

Dear Colleagues,

Please find below the first issue of the Centre & Fields Digest. The Digest provides information particularly relevant to Cochrane Centres and Fields, 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. Relevant content will be duplicated between the Digests so that you don't have to sign up to both.

The Centre & Fields Digest is created by the Chief Executive Officer's Office on behalf of Mark Wilson. 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.

Whilst many items of content will be written by the Central Executive Team members, we also want Groups to feel able to submit appropriate content for wider circulation. 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.

#### **ITEMS FOR YOUR ACTION:**

##### **1) Nominations requested for the selection panel for the Scientific Committee: Deadline 10th May 2016**

Cochrane's Board of Trustees (the Steering Group) agreed to establish a Scientific Committee for the purpose of providing independent authoritative guidance for the methods Cochrane should use in its reviews.

A selection panel will identify the first committee members. The panel seeks representation from Co-ordinating Editors (one member of the Executive and one wider Board member); Methods Convenors (one member of the Executive and one wider Board member); **one representative from the other Cochrane groups: Centres, Fields, and Consumers**; and one representative of the ME and Information Specialist community on this panel. The full panel will comprise: David Tovey (Editor in Chief), current Cochrane Board representative Holger Schünemann (Cochrane Canada) and an independent representative, along with the six internal group members.

This is a time limited panel to agree a call for Scientific Committee nominations and to consider actively approaching specific individuals outside Cochrane (by invitation) to produce a balanced and well-functioning committee. Deadline for nominations to the panel is 20th May, 2016. If you are interested in submitting an application for the Centre/Fields/Consumer position, you should do so via your Group Executive by **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> May**:

- **Centre Directors Executive:** [Irena Zakarija-Grkovic](#) and [Joerg Meerpohl](#)
- **Fields Executive:** [Denise Thomson](#)
- **Consumers:** [Richard Morley](#)

For each application, candidates will need to provide a short summary (fewer than 500 words) of their relevant expertise and experience, along with basic information on languages spoken and geographical location. David Tovey and Holger Schünemann will make the final selections from the individuals who put themselves forward, bearing in mind the need for broad expertise, and also geographical, linguistic and gender diversity.

##### **2) Structure and Function changes to Cochrane Groups: No deadline for comments**

You may have seen the recent email circulated by the Cochrane Co-Chairs, Mark Wilson and David Tovey in relation to the organizational Structure and Function review. You can also read the content of the email and download the associated paper, *Review of the Structure and Function of Cochrane*

*Groups: Proposals for Group level change*, from the [Cochrane Community](#) website. In addition, Mark Wilson has just released a [blog post](#) with more information.

You are encouraged to contribute your thoughts and ideas to the development of these vitally important plans. You can make any comments, and ask any questions, by emailing [strategy@cochrane.org](mailto:strategy@cochrane.org).

Centre Directors have been emailed separately by the CDs Executive about the process of commenting on the overarching vision document for Centres, [Implementing Strategy to 2020: Cochrane Centres, Branches and Networks](#).

### **3) Fostering communications between Centres and CRGs: No deadline for questions**

At the Centre Directors Board meeting in London, 4-5th April, participants said that they would be interested in getting the views of CRGs on various topics and questions. As a first step, if you have a question that you think would benefit from the response of the CRGs – no matter how big or small! - please email it to [Lucie Binder](#).

## **ITEMS FOR YOUR INFORMATION:**

### **4) Reform of the Cochrane Steering Group and associated governance structures**

The Steering Group announced earlier this year a proposal for the transition to a new governance structure, including a [transition from the Steering Group structure](#) to a new Cochrane Governing Board.

At the [strategic session in London on 5<sup>th</sup> April](#), participants focussed on ensuring a meaningful voice for Groups in the new governance structure. This is likely to be achieved through the development of a 'Council' that will incorporate members of the [Group Executives and Boards](#). The governance reform working group is now assessing the recommendations made by all the participants in London – including whether the Council should get a voting position on the new Board - and will provide a proposal for consultation and eventual ratification at the forthcoming [AGM in Seoul](#).

### **5) List of Group Executives and their members**

A list of Group Executives and their members is available on the [Cochrane Community website](#).

### **6) Current Cochrane job opportunities**

The Central Executive Team is seeking a part-time HR Manager and a Financial Controller. Cochrane Innovations is seeking Board members. See [Cochrane Jobs](#) for more information.

Best wishes,

Mark

**Mark G. Wilson**  
Chief Executive Officer



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