



Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the 17th edition of the Centre & Fields Digest. The Digest provides information particularly relevant to Cochrane Centres and Fields, including consumers, and 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](#) published by the Cochrane Editorial Unit, which is sent to CRGs and Methods Groups.

ITEMS FOR YOUR ACTION:

1) Cochrane Authors: reminder to vote for Council representatives – deadline TOMORROW 10 March 2017

Voting is open for the election of two Author representatives to the new Cochrane Council. To access the candidate statements and online voting form, please visit the [Cochrane Community website](#). Any registered Author in Cochrane's contacts database, Archie, with an active account is eligible to vote.

The two successful candidates will be announced in the week beginning 13 March 2017. Questions about any aspect of this process should be submitted to voting@cochrane.org.

2) Global Evidence Summit 2017: Call for abstracts open – EXTENDED DEADLINE 15 March 2017; & early bird registration (deadline 30 June 2017) and stipends (deadline 28 April 2017) now open

Opportunities to present special sessions, workshops, oral presentations, and poster abstracts is now open for the Global Evidence Summit (GES). This is your chance to be part of the GES and we look forward to receiving abstracts around the theme: *Using evidence, Improving lives*. The GES replaces the normal Cochrane Colloquium this year.

- [Early bird registration](#): Register before the 30 June 2017 to get over 11% off the standard ticket price.
- [Stipends and bursaries](#) to help consumers, students, and other attendees based in developing countries to attend.

For more information, please visit the [GES website](#).

3) REGISTRATION REQUIRED for the Mid-Year meeting in Geneva – deadline 16 March 2017

If you are attending the Mid-Year business meetings in Geneva you **must** register via the [Cochrane website](#). The key dates are as follows:

- **Cochrane-WHO training workshop:** Monday 3 April, morning (this is training given by Cochrane to WHO staff. You only need to attend the training morning if you are one of the facilitators)
- **Cochrane-WHO strategic partnership meeting:** Monday 3 April, afternoon (all are welcome to attend this meeting, but please register if you are planning to attend as otherwise you will **not be allowed** into the WHO building)
- **WHO/Cochrane drinks reception:** Monday 3 April, evening (all are welcome to attend the drinks reception, but please register for this event if you are planning to attend as otherwise you will **not be allowed** into the WHO building)

To gain entry to the Cochrane-WHO building for the meetings you must register in advance of the meeting using the link above and bring a valid passport with you on the day. Online registration is also required for the following meetings:

- **Mid-Year Meeting:** Tuesday 4 April - Wednesday 5 April
- **Council meeting:** Thursday 6 April
- **Governing Board meeting:** Wednesday 5 April - Friday 7 April

4) March for Science - opportunities to get involved

Cochrane is delighted to announce official support of and partnership with the [March for Science](#).

This event will be held on Saturday, 22 April 2017 - also known as [Earth Day](#), a commemoration of environmental advocacy and science in the public interest established in the United States nearly 50 years ago. The March is being organized in Washington, DC, with satellite marches in cities around the world, to champion the science that upholds the common good.

[Cochrane United States](#) will participate in the March in Washington, DC, and will work with Cochrane contributors and other volunteers to organize a teach-in about evidence-based methods. The March for Science is interested in hearing from Cochrane contributors who would like to organize a march, speak at an existing march, or contribute in other ways. Here is the [full list](#) of marches. If you want to get involved in a march, please email admin@cochrane.org and we will forward your details to the appropriate march organizers. If you want to get involved in US-based marches, please [contact Cochrane US](#) for information.

The Central Executive Team is also seeking slogans for march posters and other ideas to be put on hats, t-shirts, and posters for the march. If you have ideas, please email [Holly Millward](#). We aim to publish these in early April to give you plenty of time to prepare.

For more information on how you can get involved, please visit the official [March for Science website](#), or follow the #marchforscience hashtag on Twitter. Please also check Cochrane's [main news channel](#) and follow us on Twitter (@cochranecollab) for the latest updates and resources.

ITEMS FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

5) Reminder - Strategy to 2020 in 2017: Targets

2017 will take us to the mid-point of the *Strategy to 2020*. It will be another year of delivery and continuity, focusing particularly on the implementation and output phases of already established projects that featured as Targets in 2016. For this reason, there are a reduced number of Targets this year – we are not starting new work. Cochrane's focus will be on demonstrating to our stakeholders – the users of our evidence, our contributors, our partners and funders - the outcomes and tangible benefits that the implementation of *Strategy to 2020* is bringing to their experience with Cochrane year on year.

