

Cochrane
Methods

A new Methods structure for Cochrane

Structure and function next step
July 2016

Trusted evidence.
Informed decisions.
Better health.





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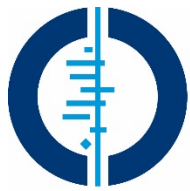
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Visions for Cochrane

Our vision is a world of improved health where decisions about health and health care are informed by high quality, relevant and up to date synthesized research evidence.

Cochrane Strategy to 2020

Every Cochrane Review we publish will provide evidence that will have a measurable and positive impact in the world.

David Tovey and Karla Soares Weiser's Webinar slide set: Creating a stronger, better and more successful Cochrane Library





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And methods.....

Every Cochrane Review we publish will provide *credible and trustworthy* evidence using *the best available methods* that will have a measurable and positive impact in the world.





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We need new structures

Why we conducted the Structure and Function review, key recommendations from the Methods Structure and Function Review





What Cochrane needs to continue as an evidence provider?

Rationalise

Reduce lines of accountability creating more efficient governance

Respond

Implement methods developments, processes to speed up production, prioritisation, and improve accessibility to reviews.

Strengthen
governance
and
accountability

Streamline
organizational
structure

Meet
stakeholder
needs better

Remove
burden on
Groups

Flexible

Increase across Group function agility to meet demands for prompt, high quality, reviews using complex methods and technological developments

Resource sharing

Cochrane Groups proliferate and many struggle with resources to support expectations

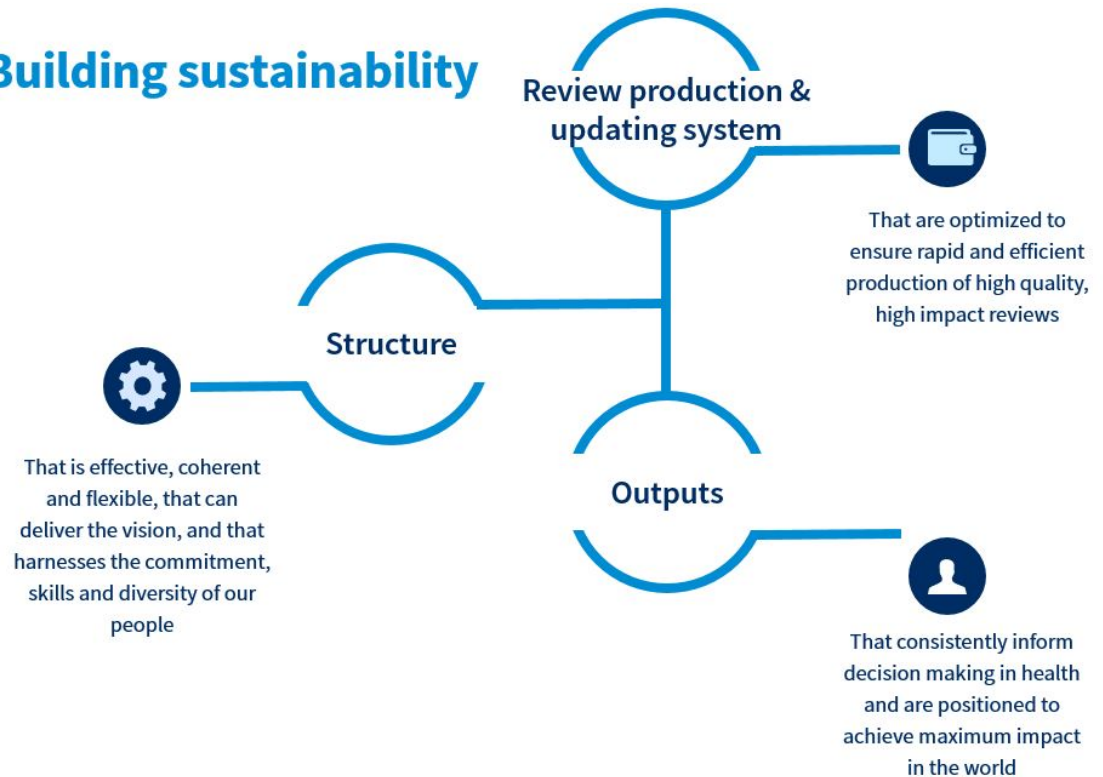


Overall objective for all Groups

To create a more flexible system for effective and efficient review production and its related activities to create a sustainable organization that meets its vision and strategic obligations, by:

- Promoting greater connectivity and cooperation between Groups.
- Rationalising Group structures to improve function and encourage resource sharing.
- Creating supra structures.

