

Innovating for the future

Cochrane's approach to evidence synthesis

A presentation by
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Acting CEO, Cochrane



Declaration of Interests

I am a full-time employee of the Cochrane Collaboration and do not have any conflict of interest related to this presentation.

Although I speak on behalf of Cochrane, the views represented here are mine.

My travel expenses have been paid by the event organizers.

Dr Karla Soares-Weiser



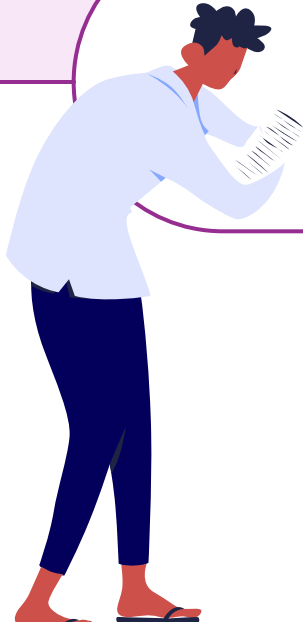
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“Systematic review is an efficient scientific technique. Although sometimes arduous and time consuming, a review is usually quicker and less costly than embarking on a new study... Continuously updated literature review can shorten the time between medical research discoveries and clinical implementation of effective diagnostic or treatment strategies.”

- Cynthia Mulrow, BMJ (1994); 309:597-9



**Evidence moves fast... Cochrane
is responding to the challenge**



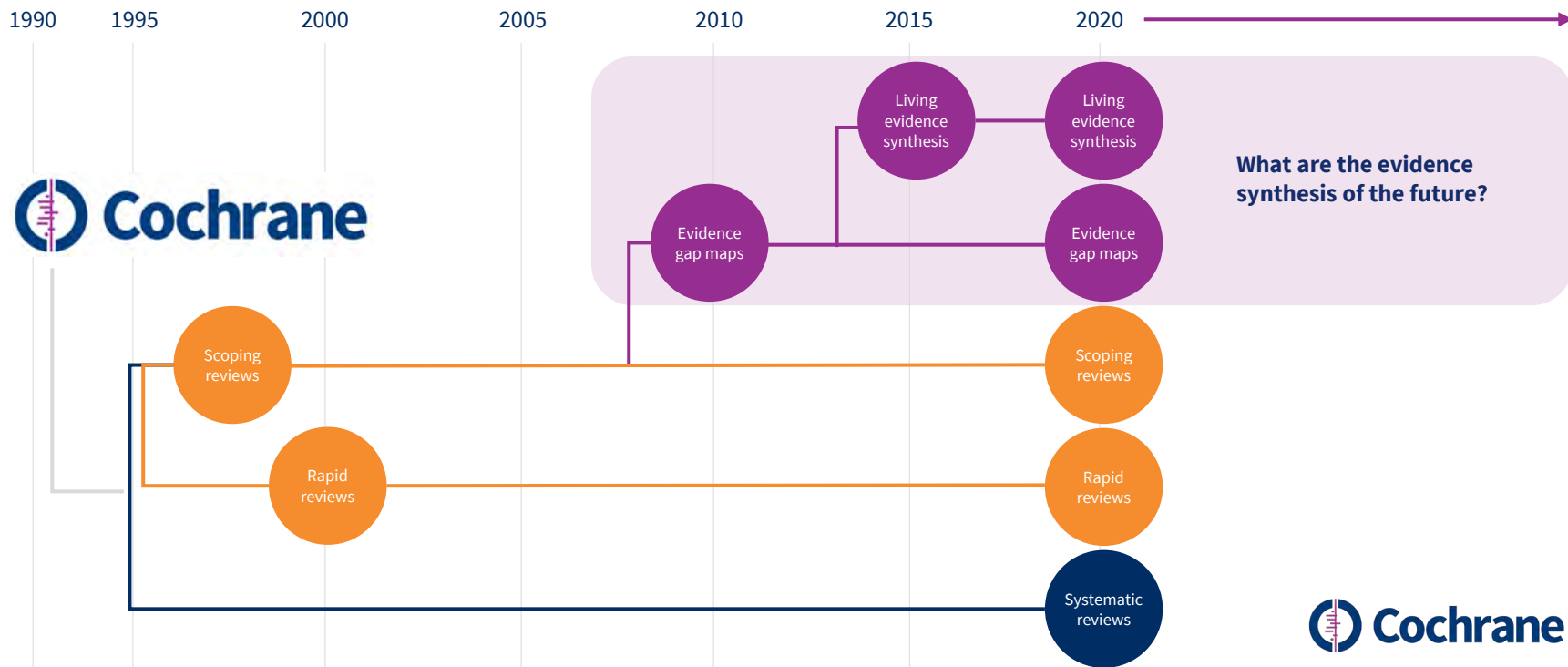
The roots of the Cochrane Library

Launched in 1994-96



We need to embrace technology that furthers our aims, and meets the needs of our users, as we did in 1994 when *The Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* first appeared.

