



Welcome to the first issue of the Reviews and Methods Digest in 2018

We hope that you all have enjoyed a welcome break over the recent holiday period, and have come back refreshed to start the New Year.

2017 was another successful year for the Cochrane Library. This reflects the work and contribution that you all have made to producing high quality systematic reviews that address the needs of decision makers. It goes without saying that without you this success would not be possible.

As we commence 2018, we are aware that this year will be a crucial one, as shown by the *Strategy to 2020* targets approved by our Governing Board:

1. To form and support the eight new CRG Networks, and deliver on the proposed targets from the Implementation Plan, including the signature of Collaboration Agreements with all CRGs and the delivery of strategic plans for the Networks.
2. **To agree on Cochrane's future priority review types, methods and data sources through the development of a 'content strategy', and begin associated implementation activities.**
3. **To deliver more features and enhancements of the Cochrane Library after it's re-launch later this year.**

CRG Transformation Programme

The implementation of the [CRG Transformation Programme](#) began in October 2017. A detailed implementation plan covering the key targets for 2018 is available in the [CRG Network Portal](#). The key targets are:

1. To support the development of eight new Network of CRGs;
2. To support CRGs to complete the re-accreditation process, including prioritization of activities and strategic plans;
3. **To appoint the Networks' Senior Editors and Associate Editors;**
4. To establish the new Cochrane Editorial Board.

What have we achieved so far?

Networks were formed in October 2017 and the [CRG Network Portal](#) containing online resources for CRGs and Networks is being updated regularly with new content and information.

The CEU team has been restructured and some of its members reassigned to work directly with the Networks. Karla Soares-Weiser, our Deputy Editor in Chief, will lead the Transformation Programme; Toby Lasserson, our Review Quality Senior Editor will be managing the screening of reviews along with the Associate Editors of the Networks.

In addition, we are delighted to announce we have appointed Professor Lisa Bero as the Senior Editor for the Public Health and Health Services Network, and Dr Nicole Skoetz as the Senior Editor for the Cancer Network. The recruitment process for Senior Editors has been extended and we are now actively recruiting for the remaining Networks. We expect to appoint all Senior Editors by the time of **Cochrane's Governance Meetings in Lisbon in March.**

Cochrane's Associate Editors have been assigned to all Networks, as follows:

- Acute and Emergency Care: Liz Bickerdike
- Brain, Nerves and Mind: Nuala Livingstone
- Cancer: Sarah Hodgkinson (newly appointed)
- Children and Families: Newton Opiyo
- Circulation and Breathing: Sarah Hodgkinson (newly appointed)
- Long Term Conditions and Ageing 1: Liz Bickerdike
- Long Term Conditions and Ageing 2: Nuala Livingstone
- Public Health and Health Services: Newton Opiyo

The Networks will start to operate from the end of January, and we are planning regular webinars with each one of the Networks and central team members to support the initiation of activities. We will be announcing the dates for these Community webinars by the end of January.

Discussions are also in place with the Knowledge Translation working group to provide support to CRGs regarding prioritization activities.

Cochrane's content strategy

The Strategic Session in Paris in 2012 was the last time we worked together to create a content strategy for Cochrane. The Governing Board meeting in Cape Town determined that it is now timely to revise and update our strategy. In doing so we will consider a range of different factors including:

- How Cochrane should develop and enhance the value of its current review types. This will include decisions on whether, and in what circumstances, to extend data sources beyond the published reports of RCTs in scientific journals, moving beyond aggregated outcomes to the use of individual participant data, and also the incorporation of different methodologies. We

will identify those developments that should be prioritized for implementation over the next decade. The strategy will also consider aspects of the editorial process, such as the ‘fast-track’ approach that we are currently piloting, and different aspects of the presentation and delivery of content to end users

- We will also include consideration of whether and to what extent Cochrane extends its remit beyond current review types, to different forms of content and types of questions.
- Finally, we will address the need to update and revise our strategy over time, building in surveillance and evaluation processes that make use of our new Scientific Committee and Editorial Board in addition to the Networks and Methods community. This is necessary to ensure that our strategy is updated appropriately, in response to end user need, and that for each development there is an appropriate implementation process to ensure that Cochrane provides necessary support for the work of the CRG networks and contributors.

