Governing Board Paper: Reports

Title:	Update on partnerships and advocacy
Period covered by this report:	Q4 2019 and Q1 2020
Date and period of last report:	October 2019, Q2 and Q3 2019
Purpose of the report:	To provide a status update on Cochrane's external partnerships and advocacy work for Q4 2019 and Q1 2020
Paper Number:	Governance & Strategy Unit to complete
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For your:	Information
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Partnership update

Cochrane's work with external partners is guided by the Cochrane Partnership Policy, and the Guidance 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. Updates (including those to Cochrane's Governing Board) on external partnerships are also available on the community site.

This report provides a status update on Cochrane's external partnerships for Q4, 2019 and Q1 2020. A detailed overview per partner is set out below, also specifying the plans for the next two quarters. The main developments to note are:

- Cochrane has been working closely with WHO since the end of January in its response to COVID-19, through Special Collections published on the Cochrane Library related to evidence needs related to critical care and on infection control and prevention measures; and members of the Central Executive Team (CET) are currently in talks regarding a Cochrane Response contract to support the prioritization of candidate therapies.
- Cochrane/Campbell Global Ageing Field is supporting the WHO 'Decade of Healthy Ageing' – with a gap map, evidence synthesis guidance, and evidence for its baseline report. Cochrane's CET is currently working with the Field and WHO in preparation for the launch in October 2020.
- Cochrane and G-I-N have decided to hold a joint meeting on Saturday 3 October, bringing both communities together in the day between the G-I-N Conference and Cochrane Colloquium.
- MoUs for partnerships with the GRADE Working Group and MAGIC were renewed.
- Planning for the 2nd Global Evidence Summit is progressing, with a list of potential partners and programme domains defined. The focus is now on approaching external partners about high level speakers and joining the Scientific Committee.
- A review of all strategic partnerships held at the central level will take place in Q2 and Q3 2020 as part of the development of Cochrane's next organizational strategy.

Annex – Update on Key Strategic Partnerships:

Goal	Partner	Activity	Status of partnership	Key achievements Q4 2019 and Q 1 2020	Q2 and 3, 2020 plans
3	Wikipedia https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:WikiProject_Medicine/Cochrane	Work towards developing sustainable strategies for our collaboration with Wikipedia	There is no formal MoU currently in place. Cochrane has been collaborating with WikiProject Medicine, the non-profit organization that helps to maintain, monitor, and develop medical articles on Wikipedia, since 2014	There are presently 3,269 Cochrane Review citations in English Wikipedia and the *Cochrane Library* is the most frequently cited medical journal on Wikipedia. Sharing Cochrane evidence on Wikipedia continues to be the focus of this project. This has been achieved by the following ongoing projects: 1. Support and guide Cochrane Review Groups, Fields, Centres, and community members (Task Exchange volunteers) to share Cochrane Evidence in order to improve Wikipedia articles related to human health in as many languages as possible. 2. Continual improvements to our new 'Wikipedian in Training' resource. 3. Collaboration with researchers, Cochrane colleagues, and volunteers on Wikipedia to improve our IT tools that organize Cochrane Reviews on Wikipedia. We have now moved to a model where the "Cochrane Reviews on Wikipedia" page is updated quarterly. This allows volunteers access to new evidence to consider for Wikipedia and it also permits Cochrane Review Groups to track their progress on a quarterly basis. The percentage of Cochrane Reviews on Wikipedia for each Cochrane Review Group ranges from 14-100%. These percentages are also updated quarterly as new reviews are published and as Cochrane evidence is shared on Wikipedia. The "Cochrane Update bot", an automated tool that flags Wikipedia articles that cite an outdated Cochrane review, is updated monthly and maintained by the Wikipedia consultant.	Continue support to Cochrane Groups, Networks, and community members asking for training and guidance on Wikipedia editing, using the new project page (with useful resources) to facilitate this work. This includes recruiting volunteers via Cochrane's Task Exchange. Maintain regular communication and collaborative relationship with WikiProject Medicine (now Wikimedia Medicine) as we work together to improve Wikipedia articles. Participate and contribute to Wikipedia events held by members of the Cochrane community. Continue to work on our new collaboration with Insight Centre for Data Analytics to test their Cochrane-Wikipedia indexing prototype. Continue to support the progress made by the Cochrane Spanish Wikipedia Project, Dutch project, and French project. Continue to improve the "Wikipedian in Training" resource and project page, including quarterly updates and ensuring that the training page is easy to use with minimal support. Two Wikipedia workshop proposals have been submitted for the 2020 Toronto Colloquium. These workshops will include a general overview of the project (and approaches to contributing), and a hands-on component that will cover creating a Wikipedia account and working through the Wikipedian-in-Training resource to begin to share evidence on