Research is moving faster than ever before



Adapting our methods to meet emerging needs

Trends in method development:



Living evidence

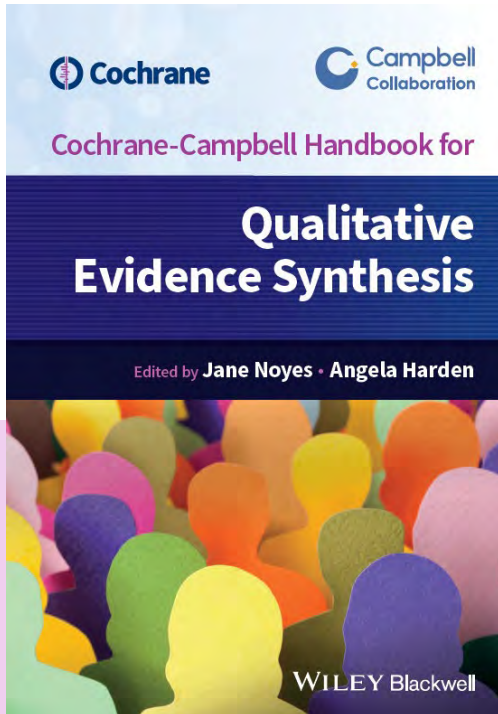


Qualitative synthesis



Strategic prioritisation

Embedding equity and co-production in Cochrane Reviews



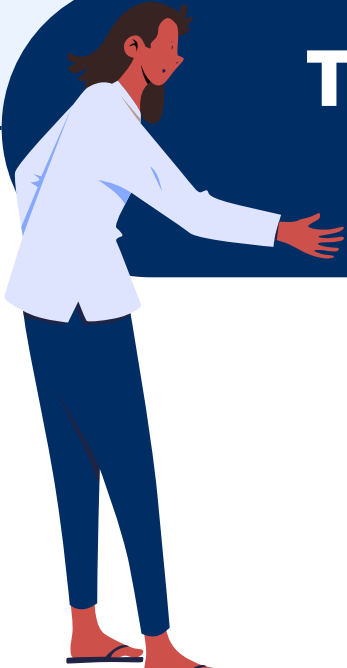
Equity Template

Audit by Editorial Teams

Tutorials/webinars with Equity TG



**The technological landscape
is now very different.**



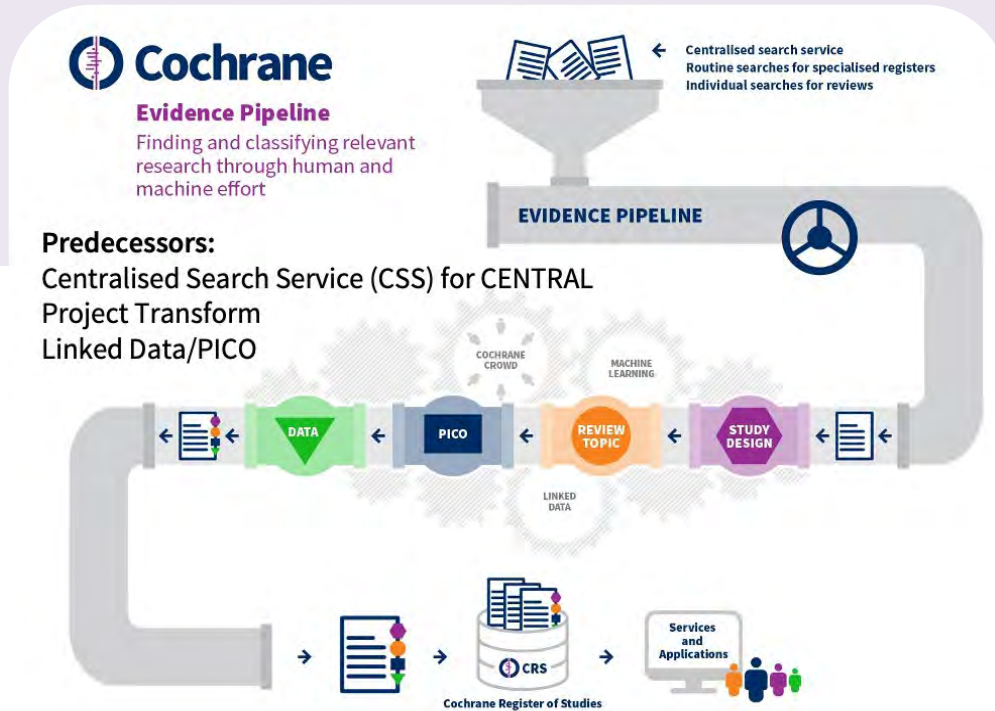


A global community of volunteers who complete tasks to help classify the research needed to support informed decision-making about healthcare.

Over 35,000
volunteer their time

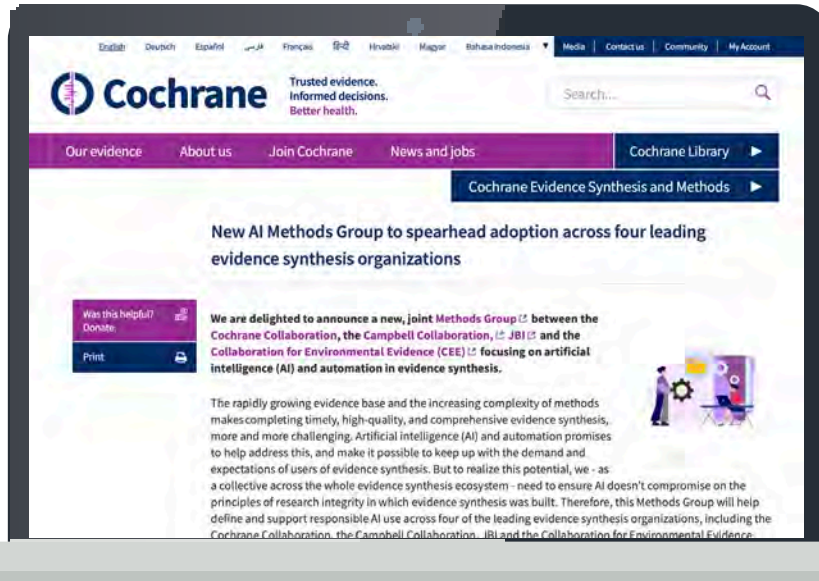
**A global community with a shared sense
of purpose, connected by technology**

Innovation and technology... automating the boring bits and saving time...



Increased use of technology and crowd source to support review production.

AI Methods Group





Making evidence usable and accessible for everyone

People get their information from their mobile phone

Are we designing our reviews for the people who need them most?



Still, the question is how can we make a real difference and deliver improvements at both local and global levels?



Cochrane's research priorities 2025 - 2030



Research
priorities



**Maternal, newborn
and child health**

Offering mothers and children
the best start in life

**Multiple chronic
conditions**

Improving quality of life

**Infectious diseases
and pandemics**

Building a safer world

**Climate change and
sustainability**

Protecting people and planet



Commitments

Collaborate
and involve

Innovate
in methods

Champion
research integrity

Promote
health equity

Build on community
experience

Foster innovation
in research methods
including the use of AI

Ensure evidence is **equitable,**
inclusive and diverse

From strategy to action: Living Evidence Maps

Neonatal Health

Led by Cochrane India



Dengue

In collaboration with
Instituto Veredas in Brazil



From vision to reality: scaling innovation together





Evidence Synthesis Infrastructure Collaborative

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UN Global
SDG
Synthesis
Coalition

Building a Global
Evidence
Synthesis
Community

Pan-African
Collective for
Evidence (PACE)

Center for Rapid
Evidence
Synthesis
(ACRES)

Adjudication
panel
Representatives
of “interest
holders”