Building sustainability



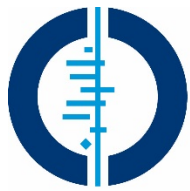


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Methods Structure then and now

Methods beyond reviews of interventions:
Do we resist or embrace?





**Iain Chalmers – extract The Cochrane Collaboration
Methods Working Groups (MWG) Newsletter – June 1997**

*“Cochrane Methods Working Groups constitute the research and development arm of The Cochrane Collaboration. The work of these groups **is fundamental to successful pursuit of the Collaborations' mission** to serve the interests of those who rely on the health services to offer forms of care which do more good than harm.....”*





Cochrane Methods

Qualitative research synthesis

2016

Individual Participant Data
meta-analysis

Statistics

'Summary of
findings' Tables

Equity

Rapid Reviews

Risk of bias assessment

Prospective meta-analysis

Adverse Effects

Patient reported outcomes

Prognosis

Information Retrieval

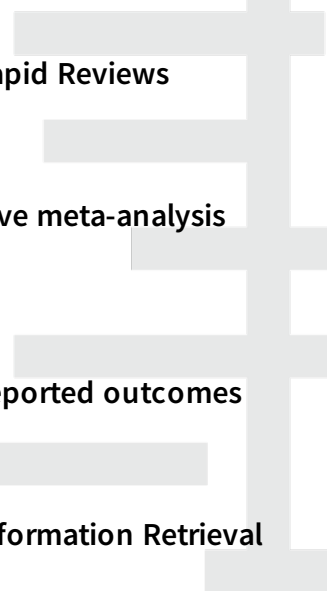
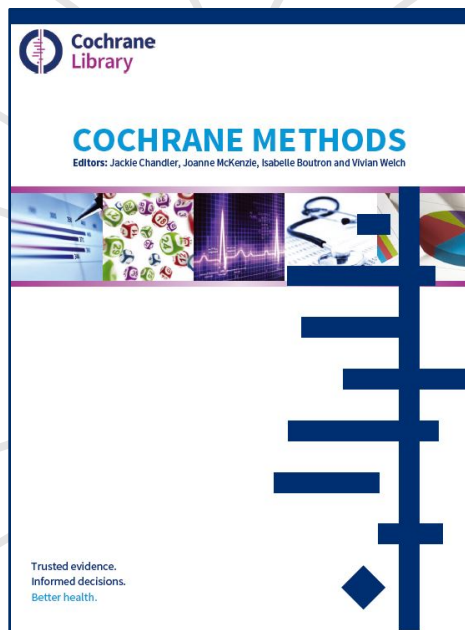
Economics

Non randomized Studies

Screening and Diagnostic Tests

Priority setting

Comparing Multiple Interventions





1

Research and development

- EB Methods
- Evaluations
- New methods
- Development of tools and methodological approaches
- Technology
- Pilot studies

2

Methods Policy and Standards

- Handbook
- Supplementary Guidance
- Tool improvement
- Setting standards
- Setting methods policy

3

Methods support

- Consultancy
- Support to CRGs
- Training
- Peer review

Clarke et al MWG Newsletter
June 1997

...it is important to clarify what are reasonable expectations of MWGs.....MWGs would quickly be overwhelmed if they were expected to respond to direct requests for support.....



Cochrane Methods S&F Review recommendations

Methods

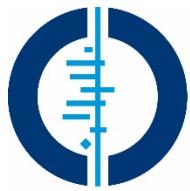
Develop an integrated strategy for methods developments.

Fund methods support unit (s) to provide an advice service directly to CRGs

A recruitment plan to support Cochrane's methodological needs.

Support clustering arrangements to promote closer working between Methods Groups.

Propose for a scientific committee oversee the methods Cochrane should adopt.



