



Dear Colleagues,

Please find below the March 2018 issue of the Reviews and Methods Digest.

In addition, you can find the open access agenda and papers for the Governing Board [here](#).

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### 1. New appointments for the CRG Networks

Dear community colleagues

We are delighted to inform you that we have appointed Senior Editors for seven of the CRG Networks. The Project Team has been unanimous in agreeing that the new Senior Editor role is critical to the success of the CRG Transformation Programme, therefore we have consciously set

the bar for appointment very high and been specific in our assessment of the leadership characteristics and skill-sets needed for the appointed candidates.

These essential characteristics include:

- A strong commitment to and understanding of the CRG Transformation Programme;
- The capacity and willingness to support change through the networks;
- Editorial experience at a high level;
- The ability and willingness to think strategically, and to focus on detail where needed: for example, in respect of review quality;
- Credibility within the editorial community allied with high level communication, leadership and influencing skills;
- **Knowledge and understanding of the work of Cochrane’s CRGs and their contribution to the success of the Networks.**

In total, we received 28 applications and interviewed a shortlist of 18 candidates. The six appointments were the unanimous choice of the recruitment panel that included Martin Burton (ENT Co-ordinating Editor and co-chair of the Governing Board), Jan Clarkson (Oral Health Co-ordinating Editor and member of the Governing Board), Jonathan Craig (Kidney and Transplant Co-ordinating Editor), Nicky Cullum (Wounds Co-ordinating Editor), Fergus Macbeth (Lung Cancer Co-ordinating Editor, Co-chair of the Cochrane Council and also the Funding Arbiter panel), Karla Soares-Weiser (Deputy Editor in Chief), and David Tovey (Editor in Chief). We will not run another round of selection before September 2018, therefore interim appointments have been agreed with the Project Team in order to facilitate the initiation of activities within these Networks. Please see below the list of Senior Editors and Associate Editors and their CRG Network:

Network	Senior Editor	Associate Editor
Acute and Emergency Care	Michael Brown	Liz Bickerdike
Brain, Nerves and Mind	Chris Eccleston	Nuala Livingstone
Cancer	Nicole Skoetz	Sarah Hodgkinson
Children and Families	Toby Lasserson (interim)	Newton Opiyo
Circulation and Breathing	Asbjörn Hróbjartsson (interim)	Sarah Hodgkinson
Long Term Conditions and Ageing 1	<i>To be appointed soon</i>	Liz Bickerdike
Long Term Conditions and Ageing 2	Peter Tugwell	Nuala Livingstone
Public Health and Health Services	Lisa Bero	Newton Opiyo

The Senior Editors and Associate Editors will formally take up their new roles from April/May, **and I’m sure you’ll join us in warmly welcoming them to their new posts.**

In addition, we are delighted to announce the appointment of the additional members who, along with the Senior Editors will form a new Editorial Board, which will meet for the first time in Lisbon. These are:

- Tammy Clifford, Senior Adviser representing the Evidence User community
- Sally Green, Senior Adviser (Knowledge Translation)
- Julian Higgins, Senior Methods Adviser
- Paul Garner, Senior Adviser (Innovation and Review production)
- Jimmy Volmink, Senior Adviser (Equity and Diversity)

Finally, we look forward to seeing many of you next week for our first formal CRG Networks meeting on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> **March during Cochrane's Governance Meetings** in Lisbon.

With best wishes

David and Karla

## 2. Lisbon Community Strategic Session

At its meeting in Cape Town, in September 2017, Cochrane's Governing Board approved the Cochrane Review Group (CRG) [Transformation Programme Implementation Plan](#). This plan 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 Cochrane Reviews, relevant to our stakeholders.

Within the first three months of 2018, we have seen the formation of our eight thematic [CRG Networks](#), which will comprehensively cover all healthcare topics. The new CRG Networks provide an opportunity to optimize resources, support and leadership.

During the Strategic Session we welcome the wider Cochrane community to come together and discuss key objectives for CRG Networks in 2018, focusing on priority-setting; improving consistency in review quality; innovations; and support and mentoring for authors, CRGs, and Networks. The session will be an opportunity to influence the decisions and direction taken for the Networks in 2018.

Following the Governance Meetings, there will be a series of CRG Network webinars with an invitation to the wider community to ensure that all Cochrane's contributors are aware of the plans for 2018.

Please see this link for further information and the Session agenda: [Community Strategic Session and agenda](#)

Please see this link for [Information about the 2018 Governance Meeting in Lisbon](#)

David Tovey and Karla Soares-Weiser  
Editor in Chief and Deputy Editor in Chief  
Cochrane Editorial & Methods Department

### 3. New webinar series: editorial policy and publication

The Editorial and Publishing Policy team in the Editorial and Methods Department (previously the Cochrane Editorial Unit) are starting a series of monthly webinars for CRG editorial staff.

