

1. Welcome and introductions

2. What's happening in the US (All)

2.1. Cochrane Steering Group (Lisa Bero). Voting to have the Co-Chairs compensated and voting on the Strategic Plan will take place today, 21 September 2013.

2.2. United States Cochrane Center (USCC)

2.2.1. North American training opportunities (Kristina Lindsley). The US Cochrane Center and the Cochrane Eyes and Vision Group offer Systematic Review workshops twice each year (January and July). They also offer online training courses (Understanding Evidence-based Healthcare: A Foundation for Action, Handsearching, Translating Critical Appraisal of a Manuscript into Meaningful Peer Review, and Understanding Evidence-based Healthcare: A Foundation for Action Course for Physicians, free of charge).

2.2.2. The Caribbean Branch of the USCC was launched June 2013. Damian Francis is the Director. (Bobbi Scherer)

2.2.3. San Francisco Branch of the USCC - Lisa Bero (not present)

2.3. Review Groups

2.3.1. HIV/AIDS Review Group (George Rutherford). There are a number of opportunities for collaboration. For example, Ian Saldanha, CEVG@US Group, spent time with the Cochrane HIV/AIDS Review group in Cape Town, South Africa. He developed a project to assess the completeness of pre-specification and comparability of outcomes across all Cochrane reviews in HIV/AIDS and to determine the extent to which the outcomes are patient-reported and patient-important.

2.3.2. Neonatal Review Group (Roger Soll). The entire group has now relocated to Vermont. Funding has been approved by NICHD. The Group has a new Managing Editor.

2.3.3. Prostatic Diseases and Urological Cancers Review Group (Phillip Daum). The Group transitioned to the University of Florida in February 2013. They have established the Workflows system and continue to have a satellite in Cardiff.

2.4. Review Group Satellites

2.4.1. Eyes and Vision Review Group (CEVG@US) Satellite (Kay Dickersin). CEVG @US is undergoing a restructuring, to maximize its provision of methodological support to US CEVG review authors. The group meets every Monday to prioritize reviews and update one another on progress being made. They have integrated Workflows. The "methodological hub" model provides support and guidance to review authors through assignment of an experienced CEVG@US methodologist with training in epidemiology and biostatistics to each review.

2.4.2. Heart Satellite (Mark Huffman). The newly established satellite at Northwestern University will launch late September 2013. The Trials Search Coordinator works with the main office in the UK.

2.4.3. Musculoskeletal Satellite (Jas Singh). Newly launched in June 2013, the Musculoskeletal Satellite is seeking funds. The Group seeks methods help with meta-analysis.

2.5. Fields

2.5.1. Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAMS) Field (Susan Wieland prepared submitted update). The CAMS field received a 5-year, \$3M NIH grant (support 2013-2018). Collaborations are ongoing with the following groups: Joe Lau's Brown group with SRDR; David Moher's group; Chinese group working with trials and Chinese medicine.

2.5.2. Justice Health (Catherine Gallagher) - No report

2.6. Methods

2.6.1. Comparing Multiple Interventions Methods (CMIM) Group (Tianjing Li). The CMIM Group was funded to produce guidance workshops that focus on methodology for comparing multiple interventions.

3. Other Cochrane-partner activities

3.1. Consumers United for Evidence-based Healthcare (CUE) (Mary Ann Napoli).

CUE consumers are sought to sit on panels and guideline boards. PCORI has depended on CUE. The CUE Group Facebook page provides information on methods, systematic reviews and clinical trials. Lorraine Johnson, CUE representative, will speak at the Plenary Session.

3.2. Annual presentations by Cochrane GI groups at Digestive Disease Week (Ron Koretz). In collaboration with the Inflammatory Bowel Disease and Functional Bowel Disorders Group, the GI produces an annual symposium focused on Cochrane reviews.

3.3. G-I-N (Guideline International Network) North America (G-I-N NA) (Rich Rosenfeld). G-I-N partners with Cochrane to strengthen and support collaboration in guideline development, adaptation and implementation. G-I-N NA sponsored a fundraising event for CUE. The next meeting is December 2013. They also offer monthly webinars. The Board of Trustees has 3 Cochrane members. Please go to www.G-I-N.net for more information.

3.4. American Academy of Ophthalmology: They are informal partners on the CEVG@US prioritization project which relates to their preferred practice patterns (practice guidelines). Tianjing Li is systematic review editor for *Ophthalmology* and is writing guidance for authors of systematic reviews with editor.

3.5. American Medical Association: HIV/AIDS Group and USCC San Francisco Branch summarized a Cochrane review for **JAMA** this week.

3.6. JAMA Ophthalmology: They have commissioned a "Cochrane Corner" that will summarize Cochrane reviews of note.

4. Funding: Successes, challenges & future plans (All)

4.1. International funders – The HIV/AIDS Group has been working on WHO-commissioned reviews. However, much of their systematic review work and the HIV/AIDS CRG infrastructure itself is not funded.

4.2. Federal funding (NIH, CDC, AHRQ, PCORI) – NIH provides funding for CEVG@US, Neonatal, and CAMS. AHRQ provides a modest amount for CUE annual meetings. Otherwise, federal funding has not provided the infrastructure we need.

4.3. Foundations. GiveWell has been in a fair amount of contact with the USCC about funding and is negotiating with Mark Wilson about Cochrane funding. Funds are needed to support the Methodological Hub.

5. Other business

- 5.1.** Concern was expressed that Cochrane reviews are apparently not retrieved when Google Scholar is searched.
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