



Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the 27th 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 ACTION:

1) Global Evidence Summit's full schedule and sign-up launches Friday 18 August

The full schedule and sign-up will launch Friday 18 August, giving delegates the opportunity to build their personalized calendar for the event. There are a number of social events that delegates can book onto during the event. For more information and how to sign up or book attendance on an event, please see the [Cochrane Community website](#).

2) Cochrane Scientific Committee call for methods submissions – Deadline for applications is Monday 25th September 2017

The Cochrane Scientific Committee (CSC) is a new body with responsibility for making scientific decisions about the implementation of new methods for Cochrane Reviews. This Committee now underway will build up an agenda of priority methods for future implementation. From time to time Cochrane members will have the opportunity to submit methodological items to the committee. For details on how to submit an application, please see the [Cochrane Community website](#).

ITEMS FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

3) Structure and Function Implementation Plan

Dear colleagues,

Following our communication of July 10 on the completion of [Cochrane's Sustainability Review](#), we are delighted to publish now the CRG Transformation Programme implementation plan, entitled '[The Structure and Function of Cochrane Review Groups: implementation of Networks and Editorial Board](#).' Following the extensive analysis, consultation, and debate on CRG reforms that have taken place in recent years, and with a clear steer from the Governing Board, this Implementation Plan sets out the changes we will be making to ensure Cochrane addresses the challenges it faces in relation to the production of a comprehensive collection of timely, high-quality reviews, relevant to our stakeholders.

This is an **open access** document and will be presented for approval to Cochrane's Governing Board in Cape Town in September 2017. In addition, it will be included in regular communication updates through monthly Reviews and Methods Digests.

We have recognized in previous correspondence that there may be many questions about what this means for you and the future functionality of CRGs. Some of these questions may not have definitive answers until after Cochrane's Governing Board has met in Cape Town. However, in the meantime we have established an email address where you can submit questions, and one of the Project Team will respond to your enquiry: SFinfo@cochrane.org

We will continue to fully engage with you and your Group over the next few weeks and months as we work closely with all members of the CRG community in our planned implementation. Our next communications on Community will follow Cochrane's Governing Board meeting in mid-September.

With our best wishes,

Karla Soares-Weiser, Acting Editor in Chief,
Martin Burton, Co-ordinating Editor, ENT Group
Jonathan Craig, Co-ordinating Editor, Kidney & Transplant Group
Nicky Cullum, Co-ordinating Editor, Wounds Group
Mark Wilson, Chief Executive Officer

4) Cochrane Africa: A network of healthcare decision making launches across sub-Saharan 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 University of Calabar, Teaching Hospital, Nigeria, Stellenbosch University, South Africa and Yaoundé University, Cameroon. For more information, please see Cochrane.org.

5) Cochrane in numbers: April-June 2017

Cochrane's organizational Dashboard presents our achievements in key metrics, and our Target Report looks at how we are meeting our Strategy to 2020 targets. We use these as an excellent tool to reflect on our accomplishments on a quarterly basis.

Here are just a few highlights from Q2 2017 Dashboard:

- Global usage of Cochrane.org continues its quarter-by-quarter growth; now exceeding 3.5m sessions in the quarter.
- 62% of Cochrane.org usage is viewing non-English content. Usage is soaring in South America. Mexico has become the top user of Cochrane.org, replacing USA for the first time and exceeding half a million sessions in a quarter for the first time.
- Sales and royalties year to date are excellent. Royalties year to date are up 24.5% compared with the same period last year.
- Cochrane Impact Factor revised up to 6.264 (tbc).

Here are some highlights from the Q2 2017 Target Report:

- Membership scheme phase 1 is now live. Formal launch to follow at Global Evidence Summit.
- Global Evidence Summit registrations exceed more than 1,000 by the closing of the early bird registration deadline.
- Enhanced Cochrane Library will have a soft launch in September with the intention of a full launch by end of Q4.

For more information and to see the reports in full, please see the Cochrane Community website.

6) Translated Cochrane evidence

Making Cochrane evidence accessible to non-English speakers is a priority for us. More than 4,000 translations of Cochrane Review plain language summaries/abstracts were published in 2016. Translation activities are led by local Cochrane groups and their translator communities, the majority of which are volunteer based. Due to the length of Cochrane Reviews, our teams focus on the abstract and or the Plain Language Summary. For more information, please see [Cochrane.org](https://www.cochrane.org).

7) Cytology versus HPV testing for cervical cancer screening in the general population: a DTA Review from the Cochrane Gynaecological, Neuro-oncology and Orphan Cancers Group, (CGNOC)

Diagnostic Test Accuracy Reviews (DTA) provide essential information regarding the accuracy of the available diagnostic tools for key decision makers, including patients, clinicians, guideline developers and researchers.

The purpose of a Cochrane DTA review is very like the purpose of a conventional Cochrane systematic review. Using explicit, transparent, and systematic methods to pool together all the available evidence relevant to a DTA research question, we can obtain more precise estimates of the accuracy of diagnostic tests than single DTA studies alone can provide. For more information, please see [Cochrane.org](https://www.cochrane.org).

8) More Cochrane Community news posts and blogs

- [Upcoming events](#)
- [Farewell to Julie Wood](#)
- [Health benefits for lone parents unlikely from welfare-to-work initiatives](#)

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,

Mark G. Wilson
Chief Executive Officer



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