					Wikipedia. There will also be an opportunity to meet with the Wikipedia Consultant (J. Dawson) to troubleshoot and obtain support for individual Wikipedia projects and time for an "edit-a-thon" event where participants will be supported by experienced Wikipedians to add new Cochrane evidence to Wikipedia.
1,2,3,4	WHO (www.who.int)	Implement plan of work 2019 – 2021.	Implementation phase	Cochrane has actively supported WHO's response to COVID-19: • Published two Special Collections to meet evidence needs on critical care and prevention and infection control • Members of the CET are in talks regarding a Cochrane Response contract to support the prioritization of candidate therapies Cochrane's Editor in Chief met with key contacts at WHO HQ in December to build/maintain relationships and delivered a seminar. Karla was also interviewed in the WHO Bulletin Attended the Executive Board meetings in February 2020 and held meetings with various WHO staff to build relations and monitor implementation of the plan of work. Linked several Cochrane Groups to departments in WHO at the request of WHO (mainly in support of guideline development processes). The Cochrane/Campbell Global Ageing Field is supporting the WHO 'Decade of Healthy Ageing' – with a gap map, evidence synthesis guidance, and evidence for their baseline report. Cochrane has also identified an opportunity to input on WHO's review of world health days, bringing in expertise of the Sustainable Healthcare Field.	Ongoing follow-up on all items in the joint plan of work. Continue to facilitate participation from local Cochrane Groups in regional/local meetings. Plan semi-regular visits to WHO's HQ for Cochrane's Editor in Chief to foster relationships. Plan to attend the World Health Assembly in May 2020. Monitor opportunities to make statements and to work with WHO on advocacy efforts. Continue the blog series to illustrate the wide range of interactions and collaborations the Cochrane community has with WHO, and to encourage people to share their experiences. Support the 'Decade of Healthy Ageing' with the Global Ageing Field – potential WHA side event, launch with press release and editorials, special collections, Colloquium workshop proposal, advocacy opportunities.

| 2,3 | Global Evidence Synthesis Initiative (GESI) www.gesiinitiative.com | GESI seeks to develop the production capacity and use of synthesized evidence in low- and middle-income countries. | Implementation phase (contract extended until June 2020) | One of the main activities of GESI is the training they provide for their network members. Cochrane Training is supporting the delivery of some of the online training (webinars). | Regular meetings with the GESI governance group will continue and will focus on strategies for sustaining the work of the network.

The American University of Beirut (the current host of the GESI Secretariat) informed Cochrane at the end of 2019 that they will no longer host the GESI Secretariat at the end of the current contract (June 2020). This is a major setback for the Network – as much of its success was due to the AUB staff involved. Discussions are being held with the founding partners of GESI regarding continuation of the Network and the funding available for it. No other external funding has been secured for the Network to date. Cochrane will take a decision regarding continuation of our support to the Network in the coming weeks. One of the main activities of GESI is the training they provide for their network members. Cochrane Training is supporting the delivery of some of the online training (webinars) provided. |
| 2 | Epistemonikos (http://www.epistemonikos.org) | Continue to develop Cochrane's relationship with the Epistemonikos. | Implementation of current MoU | Epistemonikos is expanding its API to support additional search fields within the Cochrane Library. Once this work is complete, users will be able to search Epistemonikos reviews across abstract, title, author, source, DOI and accession number. Going forward, this will offer the opportunity for Epistemonikos to be included in the advanced search functionality on the Cochrane Library.

