



Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to Issue 41 of the Centre & Fields Digest, which is published monthly. This Digest provides information particularly relevant to Cochrane's Geographic Groups and Fields, including consumers. It will include a round-up of pertinent information also published in the Community newsletter and on the Cochrane websites. It is the sister publication to the [Review and Methods Digest](#), which is sent to CRGs and Methods Groups.

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Plus:

- **2018 Annual General Meeting: 17 September 2018, Edinburgh: Cast your votes now**
- **Cochrane Governing Board agenda and open access papers available - September 2018**
- **Cochrane's Editor in Chief responds to BMJ EBM article criticizing HPV review**
- **Cochrane launches full Fast-Track Service**

Please note that Group staff and contributors are not automatically added to the email lists receiving this Digest and other official Cochrane emails, even if they have been added to the Archie database. Staff at Centres and Fields should ensure new colleagues are signed-up to receive emails through the Cochrane email lists by contacting [Lorna McAlley](#), Executive Assistant to the CEO.

ITEMS FOR YOUR ACTION:

1. 2018 Annual General Meeting: 17 September 2018, Edinburgh: Cast your votes now

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) is an opportunity for Cochrane's Trustees - its [Governing Board](#) - and senior officers to tell Members about the management of the charity. It also provides you with an opportunity to ask questions and vote on a number of issues ("Resolutions") affecting the organization. All Cochrane Members as defined by the [Membership Terms & Conditions](#) are entitled to vote on AGM Resolutions. You are entitled to vote even if you are not attending the meeting. To find out more, and to cast your votes, please visit agm.cochrane.org

2. Edinburgh Colloquium schedule sign-up and app are now launched

Sign-up is now available for the full Colloquium schedule. [Login to your Colloquium account](#), and sign-up for the sessions you want to attend. For more information, and details of how to download the Colloquium app, please see the [Cochrane Community website](#).

3. Slide decks for Colloquium presentations: Important sizing information

* 16:9 is the requested dimensions for Colloquium presentations.

* We have added new 16:9 slide templates to each of the community template folders [here](#).

* If you have started your presentation already in a different template, all you need to do is copy and paste your slides into the new template (making sure you've saved it as a new doc beforehand).

ITEMS FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

4. Cochrane Library: an improved online platform to guide health decision-making across the world

Cochrane is pleased to announce that the Cochrane Library, which provides high-quality, independently produced evidence to inform healthcare decision-making, has been redesigned and enhanced to improve user experience and functionality.

The new online platform, designed in collaboration with Cochrane's publisher Wiley and built by the technology platform provider HighWire, includes several features that will improve the user experience for people whose preferred language is not English, including improved visibility of non-English content, a new Spanish language homepage, and the ability to search in different languages. The new Cochrane Library also delivers a series of improved design features and functionality and allows users to search across varying content types, including Cochrane Reviews and Protocols, CENTRAL trials reports, Cochrane Clinical Answers, Editorials, Special Collections, and other systematic reviews from Epistemonikos, a collaborative, multilingual database of health evidence. For more information, please see the [Cochrane Community website](#).

You may also like to read the following blog by David Tovey: [Editor in Chief discusses the journey to the new Cochrane Library](#).

5. Latest news on a new Cochrane US Network

Plans to establish a new, open and collaborative Cochrane US Network have been announced. In the coming months, Cochrane will consult widely with a range of stakeholders to develop the strategy and focus of this new Cochrane Network. This will include:

An open meeting to be held during the Cochrane Colloquium in Edinburgh, on Tuesday 18th September, from 07.30-08.45;

A two-day strategic planning meeting (by invitation) to be held on 29th-30th October in Fort Worth, Texas.

Following these consultative meetings, a call for 'Expressions of Interest' will be issued that allows institutions in the US to express their interest to become a member of the Cochrane US Network.

The responsibility for leading the establishment of the new Cochrane US Network is being taken by Cochrane's Chief Executive Office, but the process is advised and fully supported by the existing Cochrane US West Associate Centre based at the Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU, Portland, Oregon), and the consultation meeting in October is to be hosted by the Texas Christian University. It is expected that the formal launch of Cochrane's US Network will take place in early 2019. For more information, please see the [Cochrane Community website](#).

