

Reviews and Methods Digest

18th November 2016

Dear Colleagues

The CEU Review and Methods Digest this week covers the following areas:

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For Action:

1. Cochrane seeks members for its inaugural Scientific Committee

Cochrane is looking for skilled and experienced methodologists, researchers and editors to form an independent and authoritative forum to provide guidance to the Editor in Chief, in order to ensure that Cochrane Reviews always represent the best methodological practice in evidence synthesis. A selection panel will review nominations and select members for the inaugural Scientific Committee.

For more details: <https://www.cochrane.org/news/cochrane-seeks-members-its-inaugural-scientific-committee>

For informal enquiries please contact Jackie Chandler jchandler@cochrane.org

[APPLY HERE](#)

Closing date: 25th November 2016.

2. Equity and Diversity Task Force: Call for members to join the working groups

Cochrane's recently established [Equity and Diversity Task Force](#) is seeking volunteers for three working groups addressing;

- I. Title registration process for Cochrane Reviews (Chaired by David Tovey, Editor in Chief)
- II. Other production issues (Chaired by Dario Sambunjak, Cochrane Learning & Support)
- III. Organizational equity and diversity issues (Chaired by Mark Wilson, CEO).

If you are interested in joining any one of these three working groups, or for more information, please contact Dario [Sambunjak](#).

For Information:

1. Seoul Colloquium 2016: News round-up

Please see the [Cochrane Community website](#) for a round-up of the news from the Seoul Colloquium, including videos of the plenary and Annual General Meeting sessions.

2. Steering Group decisions from the 2016 Cochrane Colloquium

Please see the [Cochrane Community website](#) for a summary of the main decisions made by Steering Group at its meeting in Seoul. Full minutes will be made available soon.

3. Steering Group approved the Structure and Function review

Please see the Cochrane Community website for full details ([Paper One](#): Creating a more sustainable review production system for the Cochrane Library).

In brief:

The Structure and Function review will focus on four discrete elements that aim to create the basis of a review production system that is positioned to have maximum impact on clinical care and in health policy:

1. We will create a new Editorial Board to help shape and guide strategy and to provide oversight of the implementation of the transformation programme, and the performance of the Cochrane Library.
2. We will improve governance arrangements and mutual accountability between Cochrane and its groups, and increase transparency.
3. We will complete a review of the sustainability of current CRGs allied to the needs of our users. This will deliver recommendations to our Governing Board aimed at creating fewer, larger, more sustainable editorial units to match the current high performing groups. We will also aim to bring CRG teams with shared interests closer together within supported networks.
4. We will implement the integrated quality strategy and the delivery of the *Strategy to 2020* goal 1 targets: consistently high quality reviews, produced efficiently, that address the needs and priorities of decision makers. This will include the introduction of a Methods Support Unit and initiatives aimed at increasing transparency, measuring and recording review quality, and increasing the efficiency of the editorial process.

We will provide monthly updates on progress and challenges to the community, and will engage actively with colleagues throughout the delivery of the transformation programme.

4. New resources on the Cochrane Training website

An argument-based approach to aggregation of evidence involving multiple outcome indicators
<http://training.cochrane.org/node/497>

Recordings from a special methods webinar (part of our [Cochrane Learning Live](#) programme) on aggregating evidence, presented by Professor Anthony Hunter (Professor of Artificial Intelligence, University College London) and Dr Matt Williams (Consultant Oncologist, Charing Cross Hospital / Imperial College London).

Involving consumers in Cochrane reviews: learning from the ACTIVE project
<http://training.cochrane.org/node/498>

Aimed at reviewers interested in ways to involve consumers in within systematic reviews, this resource includes webinar recordings and accompanying papers and reviews about the ACTIVE project – an initiative to bring together evidence, information and resources about the active involvement of consumers in systematic reviews.

5. Calling for expressions of interest to attend the World Health Assembly in 2017

The World Health Assembly (WHA, <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/events/governance/wha/en/>) is the decision-making body of the World Health Organization (WHO, <http://www.who.int/en/>). The main functions of the WHA are to determine the policies of the Organization, appoint the Director-General, supervise financial policies, and review and approve the proposed programme budget. The WHA is held annually in Geneva, Switzerland.

As NGO in official relation with WHO, Cochrane sends a delegation to the WHA. We are now planning for our attendance to the 2017 WHA. If you are interested in attending the WHA, for example to engage in discussions and meet partner organizations of relevance to your Cochrane Review Group, please contact Cochrane Partnerships Coordinator, [Sylvia de Haan](#), sdehaan@cochrane.org. For an indication of the type of organizations attending the WHA, please see the 2016 WHA participants list:
http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/WHA69/A69_Div1Rev1-en.pdf

We plan to establish the 2017 Cochrane delegation based on the expressions of interest received. Please note that Cochrane will not be able to cover the expenses of your travel and stay in Geneva. We will, however, be able to facilitate your registration, as well as provide an introduction to the WHA for those who have not attended the meeting before.

6. Cochrane Seoul Plenaries

Videos from all of the [Seoul Colloquium plenaries](#), as well as the full 2016 Annual General Meeting, are now online.

7. MECIR Standards

Free hard copy booklets available to Cochrane Review Groups on a first come first served basis, please contact Louisa Dunn ldunn@cochrane.org

8. CANCELLED Cochrane GRADE workshop

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

Due to insufficient participants for both the effectiveness and the qualitative GRADE streams we cancelled this workshop and apologise to those who did register. We plan to re-schedule in the new year. Jackie Chandler (Methods co-ordinator) jchandler@cochrane.org, would appreciate any feedback on why such an important workshop did not attract the participants (e.g. timing, location, not enough detail provided about the workshop).