



Update on partnerships

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Purpose of paper: To provide a status update on Cochrane's external partnerships for Q4, 2016 and Q1, 2017

Access: Open access

Summary of recommendations: For information



Cochrane's work with external partners is guided by the [Cochrane Partnership Policy](#) and the Cochrane [Framework for Partnership Development](#). A [dedicated space on the community website](#) has been developed to keep the Cochrane community informed about the key external partnerships that Cochrane is engaged in. The [October 2016 update to the Cochrane CSG](#) on external partnerships is also available on the community site.

The current document provides a status update on Cochrane's external partnerships for Q4, 2016 and Q1, 2017. The annex provides a detailed overview per partner, also specifying the plans for the next two quarters. The main developments to note are:

- The planning for the Global Evidence Summit is progressing well and provides an opportunity to connect many of our external partners: sessions are being planned with various groups at WHO, with G-I-N, Campbell, JBI and consumer organisations.
- We ended the official partnership with the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC) due to lack of demonstrable progress.
- We signed official MoUs with Epistemonikos, G-I-N and MAGIC.
- We also signed an MoU in support of the [March for Science](#), and will be working in the coming weeks, jointly with the US Cochrane Centre, on ensuring a Cochrane contribution to the March.
- We started using Task Exchange for work with external partners: most notably G-I-N and Wikipedia.
- The work on the Partnership Toolkit, an online resource for Cochrane Groups to use for their own partnership development, will evolve alongside the Knowledge Translation Strategy, to ensure that they are connected and complementary, and is thus scheduled to start in Q2.

New relationships that we are continuing to explore but are not yet far enough along to be included in the table in the Annex below include:

- 'Choosing Wisely' is a campaign to help clinicians and patients engage in conversations about unnecessary tests and treatments and make smart and effective choices to ensure high-quality care. We have reached out to [Choosing Wisely international](#), and to Choosing Wisely Netherlands, and are exploring how we can contribute to the Choosing Wisely conference taking place in Amsterdam (September 2017).
- [VIVLI](#) – aims to promote, coordinate, and facilitate clinical research data sharing through the creation and implementation of a sustainable global data-sharing enterprise. In the short term VIVLI would like to work with Cochrane on the build of the platform. In the longer term the collaboration would focus on data sharing and analysis solutions for global clinical trials data, facilitating access and discovery of data.
- [COMET Initiative](#) (Core Outcome Measures in Effectiveness Trials): we participated in their 6th meeting in Amsterdam in November 2016, and follow up discussions are scheduled to agree on the degree to which this partnership should be formalised. Potential areas for collaboration include work around PICO annotator and finder; and the joint work around patient and consumer engagement in identifying outcomes.
- The [Global Health Network](#) is a digital platform to enable research by sharing knowledge and methods. We are discussing how we can use the platform to share Cochrane Training information and resources, and possibly (at a later stage) to respond to specific training demands.

Annex – Update on Key Strategic Partnerships:

