



Review and Methods Digest



1	Structure and Function updates	2
1.1.	Launch of the CRG Networks Portal	2
1.2.	Re-accreditation process for CRGs	2
1.3.	Frequent Asked Questions	3
1.4.	Cochrane is seeking new editorial leadership to work with its Review Networks	3
2	Topics for information	4
2.1.	Cochrane Council update	4
2.2.	Cochrane Review Support Programme	4
2.3.	Strategic priorities for 2018 now on Cochrane Community website	5
2.4.	2017 Annual General Meeting presentations now available	5
2.5.	Reminder to complete the 2017 Financial & Resource Monitoring form	5
2.6.	Introduction of Reviews of Prognosis in Cochrane – Online Course for systematic reviews and meta-analysis of prognosis studies	5
2.7.	Centralised Searching of ClinicalTrials.gov	6
2.8.	Cochrane Learning Live webinar: Rapid Reviews to Strengthen Health Policy and Systems	6
2.9.	Stories from the Cochrane Community in 2017	7
2.10.	More Cochrane Community news posts and blogs	7

1 Structure and Function updates

1.1. Launch of the CRG Networks Portal

Cochrane is creating eight new Networks of Cochrane Review Groups (CRGs) responsible for the efficient and timely production of high-quality systematic reviews that address the research questions that are most important to decision makers. The creation of these thematic Networks will formally take place during QTR I 2018.

Please may I introduce a new, online resource for CRGs – **Cochrane’s Review Network** portal: <http://community.cochrane.org/organizational-info/resources/resources-groups/thematic-network-portal>

We have created an online portal that will house important information, documents, Community FAQs and up-to-date resources for CRGs and our new Review Networks. We will continue to provide this information in the bi-weekly Digest and also as part of this online resource.

Your feedback is welcome on how we can continue to improve this information for CRGs, and we welcome further suggestions. Please feel free to email: SFinfo@cochrane.org

1.2. Re-accreditation process for CRGs

At the Governing Board meeting held in Cape Town (11-12 September 2017), the Governing Board approved the Cochrane Review Group (CRG) [Transformation Programme](#) Implementation Plan and delivery timelines.

As part of this plan, all CRGs will need to be re-accredited every five years, in order to continue as Cochrane Groups. When CRGs were first established, it was necessary to demonstrate that adequate resources were available to sustain the Group in the short term. Key parts of this process were the identification of funding for the Editorial Base, as well as enthusiasm, commitment, and leadership from within the stakeholder community that was establishing the CRG. A new requirement for five-yearly re-accreditation ensures that CRGs, which are at the heart of review production, are properly resourced and have the sound leadership to deliver high-quality reviews on priority topics in the long term.

The re-accreditation process will begin in November 2017. This [document](#) sets out the revised core functions of CRGs within a Network, and the main areas relevant to the accreditation process. A very similar process will be followed if applications are received from teams wishing to establish new CRGs, or if an existing team is unable or unwilling to continue running a CRG and open applications are sought for teams to take on this responsibility.

A second document describes the process for [changes to the management and structure of CRGs](#).

The Cochrane Editorial Unit (CEU) and the newly appointed Senior Editors (SEs) will engage with CRGs and provide support during the re-accreditation process.

We are planning a series of webinars with the David and myself to help support you through this process. More details will be available in the [CRG Networks Portal](#).

Karla Soares-Weiser, Deputy Editor in Chief

1.3. Frequent Asked Questions

Following its meeting in Cape Town in September 2017, Cochrane's Governing Board approved the [Structure and Function of Cochrane Review Groups: Implementation of the Networks and Editorial Board Plan](#).

During last few months we have spoken with the vast majority of CRGs who have asked many questions about what this means for you and the future functionality of CRGs. Here is a summary of those [frequently asked questions](#) and answers from the Structure and Function Project Team.

These Q/As will be regularly updated and reviewed here as part of our ongoing conversations with you. If you have further questions, please submit them to SInfo@cochrane.org

1.4. Cochrane is seeking new editorial leadership to work with its Review Networks

Cochrane is creating eight new Networks of Cochrane Review Groups (CRGs) responsible for the efficient and timely production of high quality systematic reviews that address the research questions that are most important to decision makers. The creation of these thematic Networks **provides an exciting opportunity for experts in the field to join Cochrane's new editorial leadership** and help the organization deliver its *Strategy to 2020* objectives.

