

Reviews and Methods Digest

22nd September 2016

Dear Colleagues

The CEU Review and Methods Digest this week covers the following areas:

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For Information:

1. Cochrane announces support of new donor

Cochrane has received more than \$1m to fund a linked data project focused on child and maternal health from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

You can read more about this [here](#).

2. Cochrane priority review list - Sept 2016 revision

Cochrane-wide prioritisation remains an important project and has been included in the Strategy to 2020 Targets for 2016. Almost 120 priority reviews or updates have been published since the project began.

The September 2016 revision of the Cochrane Priority Reviews List includes new titles from the Cochrane Acute Respiratory Infections, Airways, Injuries, Gynaecology and Fertility, Hepato-Biliary, Oral Health, Skin, Tobacco Addiction, and Vascular Groups.

The following titles on the list are open to new authors:

- Drugs for preventing postoperative nausea and vomiting
- Effectiveness and safety of skin testing before providing penicillin treatment for syphilis

- Individualised ovarian stimulation protocols in women undergoing IVF/ICSI (open to statistician and author with clinical expertise)
- Treatment for ALK-positive lung cancer
- Vaginal douching for STI prevention

If you would like to contribute in any way to our goal of delivering the reviews through to publication, please contact the Editor in Chief, David Tovey (dtovey@cochrane.org). Please be aware that all titles in the priority list have author teams in place, except for those mentioned above and any others that have been specifically highlighted.

[Download](#) the Cochrane Priority Review list for 2016 (September revision) (spreadsheet or pdf)

Ruth Foxlee, Information Specialist, Cochrane Editorial Unit
David Tovey, Editor in Chief, *The Cochrane Library*, and Deputy Chief Executive Officer

3. Update on Cochrane's open access policy and licence for publication forms

We are pleased to provide an update on Cochrane's open access policy, which has been in place since February 2013. The open access policy aims to broaden access to Cochrane Reviews (including protocols) and generate greater impact. Since February 2013, Cochrane Reviews have been free to view 12 months after publication (green open access) via the *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (CDSR)* in the [Cochrane Library](#). Alternatively, authors have had a choice to select a Creative Commons licence for immediate open access upon payment of an article publication charge (gold open access). In October 2015, the Cochrane Steering Group reviewed this policy and approved some extensions to it. As a result of this we have completed two key developments to allow Cochrane Reviews to be accessed more easily and openly. The first change is to make protocols for Cochrane Reviews free to view immediately upon publication in the *CDSR*, and the second change is to automate the process of depositing Cochrane Reviews in PubMedCentral. We anticipate that these changes will lead to greater dissemination of Cochrane Reviews and an increased impact from our current open access policy. Full details of these changes are below and in the [Cochrane Editorial and Publishing Policy Resource \(EPPR\)](#).

Changes to the open access policy

The Cochrane Steering Group approved the following changes to the Cochrane's open access policy for Cochrane Reviews and protocols for Cochrane Reviews (<http://community-archive.cochrane.org/news/tags/authors/cochrane-steering-group-announces-main-decisions-meeting-vienna>):

- Protocols free to view upon publication
- Cochrane Reviews deposited in PubMedCentral and available to users 12 months after publication in the *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (CDSR)*.

Protocols free to view upon publication

Protocols have been free to view in the *CDSR* in the Cochrane Library (www.cochranelibrary.com) since 1 March 2016. [Details of this change](#) are in the EPPR.

Cochrane Reviews deposited in PubMedCentral

Cochrane Reviews published from 21 September 2016 onwards are being deposited in

PubMedCentral on the authors' behalf. As described in the [policy details](#), the contact author for the review will need to approve deposition. The Cochrane Reviews will be available to view in PubMedCentral 12 months after publication in the *CDSR*.

These changes are reflected in the updated open access policy in the EPPR:

- Open access options for the Cochrane Library ([link](#))
- Posting Cochrane Reviews and Protocols in Scholarly Collaboration Networks (SCNs) and repositories, including PubMedCentral ([link](#))

Changes to the licence for publication forms

The licence for publication forms for Cochrane Reviews and protocols for Cochrane Reviews have been updated to reflect the changes in the open access policy along with some other general updates. The updated versions are now in Archie for authors to sign (and replace previous versions). The process to sign licence for publication forms has not changed. All versions are also available to view in full, along with introductory information, in the EPPR ([link](#)).

The updates include changes in the standard licences (for green open access) and Creative Commons licences (for gold open access), the PAHO and WHO addenda for standard licences, and new PAHO and WHO addenda for Creative Commons licences. Version numbers have been applied to the licences. See the EPPR for a [list of the changes across versions](#).

As an example, the following changes were made to the updated standard licence for publication form:

- Field added for digital object identifier (DOI) version number.
- Revised authorship criteria for consistency with ICMJE criteria. (Authorship policy also updated in line with this: [link](#))
- Authors are directed to the Cochrane Editorial and Publishing Policy Resource for Cochrane's updating policy.
- Removed text about Cochrane Review Group approval ahead of publication (now located in the EPPR: [link](#)).
- Updated the following author rights:
 - o Revised the rights to post in repositories and Scholarly Collaboration Networks (SCNs).
 - o Added sharing rights with colleagues.
- Updated hyperlinks and minor text edit updates, including the addition of generic email addresses for all Wiley contacts and directing authors to Rightslink for permission requests.