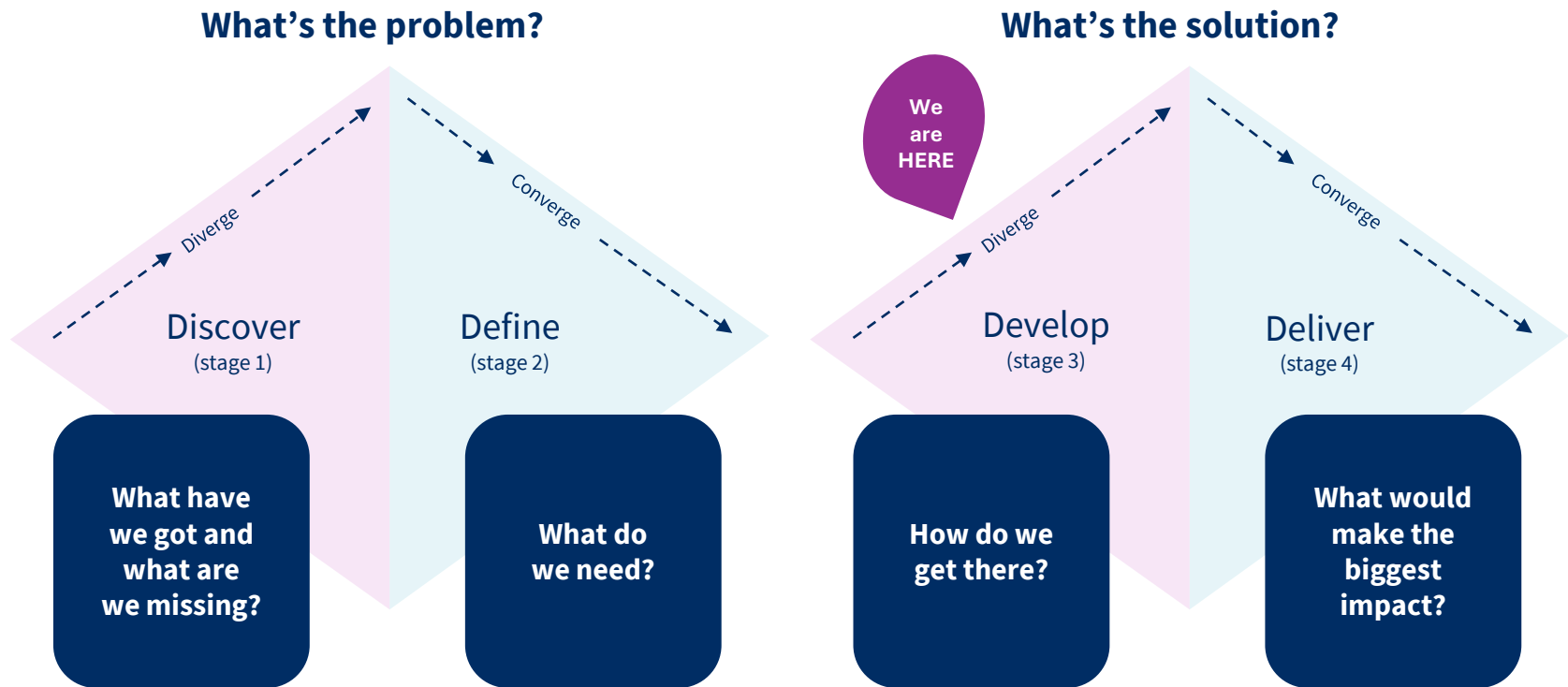
Working and Planning Groups



Groups	Focus	Co-Leads
WG1: Demand-side engagement	Get producers and potential users working together to understand and meet user needs	Patrick Okwen, Cameroon Eleanor Williams, Australia
WG2: Data sharing and reusing	Make it normal to study a question once and use the answers many times in many different contexts	Zhipeng Wei, China Julian Elliott, Australia
WG3: Safe and responsible use of AI	Bring evidence synthesis to the forefront of technology so that we can get the best impact from the people and resources we have	Ashrita Saran, India Malcolm Macleod, UK
WG4: Methods & process innovation	Devise synthesis methods and processes that enable radically more timely, relevant, and affordable synthesis	Solange Durao, South Africa Fiona Campbell, UK
WG5: Capacity sharing	Build a global community with the capabilities to deliver and use evidence synthesis across all major societal questions	Veronica Osorio Calderon, Bolivia Tamara Lotfi, Lebanon
PG1: Governance	Devise options for how key interest holders can continue to set and achieve shared goals beyond this process	Joseph Mathew, India Jeremy Grimshaw, Canada



Planning process - January to June 2025: where are we now?





“

“Because the people who are crazy enough to think they can change the world, are the ones who do.”

- Steve Jobs

**Let's be bold. Let's be collaborative.
Let's continue to do the hard work of
transforming evidence into action.**

Thank you!