6. Work begins to establish a new Cochrane Network across China

A group of interested stakeholders have been invited to a two-day strategic planning meeting to be held on 9-10 October in Beijing (hosted by the Peking University Health Science Center) to discuss the establishment of a new Cochrane China Network and its strategic direction.

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

7. National symposium marks launch of Cochrane Mexico

During the Cochrane Governing Board meeting in Lisbon, Portugal, last March, the establishment of the Cochrane Mexico Centre was approved. This Centre, part of the Cochrane Iberoamerican Network, will have more autonomy to promote Cochrane activities in Mexico. The Mexican Cochrane Centre consists of five Associated Centres located at Culiacán (Sinaloa's Pediatric Hospital), Guadalajara (University of Guadalajara), Mexico City (Mexico's Children Hospital Federico Gómez and Clínica Médica Sur Foundation) and Cuernavaca (National Institute of Public Health). To celebrate this achievement, Cochrane Mexico held a National Symposium on August 30 and 31, in Mexico City. For more information, please see the [Cochrane Community website](#).

8. Elections to the Cochrane Board and Council: Results

We are delighted to announce the results:

- **Nicky Cullum** has been elected as a member of the Governing Board. Nicky is Co-ordinating Editor of the Cochrane Wounds Group and is based in Manchester, UK
- **Agustín Ciapponi** has been elected as an Author representative on the Cochrane Council. Agustín is an author on over 20 Cochrane Reviews and is based in Buenos Aires, Argentina

Congratulations to Nicky and Agustin on their appointments.

9. Introducing Knowledge Translation in Cochrane: New learning resources available

Cochrane is delighted to announce the introduction of a new, freely available set of learning resources for Knowledge Translation in Cochrane.

Launched as part of training.cochrane.org, these resources will provide anyone working as part of Cochrane with an introduction to Knowledge Translation (KT), its key themes and KT audiences. They provide a range learning materials focused on our ongoing implementation activities, illustrated with case-studies from across Cochrane's community.

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

10. Cochrane Governing Board agenda and open access papers available - September 2018

The agenda and open access papers for the Cochrane Governing Board's meeting in Edinburgh on 13-15 September are now available to view online [here](#), for information only.

11. Cochrane Council agenda available

The agenda for the Cochrane Council meeting in Edinburgh on 17 September is now available to view online [here](#).

12. Centre Directors Board agenda available

The agenda for the Centre Directors Board – Update Meeting in Edinburgh on 17 September is now available to view online [here](#).

13. Cochrane's Editor in Chief responds to BMJ EBM article criticizing HPV review

On 27th July 2018, [an article was published in the journal *BMJ Evidence-Based Medicine*](#) relating to the [recently published Cochrane Review on prophylactic human papillomavirus \(HPV\) vaccines](#). The article is based on analyses undertaken at the Nordic Cochrane Centre, and two of the authors are experienced Cochrane researchers: Professors Peter Gøtzsche and Tom Jefferson. It made several criticisms of the Cochrane Review, most notable of which was that the Cochrane Review was incomplete due to missing "nearly half of the eligible trials".

Cochrane takes all criticisms and feedback seriously, seeing this as one mechanism among many to improve the quality of Cochrane Reviews. The organization has 10 long-standing principles that we hold dear, and they include a commitment to quality and the minimization of bias, transparency, and a recognition of the need for our work to be relevant to the needs of evidence users and decision makers. Cochrane aims to create the best current evidence to guide health decisions.

We initiated an investigation in response to the criticisms, working with the review authors and editors and with independent researchers who had not been involved in the original publication. The key findings of our investigation are that:

- The Cochrane Review did not miss "nearly half of the eligible trials". A small number of studies were missed due to the primary focus on peer-reviewed reports in scientific journals, but addition of these data makes little or no difference to the results of the review for the main outcome;
- The trials comparators were unambiguously, transparently, and accurately described;
- The selection of outcomes for benefits was appropriate and was consistent with World Health Organization guidance;
- The review included published and unpublished data on serious harms, and the findings on mortality were reported transparently and responsibly;
- The review was compliant with Cochrane's current conflict of interest policy;
- Cochrane's media coverage was cautious and balanced, but we recognize that there could be improvements in relation to transparency where external experts are quoted;
- The *BMJ Evidence-Based Medicine* article substantially overstated its criticisms.

For further information and to read the full response please see the [Cochrane Community website](#).

