



## Centre and Fields Digest



Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the 13<sup>th</sup> 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) Voting open for Cochrane Governing Board elections - closing date 25 January 2017

Voting is now open for the election of four new members of the Cochrane Governing Board as of 5 January 2017. You can view the names of the 11 candidates and read their candidate statements on the [main elections page](#).

All candidates for election are competing in a single field, and will be voted on by the entire Cochrane membership. There are no separate categories of internal Board members, or representation of specific constituencies. Eligible voters (see our [Board Policy and Electoral Procedure](#)) can now access [the voting form](#).

To access the voting form, you will need to use your Cochrane (or Archie) login. If you are an eligible voter but do not have a Cochrane login, when asked to enter your details, click the link, and follow the instructions to create a new account. Use the name and email address usually used in your communications with Cochrane to ensure your access is granted. If you have any trouble logging in, please contact your Cochrane Group, or [admin@cochrane.org](mailto:admin@cochrane.org).

#### 2) Elections to the Cochrane Council for geographic-oriented Groups – Centres and Associate Centres to vote by 20 January 2017

The new [Cochrane Council](#) was established in November 2016 at the recommendation of the Governing Board, following a review in which directly elected group representatives on the Board were replaced with representatives elected by the full Cochrane membership. The intention of establishing the Council is to ensure that Cochrane Groups retain an effective voice in Cochrane's leadership and strategic decision-making.

The Centre Directors' Executive was given the mandate to recommend two members from its membership or the wider geographic-oriented Group community. It asked the Centre & Associate Directors to decide on membership eligibility for these positions at the CD's board meeting in Seoul, in October 2016, and the following was agreed:

- Of the two positions available, both will be held by: a Director, Co-Director or Deputy Director of a Centre or an Associate Centre. Directors from Affiliates; and other staff members of Centres, Associates, and/or Affiliates, are not eligible.
- The Council representatives will automatically become members of the Centre Directors' Executive.

- Voting on candidates standing to fill the positions will be by Centre and Associate Centre; Affiliates are not eligible to vote. Each Centre and Associate Centre will get one vote for each position available. The candidate(s) with the most votes will be elected. (In the event of a tie, the Centre Directors' Executive will take the final decision.)

The term of membership will be two years. Members may be re-appointed using the process above, but may not serve longer than six years in total.

For this first election, the Centre and Associate Centre Directors have been contacted separately by email inviting them to stand for the positions available. Announcement of the candidates and voting by Centre and Associate will take place 16 January-20 January 2017, with results announced the following week.

**It is expected that Directors of Centres and Associates will vote on behalf of their Group. They are therefore strongly encouraged to consult and discuss with their staff and Affiliate members about the candidates for whom they should vote.**

### **3) Global Evidence Summit 2017: Call for abstracts open – deadline 1 March 2017**

Opportunities to present special sessions, workshops, oral presentations, and poster abstracts is open as of 5 January 2017. This is your chance to be part of the Global Evidence Summit (GES) and we look forward to receiving abstracts around the theme: *Using evidence, Improving lives*. The GES replaces the normal Cochrane Colloquium this year.

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

### **4) 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 are required to 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, please register for this meeting if you are planning to attend)
- **WHO/Cochrane drinks reception:** Monday 3 April, evening (all are welcome to attend the drinks reception, please register for this event if you are planning to attend)
- **Mid-Year Meeting:** Tuesday 4 April - Wednesday 5 April
- **Board (CSG) meeting:** Wednesday 5 April - Friday 7 April

## **ITEMS FOR YOUR INFORMATION:**

### **5) Cochrane South Africa announces appointment of new Director**

We are very pleased to announce that [Cochrane South Africa](#) has appointed Charles Shey Wiysonge as its new Director, effective December 2016. The Founding Director of Cochrane South Africa, Jimmy Volmink, will be stepping down from managing day-to-day operations at the Centre, but will continue to serve as Chair of the Global Organizing Committee for the 2017 Global Evidence Summit. To find out more, please read the [full story on cochrane.org](#).

### **6) Two funding opportunities: Cochrane-REWARD and NIHR**

- Apply for the Cochrane-REWARD prize for reducing waste in research. For more information, please see [Cochrane.org](#).
- The NIHR is inviting UK-based universities and research institutes to submit applications to deliver applied global health research. £60 million will be available for successful universities and research institutes looking to expand their existing global health work or for new entrants to the field. Apply before 26 January. For more information, please see the [NIHR website](#).

**7) Latest Cochrane Community news posts and blogs**

- [Upcoming events](#)
- [Latest Cochrane job opportunities](#)
- [Survey round-up: January 2017](#)
- [Consumer involvement in Cochrane and why we are developing a Statement of Principles](#)

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

**Mark G. Wilson**  
Chief Executive Officer



E [mwilson@cochrane.org](mailto:mwilson@cochrane.org) T +44 (0)207 183 7503 S [markg.wilson](https://www.cochrane.org)  
Cochrane, St Albans House, 57-59 Haymarket, London SW1Y 4QX, UK  
[www.cochrane.org](http://www.cochrane.org)

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