

[CONCIL PAPER 16052022-4]

Cochrane Methods Executive, Methods Groups and Methods Community Report to Council:

May 2022

Achievements since last formal meeting

Updates from the Methods Executive and Methods Support Unit

- [SynQ \(Synthesis Questions reporting checklist and guide\)](#) is available on [Task Exchange for comment and feedback](#). This is from **Statistics** and is one of [five collaborative projects](#) aimed at delivering practical resources to help authors and editors in areas found to be challenging.
- The **Methods Executive** met on **23 March**, which included the following highlights (next meeting is on **17 May**):
 - Discussion with Karla on communication with the methods community about the future of evidence synthesis changes.
 - New methods proposals on QUADAS2 (**Screening and Diagnostic Tests**) and recommendations for random-effects methods (**Statistics**) discussed.
 - 2022 Methods Symposium - shortlisted for October on the topic diversifying our methods arsenal when using other types of data/evidence. Novel ways to plan and search that can be used in scoping exercises (e.g. if you are considering using NRSIs, qualitative evidence, etc.) or developing your search. More details to follow soon.

Updates from Methods Groups:

- **Screening and Diagnostic Tests** have [released three more chapters](#) of the new version of the *Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Diagnostic Test Accuracy*; chapter 7 on searching for and selecting studies, chapter 12 on presenting findings and chapter 14 on writing a plain language summary.
- **Statistics** are joining the Methods Support Unit for two upcoming web clinics. One on a checklist and guide for defining the questions to be addressed in the synthesis of public health intervention reviews (**14 April**) and one on the development of materials to facilitate presentation and statistical synthesis when data are not amenable to meta-analysis (**11 August**); how to register and full schedule through 2020 [here](#).
- Tianjing Li (**Comparing Multiple Interventions - NMA**) and **Bias** are hosting two-day training on [assessing bias in randomised and non-randomised studies](#), Colorado, USA, with leads from Bias and Comparing Multiple Interventions. Open to all, course fee applies.

Challenges, including issues for the Council to discuss

None

Priorities for the next 3 months

In the last Methods Exec teleconference, we discussed with Karla that two groups within the methods community would benefit from specific webinars dedicated to their questions and concerns they could have about the restructure of Cochrane groups and their roles:

1. Methodologists supporting Cochrane Reviews
2. Convenors and staff of Methods Groups

Ella Fleming is working to facilitate the organization of one the webinars that have been planned by Karla dedicated to concerns and problems specific for these two groups. She is going to email statisticians, methods editors, other methodologists and information specialists who support CRGs asking for their availability to attend the dedicated webinar and a list of concern, doubts or questions to be recollected, collated and sent in advance to Karla before the webinar.