A detailed overview of the Targets and how they will be implemented in 2017, is available on the [Cochrane Community website](#).

6) Cochrane Governing Board announces change in membership

Michael Makanga has announced his resignation from the Cochrane Governing Board, due to changing demands in his primary role as Executive Director of the European & Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP). Michael's resignation takes effect from 1st March.

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

7) Evaluation of the UK NIHR Investment in Cochrane Infrastructure and Systematic Reviews

The 'Evaluation of NIHR Investment in Cochrane Infrastructure and systematic reviews' report, as requested by the Chief Medical Officer for the Department of Health, is now live and available open access on the NIHR Journals Library website [here](#).

The report is accompanied by Cochrane's formal response. Comments on both are welcome and can be submitted through the website until 10th March 2017.

The headline message from this independent report is support for continued NIHR funding of Cochrane, and the report also provides a number of recommendations to both Cochrane and NIHR. Professor Tom Walley will present NIHR views on the report, and recommendations for Cochrane in the future, at the 2017 UK & Ireland Cochrane Symposium in Oxford, 14-15 March 2017.

8) Cochrane Handbook Associate Scientific Editors – deadline 10 March 2017

We have four *new* positions for Cochrane Handbook [Associate Scientific Editors](#) to support two Senior Scientific Editors and a Senior Editor in the update of the Handbook. Please see website for further details on these important and influential positions.

9) Results and conclusions of the CEU's Plain Language Summary pilot project

The final report presenting results and conclusions from the Cochrane Editorial Unit's Plain Language Summary pilot project is now available.

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

10) Reminder - free use of Covidence for Cochrane Groups that are directly conducting non-Cochrane systematic reviews

[Covidence](#) is the primary screening and data extraction tool for Cochrane authors, streamlining the production of standard intervention reviews. Covidence's support of key steps in the Cochrane Review process, such as citation screening and Risk of Bias assessment, and improved links with RevMan make the review writing process more efficient. Covidence is a tool framed around a quality user experience, with a focus on being highly intuitive for authors to use, and tailored to Cochrane's methods.

At the Centre Directors' meeting in Seoul, the Central Executive Team confirmed its intention to provide free Covidence access to Centres for work that is undertaken by the Centre on non-Cochrane systematic reviews. We are pleased to confirm that this process is now in place. The Cochrane Editorial Unit will be routinely monitoring the access to Covidence under this agreement to ensure that it is being used as expected.

Who can access Covidence under this agreement?

This will apply to all Cochrane Groups - Centres, Associate Centres, Affiliates, Review Groups, Methods Groups, and Fields.

What can you use Covidence for under this agreement?

This is only for work that is being undertaken directly by the Cochrane Group that is not going to be published on the Cochrane Library, e.g. a systematic review of animal studies. It is important that this benefit is used only by members of the Centre for work that is led by and directly benefits the Centre. This access is not intended for members of your faculty who are also working on non-Cochrane systematic reviews. We also hope that you can help us promote Covidence within your institution and introduce Covidence to your library or other groups that might be interested.

To access Covidence in this way, please email Julian Elliott from the Central Executive Team: julian.elliott@monash.edu.

11) GRADE effectiveness and GRADE-CERQual for qualitative research Methods Training Event

Two parallel training streams with joint sessions to consider common concepts will run from the 13-15 June 2017, Modena, Italy. This event is re-scheduled from December 2016.

Cochrane can provide some limited support to attend, based on available funds. Stipends will be allocated on the basis of priority. The deadline for applying for a stipend has been extended to 27th March 2017. There is no deadline for applying for a place on the course.

For information click [here](#).

12) Latest Cochrane Community news posts and blogs

- [Upcoming events](#)
- [Survey round-up: March 2017](#)
- [Latest Cochrane job opportunities](#)

Community blogs:

- [Anne Anderson Prize: recognizing the enhancement and visibility of women in Cochrane](#)
- [Five good reasons to get involved with Cochrane Crowd](#)
- [Translating health evidence: Cochrane Malaysia motivates translators with achievement certificates](#)
- [Wikipedia: an important dissemination tool for Cochrane](#)
- [Creating a successful online animation resource: the 'what are systematic reviews?' video](#)

The Centre & Fields Digest is created by the Chief Executive Officer's Office. We intend to make it available approximately every two weeks 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 [Lucie Binder](#), Senior Advisor 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.

Best wishes,

Mark

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