

# Reviews and Methods Digest

31 August 2016

Dear Colleagues

As we have not had a issue over the past month, this Review and Methods Digest covers topics from the month of August. From this week we will start again putting together the Digest every fortnight. Topics are:

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## For Action:

### 1. Updating Classification System: release in Archie and webinars

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The Updating Classification System (UCS) was released in Archie during the week of 18 July. To accompany this change, we circulated information about the UCS and presented introductory webinars. These webinars will be repeated in September.

#### About the Updating Classification System

The aim of the Updating Classification System (UCS) is to help readers understand whether a Cochrane Review is up to date, likely to be updated in future, or does not need updating at the current time. The system can also help Cochrane Review Groups (CRGs) with prioritization decisions for individual Cochrane Reviews.

Within the UCS, which is applied in Archie, CRGs will be able to select an Update Status for a Cochrane Review (Up to date, Updating pending, No update planned), provide a rationale for this (from a pick-list), and also add a free-text explanation to provide detail about the reason for the

selection. A decision-making flowchart is available to help guide teams to the selecting an Update Status.

The UCS uses a new publishing process in which the application and revision of the Update Status is separate from the publication of review. This means that editorial teams can revise and republish the Update Status without republishing the review (e.g. if moves to ‘No update planned’).

The UCS will be available for Intervention and DTA reviews initially.

You can find more detailed information in the “Updating Classification System: guide to applying to Cochrane Reviews” in the Updating Classification System section of the Cochrane Editorial and Publishing Policy Resource: <https://community.cochrane.org/editorial-and-publishing-policy-resource/cochrane-review-management/updating-classification-system-cochrane-reviews>.

### Aims of the webinar

The aims of the webinar are to:

- Provide an introduction to Updating Classification System for Cochrane Reviews
- Learn how to apply an Update Status to a Cochrane Review using example reviews
- Learn how to apply the Update Status to a Cochrane Review in Archie
- Learn how the Update Status will appear alongside a published Cochrane Review

### Webinar times and sign-up

We will run three webinars initially and plan to follow up with additional webinars in August/September:

Webinar	GoToMeeting link	Location and local time					
		Vancouver	Toronto	London	Rome	Melbourne/Brisbane	Auckland
1) 13 September	<a href="https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/811328477">https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/811328477</a>	0800	1100	1600	1700	0100 (14 Sept)	0300 (14 Sept)
2) 14 September	<a href="https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/786272141">https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/786272141</a>	0200	0500	1100	1200	2000	2200

Please sign up for a webinar using this Doodle poll: <http://doodle.com/poll/vaskfipkkanhnsxq>  
For those not able to attend, a recorded webinar will be provided.

## 2. Methods Structure and Function Review

Cochrane needs, as per the Methods Structure and Function Review, to separate two principle methods functions as methods research, evaluation and development is a separate task from providing methods support to CRGs and Centres etc. The former largely drives Methods Groups (research networks with people working to their own research agenda for which Cochrane benefits). The latter requires greater consideration and development needing a multi-level approach creating capacity and working more closely with CRGs.

[Webinars late September/October for further discussion and development of proposal ideas.](#) These are open to other Groups to attend. All Structure and Function Review webinars are not restricted. Hence the opportunity for prior review of proposed slide set for debate and discussion.

- a. [9.00 am UK BST 22<sup>nd</sup> September](#)
- b. [2.00 pm UK BST 27<sup>th</sup> September](#)
- c. [12.00 pm UK BST 5<sup>th</sup> October](#)

## For Information:

### 1. Meetings to discuss Structure and Function Project implications for review production during Seoul Colloquium

We will be holding an extraordinary meeting of the Co-ordinating Editors Board on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> October in Seoul between 9.30am local time and 12.30. This will be followed by a further meeting in the afternoon between 1.30 pm and 4.30 pm, to which we would like to invite ME and IS representatives and also other CRG staff and editors.

The purpose of these meetings will be to discuss and plan implementation of the decisions agreed by Steering Group (CSG), which will meet to discuss the issue the previous day. An agenda will be circulated nearer the time, although some flexibility is inevitable given that the CSG decisions cannot be predicted in advance!

Karla Soares Weiser and David Tovey are preparing a paper to submit to CSG following the webinar consultation series in June and July. We intend to circulate a near final draft of this paper later this month, so that we can receive last minute feedback and in order to give people time to reflect on the recommendations in advance of the Seoul meetings.

We are aware that many people who will have an interest in this project will not be travelling to Seoul. Therefore, we will make arrangements for remote attendance, and will also record the meeting so that it can be viewed subsequently by people who are unable to attend. Please also bear in mind that this meeting will be the first of many, and that there will be other opportunities for CRG teams to influence the implementation plans subsequently.

### 2. Strategic Methods Fund – Call for proposals – Deadline September 15<sup>th</sup> 2016

A new Cochrane grant – the Strategic Methods Fund (SMF) – targets improving the implementation and use of both established and strategically important methods for Cochrane Reviews to meet the needs of healthcare policy makers, professionals and consumers by the 2020s. We will allocate 200,000 GBP each year for three successive years to fund several projects. [For further information and application form.](#)

### 3. MECIR Standards – Update

We will circulate revised conduct and reporting standards and new standards for protocols and updates, for Cochrane Intervention Reviews in the next few weeks. We are preparing a short summary of What's new? [Methods.cochrane.org](http://Methods.cochrane.org) will house these standards. Please check this site for any future updates. A live version of the standards with links to resources standard by standard is in development, please check site for progress. We will make available a downloadable PDF booklet version of all the standards. We plan to produce a hard copy later this year. For an overview introduction to MECIR standards and recent changes please go [here](#).