14. The *Strategy to 2020* 2018 Targets: Mid-Year Progress Report and Q2 2018 Organizational Dashboard now available

The *Strategy to 2020* 2018 Targets: Mid-Year Progress Report can be accessed via the Cochrane Community website, [here](#).

The Q2 2018 Organizational Dashboard can be accessed via the Cochrane Community website, [here](#).

15. Cochrane launches full Fast-Track Service

The new [Cochrane Fast-Track Service](#) provides a rapid 'journal-like' editorial process for some of Cochrane's highest priority reviews.

The Fast-Track editorial process is managed by the Editorial and Methods Department [Fast-Track Team](#), in collaboration with the relevant Cochrane Review Group. It will draw on the combined expertise and resources of the Editorial and Methods Department, Cochrane Review Groups, Networks and Methods Groups to ensure a rapid and streamlined editorial process. For more information please see the [Cochrane Community website](#).

16. Patients required for survey on chronic lung conditions – Deadline: 26 September 2018

Please help spread the news (via social media/websites/newsletters) about an important survey in your country. It is for those living with chronic lung conditions (asthma, COPD, emphysema, bronchitis, bronchiectasis, interstitial lung disease (ILD), or obstructive sleep apnea (OSA)) More information is here <https://circulation.cochrane.org/news/survey-living-chronic-lung-condition> and the survey open until 26 September [here](#).

17. Innovative Global Data-Sharing Platform Vivli Launches

Leading institutions, including Cochrane, are supporting an international platform which aims to accelerate medical research. The nonprofit organization Vivli has launched its data-sharing and analytics platform to help researchers work faster. This innovative platform makes it easy for them to discover, share and analyze data from clinical trials, regardless of who sponsored the research or where the research took place.

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

18. Priority Cochrane Review on consumer engagement taking shape

A Cochrane Review on the methods of consumer engagement in health is being updated. That patients, families, their representatives and the broader public (collectively, 'consumers') should be actively involved, or engaged, in all levels of healthcare policy, research and services is an idea that has well and truly arrived. Amongst the explosion of literature, standards and guidance documents is a familiar refrain: 'More evidence of impact, please'. A team of Cochrane reviewers has partnered with a stakeholder advisory group to do just that, by updating an existing Cochrane Review on methods of consumer engagement in health. For more information please see the [Cochrane Community website](#).

19. Cochrane Learning Live – Upcoming webinar programme

- 26 September 2018: *Get to know RevMan Web* – the new review writing tool. More information and sign-up available [here](#).
- 9th October 2018: *Methods to estimate the between-study variance and to calculate uncertainty in the estimated overall effect size*. More information and sign-up available [here](#).
- 20th November 2018: *An introduction to individual patient data meta-analysis*. More info and sign-up available [here](#).

20. New learning resources

- **Get to know RevMan Web** – the new review writing tool. Available [here](#).
- **A research program on rapid reviews: where should we venture next?** Available [here](#).

21. Current Cochrane Jobs

There are several exciting opportunities currently available to work for Cochrane. For more information, please see [Cochrane Jobs](#).

22. More Cochrane Community news posts and blogs

- [Cochrane Community mourns the loss of Professor Bongani Mayosi](#)
- [Predatory Journals and Predatory Publishers – Challenges within the Publishing Sector](#)
- [Get involved with the Cochrane-Wikipedia Project!](#)
- [Cochrane For All: anticipating our Patients Included colloquium](#)
- [Case study: A Targeted Update commissioned by an HTA agency produced within 9 weeks with support from a CRG](#)
- [Guidance note to help Groups define systematic review priorities](#)
- [Guidance note for to help Groups with partnership development](#)
- [Upcoming Events](#)
- [Survey Round-Up](#)
- [Tender and Funding Round-Up](#) - A round-up of active tender and funding opportunities that may be of interest to Cochrane contributors, authors, and groups - updated through the month.

The Centre & Fields Digest is created by the Chief Executive Officer's Office. We intend to make it available every month and to bring together various items of content that we think will be of interest, to maximise communication and minimise inbox overload. If you wish to submit content please contact [Lorna McAlley](#), Executive Assistant to the CEO. We hope that you will find the Digest interesting and informative, and also that it will provide you with opportunities for communicating your views and suggestions.

Mark G. Wilson

Chief Executive Officer