

Centre and Fields Digest

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the 10th 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) Inaugural Scientific Committee: Call for applications by 25th November 2016

Cochrane is looking for skilled and experienced methodologists, researchers, and editors to form a Scientific Committee - an independent forum providing guidance to the Editor in Chief to ensure that Cochrane Reviews always represent the best methodological practice in evidence synthesis.

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

2) World Health Assembly in 2017: Call for expressions of interest to attend

The [World Health Assembly](#) (WHA) is the decision-making body of the World Health Organization. The main functions of the WHA are to determine the policies of the Organization, appoint the Director-General, supervise financial policies, and review and approve the proposed programme budget. The WHA is held annually in Geneva, Switzerland.

As NGO in official relation with WHO, Cochrane sends a delegation to the WHA. We are now planning for our attendance to the 2017 WHA. If you are interested in attending the WHA, for example to engage in discussions and meet partner organizations, please contact Cochrane Partnerships Coordinator, [Sylvia de Haan](#). For an indication of the type of organizations attending the WHA, please see the 2016 [WHA participants list](#).

We plan to establish the 2017 Cochrane delegation based on the expressions of interest received. Please note that Cochrane will not be able to cover the expenses of your travel and stay in Geneva centrally. We will, however, be able to facilitate your registration, as well as provide an introduction to the WHA for those who have not attended the meeting before.

3) Equity and Diversity Task Force: Call for members to join the working groups

Cochrane's recently established [Equity and Diversity Task Force](#) is seeking volunteers for three working groups addressing:

- I. Title registration process for Cochrane Reviews (Chaired by David Tovey, Editor in Chief)
- II. Other production issues (Chaired by Dario Sambunjak, Cochrane Learning & Support)
- III. Organizational equity and diversity issues (Chaired by Mark Wilson, CEO).

If you are interested in joining any one of these three working groups, or for more information, please contact [Dario Sambunjak](#).

ITEMS FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

4) Seoul Colloquium 2016: AGM and Plenary videos and news round-up

Please see the [Cochrane Community](#) website for a round-up of the news from the Seoul Colloquium, including videos of the plenary and Annual General Meeting sessions.

5) Steering Group decisions from the 2016 Cochrane Colloquium

Please see the [Cochrane Community](#) website for a summary of the main decisions made by Steering Group at its meeting in Seoul. Full minutes will be made available soon.

6) Steering Group has approved, and Centre Directors have endorsed, Structure and Function changes to Cochrane Centres

Supporting documents for the implementation of Structure and Function reforms to geographic-orientated Groups were approved by the Steering Group, and endorsed by the Centre Directors, in Seoul. These were:

- [Cochrane's Geographic presence \(Paper 2\)](#)
- [Various process and planning documents for geographic-orientated Groups](#)
- A template for a Collaboration Agreement that will formalize a Centre's accountability to the CEO, to be signed by Centre Directors and/or their host institutions. A copy of this agreement will be made generally available soon. It is intended for Centres and not for Associates or Affiliates.

As a reminder, the Structure & Function reforms that had previously been approved include:

Structure:

- Centre 'Branches' have been re-named to 'Associate' Centres.
- Two new categories, 'Affiliates' and 'Networks', have been established.
- 'Centres', 'Networks', 'Associates', and 'Affiliates' are Cochrane Groups that act with a country or regional focus for the organization - *geographic-orientated Groups*.

Function:

- The functions of Cochrane's geographic-oriented Groups have been divided into four tiers to reflect the incremental increase in functional output of Groups as they progress from Affiliate to Associate Centre to Centre (and possibly, to Network). Tier One covers functions to be delivered by an Affiliate; Tiers One and Two by an Associate Centre; and Tiers One, Two and Three by a Centre or Network. Tier Four is a level of additional optional functions that can be delivered by any of the Groups.
- The key focus of the functions is around managing Cochrane's presence in the country or region: including building partnerships and other stakeholder relationships, and undertaking associated knowledge translation activities to ensure that Cochrane evidence is used in that country or region. The strong emphasis on work that facilitates uptake of Cochrane's outputs within a defined geographical or linguistic area, such as knowledge translation activities, is a significant change for some Groups, but it is critical to achieving Cochrane's mission.

Accountability:

- Networks, Centres, Associate Centres and Affiliates are ultimately accountable to the CEO and through him/her to Cochrane's Governing Board. However, direct accountability is established between the CEO and the Networks and Centres; with the Directors of those Cochrane Groups responsible for the support to and management of the Associate Centres and Affiliates who report to them. The reference Centre concept that over the last 20 years governed the relationships between a Centre and Branch (now Associate Centre) has been changed and instead accountability, mentorship and support relationships between an Associate Centre or an Affiliate and a Centre will be defined on a case by case basis.

7) Members have approved organizational governance reforms at the Annual General Meeting

Please see the [Cochrane Community](#) website for full details. In brief:

- Cochrane's Steering Group has become the *Governing Board* and will include a mix of internal and external members; elections for new internal members will take place before the end of the year.
- A Cochrane Council will be established with representatives drawn initially from the existing Group-types and the Author Forum. The Council will provide a forum for Groups to meet and discuss high level matters with each other, and to make sure that the voice of Cochrane's Groups is heard by the Board.

- Cochrane has moved from a membership model based on Groups to individual membership, enfranchising thousands more people to vote on organizational policies and governance.
- The charity's 'Articles of Association' (its legal governing document) has been revised.

8) New learning resources from Cochrane Training

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

Recordings from a special methods webinar (part of the [Cochrane Learning Live](#) programme) on aggregating evidence, presented by Professor Anthony Hunter (Professor of Artificial Intelligence, University College London) and Dr Matt Williams (Consultant Oncologist, Charing Cross Hospital / Imperial College London).

Involving consumers in Cochrane reviews: learning from the ACTIVE project

Aimed at reviewers interested in ways to involve consumers within systematic reviews, this resource includes webinar recordings and accompanying papers and reviews about the ACTIVE project – an initiative to bring together evidence, information and resources about the active involvement of consumers in systematic reviews.

9) Reminder of key dates for Mid-Year Meeting 2017

The [2017 Mid-Year Business Meetings](#) will be hosted by Cochrane Switzerland in Geneva, on the 4th-5th April 2017, alongside other meetings held that week that Mid-Year attendees will be welcome to join. Please book your accommodation soon!

Key dates: WHO/Cochrane training workshop: 3rd April, (AM); WHO/Cochrane meeting: 3rd April, (PM); WHO/Cochrane drinks reception: 3rd April, (evening), Mid-Year Meeting: 4th April – 5th April, Governing Board meeting: 5th April (PM) – 7th April.

10) Latest Cochrane Community blogs and news posts

- [Latest Cochrane job opportunities](#)
- [Survey round-up: November 2016](#)
- [Workshop report: Learning Initiative for eXperienced Authors in Cape Town](#)
- [Cochrane Consumers and Communication Group: A wide-ranging consultation process](#)
- [Call for applications: Cochrane Complementary Medicine Bursary Scheme 2016](#)

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. 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