

Reviews and Methods Digest

14th October 2016

Dear Colleagues

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For Action:

1. Cochrane Colorectal Cancer Group advertising for new Co-ordinating Editor

After nine years' service as Co-ordinating Editor and Deputy Co-ordinating Editor for the Cochrane Colorectal Cancer Group (CCCG), Rick Nelson has decided to step down. We are grateful for his service to Cochrane and to the Group.

We are therefore looking to support an open application for a new Co-ordinating Editor to provide new leadership of the Group. This is an important opportunity to lead the future development of the group and is timely given the current Structure and Function discussions. For more information, please visit our website [here](#):

2. Cochrane Fertility Regulation Group looking for a new home

Following the loss of funding in support of their work, Frans and Anja Helmerhorst have decided to retire from their roles as the Co-ordinating and Managing Editors of the Fertility Regulation Group.

We are therefore looking to support an open application for a new home for the Fertility

Regulation Group. This is an important opportunity to lead the future development of the group and is timely given the current Structure and Function discussions. For more information, please visit our website [here](#):

3. Cochrane seeks members for its inaugural Scientific Committee

Deadline for applications 25th November 2016

Cochrane is looking for skilled and experienced methodologists, researchers and editors to join an independent forum providing guidance to the Editor in Chief in order that we can ensure that Cochrane Reviews always represent the best methodological practice in evidence synthesis.

For further information on the role of the Committee and membership criteria please see the [application form](#). Deadline for applications is **Friday 25th November 2016**. For further information or informal enquiries please contact [Jackie Chandler](#) (Methods Co-ordinator).

For Information:

4. New and updated standards for Cochrane Intervention Reviews

The MECIR (Methodological Expectations for Cochrane Intervention Reviews) standards for conduct and reporting have been updated. We have added two new sets of standards to cover the reporting of protocols and the planning, conduct and reporting of updates.

For further information and to download the latest booklet of standards [here](#)

5. Structure & Function Review of Cochrane Review Groups:

Following the Steering Group's decision at its meeting in April 2016 to proceed with organizational structure and function changes to help Cochrane meet its Strategy to 2020 Objectives and Goals, the Central Executive Team has put together a series of papers which set out in more detail the proposed changes to be implemented. These papers cover:

- Paper One: Creating a more sustainable review production system for the Cochrane Library
- Paper Two: Cochrane's Geographic Presence
- Paper Three: Cochrane Fields: An update on proposals

For links to these papers and more information, please visit the dedicated Cochrane Community webpage: <http://community.cochrane.org/organizational-info/resources/organizational-structure-and-function/resources>

As we move forward with the implementation of changes, any member of the Cochrane Community is welcome to contact David Tovey (dtovey@cochrane.org) with their feedback or questions.

6. Extraordinary Co-ordinating Editor Board and Joint meetings at Colloquium

At the Seoul Colloquium there will be an opportunity to discuss the way forward for the Structure and Function programme as it relates to review production and impact. Meetings will take place on Sunday the 23rd October, following the Steering Group meeting the previous day.

The meeting will be separated into two sections, morning and afternoon: Co-ordinating Editors are invited to participate in the morning session, and Co-ordinating Editors, Managing Editors, Information Specialists and representatives from the Methods Executive are invited to join the afternoon session. We are aware that there are many competing meetings at this time, and understand that some groups may wish to send a single person representing them.

A draft agenda is available [here](#), although for obvious reasons it is subject to change nearer the time. We are very aware that many people are unable to travel to Seoul and are therefore making it possible to join the meeting online. Time zones are a further challenge however, but we would encourage people to join for at least the final hour of the meeting (4-5 local time UTC +9), which may be possible for people based in many areas of the globe, although regrettably not the American time zones. Please see the time zones and joining guide in the agenda.

7. The Cochrane Library is changing

We want to share some exciting news about changes in development for the Cochrane Library! We are developing an enhanced Cochrane Library with greater functionality that makes it easier for users to discover and use Cochrane content in their decision-making. Over the course of this year, we are redeveloping all aspects of the Cochrane Library to improve user experience.

The first changes will roll out in early 2017 and include: enhancements to the display and new features for Cochrane Reviews and other articles; enhancements to CENTRAL; linking of the CDSR and CENTRAL; an improved search and discovery interface.

We will also be including a new Spanish version of the Cochrane Library, incorporating the translated Cochrane Review content from [La Biblioteca Cochrane Plus](#), with a dedicated search functionality. The Cochrane Library will also incorporate [Cochrane Clinical Answers](#), with over 1200 articles linked to Cochrane Reviews. Finally, a federated search feature will enable searches of other systematic reviews via [Epistemonikos](#).

This project will form a major contribution to our *Strategy to 2020* goal of making Cochrane the 'home of evidence' to inform health decision-making, building greater recognition of our work, and becoming the leading advocate for evidence-informed health care.

The Cochrane Library will maintain its familiar look-and-feel while improving the overall user experience. Researching user needs and stakeholder insights is a key component of development. We are doing this research through one-to-one user testing with Cochrane Library users and focus groups with members of the Cochrane community.

We are also taking this opportunity to remove several databases (DARE, HTA, EED) from the Cochrane Library collection as they are no longer being updated or were not well used currently. The Cochrane Methodology Register will be migrated and archived on the [Cochrane Methods](#) website. The About The Cochrane Collaboration database will also be retired; further information for groups currently published modules will be circulated in the next few weeks.

