



Review and Methods Digest



Dear colleagues,

Following our communication of July 10 on the completion of [Cochrane's Sustainability Review](#), we are delighted to publish now the CRG Transformation Programme implementation plan, entitled '[The Structure and Function of Cochrane Review Groups: implementation of Networks and Editorial Board.](#)' Following the extensive analysis, consultation, and debate on CRG reforms that have taken place in recent years, and with a clear steer from the Governing Board, this Implementation 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 reviews, relevant to our stakeholders.

This is an **open access** document and will be presented for approval to Cochrane's Governing Board in Cape Town in September 2017. In addition, it will be included in regular communication updates through monthly Reviews and Methods Digests.

We have recognized in previous correspondence that there may be many questions about what this means for you and the future functionality of CRGs. Some of these questions may not have definitive answers until after Cochrane's Governing Board has met in Cape Town. However, in the meantime we have established an email address where you can submit questions, and one of the Project Team will respond to your enquiry: SFinfo@cochrane.org

We will continue to fully engage with you and your Group over the next few weeks and months as we work closely with all members of the CRG community in our planned implementation. Our next communications on Community will follow Cochrane's Governing Board meeting in mid-September.

With our best wishes,

Karla Soares-Weiser, Acting Editor in Chief,
Martin Burton, Co-ordinating Editor, ENT Group
Jonathan Craig, Co-ordinating Editor, Kidney & Transplant Group
Nicky Cullum, Co-ordinating Editor, Wounds Group
Mark Wilson, Chief Executive Officer

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1) Policy update: rejection of Cochrane reviews and appeals

We are pleased to announce the publication of two new editorial policies in the Cochrane Editorial and Publishing Policy Resource.

Firstly, a Cochrane-wide policy on the rejection of Cochrane Reviews (<https://community.cochrane.org/editorial-and-publishing-policy-resource/cochrane-review-management/rejection-cochrane-reviews>). This policy was developed in collaboration with three Co-Eds (Paul Garner, Sophie Hill and Simon Lewin) and was discussed during the Co-Eds mid-year meeting in Geneva. The aim was to empower CRGs to make the decision to reject Reviews when necessary, thereby making the best use of valuable resources. The policy is not prescriptive, but does provide examples of good reasons for rejecting Cochrane Reviews. Co-Eds and MEs should familiarise themselves with this new policy, and also with the accompanying guidance document (<https://community.cochrane.org/editorial-and-publishing-policy-resource/cochrane-review-management/rejection-cochrane-reviews/rejection-cochrane-reviews-guidance-crgs>), which describes that processes that should be followed when rejecting a Cochrane Review, including the steps that need to be taken in Archie, and who to notify.

Secondly, a Cochrane appeals policy (<https://community.cochrane.org/editorial-and-publishing-policy-resource/overview-cochrane-library-and-related-content/cochrane-database-systematic-reviews-appeals-policy>), which describes in detail the steps that must be followed if an author disagrees with an editorial decision concerning a specific Cochrane Review. It has become challenging for CRGs and the CEU to deal with appeals arising from editorial decisions because appeals are sent to different people, in different formats, and often lack the information required to consider the appeal. The appeals policy complements the complaints procedure (<https://community.cochrane.org/editorial-and-publishing-policy-resource/overview-cochrane-library-and-related-content/cochrane-library-complaints->

[procedure](#)), which has been in place for some time, and has been amended slightly to include clear differentiation from the appeals policy.

Co-Eds and MEs should familiarise themselves with this new policy and process.

Both policies have been published in the Cochrane Editorial and Publishing Policy Resource (<https://community.cochrane.org/editorial-and-publishing-policy-resource>) and are ready for implementation. We will shortly be including template rejection emails in Archie workflows to support the rejection policy, and are planning webinars to discuss the policies and implementation in more detail in September. We will also be organising external communication of these policies to authors.

Please send any questions to Bryony Urquhart (burquhart@cochrane.org).

2) Implementation of Reviews of Prognosis – An update

Over the last few years Cochrane has explored the possibility of extending its collection of review types to Reviews of Prognosis. Reviews of Prognosis are an important field of research, with increasing development and publication outside Cochrane.

