

Council paper 020322-2 Cochrane Methods Report to Council February 2022

Achievements since last formal meeting

Updates from the Methods Executive and Methods Support Unit

- The Methods Support Unit launched themed web clinics for 2022. On **10 February**, they were joined by [Toby Lasserson to discuss developing your implications for research section](#)..
- .The **Methods Executive** is meeting next on **23 March**
- **Cochrane Council new methods representative**. Cinzia del Giovane has been appointed as the new methods representative on the Cochrane Council. The position starts in April/May 2022 (Sarah Nevitt is going on maternity leave in April 2022).
- **Methods Executive co-Chair rotation**: Tianjing Li replaces Carl Moons as new Co-chair from the March 2022 meeting together with Jo McKenzie, who will rotate of at the ned of 2022.
- Senior Research Integrity Editor, Lisa Bero, discusses the subject of “Recent research Integrity : [making sure medical trials reported in the scientific literature are real](#).” on a recent article in Nature
- Methods Exec subgroup started developing the topic for **a 2022 Methods Symposium** (which will likely be in October 2022)

Updates from Methods Groups:

- Equity will be hosting a day with Equity Methods Group on **27 April**.
- Over half of the chapters for the new *Cochrane Handbook for Qualitative Evidence Synthesis* are out for initial review (due to publish 2023) (**Qualitative and Implementation**)
- Statistics organised one webinar on NMAstudios: a fully interactive too for network meta-analyses on **10 February**. A second webinar on [Quantiles of](#)

[the marginal and conditional dose-response relation based on weighted mixed-effects models](#) will be on **24 March**.

- **Equity** published a Cochrane Methodology Review on [effects on health equity are assessed in systematic reviews of interventions](#).
- GIN 2022 is calling for abstracts (deadline **18 April**). Anyone interested in proposing a session on evidence syntheses and guidelines should contact Holger Schunemann (**GRADE**)
- **Screening and Diagnostic Tests** have [released one more chapter](#) of the new version of the *Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Diagnostic Test Accuracy*; chapter 6 on defining the review question.
- **Qualitative and Implementation** hosted a webinar on Making Sense of Framework and Best Fit Framework Synthesis as part of [the QES Learning Live webinar series](#) (next webinar is on [Thematic synthesis](#) on **24 February**).

Challenges, including issues for the Council to discuss

None

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Comments from the Methods Executive and Methods Groups for Council

Comment 1:

Most of the methods development work in Cochrane has been pro bono and people involved are genuinely enthusiastic about methods work. I don't see a clear role of methods groups in the proposed changes. Who will be pushing the envelope? Will Cochrane lose the methods community as a result?

Comment 2:

Most of the members of the Cochrane Methods Community are not paid directly by Cochrane and essentially, we do our Cochrane work in a volunteer / pro-bono status because they want to and they are passionate about Methods. Without a clear role for Methods in the new Cochrane structure, the risk is losing engagement with the Methods Community.

The Methods Community overall has not yet been very vocal about the proposed changes. This may be because as a Community, currently we have no idea what the proposed changes mean for us. Will our role be essentially the same but within a different structure? Will there be a different role, or a role at all?

More clarity on some of these questions is needed quickly before engagement is lost with the Methods Community entirely. We think some people are feeling alienated and even under appreciated with the lack of specific mention of Methods within the latest Strategy. Without clarity around the role of Methods in the 'new' Cochrane soon, even the most enthusiastic Cochrane Methods people may start to turn their attention elsewhere to spend their volunteer time.

Priorities for the next 3 months

To engage further with the Methods Executive, Methods Groups and wider Methods Community regarding the role of Methods and the Methods community in the future of Cochrane.

Engagement will involve:

- Discussion of the role of Methods and the Methods community in upcoming Methods Executive meetings
- Reflecting upon the Methods Community projects (in depth interviews conducted with all Methods Groups in 2019)