Goal	Partner	Activity	Status of partnership	Key achievement Q4, 2016 & Q1, 2017	Q2/Q3 2017 plans
3	Wikipedia https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Wikipedia_Signpost/2016-02-03/In_focus)	Intern project with CRGs piloted to increase access to Cochrane evidence.	There is no formal MoU currently in place	<p>We piloted a Wikipedia editing project with Cochrane Global Ageing, involving four volunteers. The volunteers edited 106 articles, and added over 16,000 words to these articles during a four-months' period. The articles were viewed 9.35 million times by the end of the project period (January 2017). One month later the number of views are close to 11 million. This shows the potential reach of Wikipedia.</p> <p>We are also working with Task Exchange and posting Wikipedia tasks on the platform. So far the response is good and tasks are getting completed on time.</p>	<p>In April, we will decide whether we will continue with the volunteer scheme, with Task Exchange or with both.</p> <p>The pilot project with Cochrane Global Ageing will be presented at the Cochrane UK and Ireland Symposium by one of the volunteers.</p> <p>Another volunteer has been invited to participate in Wikimania in Canada in August to share her Cochrane Wikipedia editing experience.</p> <p>We are also planning a training session and poster for the Global Evidence Summit (GES) in September.</p>
1,2,3,4	WHO (www.who.int)	Implement plan of work 2016-2018	Partnership was evaluated and reported on in 2015 (step 5 of partnership framework). Now in implementation phase.	<p>WHO- Cochrane strategy meeting organised for April 3 (day prior to MYM) in Geneva (see here for programmes). In the morning Cochrane will facilitate several training sessions for WHO staff. Several Cochrane groups plan individual meetings with WHO (i.e., Cochrane Nutrition).</p> <p>In relations to GES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engagement of the Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research in the Global Evidence 	<p>April 3 strategy meeting, training sessions and other WHO related meetings around the MYM.</p> <p>The Essential Medicines List (EML) team worked on a blog series – aim to publish prior to MYM, but depending on EML team.</p> <p>We are preparing for WHA attendance, by reviewing the agenda and considering statements that can be made. We are also considering organising separate meetings with African delegations, especially in relation to GES.</p>

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				<p>Summit (GES) in Cape Town in 2017 as platinum sponsor.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working with TDR on their engagement in GES (supporting bursaries; sessions) as gold sponsor. Held luncheon seminar on 23/2, organised by TDR, to inform WHO staff about GES. Developing various sessions that involve WHO: Health workforce; complex interventions; HRP. <p>Work with EVIP-Net/EURO ongoing: they are providing training to three selected Cochrane contributors that will facilitate EvipNet workshops in the Euro region from mid 2017 onwards.</p> <p>Cochrane Global Ageing held Special Session in Seoul jointly with WHO Healthy Ageing. Follow on meeting scheduled for last week of March – at WHO.</p>	Continue work with WHO departments in preparation of GES.
2,3	Global Evidence Synthesis Initiative (GESI)	GESI seeks to develop the production capacity and use of synthesized evidence in low- and	Implementation phase	<p>GESI's website was launched in Quarter 1 (see: www.gesiinitiative.com) .</p> <p>Cochrane completed contractual arrangements with other funding partners for GESI (and its Secretariat at the American University of Beirut, Lebanon) Additional GESI Governance</p>	The call for Expressions of Interest to join the GESI Network of Centers for Evidence Synthesis was issued in March 2017, with a closing date of 15 th April 2017. Once the Network is established, GESI will seek funds to support the work and development of up to 10 of the Centres.

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		middle-income countries.		Group meetings to plan its further development were held in Q4 2016.	
2,3	Evidence Synthesis International (https://evidencesynthesis.org)	Brings together a network of organisations committed to evidence synthesis and systematic review production across a range of different fields.		Cochrane is a founder member of the Evidence Synthesis International, launched in September 2016 in London.	
2	Epistemonikos (http://www.epistemonikos.org)	To explore a long-term joint venture	Step 2 of partnership framework. (Discussions ongoing this week).	Official partnership and MoU launched in December . Work focused on the incorporation of Epistemonikos' database within the new federated search feature on the new CL platform (to be launched in July 2017). Work progressed well with Epistemonikos, Wiley and Semantico on this.	Further planning/development ongoing.
2	G-I-N www.g-i-n.net	To build stronger connections with G-I-N members and Cochrane as well as begin to	Implementation phase	Agreed new MoU with G-I-N. Developed ToR for Partnership Advisory Group that will help guide joint work and held first meeting of this group in Philadelphia. Agreed priorities for the next year will be Global Evidence Summit, TaskExchange development and sharing success stories	Adjust Task Exchange to the needs of GIN. Platform to be available end Q2 latest, in order to test and use prior to GES. Planning two Special Sessions for GES, as well as TE workshop which will highlight use for guideline developers.

