



Review and Methods Digest



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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 go to <http://bit.ly/2dQ0LKR> to view a copy of the statement and follow the links to the survey. Alternatively, please feel free to write directly to me 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?

Thank you for your help in this matter. If you have any other questions about the statement, please email Richard Morley at rmorley@cochrane.org.

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.

ITEMS FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

4) What is happening to the Structure and Function review?

As has been previously communicated, at its meeting during the Seoul Colloquium in October 2016, Cochrane's Governing Board (previously Steering Group) gave its full support for the recommendations in the Structure and Function paper relating to review production and impact (paper 1). In addition, the Board strongly recommended the appointment of a project team, to facilitate and expedite the initial work relating to review quality, with a view to ensuring visible progress by the time of the mid-year meeting in April 2017.

David Tovey reports on progress so far and what is planned for the next upcoming 3 months. For more details click [here](#).

5) Equity in the title registration process

There is considerable concern amongst review author teams from particular areas of the world that some Cochrane groups are discriminatory in relation to title registration. Some evidence in support of this was provided by a poster presentation to the Madrid Colloquium from the Argentina Cochrane Centre. Despite this, complaints continue to be frequently made by author teams who find that their proposed titles are not accepted by groups.

This issue has led to the creation of a working sub-group of the Equity Task Force, looking specifically at title registration. However, in 2016, one CRG, the Dementia and Cognitive Impairment Group (CDCIG), has introduced a process that aims to ensure equitable decision making.

The group's editorial process is outlined in full at its [website](#), but Jenny McCleery and Sue Marcus have outlined it for this issue of the Digest.

Authors teams are invited to propose a review title idea to the Managing Editor.

The CDCIG editorial team check that topic is in scope and not already covered. The title is rated for priority by Co-ordinating editors and at least 3 members of the editorial board, who are blind to the identity of the prospective authors. Amendments to the title may be suggested at this stage.

If the topic is a priority to the group, then the author team is invited to submit a review proposal form (RPF). The RPF is anonymised and is circulated to a minimum of three appropriate editors for comments and rating.

When rating an RPF, the editors are asked to consider whether:

- authors have demonstrated understanding of the key issues related to the topic
- methods suggested are appropriate, with no serious omissions
- team contains people with suitable content and methodological expertise.

Importantly, the editors are asked, as far as possible, not to consider the quality of written English in their overall assessment, but they do provide a rating on a 3-point scale:

For RPFs, this is defined as follows:

- 1 poor (demonstrates poor understanding of topic or methods)
- 2 adequate (demonstrates understanding of topic, methods might need amendment)
- 3 good or excellent (no more than minor comments to make)

Whether to accept a title is still ultimately a decision for the Co-ordinating Editor.

The system has been popular with editors. Their ratings are very often more diverse than the group expected, so this process cannot be deterministic, but it is helpful to have clearer expressions of opinion. Once the group has accumulated enough data, they plan to compare acceptance rates by country of origin and, explore whether any variation in acceptance rates is sufficiently explained by quality of submission.

More detail is available in the Our editorial process document on the CDCIG [website](#).

6) 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.

7) Methods in brief

- Living Systematic Reviews – Seoul Colloquium Methods Symposium 2016 information and [slides available](#).
- Recently cancelled GRADE and GRADE CERQual Methods Training Event rescheduled to 13th -15th June 2017 in Modena, Italy, further details forthcoming.
- Scientific Committee call for committee members closed. We received 55 applications. Decisions on committee membership expected soon after 15th December.

8) Update on central support for EU funding

Given the ongoing uncertainty for EU funding of UK Cochrane Groups, as well as the central team, due to Brexit, we 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 Governing Boarding Agenda

The Cochrane Governing Board, previously known as the Cochrane Steering Group, have a teleconference on 5 December 2016. Please see the [agenda for this teleconference](#). Decisions from this meeting will be communicated to the community shortly afterwards.

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

Each year, Cochrane UK organizes an annual symposium for all our 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](#).