



Centre and Fields Digest



Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the 29th edition of the Centre & Fields Digest.

The Digest provides information particularly relevant to Cochrane's Geographic Groups 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.

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 admin@cochrane.org.

ITEMS FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

GLOBAL EVIDENCE SUMMIT, Cape Town, 13-16 September 2017

1) Decisions from the Cochrane Governing Board meeting - Cape Town, September 2017

Dear Community colleagues and members,

Your Governing Board met in Cape Town, South Africa, on 10-12 September. We are writing to you at this early stage with information about some of our key decisions. More information will be available in due course (as will the full open access minutes) but if you have any questions about these decisions, please contact one of us, any [member of the Board](#), or [Lucie Binder in the CEO's office](#).

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

2) Everyone is welcome! Announcing the opening of a wider world for Cochrane

I am delighted to announce a new initiative that I believe will transform Cochrane as an evidence-producing and knowledge-diffusing organization. Today, we are proud to launch our new [Cochrane Membership](#) scheme, making it easier than ever before for anyone from anywhere in the world to become a part of our global community of supporters and collaborators passionate about improving healthcare decisions.

The Cochrane Membership scheme will enable us to grow our collaboration, attracting many new people with a wider range of experience and skills into our work, and allowing us to recognize their contributions and sustain our global activities for better health outcomes.

To find out more about Cochrane's work in improving global health decision making and how you can make a difference, visit [our Membership pages](#).

For more information, please see [Cochrane.org](#).

3) Cochrane welcomes Cochrane Africa

Cochrane is delighted to announce the official launch of [Cochrane Africa](#); a network with a vision to increase the use of best evidence to inform healthcare decision making across the sub-Saharan African continent. The Africa Network consists of regional centres including its co-ordinating centre at [Cochrane South Africa](#), South African Medical Research Council, and the establishment of hubs at the University of Calabar, Teaching Hospital, Nigeria, Stellenbosch University, South Africa and Yaoundé University, Cameroon.

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

OTHER ITEMS FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

4) Announcing Cochrane Colloquium Edinburgh 2018

The 2018 Cochrane Colloquium will be held in Edinburgh at the International Conference Centre in Scotland from 15th to 18th September 2018. It will be hosted by Cochrane UK.

The theme of the Colloquium will be: 'Cochrane for all – better evidence for better health decisions'

This will be a Colloquium for everyone. It will welcome newcomers to Cochrane from all parts of the world and from all backgrounds. One of the key aims is to increase the involvement of patients, carers and family members (healthcare consumers) in our work. As such, the Colloquium 2018 will be a [Patients Included](#) event that is co-designed, co-produced and co-presented by healthcare consumers and where everyone's input is valued equally.

The Colloquium 2018 will focus on the key goals of Cochrane's Strategy to 2020, looking through the eyes of healthcare consumers and in partnership with them:

- Producing evidence
- Making evidence accessible
- Advocating for evidence
- Effective and sustainable organization

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

5) Cochrane at the forefront of training in conducting systematic reviews

Cochrane is delighted to announce the official launch of its new, online introductory training course on how to conduct a systematic review of interventions.

As part of the launch of Cochrane's new online learning programme, [Cochrane Interactive Learning](#), Cochrane authors and other producers of systematic reviews from across the world will be able to access self-directed learning on framing a review, searching for studies, risk of bias assessment, meta-analysis, GRADE and the complete systematic review process, developed by world-leading experts in systematic review methods.

For more information, please see [Cochrane.org](#).

6) First two living systematic reviews now live on Cochrane Library!

Cochrane has always envisaged a world where Cochrane Reviews would be updated as soon as new relevant evidence became available. Now, with a new approach to review production and clever application of technology, Cochrane is trialling a way to do just that. Anneliese Synnot of Project Transform's [living systematic review](#) (LSR) team, in partnership with pilot LSR teams and editorial groups, the Cochrane Editorial Unit and the LSR Network, has been working away for some time on the methods and processes needed for Cochrane to pilot LSRs.

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

7) Living systematic review series published in Journal of Clinical Epidemiology

Hot off the press and hot on the tail of the publication of [Cochrane's first living systematic reviews](#) on the Cochrane Library, the [LSR Network](#) is pleased to announce that it has published a series of four articles in the September issue of the [Journal of Clinical Epidemiology](#), along with a [commentary by Alex Sutton](#).

For more information and to see each of the four articles, please see the [Cochrane Community website](#).

8) The Chicago Satellite of the Cochrane Heart Group closes

The Chicago Satellite of the Cochrane Heart Group will close in September 2017. The Satellite launched in 2013 with a mission to

- 1) support existing US-based authors to prepare and update their Cochrane reviews;
- 2) train and support a cadre of new review authors in the methods of the Cochrane Collaboration in collaboration with the US Cochrane to increase the output of the CHG; and
- 3) advocate evidence-based practice, particularly via utilization of Cochrane reviews, for cardiovascular clinical practice guidelines in the US and worldwide.

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

9) Cochrane Skin Group celebrate 20 years of improving treatment of skin diseases

World-leading dermatologists and their patients are celebrating huge improvements in the treatment of skin diseases like skin cancer, psoriasis, and acne as the [Cochrane Skin Group](#) marks its 20th anniversary this week. The effects of the 120 plus published Cochrane Skin Reviews have been far-reaching and have had real impacts on patient care. These include skin cancer, skin allergies, and acne, blistering diseases, hair disorders like alopecia, fungal infections and psoriasis as well as tropical parasitic diseases. The group is coordinated by the University of Nottingham's Centre of Evidence Based Dermatology and is part of the global Cochrane network that carries out systematic reviews of primary research covering all areas of health and health policy. Cochrane is internationally recognised as setting the highest standards in evidence-based health care resources.

For more information, please see [Cochrane.org](#).

10) Health systems in low income countries - four new overviews

Four new Cochrane EPOC overviews of reviews show reliable evidence on the effects of different ways of organising, financing, and governing health systems in low-income countries and identify important evidence gaps. Strengthening health systems in low-income countries is key to achieving universal health coverage and achieving the health-related Sustainable Development Goals. Links to the new overviews in the Cochrane Library: [Delivery arrangements](#) | [Financial arrangements](#) | [Governance arrangements](#) | [Implementation strategies](#)

For more information, please see [Cochrane.org](#).

11) Strategies to reduce antibiotic prescribing for acute respiratory infections in primary care

This Cochrane Overview is the first publication produced with the support of Cochrane's Fast Track service. This service, which is offered by the [Cochrane Editorial Unit](#), supports expedited production of high-quality, high-impact Cochrane Reviews.

For more information, please visit the [Fast Track information page](#) on Cochrane.org.

12) Cochrane Tobacco Addiction Group releases priority setting report

[The Cochrane Tobacco Addiction Group](#), based at the University of Oxford in the UK, is one of the oldest groups working on Cochrane Reviews. It has produced dozens of these during the last two decades and in 2016, it embarked on a project to identify the top priorities for future research into tobacco control.

For more information, please see [Cochrane.org](https://www.cochrane.org).

13) More Cochrane Community news posts and blogs

- [Upcoming events](#)
- [Connecting online training with Cochrane's directions in systematic reviews](#)
- [Seeking Specialist Director – Evaluation of Health Interventions, Oslo Norway](#)

For all current opportunities, please see [Cochrane Jobs](#)

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 [Elaine Carman](#), EA 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,

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