Showcasing Cochrane-WHO collaboration: Developing guidelines for clinical questions

Metin Gülmezoglu, Özge Tunçalp, Olufemi Oladapo
Department of Reproductive Health and Research
WHO and Cochrane Collaboration – working together

- Cochrane Pregnancy and Childbirth have worked closely with WHO RHR for many years – e.g. WHO RHL (since 1996), clinical guidelines in GRC-era

- Both organizations share a common mission – to ensure that reproductive and maternal healthcare is informed by high quality evidence

- This strong alliance benefits both organizations
WHO’s contributions to Cochrane Collaboration activities

There are a number of ways that WHO staff contribute to the work of Cochrane Collaboration, particularly Cochrane Pregnancy and Childbirth Group

- As members of the PCG Editorial Board
  - Editor: Metin Gülmezoglu
  - Associate Editors: Olufemi Oladapo, Joshua Vogel

- As authors of a PCG Cochrane reviews
  - For example: Mercedes Bonet, Joshua Vogel, Meghan Bohren, Olufemi Oladapo, Özge Tunçalp, Metin Gülmezoglu, Doris Chou, Lale Say
Cochrane PCG reviews used in WHO maternal and perinatal health guidelines

- In the last three years (2014-16) **121** PCG Cochrane reviews have been used into inform **four** WHO guidelines

- **Antenatal care**
  - 2016
  - 54 reviews

- **Preterm birth**
  - 2015
  - 22 reviews

- **Peripartum infections**
  - 2015
  - 20 reviews

- **Augmentation of labour**
  - 2014
  - 25 reviews
Cochrane-WHO collaboration: what are the benefits for WHO?

- Cochrane PCG database serves as the primary evidence base repository for WHO maternal and perinatal health recommendations
  - Facilitates future update

- Wide range of high quality reviews reduces the need for conducting fresh reviews for prioritized WHO guideline PICO questions
  - More recommendations are possible if all reviews have to be conducted from scratch

- Leveraging expertise of Cochrane editorial office staff in conducting and interpreting complex reviews
  - Network meta-analysis, QES
Cochrane-WHO collaboration: what are the challenges?

- Preparing a large number of Cochrane reviews/updates within **tight timelines** can be challenging (i.e. review preparation and all stages of the editorial process)

- WHO internal contracting procedures only allow for a **limited-term contracts** with Cochrane Review Groups
  - Often leading to loss of highly-skilled research associates who are experienced in WHO guideline work from Cochrane editorial office
Cochrane-WHO collaboration: Looking ahead, together...

- **Closer and longer term arrangements** for updating of evidence base for existing WHO recommendations
  - Example: New WHO/RHR “Living guidelines project”

- **Cochrane groups to develop and insist on the use of core outcomes set for health conditions** of public health importance
  - Several outcomes used by Cochrane review authors are not patient-centred and are not useful for guideline decision-making

- If Cochrane reviews topics are driven by **global priorities** then they can have higher **impact**
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For further information

Dr Metin Gülmezoglu gulmezoglum@who.int
Dr Özge Tunçalp tuncalpo@who.int
Dr Olufemi Oladapo oladapoo@who.int