The work for this improved integration has been completed from the Cochrane Library perspective, with the outstanding actions sitting with Epistemonikos. | Progress on this partnership, beyond the integration of Epistemonikos within the newly-launched Cochrane Library, has been slow. Further development of Epistemonikos search functionality on the Library has been slow; and meetings will take place in the next six months to try to establish a shared expectations and an agreed plan of next steps within the partnership. Cochrane continues to support Epistemonikos with £50,000 a year to support partnership work. |
| 2 | G-I-N www.g-i-n.net | To build stronger connections between G-I-N | Implementation phase | Toronto planning:
• Agreed to hold a G-I-N–Cochrane meeting (an expanded GRADE Working Group meeting) in | Further planning for Toronto activities. |

		members and Cochrane; and promote the use of Cochrane evidence in guidelines worldwide.		Toronto on Saturday 3 October. Agenda to be developed. • Will also develop a panel session on a topic of relevance for both communities that will be submitted at both conferences – theme/content also to be decided. • Planning a Cochrane/G-I-N tech symposium on Saturday 3 October also underway. G-I-N promoting relevant Cochrane Reviews and Learning Live webinars of relevance to their members.	Communication and advocacy – highlighting examples of joint work between guideline developers and systematic reviewers. Ongoing planning for GES 2.
3	Campbell G-I-N Joanna Briggs	Co-host the 2nd Global Evidence Summit in 2021.	Planning phase	The competitive tender for the PCO (main conference organizer) was held, with partners agreeing to appoint AIM, an international conference management organization with a strong presence in the Czech Republic and a close existing relationship to the local organizers (including Cochrane Czech Republic). Cochrane's CET has received assurances that additional resources that will be required to support AIM and the local committee by Cochrane will be included in the GES 2 organizing budget. Plan for partners and programme domains developed. Organizing partners starting to approach high-profile individuals/organizations.	From a partnership perspective GES 2 provides a unique opportunity. The main focus in the coming half year will be on approaching external partners that can either be invited as high-level speakers to GES 2 and/or that can be invited to join the Scientific Committee and help to develop the many themes required – including ensuring that health evidence is only one of many different thematic offerings at GES 2. Discussions with WHO have started. Other partners to be approached by Cochrane are: the Gates Foundation, NIHR, the World Bank, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and the International Society for Evidence-based Health Care.
3	The International Network for Public Involvement and Engagement in Health and Social Care Research	Develop collaboration with existing consumer groups; and create an international network.	Developing and setting up the network	• Vision, mission and objectives agreed • Social media offer completed (LinkedIn and Twitter). • Webinar series. Seven very successfully delivered to date ;and a programme of monthly webinars scheduled • 255 organizations globally have indicated interest, including universities, research institutions, institutes of health research, organizations which support involvement	• Building partnerships with other organizations, including MeSH network and UK NIHR Development Programme. • Investigating ways to sustain the Network. • Developing collaborative tools, including website.

				and engagement, and patient-led organizations.	
1,2,3	GRADE Working Group (http://www.gradeworkinggroup.org)	To deliver the MoU as well as a licensing agreement for software use.	MoU renewed	Renewed MoU finalized and signed off. GRADE Methods group to serve as Partnership Advisory Group.	The areas of collaboration are defined in the MoU and focus on: • Sharing and integration of software tools; • Collaboration in the provision and development of training; • Collaboration in methods development.
1,2,3	Evidence Prime (https://evidenceprime.com/)	No formal MoU in place		GRADEpro GDT integration with RevMan Web completed and available to Cochrane authors.	
2	MAGIC (http://magicproject.org)	To explore strategic partnership opportunities for review production and guideline tools.	MoU renewed	MAGIC implemented support for Cochrane Account login. Identified gaps in MAGIC's functionality that need to be addressed prior to integration.	Implement missing functionality in MAGIC. Integrate MAGIC and RevMan Web. Explore Cochrane engagement and involvement with new initiatives being developed by MAGIC and showcased in a partnership meeting held in February 2020.
3	REWARD (http://researchwaste.net)	Continue to develop Cochrane's relationship with the REWARD alliance.	Implementation	2019 prize winners announced and received their awards at the International Clinical Trials Methodology Conference in October. Preparation of 2020 prize launch and opening of submissions underway.	2020 prize launch and submissions opened. Submissions collated and reviewed by panel – winners announced and presented at Toronto Colloquium. Further communications about past applications and winners – thus increasing Cochrane's visibility in the area of reducing research waste.
3	Joanna Briggs Institute (http://joannabriggs.org)	Exploring opportunities for scientific and methodological research, as well as sharing of data for the efficiency of evidence synthesis processes, and joint representation at major healthcare events.	MoU re-development on hold	Renewal of MoU on hold for now. Prioritizing collaboration on GES 2.	Continue to work together planning GES 2.