2017 is the beginning of an exciting new chapter for the Cochrane Library. We look forward to working with you to ensure it provides the best possible experience for our users. More information will follow as we near a launch date in early 2017.

Any questions please contact Deborah Pentesco-Gilbert (dpentesc@wiley.com), Editorial Director, Wiley, or Harriet MacLehose (hmaclehose@cochrane.org), Senior Editor, Cochrane.

8. Update on Cochrane Clinical Answers

Cochrane Clinical Answers (CCAs; www.cochraneclinicalanswers.com) is a Cochrane derivative product launched some years ago with the objective of facilitating use of Cochrane Reviews and informing decision-making at the point of care. CCAs are intended to be short answers to clinical questions bringing to the forefront the most clinically relevant data of the Cochrane Review. More than 1000 CCAs have been published so far, across all disciplines, representing the work of a wide range of Cochrane Review Groups (CRGs). Recently, it has been agreed to include CCAs in the new Enhanced Cochrane Library within the existing licensing arrangements.

Specific criteria for choosing Cochrane Reviews for CCA production include: the relevance of the clinical question; a search date within the last five years; intervention reviews with standard pairwise meta-analyses; and reviews conducting network meta-analyses or overviews of reviews, if these can be extracted into the current CCA data extraction table format.

Recently, the Wiley team has sent to each CRG details about their ten most accessed reviews and the correlation to CCA coverage, to enhance CRG awareness and hear suggestions for inclusion of more of their Reviews within the CCA website. Please have a look and let us know your thoughts; we will be grateful to get your feedback.

Sera Tort (stort@cochrane.org)

Jane Burch (jburch@cochrane.org)

Karen Pettersen (kpetersen@wiley.com)

9. Updates to Archie

The IKMD team is pleased to announce an update to Archie:
<https://community.cochrane.org/news/archie-update-october-2016>

We are extremely aware that the Cochrane community is patiently awaiting the planned enhancements to RevMan and Archie. The IKMD team is committed to delivering these changes and recognises their importance in increasing the efficiency of review production and improving the experience of contributors.

Following the loss of two developers, the IKMD team is extremely stretched but we hope to be able to announce the timing of the launch of RevMan in the near future, and also to devote some time to improving the Archie experience in the first half of 2017.

We would like to invite members of the community to contribute to and vote on enhancements that would most impact on the experience of Cochrane contributors, so that as resources become available we can prioritise these. The Ideas and Feedback page can be found [here](#).

Chris Mavergames
Jacob Riis
David Tovey

10. Updates from Project Transform

The Seoul Colloquium is a great opportunity for you to see the benefits Project Transform is bringing to Cochrane and provide your input so the next phase of the project meets your needs. This news item outlines all the Transform events you can participate in at Seoul.

<http://community.cochrane.org/news/coming-seoul-join-project-transform-activities>

We have now added a diagnostic test accuracy (DTA) identification task to Cochrane Crowd. If you have screened 200 or more records from the RCT identification task, you can head on over to Crowd and take a look.

<http://community.cochrane.org/news/cochrane-crowd-%E2%80%93-diagnostic-test-accuracy-identification-task-here>

11. Call for consultation: consumer involvement in Cochrane

Have your say at this URL: <https://community.cochrane.org/news/call-consultation-consumer-involvement-cochrane>

12. Methods Structure and Function webinars

Cochrane has conducted a series of webinars across its community on proposals to deliver an efficient and effective organisation that does not over burden our contributors, but meets our obligations for high quality reviews. As part of the series of webinars held over the last few months for Centres and Cochrane Review Groups we also ran three with a focus on Methods and Methods Groups. The final webinar held on the 5th October is available [here](#). If you wish to comment on this webinar please email [Jackie Chandler](#).

13. Methods Conference reminder

Assessing confidence in evidence of effectiveness and qualitative evidence: the GRADE effectiveness and GRADE-CERQual (Confidence in the Evidence from Reviews of Qualitative research) approaches. 5th – 7th December 2016, Modena Italy

Assessing the quality of the body of evidence using a tool such as the GRADE approach, and justifying these assessments, is mandatory within the Methodological Expectations of Cochrane

Intervention Reviews (MECIR) standards. This workshop for editors and staff of Cochrane Review Groups aims to deepen participants' understanding of the GRADE approach and to provide practical experience of applying the approach to two different streams of evidence: evidence from systematic reviews of the effectiveness of interventions and evidence from systematic reviews of qualitative evidence (also called qualitative evidence syntheses).

To be eligible to attend participants are required to represent a CRG or be a member of the Training Network. They will need the support of their Co-ordinating Editor.

We are limited to 60 participants. Acceptance is on a first come first served basis. However, we do keep a waiting list. There is no charge for this training event. There are limited stipends available please below for further details.

For information and registration [here](#)

14. Cochrane Methods

Cochrane Methods 2016 is now published pdf [here](#). Hard copies are available in Seoul Colloquium packs and from [Louisa Dunn](#).

15. Blogs on the Cochrane Community site

90% of the 2016 WHO guidelines are informed by evidence from Cochrane Reviews:

<https://www.cochrane.org/news/use-cochrane-reviews-inform-who-guidelines>

Cochrane Tobacco Addiction Group: 20th anniversary prioritization workshop:

<http://community.cochrane.org/news/cochrane-tobacco-addiction-group-20th-anniversary-prioritization-workshop>