

Cochrane Forums

1.1 The requirement

To provide a space for all Members and Supporters to have open and transparent online discussions about issues relevant to Cochrane.

1.2 Who is it for?

The Forums are open to anyone with a Cochrane Account, so all Cochrane Members and Supporters can join the discussion.

1.3 The technology

We use the [Discourse](https://discourse.cochrane.org) platform, and it can be accessed at forums.cochrane.org. This is an open platform where anyone with a Cochrane Account can log in and join discussions. Closed groups are possible, but require manual curation, and so are only suitable for small constituencies or project teams.

1.4 How it works

Visit forums.cochrane.org and sign in with your Cochrane Account to easily navigate and read the existing conversations.

If you wish to participate you can either add a new contribution to an existing discussion or you can set up your own thread around a topic you are interested in.

We have tried to add some structure to help organise topics, e.g. *technology* or *governance*. We anticipate that once the Forums are being used more extensively these categories will help you find content you are interested in more easily.

Within the Forums you can set up alerts around new content to help you keep up to date without having to always log in to the Forums site.

If you see content that you feel is inappropriate you can flag it. This community-based moderation is important to any forum.



all categories ▾

Categories

Latest

Top

Category	Topics
Consumers Involvement in Cochrane This discussion board is for people within Cochrane (consumers, authors, members of Review Groups, Fields and others) who are interested in, and want to improve, the way that consumers are involved in Cochrane: in its governance, in producing reviews, in the translation of Cochrane evidence.	6
Technology ■ RevMan Web ■ RevMan ■ Archie ■ Other	4
Review production ■ Review writing ■ Editorial ■ Methods	0
Knowledge Translation ■ Prioritization ■ KT products ■ Advocacy ■ Partnerships	1
Governance ■ Elections ■ Council	0
Learning ■ Face-to-face training ■ Online training ■ Webinars ■ Mentorship	2
Support Comments and suggestions on Cochrane Support Services ■ Tech support ■ Membership support	0

1.5 What is the difference between Slack and Forums?

You may have been invited to participate in a trial of Slack and so wonder how the two fit together. Slack is a communication tool that allows people to have one-to-one discussions or discussion in open or closed channels. This is really good for creating a virtual working environment and has been used successfully in the Central Executive Team and in several Cochrane Groups. It can help reduce email traffic, and in particular it can be a significant improvement on using group mailing lists.

We think this could be a useful tool for people working in Cochrane Groups to collaborate and so we are rolling out a trial. Slack will only be available to selected people working in Cochrane groups, whereas Cochrane Forums are available to absolutely anyone with a Cochrane Account and they are designed to have more open discussions.

1.6 What the discussion forums might be useful for

The discussion forums could be useful for open discussion amongst the community, but ultimately, they are only as useful as the input that comes

in from users as the concept of a forum is heavily based on user participation.

They may be useful for gaining feedback on organisational initiatives by giving people the chance to feed in ideas and thoughts in open discussion.

In the early days of any forum there is a need for lots of new content to stimulate activity and get people used to using the forum, so if you are interested, we encourage you to promote the Forums to others, particularly specific conversations that they might be interested in, and we encourage you to post your discussion topics and questions for your peers.

1.7 Guidelines for use

Please read the FAQs provided by *Discourse*, they are not rules and regulations, but instead they are guidelines for how you should use Forums appropriately, to use their words: “*This is a Civilized Place for Public Discussion*”: <https://Forums.cochrane.org/faq>

Take a look at Cochrane Forums now, visit forums.cochrane.org

If you have any queries about Cochrane Forums, please contact the Community Support Team: support@cochrane.org