Post: Senior Editor

Location: Flexible

Specifications: Maximum of 0.2 FTE

Salary: competitive salary

Closing date for applications: 13th November 2017

Post: Associate Editor

Location: Flexible

Specifications: Full time/part-time. Permanent contract, subject to 6-month probationary period

Salary: Up to £45,000 dependent on skills and experience

Closing date for applications: 30th November 2017

For more information please visit our [website](#).

To apply please send a letter, Curriculum Vitae, and letter of support to recruitment@cochrane.org by Monday 30th November 2017.

2 Topics for information

2.1. Cochrane Council update

The Cochrane Council was established following the restructuring of Cochrane's governance arrangements and a concern that the Governing Board would no longer have members representing the various Cochrane groups. The Council which was established earlier this year has representatives from each of the following groups: Authors, Information Specialists, Coordinating Editors, The Consumer Network, Fields, Geographically Oriented Groups, Managing Editors and Methods Groups. Its purpose is to be:

- A forum for Cochrane Groups to consider high-level matters affecting Cochrane as a whole
- A mechanism to raise matters and provide input to the Governing Board on behalf of Cochrane Groups
- A forum to consider matters at the request of the Board and inform Board deliberations.

The Council therefore has a unique role in the overall governance structure as it is the only forum where issues that affect all Cochrane groups and members can be considered. It is accountable to the Board but draw its validity from the whole Cochrane community. Its members are: Authors, Julie Brown, María Ximena Rojas Reyes; Information Specialists, Elizabeth Stovold, Rene Spijker; Co-ordinating Editors, Graziella Filippini, Fergus Macbeth; Cochrane Consumer Network, Anne Lyddiatt, Joy Oliver; Fields, Celeste Naude, Susan Wieland; Geographically-orientated Groups, Lotty Hooft, Erik von Elm; Managing Editors, Gail Quinn, Jordi Pardo; Methods Groups, Miranda Langendam, Yemisi Takwoingi.

The Council met for the first time at the mid-year meeting in Geneva in 2017 and Julie Brown and Fergus Macbeth were elected as Co-Chairs. The first two topics we have started to address are:

- The expectations of Cochrane author teams
- Involvement in the Knowledge translation Strategy.

We anticipate that there may be a number of important cross-cutting issues arising from the implementation of the Strategic Review that it might be useful for us to consider and advise on. However in order to make ourselves as useful as possible we would encourage all Cochrane members to submit possible topics for us to address. Ideally these should be crosscutting issues that would not be dealt with by other committees. Please send suggestions to us via Elaine Carman (ecarman@cochrane.org).

2.2. Cochrane Review Support Programme

We have decided to postpone round 5 of the Cochrane Review Support Programme until further notice. This decision reflects uncertainty around the availability of funding support within the 2019 budget, but we also note that the development of CRG networks might lead to changes in the scheme. To date the scheme has only been partially successful in accelerating the production of high priority reviews, with 40-50% of the approved applications failing to meet the agreed deadlines.

We will continue to monitor developments and will look for further opportunities to support the timely delivery of high priority reviews. Please note that there are no changes to rounds 2, 3 and 4, for which the successful applications have already been announced and funds are available in 2017-18.

David Tovey and Ruth Foxlee

2.3. Strategic priorities for 2018 now on Cochrane Community website

The strategic priorities for 2018 approved by the Governing Board at its meeting in Cape Town, in September 2017, are now available on the Cochrane Community website [here](#).

These will form the basis of the annual Targets for 2018, which will be published towards the end of the year.

2.4. 2017 Annual General Meeting presentations now available

The recordings from this **year's Annual General Meeting are now available! Watch Governing Board Co-Chair Cindy Farquhar; CEO Mark Wilson; Deputy Editor in Chief Karla Soares-Weiser; and Treasurer Martin Burton give their views on Cochrane's performance in 2017 and plans for the organization's future.** You can find the presentations [here](#).

2.5. Reminder to complete the 2017 Financial & Resource Monitoring form

A gentle reminder that all Cochrane Groups must complete the 2017 Financial & Resource Monitoring Form by 3rd November 2017. Please see [here](#) for more information.

