



## Cochrane Reviews and Methods Digest

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Cochrane's Senior Management has this week introduced some structural changes to Cochrane's Central Executive Team (CET) designed to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the way that it works, both in leading and supporting the Cochrane community. You can see a [full overview of the structural changes](#) and a [presentation, entitled 'Working Better Together'](#) to introduce and explain changes. However, the most significant are:

- The Editorial & Methods Department is essentially unchanged but will be divided into three units within it, covering Editorial Policy & Publication; Review Production & Quality; and Methods Research & Development.
- The establishment of a new **'Knowledge Translation Department'**, drawn from the existing Communications & External Affairs Department (CEAD), focusing on facilitating and supporting Cochrane's organizational KT; communications; translations; 'content' advocacy, partnerships & external engagement; as well as events & marketing. The new department highlights the centrality of Knowledge Translation to Cochrane as an organization, and this team will act as the principal driver of the development and delivery of Cochrane's KT work: maximising the dissemination, use, and impact of Cochrane evidence; and ensuring that all our KT outputs and activities are provided in an effective and efficient manner to support Cochrane's strategic aims and objectives. You can find out more information about the new Knowledge Translation Department and its work [here](#).
- As part of this new focus on Cochrane's KT work, Cochrane Fields will now be managed and coordinated by the Head of KT (and no longer directly by the CEO).
- We are recruiting for the new [Head of Knowledge Translation Department](#) and all interested applicants are encouraged to apply.
- The establishment of a new **'Membership, Learning & Support Services'** department to cover membership, learning and development, our support to consumers and patients (including the Consumers Executive) and other (future) community groups (such as Cochrane Students for Best Evidence). The new department will also be responsible for Cochrane's user/community support (excluding that for the Cochrane



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Library, which remains with our publisher, Wiley). You can find out more information about the new Membership, Learning & Support Services (MLS) department and its work [here](#).

- We are recruiting for the new [Head of Membership, Learning & Support Services](#) and all interested applicants are encouraged to apply.
- The **Cochrane Innovations team is being formally integrated within the charity's** management structure and we are establishing a new 'Innovations, Research & Development Department' **that will allow us to integrate the Innovations team's** product development and commercialisation work (which in the coming years will be focused on the Cochrane Library) much more fully and efficiently within **Cochrane's** structure and decision-making. We will continue to have a Cochrane Innovations Trading Company (with Charlotte Pestrige continuing to be its CEO) through which we will commercialize some of our non-Library products (like Cochrane Interactive Learning).
- The **'Finance & Core Services'** department takes on business services/planning/monitoring/ reporting responsibilities, including management of **Cochrane's future publishing arrangements.**

My best wishes,

Mark Wilson  
Chief Executive Officer

## 2. Cochrane is seeking six senior leaders to join its vibrant Review Networks – Deadline Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February

Following its Governing Board decision in September 2017 to approve the creation of new thematic Networks, Cochrane started a recruitment process to appoint eight high-performing Senior Editors to lead the Networks.



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We are delighted to announce we have appointed Professor Lisa Bero as the Senior Editor for the Public Health and Health Services Network, and Dr Nicole Skoetz as the Senior Editor for the Cancer Network.

The recruitment process for Senior Editors has been extended and we are now actively recruiting for the following Networks:

- Acute and Emergency Care;
- Brain, Nerves and Mind;
- Children and Families;
- Circulation and Breathing; and
- Long-term Conditions and Ageing (that includes two distinct Networks).

We welcome applications from experienced leaders within Cochrane, including those who are only able to make a commitment of one year in the first instance, in order to initiate the development of the Network.

Senior Editors will support and co-ordinate a wide range of activities within the thematic Networks, assisted by an Associate Editor. They will be primarily responsible for ensuring review quality within their networks, will oversee prioritization and coverage assessment activities, and support innovation that leads to reviews that are better able to meet the needs of end users.

Please see the full job description and person specification [at this link](#).

Individuals who are interested in exploring this opportunity are encouraged to speak with David Tovey, Editor in Chief ([dtovey@cochrane.org](mailto:dtovey@cochrane.org)), or Karla Soares-Weiser, Deputy Editor in Chief ([ksoares-weiser@cochrane.org](mailto:ksoares-weiser@cochrane.org)).