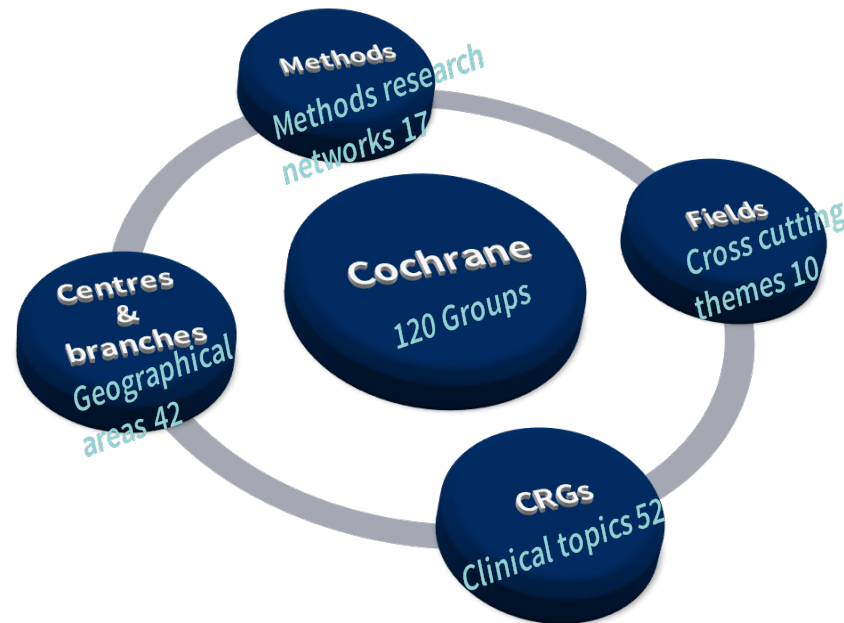
New structures

- All Group structures undertook reviews. CRGs, Centres and Methods Groups are reviewing new structures.
- Fields Review is temporally suspended whilst other groups form their proposals.

