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1. New Cochrane peer review policy

The [new Cochrane peer review policy has been published](#), and is now available from the Editorial and Publishing Policy Resource [here](#).

There will be a period of implementation between now and January 2019, during which time all CRGs will be contacted to assess any support required.

Please contact ME Support (MESupport@cochrane.org) or Bryony Urquhart (burquhart@cochrane.org) with any queries.

2. Cochrane's Future Publishing and Open Access Arrangements

Cochrane has announced important decisions on its future publishing and open access arrangements, part of its commitment of making Cochrane evidence freely and openly accessible to everyone all over the world. Please see [here](#) for more details.

3. New Cochrane Review showing beneficial effects of HPV vaccination

New evidence published this week in the Cochrane Library shows that human papilloma virus (HPV) vaccines protect against cervical lesions in young women, particularly in those who are vaccinated between the ages of 15 and 26. It also summarizes findings on harms that have been assessed in randomized controlled trials.

There has already been [extensive media coverage](#). You can read about [reactions from experts in the field](#) and our [press release](#).

You can find the full review [here](#).

4. Colloquium News – awards and meetings

Submission for the annual Cochrane awards and prizes is now open (closing 29 June). These will be presented at Cochrane Colloquium Edinburgh 2018: <https://buff.ly/2KB4N7G>

If you'd like to hold a business meeting during the Colloquium, the meeting request form is now also open: <https://buff.ly/2FJhdXh>

5. Sponsored group registration

To the contact people of all Cochrane Groups,

As in previous years, Cochrane will pay one registration fee for each registered Cochrane Group to attend the Colloquium. Sponsored group registrants will be required to pay for their own travel, accommodation, optional, or additional social events tickets.

To claim your sponsored group registration, you are required to complete this online form (<https://colloquium.cochrane.org/node/add/sponsored-entity>) on behalf of the person who is to be nominated for the sponsored place, for your Group (either yourself or a colleague).

The submission deadline has been updated to Friday 8 June 2018. This deadline will not be extended.

If you experience any problems in registering yourself or a colleague for the sponsored place, please email sponsoredgroup@cochrane.org.

Kind regards,

Holly

Holly Millward
Events and Brand Support Officer

6. Apply for the Cochrane-REWARD prize for reducing waste in research

Final call for nominations for the 2018 prize.

Deadline for nominations is 15th May 2018

An estimated \$170 billion of research funding is wasted each year because its outcomes cannot be used. The waste occurs during 5 stages of research production: question selection, study design, research conduct, publication, and reporting. Much of this waste appears to be avoidable or remediable, but there are few proposed solutions.

To stimulate and promote research in this area, Cochrane announces the Cochrane-REWARD prize.

All nominations will be assessed using the following criteria:

1. The nominee has addressed at least one of the 5 stages of research waste (questions, design, conduct, publication, reporting) in the area of health;
2. The nominee has pilot or more definitive data showing the initiative can lower waste;
3. The initiative can be scaled up;
4. The estimated potential reduction in research waste that the initiative might achieve.

Nominations for the 2018 prize, should be submitted by 15 May 2018. Two prizes will be awarded (a 1st prize of £1500 and a 2nd prize of £1000), but other shortlisted candidates will also be highlighted to help disseminate good ideas.

The winners of the 2018 prize will be announced at the Cochrane Colloquium, Edinburgh, 16-18 September, 2018.

[Click here for more information on the prize and how to submit a nomination](#)

7. Data protection changes relating to how personal data are stored

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) from the EU comes into effect on the 25th May 2018. This requires stricter data protection policies and practices in any organization that holds data on any EU citizens. Within Cochrane, we have reviewed our policies to ensure we are compliant, which includes our new membership database that manages consent to receive communications.

One key issue that affects Cochrane Groups is how data are stored on individuals. Cochrane provides central systems to store personal data and we would encourage you to use these systems. This ensures that all data is centrally, securely managed and kept up to date. This means only using Archie to store data on people. In this brief document we explain why this is preferable to using spreadsheets or other local systems.

To comply with the legislation, you need to:

- keep data secure,
- keep data up to date,
- ensure data held are correct; and
- ensure data held are relevant.

Complying with the legislation is easier to do on a centralized database. Using central systems means that Cochrane has more control over what is stored, why and how, which is of benefit in demonstrating compliance with the GDPR.

For example, if a person changes their email address, this can be updated in one place quickly and efficiently. However, if their information is kept in multiple locations/spreadsheets throughout Cochrane, contact details will not be updated in all locations, and incorrect details will be used to contact people and Cochrane will be holding out of date data, which breaks the rules. Contact preferences can also be maintained in one place, rather than multiple places, which allows us to avoid contacting people who have asked not to be contacted. Furthermore, if someone requests to see what personal data we hold about them, we can share that accurately. With a single database we can control what personal data are stored and meet the principle of what purpose we hold the data for and how much data. Spreadsheets, on the other hand, are uncontrolled and can contain excessive, unnecessary information.

Data can be kept on spreadsheets, but they have to be securely stored, with relevant access controls, encryption and written procedures on how the spreadsheet is kept up to date, relevant and correct. If it is printed out, it should be stored securely (e.g. in a locked cupboard and keys not left on a desk), no copies left on desks/photocopiers and securely destroyed when no longer needed. Spreadsheets are easier to share too, which has risks attached.

Fundamentally, storing information on a centralized database means it is easier for Cochrane to meet the 8 principles of the GDPR.

