cochrane Learning Live webinars on statistical methods

The Learning and Support Department are pleased to announce two new Cochrane Learning Live webinars, organised together with the Statistical Methods Group:

Oct 25, 09:00 UTC – **‘Statistical methods for updating meta-analysis’** with Dr Mark Simmonds, research fellow at the Centre for Reviews and Dissemination, University of York, UK

Information and sign up can be found [here](#).

Nov 16th, 09:00 UTC – **‘Common errors in meta-analysis – lessons from the Cochrane review screening programme’**, with Dr Kerry Dwan, Statistical Editor at the Cochrane Editorial Unit

Information and sign up can be found [here](#). This webinar is especially aimed for editors, but will also be useful for review authors.

Also, we are announcing that the upcoming webinar **‘CINeMA – Confidence in Network meta-analysis’** with Georgia Salanti and Theodore Papakonstantinou (Oct 18th, 11:00 UTC) is now fully booked. However, the webinar recording will be edited and added to the archive of previous webinars, available [here](#).

This archive includes several sessions for those with an interest in up to date statistical **approaches and tools, including ‘A comparison of arm-based and contrast-based approaches to network meta-analysis’ and ‘An argument-based approach to aggregation of evidence involving multiple outcome indicators’.**

If any Methods Groups are interested in running similar sessions, the Learning and Support Department are happy to hear from them. Email: cwatts@cochrane.org

12) Cochrane Interactive Learning: a new online course on how to conduct a systematic review of interventions

This webinar, hosted by Cochrane’s Learning and Support Department, is an opportunity to find out about Cochrane’s new online, introductory course on how to conduct a systematic review of interventions: [Cochrane Interactive Learning](#).

Find out more and sign up to the webinar [here](#).

13) Health systems in low income countries - four new overviews

Four new Cochrane EPOC overviews of reviews show reliable evidence on the effects of different ways of organising, financing, and governing health systems in low-income countries and identify important evidence gaps. Strengthening health systems in low-income countries is key to achieving universal health coverage and achieving the health-related Sustainable Development Goals.

Links to the new overviews in the Cochrane Library: [Delivery arrangements](#) | [Financial arrangements](#) | [Governance arrangements](#) | [Implementation strategies](#)

For more information, please see [Cochrane.org](#)

14) **Cochrane Methods Groups' Annual Report**

We no longer produce the [Cochrane Methods](#) Library supplement as we plan to expand the CDSR to accept methodological articles. However, Methods Groups used the supplement for their annual reporting. We have produced this annual report in a newsletter format [here](#). We hope to use this format for methods news items every 6 months.

15) Updates to Covidence

Cochrane continues to recommend Covidence for new reviews. The Covidence platform has had recent product updates. Significant improvements have been made to data extraction and to importing. You can read about this and other Covidence updates [here](#).

16) Cochrane webinars on MAGICapp platform for review authors now available online

In [these videos and slides](#) Per Olav Vandvik from the MAGIC research and innovation programme demonstrates MAGICapp and discuss the context and importance of its development.

MAGICapp is an authoring and publication platform for guideline and evidence summaries. The platform guides authors through the different stages of planning, authoring, and publishing of high quality content. MAGICapp makes content available to clinicians and their patients in multi-layer format, making it possible to dig as deep into the data as needed to make well-informed decisions.

You can find the videos and slides [here](#).

17) New edition of the Cochrane Handbook – book review comments

Wiley received three book review comments on the table of contents for the new edition now underway. All reviewers agree the Handbook remains internationally relevant and an essential, unique resource for core systematic review and meta-analysis methods. They were positive about the continuing editorship of Julian Higgins and the previous coherent and well written 2008 edition. They noted the need to expand content and include additional material on upcoming methods such as network meta-analysis, which the Handbook Editors confirmed were included. They consider a new edition is timely. They encourage Wiley to publish this edition given its, and Cochrane's, international reputation, and expect it to sell widely.

18) More Cochrane Community news posts and blogs

- [Upcoming events](#)
- [20 years of Cochrane Skin](#)
- [Students contributing to the impact of Cochrane](#)
- [2017 Cochrane contributor prize and award winners](#)
- Cochrane Common Mental Disorders is seeking a [Cochrane Systematic Review Research Fellow](#) and [Managing Editor](#), York, UK
- Cochrane Pain, Palliative and Supportive Care is seeking an [Editorial Assistant and Systematic Reviewer](#), Oxford, UK

Best wishes

David

Dr David Tovey FRCGP | Editor in Chief, The Cochrane Library, and Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Cochrane Editorial Unit | Cochrane Central Executive

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