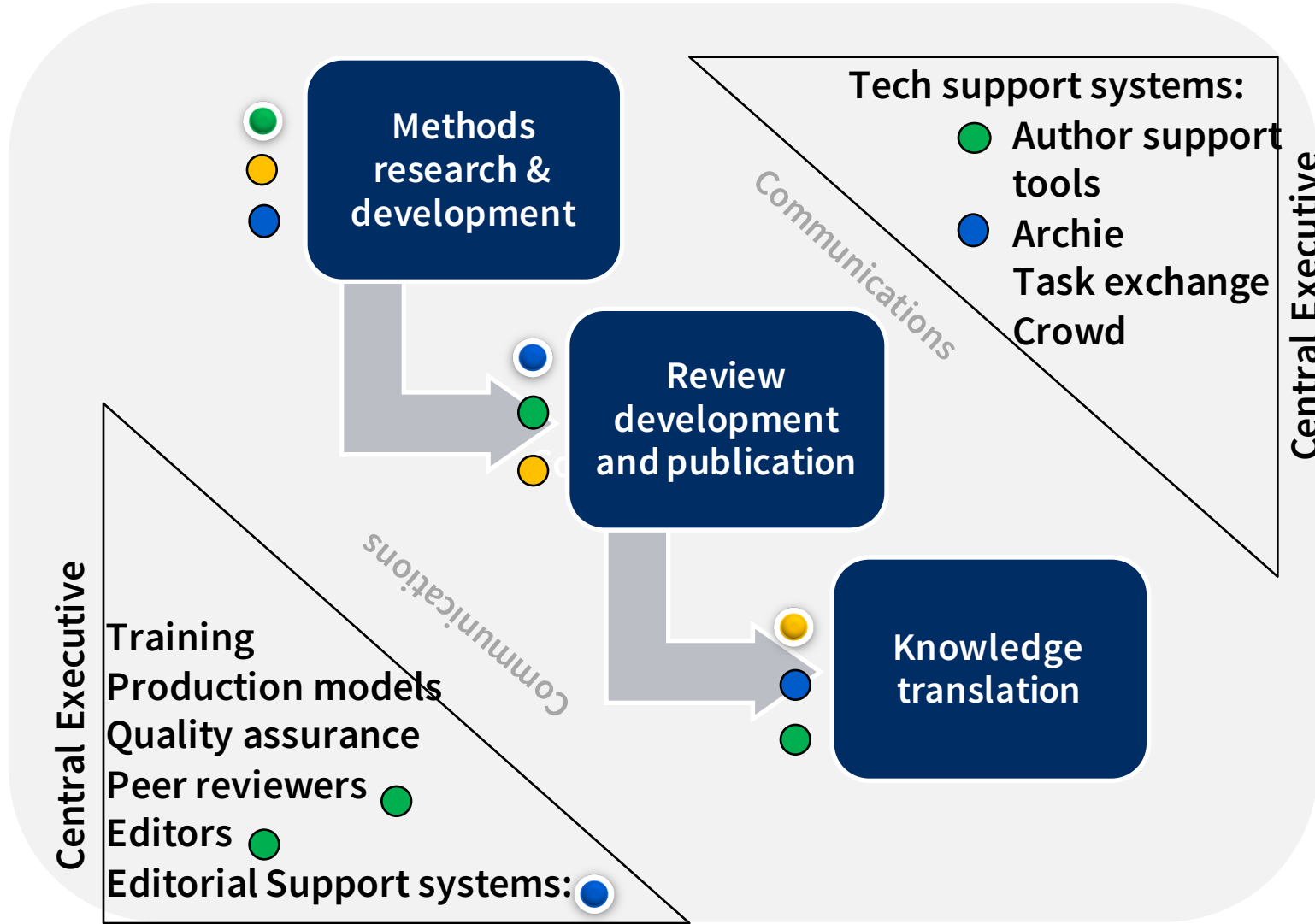




Current Cochranes Group structure



Too many Groups mostly working quite independently, either with tight funding streams or none.





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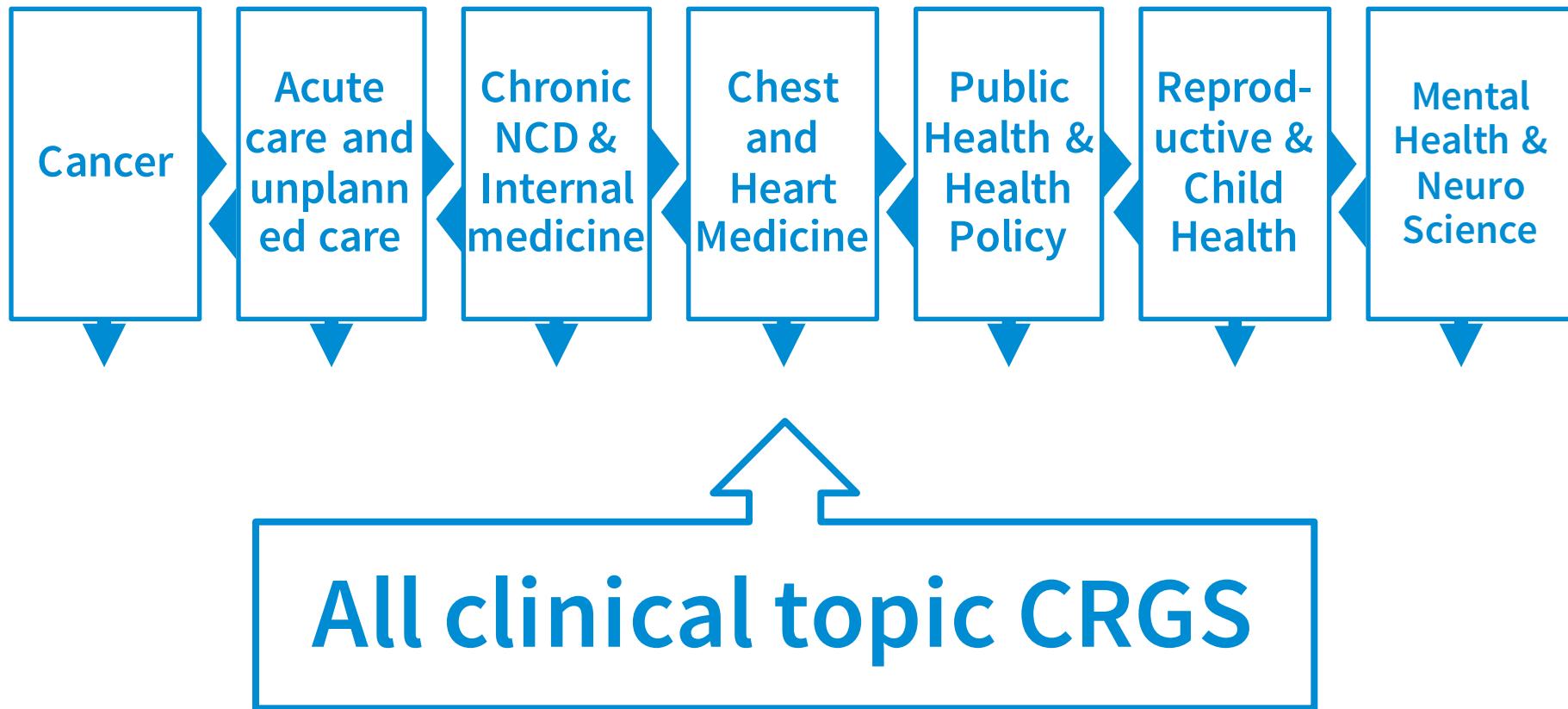
Two high level methods functions are clearly delineated
in the new structure