Please take this opportunity to review the data you hold locally in spreadsheets or similar formats outside of Archie (lists of peer reviewers, editors, consumer contracts, etc.), and ask yourself:

- Is it necessary to store this personal data, if so what is the reason? If not, please delete/securely destroy it.
- Is storing all of the personal data necessary or just some of it, if the latter, remove unnecessary data.

- If storing the personal data is necessary, could this be stored on Archie instead, if not why not? If it can, please add all relevant details to Archie and delete/destroy the spreadsheets.
- If it is necessary **to store the data and it can't be stored in Archie, please document how you will keep it up to date and ensure its security as described in the document above.**

If you have any questions about this or need further assistance, please contact the community support team: support@cochrane.org

8. More Cochrane Community news posts and blogs

- [Upcoming events](#)
- [Several positions within Cochrane are currently advertised](#)

Upcoming webinars, workshops and training events:

9. Webinar series: editorial and publication policy – 15th May 2018

The next editorial and publication policy webinar will take place on Tuesday 15 May at 12:00 BST (13:00 CEST), and is an editorial and publication policy surgery. In this webinar there will **be a brief introduction to Cochrane's editorial and publishing policy pipeline, and then an open forum.** This is an opportunity for any CRG staff to discuss specific cases and to ask questions about policies and policy implementation.

Please sign-up here if you would like to attend:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3424859262693175555>

All webinars in this series are be recorded and available to view from the Cochrane Training website for those unable to attend.

If you have any questions about the webinars, or would like to suggest topics for future webinars, please contact Bryony Urquhart (burquhart@cochrane.org).

10. Cochrane Classmate webinar – 17th May 2018

Looking for an innovative tool to teach evidence production? Cochrane Classmate might well be the answer!

Classmate is a trainers' toolkit that allows you to create exciting, interactive tasks that help your students learn about evidence production. It is easy to use, and its first release is now available free of charge to anyone interested.

Register for the webinar happening on 17 May: <https://www.cochrane.org/news/cochrane-classmate-webinar-17-may-2018>

11. Pre- and post-Colloquium workshops – 15th and 19th Sept 2018

Please see [here](#) for a list of full-/half-day workshops that are not part of the four-day Colloquium programme but will be of interest to participants at the Colloquium. They are intended to further the event goals, foster interaction and the development of partnerships, and have broad appeal across sectors.

The first five on the list are Methods workshops, which will take place before the Colloquium.

Registration is now open: <https://colloquium.cochrane.org/pre-and-post-colloquium-workshops>

12. David Moher Cochrane Methods Symposium: Bias and Beyond - 15th Sept 2018

Registration now open

Organisers: Doug Altman, Isabelle Boutron, Asbjørn Hróbjartsson, Matthew Page, Camilla Hansen

Date and time: 15th September 2018, 1:30pm - 5:30pm

Venue: 2018 Cochrane Colloquium Edinburgh, Edinburgh International Conference Centre

After many years as a co-convenor of the Cochrane Bias Methods Group, David Moher decided to step down from the leadership in 2017.

This is a good occasion to celebrate his contribution to methods research and to pause and reflect on the status of methods research today. Our intention with the symposium is thus both **to celebrate David's very considerable impact on research synthesis methodology and to** provide an overview of selected hot topics within methods research relevant for the broader Cochrane community.

The program is under development, but will be announced when finalised. Please check the [Colloquium website](#) for more information as it becomes available.

13. Cochrane Learning Live – Upcoming webinar programme – June-July 2018

Undertaking a qualitative evidence synthesis to support decision-making in a Cochrane context: 14th June 2018

In Cochrane, qualitative evidence syntheses must be linked with a named intervention effect review and are undertaken to explore specific phenomena of interest, such as: complexity, heterogeneity; variation in outcomes; implementation, feasibility, acceptability etc.

New Cochrane Qualitative and Implementation Methods Guidance published in the Journal of Clinical Epidemiology in December 2017 outlines three qualitative evidence synthesis methods to select from. These methods will be presented and their applicability discussed.

This webinar is intended for review authors who want to or have conducted a qualitative evidence synthesis to subsequently integrate with a Cochrane effect review. It will consist of brief presentations followed by Q&A sessions. More info and sign-up via

<http://training.cochrane.org/undertaking-qualitative-evidence-synthesis-support-decision-making-cochrane-context>

Meta-analysis of time-to-event data: 3rd July 2018

Time-to-event data, such as time to death or time to first seizure, are commonly used outcomes in medical research to summarise the length of time taken for a particular event of interest to occur. In this webinar, Catrin Tudur Smith will explain how to undertake a meta-analysis of time-to-event data.

Methods for analysis of time-to-event data need to account for both the time to event and any related but unobserved events. Meta-analysis of time-to-event outcomes can be undertaken using data extracted from trial reports using a variety of different methods that will be described in this webinar.

This webinar is organized by the Cochrane Statistical Methods Group, with support from Cochrane's Membership, Learning and Support Services. The 1-hour webinar will consist of a presentation, questions and answers, and a practical exercise that participants will be able to complete offline, at their own time. The solution to the exercise will be provided after the webinar.

More info and sign-up via <http://training.cochrane.org/meta-analysis-time-event-data>

14. Systematic reviews of diagnostic studies - 25th-26th June 2018

The forthcoming [two-day training event on DTA reviews](#) has unfortunately been postponed due to illness. It will now be held on:

25-26 June 2018 - still in Vienna

This workshop is organised by Cochrane Austria, Cochrane Netherlands and the Cochrane Screening and Diagnostic Test Methods Group.