The updated versions of the licence for publication forms are included in Archie and replace the previous version. [General information about the forms](#) is also available in the EPPR.

Contacts for questions

- Cochrane's open access policy: David Tovey, Editor in Chief, dtovey@cochrane.org
- Licence for publication forms: Harriet MacLehose, Senior Editor, hmaclehose@cochrane.org

4. Peer Review Week

This week is Peer Review Week, so it's a good time to update you on progress on the development of a Cochrane peer review policy. The Cochrane Editorial Unit has been working with an advisory group to develop a Cochrane-wide policy and guidance, which will soon be available for

consultation. The aims are to provide guidance and support to the editorial teams managing peer review and to peer reviewers, and to provide transparency about the process to readers of Cochrane Reviews. We recently conducted a survey of Cochrane Review Groups to inform the policy and its implementation and we are grateful to all those who took part. A [blog](#) posted on Cochrane Community explains more about the policy, the challenges of peer review, and the events surrounding Peer Review Week.

5. Cochrane Crowd and TaskExchange

Putting the power of Cochrane to work for you: getting the most out of Cochrane Crowd and TaskExchange

This interactive webinar, presented by Tari Turner and Anna Noel-Storr from the Project Transform team on Wednesday 21 September, is for anyone who wants to know more about using Cochrane Crowd and TaskExchange tools can make your life easier, and get your reviews done faster.

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

6. Important information for authors of HIV reviews

The Cochrane Infectious Diseases Group (CIDG) took over editorial responsibility for HIV/AIDS reviews during 2015. Since then they have been working with groups of authors, editors, and other stakeholders to assess the portfolio and prioritise reviews moving forward. If you are an author of an existing Cochrane HIV/AIDS review or protocol, there is an important update on this process which has just been posted to the CIDG website here: <http://cidg.cochrane.org/news/important-information-authors-hiv-reviews>. Please get in touch with the CIDG [editorial base](#) if you have any questions about this work.

7. Individualised Impact Factor

Group reports on their individualized impact factor results were recently emailed out. Centres are welcome to request individualized reports as well. These are meant to be internal reports and are not official Impact Factor results from Thomson.

- Understanding Impact Factors: Understanding the Impact Factor is important to understanding your individualized results; you can read more about the Impact Factor and Cochrane [here](#). Impact factors measure citation per publication over time.
- Communicating accurately: When communicating the results to authors and funders, mention the official Impact Factor for CDSR to start with. Present the equivalent calculation for you group's reviews with some explanation that this is not an official or genuine Impact Factor provided by Thomson or part of the Journal Citation Report.
- Questions: If you have any questions how to interpret your results or how to communicate them please contact Gavin (gstewart@wiley.com) or speak to Wiley at the Colloquium booth.

8. Structure and Function review – methods

We are conducting webinars to discuss the Methods Structure and Function Review. This looks at two principle methods functions: methods research, evaluation and development and provision of

methods support to CRGs and Centres etc. Methods Groups focus on research and development, they also provide training and guidance. Methods support requires greater consideration developing capacity working more closely with CRGs. These webinars will discuss these methods functions within the wider scope of other S&F reviews. All are welcome to attend. To register please click below.

[2.00 pm UK BST 27th September](#)

[12.00 pm UK BST 5th October](#)

9. Strategic Methods Fund

The Strategic Methods Fund is now closed to applications. We received five applications and we will notify successful applicants by early December.

10. Methods webinar

There will be a webinar on 11th October, 2016 at 12.30pm BST on the subject:

An argument-based approach to aggregation of evidence involving multiple outcome indicators

You can register [here](#).

Computational models of argument are being developed to capture aspects of how we can handle incomplete and inconsistent information through the use of argumentation.

This webinar describes a novel approach to aggregating clinical evidence using a computational model of argument, and is presented by Professor Anthony Hunter (Professor of Artificial Intelligence, University College London) and Dr Matt Williams (Consultant Oncologist, Charing Cross Hospital / Imperial College London).

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

11. Methods Training Event 2016 - reminder

Assessing confidence in evidence of effectiveness and qualitative evidence: the GRADE effectiveness and GRADE-CERQual (Confidence in the Evidence from Reviews of Qualitative research) approaches.

Assessing the quality of the body of evidence using a tool such as the GRADE approach, and justifying these assessments, is mandatory within the Methodological Expectations of Cochrane Intervention Reviews (MECIR) standards. This workshop for editors and staff of Cochrane Review Groups aims to deepen participants' understanding of the GRADE approach and to provide practical experience of applying the approach to two different streams of evidence: evidence from systematic reviews of the effectiveness of interventions and evidence from systematic reviews of qualitative evidence (also called qualitative evidence syntheses).

To be eligible to attend participants are required to represent a CRG or be a member of the Training Network. They will need the support of their Co-ordinating Editor.

We are limited to 60 participants. Acceptance is on a first come first served basis. However, we do keep a waiting list. There is no charge for this training event.

For information and registration [here](#).

12. Blogs on the Cochrane Community site

Interested in communicating health evidence? Cochrane is calling for volunteers to support Wikipedia editing: To find out more information on the project, including how to apply, please click [here](#).