Proposal for thematic hubs for CRGs

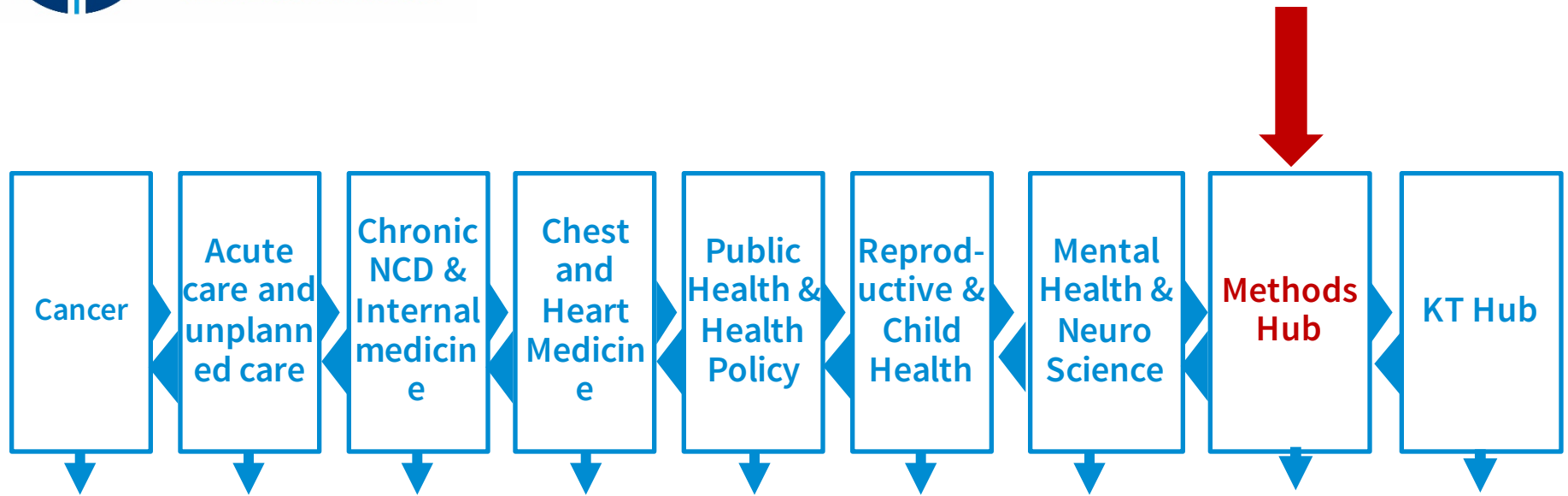
David and his team are proposing to bring CRGs into hubs for high level clinical areas to improve interconnectivity, support and resource sharing



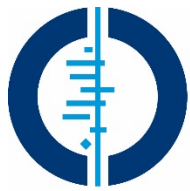


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Where does the Methods Hub fit into Cochrane?