Cochrane Library in 2018

Cochrane continues to work with Wiley, our publisher, and Highwire, an established platform provider, on the [enhanced Cochrane Library project](#). Together, we are redeveloping all aspects of the Cochrane Library platform to introduce new features and enhanced functionality to make it easier for users to discover and use Cochrane content in their decision-making.

The first release of the Cochrane Library on the new platform is scheduled to take place during the first quarter of 2018. Cochrane will lead the ongoing development after the first release, and the team looks forward to ongoing engagement with our users to inform future development.

We will provide a further update in the next Digest.

There are many other ongoing projects and workstreams, including the continuing development of editorial policies, an audit of conflict of interest in all published reviews, and the pilot of the Fast-Track Service. The Scientific Committee held two meetings in 2017, and will continue providing support to the Editor in Chief.

Our pilot of the Fast-Track Service for CRGs and senior authors ended its current phase on 31st December. During the ten-month pilot, we received 13 applications, with seven of them currently at various stages of the editorial process. A final report will be available to the community by the end of March 2018, after discussion with the Governing Board during our Governance meetings in Lisbon.

For all of the above, we will be actively seeking input from you, our community, as the year proceeds, using this Digest as well as other communication channels. Your engagement is always illuminating and helpful to us.

Finally, we want to highlight that the Editors Meeting for Co-ordinating and Senior Editors will take **place during Cochrane’s Governance Meetings in Lisbon on 20th March**. The main purpose will be to discuss and agree effective strategies for communicating the new structural changes and operational support to the Networks. This meeting will also host the first meeting of the newly established Editorial Board. We will be contacting Co-ordinating Editors shortly with a draft agenda and further information.

We wish you all a successful and peaceful 2018.

David Tovey & Karla Soares-Weiser
Monday 15th January 2018

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1. Cochrane is seeking six senior leaders to join its vibrant Review Networks

Following its Governing Board decision in September 2017 to approve the creation of new thematic Networks, Cochrane started a recruitment process to appoint eight high-performing Senior Editors to lead the Networks.

We are delighted to announce we have appointed Professor Lisa Bero as the Senior Editor for the Public Health and Health Services Network, and Dr Nicole Skoetz as the Senior Editor for the Cancer Network.

The recruitment process for Senior Editors has been extended and we are now actively recruiting for the following Networks:

- Acute and Emergency Care;
- Brain, Nerves and Mind;
- Children and Families;

- Circulation and Breathing; and
- Long-term Conditions and Ageing (that includes two distinct Networks).

We welcome applications from experienced leaders within Cochrane, including those who are only able to make a commitment of one year in the first instance, in order to initiate the development of the Network.

Senior Editors will support and co-ordinate a wide range of activities within the thematic Networks, assisted by an Associate Editor. They will be primarily responsible for ensuring review quality within their networks, will oversee prioritization and coverage assessment activities, and support innovation that leads to reviews that are better able to meet the needs of end users.

Please see the full job description and person specification [at this link](#).

Individuals who are interested in exploring this opportunity are encouraged to speak with David Tovey, Editor in Chief (dtovey@cochrane.org), or Karla Soares-Weiser, Deputy Editor in Chief (ksoares-weiser@cochrane.org).

To apply please submit your application including a covering letter, Curriculum Vitae, and letter of support to hrenquiries@cochrane.org by Thursday 15th February 2018.

2. Cochrane is seeking two Co-ordinating Editors for Cochrane Anaesthesia and Cochrane Critical and Emergency Care

Cochrane is splitting [Cochrane Anaesthesia, Critical and Emergency Care \(ACE\)](#) into two new groups: Cochrane Anaesthesia and Cochrane Emergency and Critical Care. We are seeking two Co-ordinating Editors to lead these groups.

We will accept applications from within the existing Cochrane community and beyond, from individuals based anywhere in the world. Applicants should be aware of the following requirements:

1. The Co-ordinating Editor should have experience of authoring and editing Cochrane Reviews, in addition to relevant content expertise.
2. The Co-ordinating Editor will work with the current Editors for continuity with regards to securing funding for the activities of the Group, and completing the [CRG re-accreditation process](#).
3. The Co-ordinating Editor will be required to sign the [Collaboration Agreement](#), and will need to demonstrate their capacity to commit at least 0.1 FTE per week to the activities of the Group, and preferably more.
4. The Co-ordinating Editor will develop the Editorial Board for the group.

Please find the full job description and requirements [at this link](#).