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		explore further connections.		of interactions between guidelines developers and Cochrane Groups.	
3	Campbell G-I-N ISEHC Joanna Briggs	Co-host the Global Evidence Summit in Cape Town in 2017.	Implementation phase	In June 2016 the Global Evidence Summit was formally launched and the partnership arrangements were finalised. All committees for GES were established by end 2016 and the call for abstracts was opened in January 2017.	Further planning ongoing
3	PAHO www.paho.org	Deliver MoU (detailed plan of work developed in 2015).	Implementation phase	Considered ‘recycling’ unsuccessful EC proposal Marie-Curie call for proposals focusing on training. Decided not to pursue due to funding limitations of this call.	Aim to work with PAHO on smaller projects (within the agreed upon plan of work) that can be implemented with current resources.
3	Consumer Organizations	Develop collaboration with existing consumer groups; and explore the feasibility of an international consumer coalition.	Step 1 & 2 of partnership framework	<p>Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) core group (Cochrane; Involve/NiHR; Birmingham Uni, COMET) met early September and agreed to meet monthly to take the initiative forward. Follow up meeting held in Seoul.</p> <p>A task group was formed; a database of 50 potential partner organisations created; developing survey to explore priority areas of interest of partners.</p>	<p>Planning session at GES.</p> <p>Looking into funding opportunities.</p> <p>Soft launch of network at GES and additional launch of network at INVOLVE conference in November.</p>
1,2,3	GRADE (http://www.gradeworkinggroup.org)	To deliver the MoU as well as a licensing agreement for software use.	Step 2	Meeting with GRADE in Seoul to discuss the next steps in the partnership esp around software use. Held meeting with Evidence Prime to discuss Archie integration.	Explore linking RevMan Web in relation to GRADEPro GDT and summary of findings (through Evidence Prime).

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2	MAGIC (http://magicproject.org)	To explore strategic partnership opportunities for review production and guideline tools.	Step 1 & 2	MoU with MAGIC signed in December. Cochrane Innovations and MAGIC working on prioritising the joint projects to pursue. Focus on the Linked Data work.	Test integration of core Cochrane and MAGIC systems using the Linked Data model and emerging Cochrane and MAGIC API systems.
3	REWARD (http://researchwaste.net)	Continue to develop and explore Cochrane's relationship with the newly formed REWARD organization.	Step 1 & 2	At the Seoul Colloquium a Special Session was organised on REWARD. The session was informed by a survey that was circulated mid-June to the participants in the REWARD Conference of September 2015, who also have an affiliation to Cochrane. The survey gave insight into what Cochrane could be doing in order to reduce research waste. Especially the work on empty reviews and priority setting was highlighted as important and is being carried forward. A Cochrane-REWARD prize has been established and was announced in Seoul during the Special Session. A prize committee has been set up and the first prize will be awarded in Amsterdam in May 2017 during the World Congress on Research Integrity.	Review prize nominations and prepare for prize announcement. Depending on the quality of the prize nominations received, these could form the basis for additional communication and advocacy re research waste and what Cochrane can contribute to reducing research waste.
3	Joanna Briggs Institute (http://joannabriggs.org)	Exploring opportunities for scientific and	MoU signed Implementation phase	Focus of partnership is on co-organising GES; work on the KT strategy (JBI is member of the KT working group); and	Work on GES, KT and Wikipedia continues.

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		methodological research, as well as sharing of data for the efficiency of evidence synthesis processes, and joint representation at major healthcare events.		exploring using wikipedia for nursing topics.	
3	UICC (http://www.uicc.org)	Work with UICC in providing expertise and strengthening evidence base.	MoU signed in 2015 Implementation phase	MoU ended in November. Decided to discontinue the official relation because of limited progress in the defined areas of work. Can re-negotiate collaboration when UICC is ready.	
	The Campbell Collaboration		Implementation phase	Quarterly update meeting held. Continuing to work to align our publishing policies and develop joint dissemination plans on appropriate Reviews.	Joint work around Global Evidence Summit.