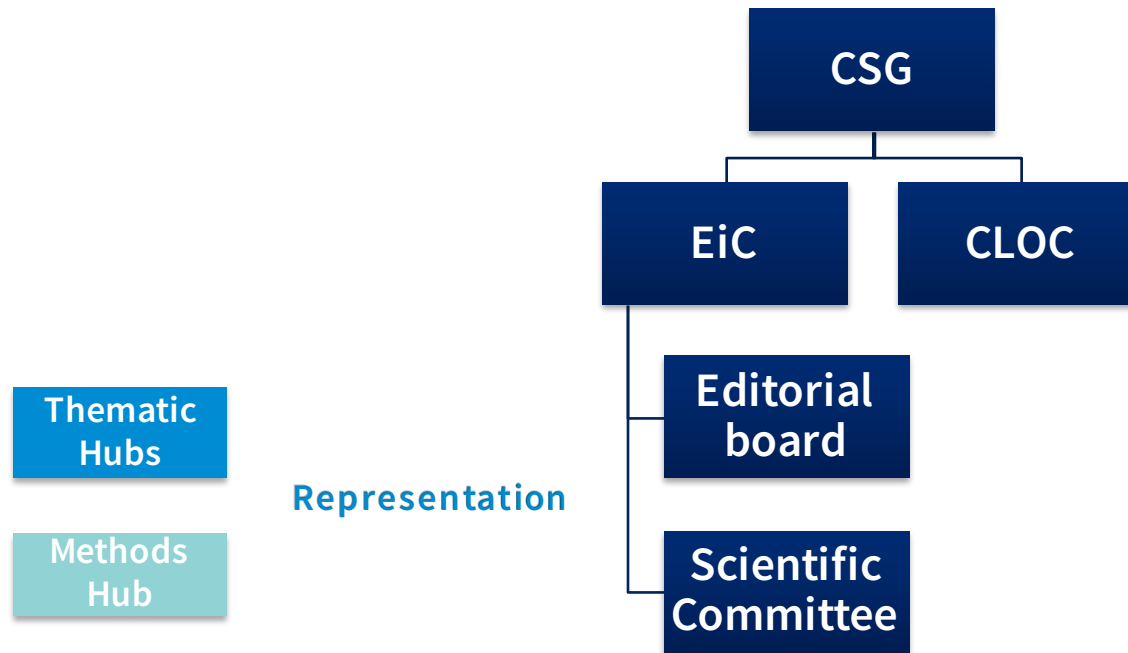
**This will lead to a
new CDSR Editorial
Board structure**

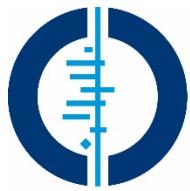


Cancer	Acute care and unplanned care	Chronic NCD & Internal medicine	Chest and Heart Medicine	Public Health & Health Policy	Reproductive & Child Health	Mental Health & Neuro Science	Methods	KT
EDITORIAL BOARD OF THE CDSR								

- Collective leadership
- Developing editorial and content strategy
- Overseeing quality strategy
- Evaluating scope & coverage
- Overseeing prioritisation
- Overseeing implementation of strategy
- Leading the thematic hubs

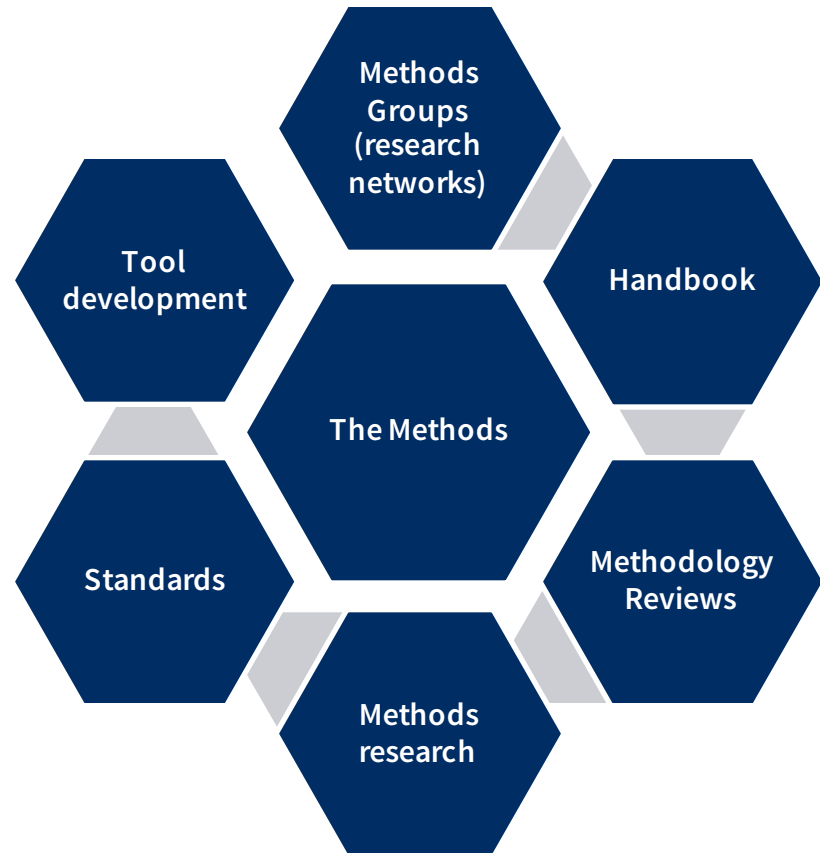
Overall governance for the Cochrane Library