To apply please submit your application including a covering letter, Curriculum Vitae, and letter of support to [hrenquiries@cochrane.org](mailto:hrenquiries@cochrane.org) by Thursday 15th February 2018.

**3.** Official launch of first Cochrane Review Group (CRG) Networks, Cochrane Public Health and Health Systems and Cochrane Cancer



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We are proud to announce this week the official launch of our first Cochrane Review Group (CRG) Networks, [Cochrane Public Health and Health Systems](#) and [Cochrane Cancer](#).

We welcome the formation of these new thematic Networks as part of the implementation of **Cochrane's CRG Transformation programme, which 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.

The new CRG Networks, each consisting of sustainable connection Review Groups, provide an opportunity to optimize resources, support and leadership, and you will be hearing more about their work from our newly-appointed Senior Editors as part of their new websites:

- **Cochrane Cancer:** <https://cancer.cochrane.org/>
- **Cochrane Public Health and Health Systems:** <https://publichealth.cochrane.org/>

#### 4. Cochrane Membership Update

We are pleased to say that we are now in the process of activating membership accounts for everyone that is eligible for Cochrane Membership. All Group staff are automatically eligible for membership, so you should all be receiving the email that asks you to activate your membership. Please activate your membership as soon as possible - amongst other things it is important for you to be able to vote in any future elections.

The emails have been sent to everyone on our records. Anyone who has previously worked with **Cochrane will be offered at least 1 year of membership, and anyone on record who hasn't** contributed anything yet will just be asked to confirm their communication preferences. This process combines our move to be data protection compliant with launching our membership scheme to existing contributors.

If anyone asks you questions about this please do feel free to pass on the enquiries to our support team at [membership@cochrane.org](mailto:membership@cochrane.org)  
More information on this is available at [this link](#).

#### 5. Changes to the Cochrane Priority Reviews List



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A key aspect of [reaccreditation](#) which all Cochrane Review Groups must undertake, is the requirement to conduct a priority-setting process. The Cochrane Editorial & Methods Department (previously CEU) does not endorse any particular priority-setting process, however in support of this new requirement we are working with colleagues on the [Knowledge Translation \(KT\) Priority Setting working group project](#) to develop resources that will help Groups choose an approach that best suits their needs. More details about this and other support will be communicated in the Review and Methods Digest over the coming months.

In light of the above changes, the way we compile the priority list will be different going forward. The key points to note are:

- No titles will be removed from the list now unless they are very out of date. (Please see the recent (Jan 16, 2018) email from Ruth Foxlee about the priority list audit).
- Groups can request that a title that is currently on the list be removed at any time.
- Groups can request that a title that is currently on the list be opened up to a new author team at any time.
- New titles can only be added to the list if they were derived from a transparent prioritisation process which includes some form of stakeholder engagement.

Many groups already have well-documented priority-setting process and those groups can continue to submit titles as they have done in the past. If you have undertaken a priority-setting exercise but haven't yet documented it, **please let us know.**

Ruth Foxlee & Karla Soares-Weiser

## 6. Changes to Copy Edit Support

There will be some changes to the way that Copy Edit Support service works, starting from 14 February 2018.

Please see the email that was circulated to Managing Editors and Co-ordinating Editors earlier this week for more details.



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## 7. Forthcoming changes to the Comments (Feedback) system on the Cochrane Library

The new Cochrane Library platform, launching in late March 2018, includes a new system for the submission, management, and publication of Comments (previously referred to as Feedback). The underlying principles will remain as now: Cochrane Library users will be able to submit comments on a review or protocol, and those comments will be passed (after some basic checks) to Cochrane Review Groups to assess and publish. But there are three important changes:

1. Comments will be stored and managed in a new system that forms part of the Cochrane Library.
2. Comments will be published as independent items directly from the new system. There will be no need to republish the associated Review or Protocol in order to publish a Comment.
3. The Feedback section of Reviews and Protocols will no longer be used for new comments, although existing content will be retained in that section.

We will be in touch with you soon with more details and guidance, and there will be training and support from the CET Editorial Policy & Publications team (contact: John Hilton; [jhilton@cochrane.org](mailto:jhilton@cochrane.org)).

