

[COUNCIL PAPER 16052022-6]
Report to Council by Fields Executive
10 May 2022



The Fields Executive has had two meetings in 2022. Members of central executive also attended; this has provided essential active linkage for cohesive engagement during this time of change within the organisation.

Fields community attended the first of the planned series of webinars about the Future of Cochrane Evidence Synthesis. Fields are actively engaging in all the initiatives the Board is proposing, with the aim of making their expertise available to the future of Cochrane.

Fields Executive is up-dating a summary of relevant Fields information including key stakeholders, review production, dissemination and their last three months main activities. This document will be submitted to Council and sent to future@cochrane.org before the next Future of Cochrane Evidence Synthesis webinar on 26 May 2022.

The Field's Executive has prepared the following questions, comments and proposals in order to make as much information as possible available to Council, and share what is happening with Fields and what they feel is important to protect in the new structure of Cochrane.

Challenges, including issues for the Council to discuss

- Will it be possible for Fields to remain an individual entity if part of a Thematic Group (TG)?
- Many Fields will need to keep their identity and brand so as not to lose funding, how will this work?
- Fields could be considered TGs. Big stakeholders are looking for big issue areas that may not correspond to current Fields. However, it is important to bear in mind that there are also stakeholders looking for smaller TGs, this should not be overlooked.
- The Field's executive feel it would be very useful to receive formal information about the restructuring of teams and departments, as an example: The Knowledge Translation department.
- The Next generation of Cochrane professionals and leaders needs to include methodologists, clinicians - that need groups coherent with their specific understanding -, and early degree professionals who should be involved in all groups. It is easier for people to engage in smaller groups, whereas they tend to get lost in bigger ones (TGs on big issues?).
- It is important for Council and the Board to communicate with individual Executives since the present organization may change in the near future.
- There is concern that the Cochrane Library that could go too global, losing sight of the 'smaller' themes which have been a big part of the Library content.

Priorities for the next three months

- Regular Fields Executive meetings will continue including engagement with central executive and other groups.
- Fields community will continue to attend and contribute to the webinars and related activities related to the Future of Cochrane Evidence Synthesis programme of work, with a specific focus on developments around Thematic Groups.
- Fields will up-date their activities in the excel file as an ongoing process.