1,3	The Campbell Collaboration (https://campbellcollaboration.org/)	Continue to develop Cochrane's relationship with the Campbell Collaboration.	Implementation phase	Global Ageing Field's work on the WHO's 'Decade of Healthy Ageing' has brought together both communities to plan for launch in October. Ongoing collaboration on planning for GES 2.	Continue to collaborate in support of the 'Decade of Healthy Ageing' work – current ideas include potential WHA side event, launch with press release and editorials, special collections, Colloquium workshop proposal, advocacy opportunities. Plan Cochrane presence at next year's Campbell annual event (venue, date etc. still TBC). Continue to work together on GES 2 planning. Deliver other activities as agreed in the MoU.
2,3	VIVLI	VIVLI and Cochrane aim to promote, coordinate, and facilitate clinical research data sharing through the creation and implementation of a sustainable global data-sharing enterprise	Commercial license in place. PICO metadata between VIVLI and Cochrane and Cochrane PICO ontology and vocabulary are being used to enhance the discoverability of clinical trials.	Continued to work with Vivli to enhance the Cochrane PICO services.	Continue to work with Vivli to enhance the Cochrane PICO services and support the promotion and use of the new clinical trials data sharing platform.
2,3	Choosing Wisely	'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.	No formal MoU in place	New Cochrane Field on Sustainable Healthcare re-engaging with Choosing Wisely – connecting with new Choosing Wisely Denmark group and Cochrane Geographic Groups that have a partnership with local Choosing Wisely groups. Sustainable Healthcare Field attended international Choosing Wisely meeting in Berlin and have developed connections.	Further explore collaboration with Choosing Wisely through new Sustainable Healthcare Field.
3	Health Systems Evidence (HSE) and Social	Exploring partnering to offer users the opportunity to	Planning phase	Following discussions, it has been agreed to add HSE and SSE to the Cochrane Library federated search. The design and specifications for this integration have been agreed and signed off by	There have been some delays on behalf of HSE and SSE with setting up the API endpoints and their database rebuild – this is scheduled for

	Systems Evidence (SSE)	search HSE and SSE from within CLIB's Federated Search feature.		both parties and work is underway. A new Topic – health systems arrangements – will be added to the Cochrane Library.	completion in May 2020, so the Cochrane Library product team will begin work in Q3. An MoU will be formalized once HSE and SSE are ready to proceed with the integration. There are further discussions about a phase II integration, linking relevant Cochrane Reviews to the policy brief 1-siders within HSE.

Advocacy update

As discussed during the Cochrane Governing Board meeting in Santiago, October 2019, we have focused our advocacy work on two main areas: advocacy for research integrity, including trial transparency, and advocacy on thematic areas – obesity and healthy ageing are the topics being pursued for now. We are also taking steps to support Cochrane Groups with their own advocacy initiatives on these, or other, themes.

Below is a summary of some of the activities carried out and planned. We also considered and turned down other potential opportunities that we felt did not fit in with our overall advocacy plans.

Advocacy area	Topic	Activity	Date of activity	Involvement	Outcome and/or next steps
Research integrity	Trial transparency	Posted a statement from Cochrane's Editor in Chief in support of a European Commission/European Medicines Agency (EMA)/Heads of Medicines Agencies (HMA) open letter urging trial sponsors to publish their results.	July 2019	Cochrane CET	Forthcoming meeting with EMA and HMA in March 2020. Continue to monitor.
Research integrity	Access to clinical study reports	Responded to a US Food and Drugs Agency request for comment on their pilot clinical study report release programme via an open letter requesting greater transparency.	August 2019	Cochrane CET Cochrane CSR Working Group	No public update from FDA since close of submissions. Continue to monitor.
Research integrity	Trial transparency	Signed onto a letter to then-Chair of the UK House of Commons Science and Technology Select Committee (SciTech), Norman Lamb MP, asking him to call on the UK Health Research Authority to add sanctions for noncompliance to their new research transparency policy.	August 2019	Cochrane CET External transparency organizations	Norman Lamb replied, agreeing to write to HRA, and did so shortly thereafter.
Research integrity	Trial transparency	Supported an AllTrials report updating the UK SciTech on rates of clinical trial reporting among universities and NHS trusts, which was used as a basis for an evidence session at Parliament.	October 2019	Cochrane CET AllTrials	Evidence session was successful in holding trial sponsors that perform poorly on trial reporting to account (some made drastic improvements ahead of the event). The financial support was offered to AllTrials in exchange for input and advice on trial transparency advocacy beyond the UK.
Research integrity	Research waste	Gave out the Cochrane-REWARD prize for the third year, recognizing three initiatives with the potential to reduce research waste.	October 2019	Cochrane CET Prize panel	Awards given out at the International Clinical Trials Methodology Conference.