## 8. Latest update to the MECIR standards

The conduct standard C48 - **Examining errata**: has been upgraded from “Highly desirable” to “Mandatory”.

The online version (<http://community.cochrane.org/mecir-manual>) has been updated as has the .pdf on the methods website ([methods.cochrane.org](http://methods.cochrane.org)).

Readers are reminded that the MECIR online will always be the most up-to-date MECIR resource.



## 9. Featured Review: Three updated Cochrane Reviews assessing the effectiveness of influenza vaccines

Three Cochrane Reviews have been newly updated to incorporate the latest available evidence on vaccines for the prevention of influenza. These reviews, which focus on the prevention of influenza in healthy adults, healthy children, and in the elderly, form a long-running series by the same author team, and are available in full on the Cochrane Library:

- Healthy adults:  
<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/14651858.CD001269.pub6/abstract>
- Healthy children:  
<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/wol1/doi/10.1002/14651858.CD004879.pub5/abstract>
- Elderly:  
<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/wol1/doi/10.1002/14651858.CD004876.pub4/abstract>

A Featured Review containing a blog post can be found on Cochrane.org: Lead, homepage news item: <https://www.cochrane.org/news/featured-review-three-updated-cochrane-reviews-assessing-effectiveness-influenza-vaccines>

The full blog is also posted here on Cochrane's community website:

<https://community.cochrane.org/news/why-have-three-long-running-cochrane-reviews-influenza-vaccines-been-stabilised>

## 10. Cochrane Scientific Committee update

The [Cochrane Scientific Committee](#) will meet again on the 28<sup>th</sup> February 2018 and will discuss a report from an expert panel on random errors in cumulative meta-analyses and whether adjustments are appropriate in Cochrane Reviews. Also on the agenda is interim guidance on when authors should include clinical study reports and other regulatory types of regularity data in reviews. Members of the community can [submit](#) items they consider relevant for the





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Scientific Committee at any time. Also, on these pages are held the minutes, reports and forthcoming agendas.

Thank you,

Jackie Chandler

### 11. Latest Co-ed blog post on the CRG Network portal

You can find the latest Co-ordinating Editor blog post from Rebecca Normansell on the CRG Network portal [here](#).

Rebecca Normansell is Joint is Co-ordinating Editor of Cochrane Airways, one of five Groups in Cochrane Circulation and Breathing. She shares with us some of her personal views on the work of her Group this year, and outlines the opportunities and challenges facing Cochrane Airways in 2018.

This Blog presents commentary and personal opinion on topics of interest from a range of contributors to the work of Cochrane. Opinions posted on the Cochrane Blog are those of the individual contributors and do not reflect the official views or policies of Cochrane.

### 12. Webinar: Making sense in systematic reviews of complex interventions

Upcoming webinar on *Making sense in systematic reviews of complex interventions*

Thursday, 15th February 2018 15:00 UTC.

In this webinar, Dr Jeremy Grimshaw will present novel analytical approaches to enhance the informativeness of systematic reviews of complex interventions using a systematic review of diabetes quality improvement as the example. The session will consist of a 40-minute presentation, followed by questions and answers. It is intended for GESI Network members and general audience interested in systematic reviews of complex interventions.

More information and sign-up can be found at [this link](#).



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### 13. Latest methods-related training courses

A reminder that the latest methods-related training courses can be found at [this link](#).

### 14. Join us – Register now for Cochrane’s 2018 Governance Meetings in Lisbon

Registration deadline 4 March 2018

The 2018 Governance Meetings will be hosted by Cochrane Portugal and held at the Tivoli Oriente Hotel in Lisbon, 19-23 March 2018.

Governance Meetings are free to attend, but registration is needed to confirm meeting numbers and special requirements. To register, please visit [this page](#) of the Cochrane Community website.

Book your hotel: The Portuguese team have arranged several special hotel rates that are listed in the link above, so make sure to book your hotel before the booking deadlines pass.

### 15. More Cochrane Community news posts and blogs

- [Upcoming events](#)
- [Several positions within Cochrane are currently advertised](#)
- [Listen to the latest episodes of The Recommended Dose podcast](#)