Individuals who are interested in exploring this opportunity are encouraged to speak with Karla Soares-Weiser, Deputy Editor in Chief (ksoares-weiser@cochrane.org).

The closing date for applications is 10th February 2018.

3. Cochrane is seeking a new Co-ordinating Editor for Cochrane Colorectal Cancer

We are looking for a new home for the [Cochrane Colorectal Cancer Group \(CRCG\)](#). In addition to **the detection, treatment and monitoring of colorectal cancer, the Group's scope also currently covers other abdominal surgery-related topics, including hernia and appendicitis.**

We will accept applications from within the existing Cochrane community and beyond. Applicants should be aware of the following requirements:

1. The Co-ordinating Editor should have experience of authoring and editing Cochrane Reviews, in addition to relevant content expertise.
2. The Co-ordinating Editor will work with the current Editors for continuity with regards to securing funding for the activities of the Group, and completing the [CRG re-accreditation process](#).
3. The Co-ordinating Editor will be required to sign the [Collaboration Agreement](#), and will need to demonstrate their capacity to commit at least 0.1 FTE per week to the activities of the Group, and preferably more.
4. The Co-ordinating Editor will develop the Editorial Board for the group.

Please find the full job description and requirements [at this link](#).

Individuals who are interested in exploring this opportunity are encouraged to speak with Karla Soares-Weiser, Deputy Editor in Chief (ksoares-weiser@cochrane.org).

The closing date for applications is 10th February 2018.

4. Cochrane Review Group Transformation Programme Implementation Plan

The Implementation plan **for the first year of the 'Cochrane Review Group Transformation Programme' is now available** [at this link](#).

This Implementation plan describes the structural and functional changes approved by the Governing Board from October 2017 to September 2018, and describes the different stages and the timeframe for each of these stages.

A comprehensive communications plan has been developed to support this implementation document and the wider CRG Transformational programme. We have also created a community online portal for the newly established Networks and their component CRGs [here](#).

We will continue to fully engage with you and your CRG over the coming weeks and months as we work closely with all members of the community in our planned implementation. Regular communications will follow on the online portal as we launch our eight CRG Networks, as well as in our regular Reviews and Methods Digests.

If you wish to get in touch, tell us what you think, or offer further suggestions, please feel free to contact Jo Anthony (janthony@cochrane.org) or Muriah Umoquit (mumoquit@cochrane.org).

5. News from Cochrane Skin – new Co-ordinating Editor appointed

We have the following message to share with you all, from Hywel Williams of [Cochrane Skin](#):

Dear Fellow Editors,

I am delighted to tell you that we have appointed Bob Dellavalle as the new joint Co-ordinating Editor of Cochrane Skin, to work alongside Bob Boyle. We went through an open application process and I am indebted to Karla Soares-Weiser (**Cochrane's Deputy Editor in Chief**) and Martin Burton (Director of the UK Cochrane Centre) for all of their help and guidance in following correct Cochrane procedures. The application has been approved by the Co-ordinating Editors Executive.

I don't know how we are going to cope with two Bobs though (maybe we just refer to them as Bob B and Bob D) in our communications, but I am sure that their enthusiasm, knowledge and experience will keep us bobbing along.

I shall be stepping down of course, having founded the group and then served as Co-ordinating Editor for the last 20 years. I have enjoyed the work immensely as it has helped to form and develop me and my research interests. I am handing over formally to Bob B and Bob D at the annual Cochrane Skin meeting in Amsterdam on January 15th and 16th. I shall continue to contribute as an Editor, offering advice to the two Bobs whenever asked, but hopefully never interfering. I wish Bob B and Bob D all the very best for the future, and thank you for all your support over such a long period.

We shall communicate the good news to the wider membership in our next Newsletter, but I wanted you to all know first.

With all good wishes for the New Year

Hywel

6. Join us – Register now for Cochrane's 2018 Governance Meetings in Lisbon

Registration deadline 4 March 2018

The 2018 Governance Meetings will be hosted by Cochrane Portugal and held at the Tivoli Oriente Hotel in Lisbon, 19-23 March 2018.

Governance Meetings are free to attend, but registration is needed to confirm meeting numbers and special requirements. To register, please visit [this page](#) of the Cochrane Community website.

Book your hotel: The Portuguese team have arranged several special hotel rates that are listed in the link above, so make sure to book your hotel before the booking deadlines pass.

7. 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](#)

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