2.6. Introduction of Reviews of Prognosis in Cochrane – Online Course for systematic reviews and meta-analysis of prognosis studies

Cochrane is currently managing the gradual introduction of Reviews of Prognosis. These reviews are undertaken on a case-by-case basis to ensure we have expert methods and editorial capacity to support these reviews. We also await the publication of Reviews of Prognosis Exemplars. Please contact Jackie Chandler jchandler@cochrane.org if you have a prognostic question of interest.

The need for Reviews of Prognosis

Personalized, precision or risk based medicine is all about prognosis. Hence, primary prognosis studies, e.g. on (new) prognostic factors, biomarkers, tests, models, or other prognostic tools, are prevalent in the literature. The number of primary studies evaluating prognostic factors, (bio)markers and models is rising daily. Systematic reviews and meta-analysis to synthesize the evidence of all these primary studies is an increasing priority in healthcare and urgently needed for patients, healthcare professionals and clinical guideline and policy makers.

Reviews of prognostic studies are much more challenging than intervention reviews because there is more variation in the research questions and designs, specific sources of bias and variation, and with more complex statistical meta-analytical models. Researchers within and outside Cochrane are making progress in developing guidance regarding the design, searching,

data extraction, critical appraisal, statistical analysis and reporting of systematic reviews of prognosis studies.

Course details

Utrecht University runs regular courses and an opportunity for those seeking training for these reviews is available. Please note these are fee paying courses (780 Euros) available through Utrecht University (supported by Cochrane Netherlands). We are working with the Prognosis Methods Group to develop Cochrane-specific courses that will be free to participants. This accessible online course allows participants to work at their own pace.

In this course, provided by experts in the field and in close collaboration with Cochrane Netherlands, we will illustrate the new guidance on reviews of prognostic studies and the accompanying tools. The course consists of web lectures, individual assignments, group discussions, and computer exercises.

Date: 20 November 2017 to 10 December 2017

Location & Time: Fully flexible!

Accreditation: 1.5 EC

For further details and to register:

<http://elevatehealth.eu/online-medical-courses/systematic-reviews-of-prognostic-research>

Please spread this information to whom you think may be interested.

2.7. Centralised Searching of ClinicalTrials.gov

Trials registries are a rich and important source of information about clinical trials and searching them is mandatory in Cochrane reviews ([MECIR standard C27](#)). The search interfaces of the various registry platforms can be challenging and offer limited functionality, so the Cochrane Centralised Search Service embarked on a project to centrally identify all RCT and quasi-RCT from one of these registries – [ClinicalTrials.gov](#).

Around a half of trials registered on ClinicalTrials.gov are RCTs. By using a combination of **machine learning technology and crowd sourcing we're sorting the RCTs from the non-RCTs** and feeding the eligible records into the Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials (**CENTRAL**). **We have a backlog of 90,000 records which has gone through Cochrane's RCT Classifier** and is currently being screened by the [Cochrane Crowd](#). We hope to have the job done by early next and from then on, new CT.gov record will be feed in CENTRAL monthly. For more information about Cochrane Crowd, the CT.gov task, and to join the screening effort, see our [recent news item](#) on the Cochrane Community site.

2.8. Cochrane Learning Live webinar: Rapid Reviews to Strengthen Health Policy and Systems

In this webinar, Dr Andrea C. Tricco and Dr Etienne V. Langlois will outline the usefulness of rapid reviews for providing actionable and relevant evidence to make informed decisions, describe how to engage knowledge users (e.g. patients, healthcare providers, policy-makers) in the conduct of rapid reviews, and discuss different rapid review methods that can be used in various contexts. Prof John Lavis will describe similarities and differences across a range of

EVIPNet-affiliated rapid evidence services and provide examples of how they've evolved over time in response to their experiences working with health-system policymakers and stakeholders.

This webinar is for anyone interested in how rapid reviews can be conducted and used to inform decision-making. You can sign up [here](#).

2.9. Stories from the Cochrane Community in 2017

A series of videos showing stories from the Cochrane community in 2017, as featured at the AGM, is available to watch online [here](#).

2.10. More Cochrane Community news posts and blogs

- [Upcoming events](#)
- [Several positions within Cochrane are currently advertised](#)
- [The Recommended Dose podcast launches](#)
- [Cochrane-Wikipedia Initiative update](#)