#### **4. Cochrane UK Editors Training Day (Fully booked!!!!)**

Cochrane UK are holding a training day for UK-based Editors of Cochrane Reviews in Oxford in October 4<sup>th</sup> 2016. The main focus will be on editing intervention reviews and to explore some challenges using GRADE for Summary of Findings tables. For more information please contact Therese Docherty the business and programme manager of Cochrane UK (Therese.Docherty@cochrane.nhs.uk).

#### **5. Disseminating your Cochrane Reviews**

The Communications and External Affairs Department (CEAD) and the CEU have developed a dissemination tool-kit which aims to help Cochrane groups plan effective dissemination of their reviews/health evidence. We hope this will help you in your dissemination efforts and ensure we are providing support that Groups want. We would appreciate any feedback you have on how to improve the toolkit.

<http://community.cochrane.org/review-production/dissemination-resources/disseminating-your-cochrane-review>

The key document to fill out is the dissemination brief. <http://community.cochrane.org/review-production/dissemination-resources/disseminating-your-cochrane-review> Thank you to everyone who has already filled out this brief in the past few months. The more notice you can give us about a review, the better we are able to help you. Once the brief is completed, please email it to Jo Anthony. [janthony@cochrane.org](mailto:janthony@cochrane.org). Briefs need to be received by the end of Monday for a decision on dissemination support on the next day. Groups will then receive an update on next steps by the end of the week.

Also as a gentle reminder, please remember that updates also are important and newsworthy. What may be old news to a Group does not mean that everyone who needs to know the latest findings has heard it, so don't overlook updates when you are making your dissemination plans.

We look forward to hearing from you and supporting the dissemination and communication of your work.

Jo Anthony

#### **6. Methods Symposium 2016 Seoul Colloquium**

##### **Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> October 9-1pm**

Living systematic reviews, online summaries of healthcare research that are updated as new research becomes available, offer exciting new possibilities and challenges. Momentum is building around the living systematic review concept: a number of approaches are being piloted and Cochrane is at the forefront of these efforts.

Living systematic reviews differ from traditional systematic reviews in several ways that have important implications for review methods and processes, affecting authors, editors and publishers.

At this symposium, we will explore what living systematic reviews are, and how they might work within Cochrane. Four key sessions will be delivered focussing on living systematic review methods (what study identification looks like, and the statistical and methodological implications) and processes (production implications for authors and editors, and solving the puzzle of publishing a Cochrane living systematic review).

A case study will present the model being piloted in the first Cochrane LSR pilots, and we will

invite the audience to take part in a facilitated discussion to help shape the future of LSRs within Cochrane.

Confirmed speakers and facilitators include (more to come):

- Anneliese Synnot, Monash University
- Elie Akl, American University of Beirut
- Georgia Salanti, University of Bern
- James Thomas, University College London
- Julian Elliott, Monash University
- Mark Simmonds, University of York
- Steve McDonald, Monash University
- Tari Turner, Monash University

## 7. Methods Lecture

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

Audience: This webinar is intended to be for those interested in new methods for aggregating evidence. It may therefore appeal to clinicians and to methods experts. However, no specific knowledge of evidence aggregation methods nor of statistical methods will be assumed.

**Format of webinar:** Lecture (60min) with Q&A (30min)

**Proposed date/time:** Tuesday 11 October at 12.30pm UK BST

**Presenter title/name/role:**

- Professor Anthony Hunter (Professor of Artificial Intelligence, University College London).
- Dr Matt Williams (Consultant Oncologist, Charing Cross Hospital / Imperial College London).

## 8. Seoul Colloquium

- Only 50 rooms left at the Grand Hilton, book now - <https://colloquium.cochrane.org/hotels>
- [Find out why](#) students from Universities Allied for Essential Medicines attended last year's Colloquium. [Click here](#) to see the student registration prices
- Find out more about our speakers and the plenary sessions they will be in - <https://colloquium.cochrane.org/plenary-sessions>
- See all the confirmed workshops for this year's Cochrane Colloquium in Seoul - <https://colloquium.cochrane.org/workshop-list>
- From BBQs to Korean dancing and city tours, book a space for the Colloquium social events! - <https://colloquium.cochrane.org/social-programme>
- Find out more about the #CochraneTech, Methods & KT Symposia planned for #CochraneSeoul - <https://colloquium.cochrane.org/symposia-cochranetech-methods-and-kt>
- Cochrane Colloquia are for researchers, health practitioners, policy makers, consumers & patients – register today! <https://colloquium.cochrane.org/registration-fees>

## 9. Andrew Herxheimer Memorial Meeting

**Oxford Tue 15 November 2016**

<https://community.cochrane.org/news/andrew-herxheimer-memorial-meeting>.

## 10. Blogs on the Cochrane Community site

You may be interested to read these recent blogs that were published on the Cochrane Community site.

New Cochrane Community blog post about the NIHR Complex Reviews Support Unit:  
<https://community.cochrane.org/news/cochrane-partners-supporting-successful-delivery-complex-reviews>

Task exchange blogs:

- <http://community.cochrane.org/news/broadening-access-taskexchange>
- <http://community.cochrane.org/news/cochrane-crowd-%E2%80%93-exciting-times-ahead>