Two key contributions supported by Cochrane, led by the convenors of the Prognosis Methods Group (PMG), are the Exemplar programme and funding to develop both prognosis methods and capacity for implementation. This work, although progressing well, is not ready for full roll out of Reviews of Prognosis in Cochrane. We are currently working with the PMG convenors to develop an implementation strategy and plan. Most importantly we need to build the knowledge and capacity within Cochrane to produce high quality, priority Prognosis reviews before widespread uptake. For this reason, the registration of these review titles is restricted as we need to ensure author team competency and support for editorial capacity to produce these reviews. The development of approved and published exemplars, with annotation and related tools, are important steps to develop the standards and to build capacity for these review types. We currently rely upon PMG support to sign off these reviews so we need to tightly manage their limited availability.

Please contact either Jackie Chandler (Methods Co-ordinator) jchandler@cochrane.org or Toby Lasserson (Senior Editor) tlasserson@cochrane.org if your Group wishes to register a title of a prognostic question.

If you have other questions about reviews of prognosis, please feel free to contact the PMG (CochranePMG@dal.ca) or visit the [PMG website here](#) to access available resources.

3) Farewell to Julie Wood

Dear Cochrane community colleagues,

I am writing to inform you that after three years as Cochrane's Head of [Communications and External Affairs](#) (CEAD), Julie Wood is leaving us to take up a new and exciting leadership opportunity within a US-based organization.

Julie has led CEAD since September 2014, developing a team that now oversees Central Executive leadership and support in the areas of communications, media and dissemination, translations, strategic partnerships, branding and events, and fundraising. More recently, she **has been project lead on the launch of Cochrane's [Membership](#) scheme and heavily involved in the development of Cochrane's [Knowledge Translation](#) framework and new implementation plan.** During her time at Cochrane, Julie was instrumental in the delivery of many critical [Strategy to 2020](#) organizational objectives, including leading Cochrane's re-brand, the formidable success in increasing web traffic to [Cochrane.org](#), helping to co-ordinate and launch the first-ever [Global Evidence Summit](#), and playing an important role in securing [Cochrane's grant of US\\$1.15 million from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation](#) in 2016. She is a hugely respected member of the Senior Management Team and Head of Department, and we will miss her wide-ranging expertise, passionate commitment to Cochrane's mission and influential contributions to many Central Executive activities.

Julie leaves us on September 8th, just before the Global Evidence Summit in Cape Town, and we have decided to take this opportunity to review the current structure and the work priorities of CEAD before beginning any new recruitment processes. In the interim I'm pleased to say that Jo Anthony and Sylvia de Haan will jointly lead the CEAD team's activities; and a detailed plan of Jo and Sylvia's respective responsibilities will be shared with you in the next week.

I would like to thank Julie for her tireless, imaginative and inspiring work for Cochrane over the last three years. Over the next few weeks I'm sure she will speak to many of you personally to bid a fond farewell; and I know you will join me in thanking Julie for her great contribution to Cochrane and to wish her, and her family, every happiness and success for the future.

Yours sincerely,

Mark

Mark Wilson, CEO

4) [Global Evidence Summit - standard registration closes TOMORROW 18 August 2017](#)

To find out why you should attend the Global Evidence Summit, please visit the [GES website](#).

5) [Cochrane Scientific Committee - call for agenda items](#)

The Cochrane Scientific Committee call for agenda items is now open and the submission deadline is the 25th September. Details for submission are [here](#).

6) Upcoming Cochrane Learning Live webinars on MAGICapp platform for review authors

MAGICapp is an authoring and publication platform for guideline and evidence summaries. The platform guides authors through the different stages of planning, authoring, and publishing of high quality content. MAGICapp makes content available to clinicians and their patients in multi-layer format, making it possible to dig as deep into the data as needed to make well-informed decisions. For more information, and to sign up for the webinar, please go to [this link](#).

The webinar will take place Wednesday 23 August 2017 at 13.00 UTC

7) More Cochrane Community news posts and blogs

- [Upcoming events](#)

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