Advocacy area	Topic	Activity	Date of activity	Involvement	Outcome and/or next steps
					Plan to continue with communications about prize winners and submitted initiatives. Prize will continue in 2020.
Research integrity	Access to clinical study reports	Published a statement in support of EMA's proactive CSR release policy in light of a legal challenge from the pharmaceutical industry.	January 2020	Cochrane CET	The ruling was in favour of EMA. This support paved the way to organizing a forthcoming meeting with senior figures at EMA and HMA to discuss collaboration, particularly regarding access to clinical study reports (March 2020). Cochrane will be represented by Editor in Chief, Cochrane Nordic, Cochrane Netherlands and Head of External Affairs & Geographic Groups' Support.
Research integrity	Trial transparency	Signed onto a letter to the incoming Chair of the UK SciTech, Greg Clark MP, asking him to ensure that the new Committee continues work on trial transparency.	January 2020	Cochrane CET External transparency organizations	No response. The full Committee was formed in early March 2020 and has not yet announced priority work areas.
Working with Geographic Groups	Trial transparency	Cochrane Germany wrote their own Advocacy Strategy, based on the paper produced centrally last year, which was discussed by and received support from the Cochrane Germany Foundation Council. Members of the CET met with Cochrane Germany to discuss advocacy on access to clinical trial data and other topics of importance nationally. The potential for EU advocacy with other groups was also discussed.	November 2019	Cochrane Germany	Agreed to: • Update Cochrane's position statement on trial transparency – current policy is the AllTrials one from 2013. A draft will be shared for discussion and input shortly. • Draft webpages for .org and community websites, as areas where position statements, advocacy news/opportunities and

Advocacy area	Topic	Activity	Date of activity	Involvement	Outcome and/or next steps
					supportive materials can be accessed. This will be discussed at a Geographic Group Directors meeting to ensure that supportive materials are appropriate to facilitate advocacy at Group level.
Working with Geographic Groups	Trial transparency	Cochrane Germany and Cochrane Austria both released statements on trial transparency in in response to (or as part of) advocacy work of pressure groups in their countries.	January and February 2020	Cochrane Germany Cochrane Austria	Submitting a Toronto Colloquium workshop abstract with Cochrane Germany, Cochrane Austria and Cochrane Poland – an opportunity to discuss this clinical trial transparency work, what has been learned so far, and how to build on it.
Working with Geographic Groups	Trial transparency	Cochrane Poland was invited to give a presentation on trial transparency at their host institution.	February 2020	Cochrane Poland	See above.
Advocacy in thematic areas	Overdiagnosis	Discussing an opportunity to influence WHO policy on world health days which is currently being updated. The Cochrane KT Department recently prepared a paper that discusses if and how Cochrane should use awareness events for its communication and dissemination work. This was done in response to questions received from the community on potential harmful/adverse effects of using these days. We proactively approached the WHO team working on this issue to ask whether potential for overdiagnosis will be a consideration for their review, and to share our work on this issue.	March 2020 onwards	Cochrane CET Cochrane Sustainable Healthcare	We are currently discussing possible ways forward with Cochrane Sustainable Healthcare. This would provide a great opportunity to influence WHO policy on the use of awareness days.
Advocacy in thematic areas	Healthy Ageing	Cochrane/Campbell Global Ageing is supporting the WHO 'Decade of Healthy Ageing'. As well as participation in a potential World Health Assembly side event, other advocacy activities are being considered as part of the launch and	October 2020 onwards	Cochrane/ Campbell Global Ageing Cochrane CET	

Advocacy area	Topic	Activity	Date of activity	Involvement	Outcome and/or next steps
		ongoing initiative – alongside a press release, editorials, special collections and a Colloquium workshop proposal.			
Advocacy in thematic areas	Obesity	Based on the outcomes of the Cochrane cross-network obesity project, which aims to produce a gap map of Cochrane Reviews related to obesity against key international consensus statements on obesity and do a priority-setting exercise, we plan to produce an advocacy campaign.	Autumn 2020	Cochrane Abdomen & Endocrine Network; Cochrane Public Health & Health Systems Network; Cochrane Nutrition Cochrane CET	Produce an advocacy campaign, alongside other strategic communications, using the findings of this project (it is projected that this will be ready to start early summer).