The purpose of the hub structure is not to simply cluster Groups or other entities into one place, but to create:

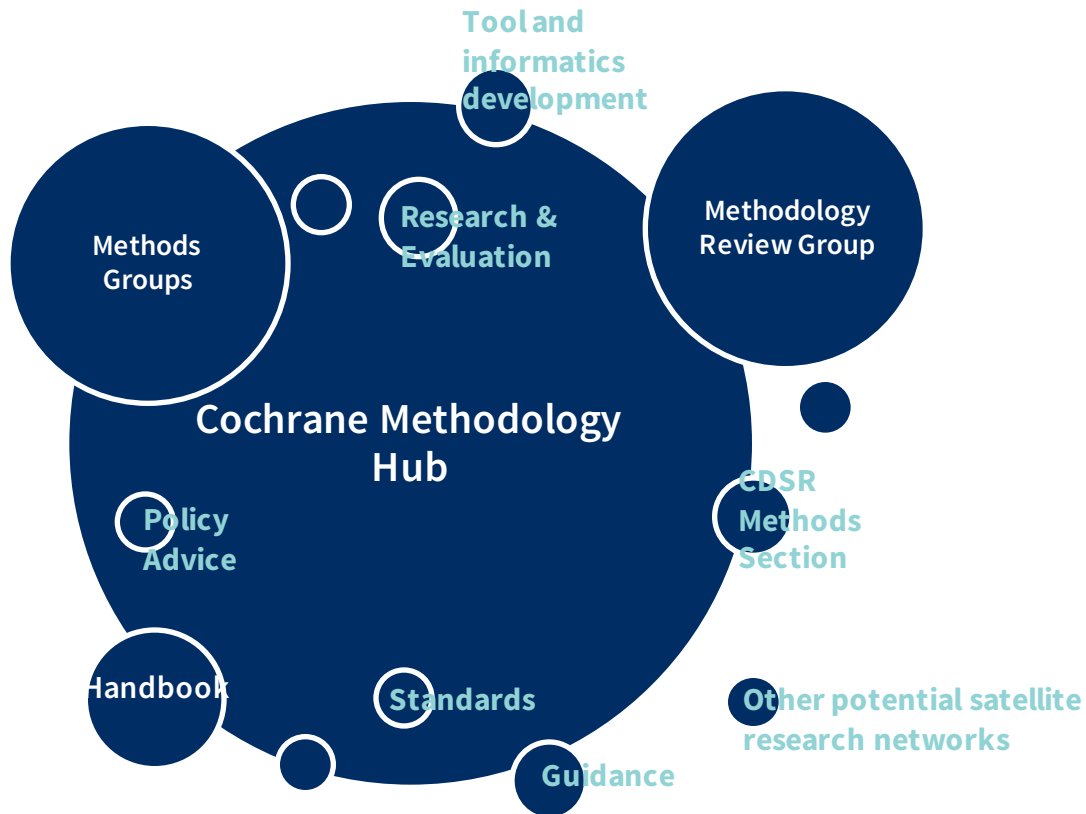
- A central focal point clearly identifiable to others.
- A locus of accountability and activity.
- Greater interconnectivity between individual components with an overarching leadership.