The webinars will cover all areas of editorial policy and publication, and provide an opportunity to discuss specific cases, clarify implementation, and ask questions. All webinars will be recorded and available to view from the Cochrane Training website for those unable to attend.

The details of the first four webinars in the series are below. Please click the sign-up link for each individual webinar that you wish to attend.

If you have any questions about the webinars, or would like to suggest topics for future webinars, please contact Bryony Urquhart ([burquhart@cochrane.org](mailto:burquhart@cochrane.org)).

1. Cochrane Library: new features and changes for editorial teams  
Presenters: Harriet MacLehose, John Hilton, Ruth Foxlee and Sera Tort  
Thursday 5th April, 13:00 UK

In the coming months, the Cochrane Library will introduce some new features and changes that will have an impact on Cochrane Review Groups (CRGs). During this webinar, the Cochrane Library team will provide an overview of these changes, the benefits the new features will provide, and implications for editorial and publishing practices. .

Sign-up here: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1294093688993045507>

2. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews – a peer reviewed publication  
Presenters: Bryony Urquhart and Sally Bell-Syer  
Tuesday 17th April, 12:00 UK

A new Cochrane-wide peer review policy will be published in early April 2018. This webinar will cover the key points of the new policy, together with specific details of policy implementation, including the use of Archie workflows. There will be plenty of opportunity for discussion. This will be of particular interest to MEs, but is also open to Co-ordinating Editors and Editors.

Sign-up here: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/9022543328444808707>

3. Editorial and Publishing Policy Surgery  
Presenters: Bryony Urquhart and Anupa Shah  
Tuesday 15th May, 14:00 UK

**In this webinar there will be a brief introduction to Cochrane’s editorial and publishing policy pipeline, and then an open forum.** This is an opportunity for any CRG staff to discuss specific cases and to ask questions about policies and policy implementation.

Sign-up here: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3424859262693175555>

### 4. Methods for Evaluating Medical Tests and Biomarkers (MEMTAB) 2018

The conference [Methods for Evaluating Medical Tests and Biomarkers \(MEMTAB\)](#) 2018 will take place on Monday 2nd & Tuesday 3rd July 2018 in Utrecht, the Netherlands

Keynote speakers include:

Prof. F. E. Harrell Jr - Vanderbilt University Nashville USA

Dr. S. Byron - National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE)

Prof. F.G.J. Cobelens - Academic Medical Center (AMC) Amsterdam, the Netherlands

Following the success of the previous MEMTAB conferences the event will return in July 2018 in The Netherlands, only 35 km from Amsterdam Schiphol Airport. These two days will have compelling plenary lectures, original oral presentations and interactive poster sessions. Topics will include (but are not limited to):

- the value of diverse data in evaluation of tests, markers and prediction models;
- systematic reviews using aggregate plus individual data;
- personalized and precision medicine;
- companion diagnostics;
- machine learning techniques for evaluation of tests, markers and prediction models;
- how to quantify over diagnosis;
- prediction models, when are they ready for use;
- eHealth and mHealth for diagnosis, prognosis and monitoring;
- impact assessment of markers, tests and models.

Attendees will learn from world-leading experts, discuss their research with peers, and enjoy the Dutch hospitality. More information about the program, abstract submission, deadlines, hotel accommodation and conference registration is published on the conference website [MEMTAB 2018](#).

## 5. Nutritional Labelling: Visual presentation of media coverage

The Cochrane Review '[Nutritional labelling for healthier food or non-alcoholic drink purchasing and consumption](#)' received widespread media coverage. Cochrane UK have put together a visual representation of the UK media coverage, which you can view [here](#).

## 6. Living systematic review re-published in record time

Teams at Australia's University of Newcastle, [Cochrane Heart](#), and Project Transform's [living systematic review](#) (LSR), machine learning and citizen science experts have combined forces to re-publish one of Cochrane's first LSRs in record time. Following an update in September 2017, the LSR of '[Interventions for increasing fruit and vegetable consumption in children aged five years and under](#)' was re-published in just four months!

The review team had assistance from Cochrane’s machine classifiers and [Cochrane Crowd](#) to identify the RCTs from their monthly search results. Amazingly, Cochrane Crowd contributors screened 1,600 citations (involving over 6,000 individual classifications) for this update in just 5 hours! Lead author Rebecca Hodder estimated this reduced the team’s screening time by 60%, allowing the authors to focus their efforts on incorporating five new and seven ongoing eligible studies. With the ongoing monthly searches so far revealing another ten new studies and four new ongoing studies, the review authors expect to include these in their next update, to be published by May.

## 7. Latest methods-related training courses

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

## 8. 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](#)

Best wishes

David and Karla

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