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The Methods hub



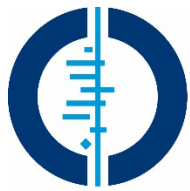


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Making it work

The following outlines important considerations and next steps

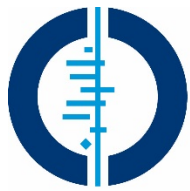




Closer working relationships and sharing of resources.
Strengthens leadership for methodology in Cochrane.
Greater global presence for methodology
Potential for hub to apply for funding streams.



Not supported by the majority.
Conflicts of interests between people make it difficult.
Over ambitious needing more resources than anticipated.
Status quo a risk for the long term survival of Cochrane.



Cochrane Governance of the Methods Hub

Methods

The 'Hub' model proposals may include:

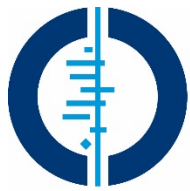
- Self determination and development of own internal structure.
- Possibility of independent legal status and discrete identity.
- Accountability at hub level. Memorandum of Understanding between Hub and Cochrane
- An opportunity to re-develop a single leadership structure from the previous Board and Executive model.
- One lead sits on the new Editorial Board.
- Scientific Committee remains separate from the hub for independence, however roles between both need greater clarification.





- A leadership structure, providing
 - Strategic level decision making for the Hub
 - Oversight for all internal Hub Groups and its functions encouraging greater collaboration across hub groups and other hubs
 - A commitment to Cochrane principles and ethos
 - Allocated time for Hub activities
 - Opportunities to seek financial support to support Hub activities





Methodology Hub

Model 1

Current Group identities retained and additional Groups as agreed

Model 2

Groups formed around applied methods:

1. Steps in the review process
2. Task focused time limited Groups to address priority methods developments
3. Review types/questions
4. Other?

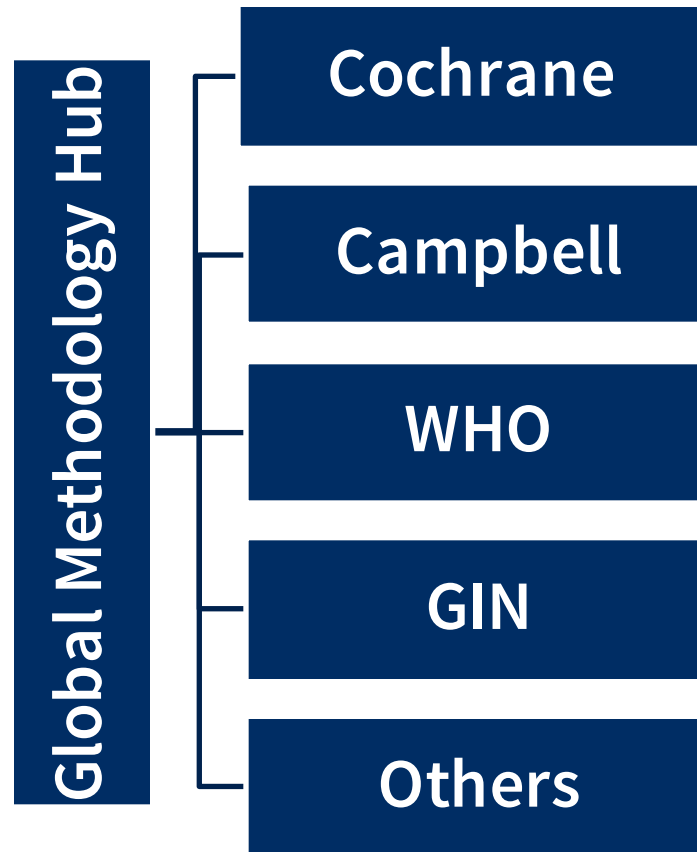
Model 3

One single Group of Methodologists covering a wide range of skills in one hub or multiple hubs based in universities.



Future possibilities?

A Global
methodology
hub (network)
for the science
of research
evidence
synthesis (SRs)





The plan

**Circulation of
slides for
comment**

Webinars
22nd & 27th
September,
5th October

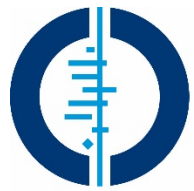
**Methods
Board**
22nd October

Background documents

Available in Dropbox folder

- [Cochrane strategy 2020](#)
- [Structure and Function update April 2016](#)
- [Methods Structure and Function Review final recommendations](#)





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