2021

Convenors: Anna Chaimani, Joanne McKenzie, Mark Simmonds, Catrin Tudur Smith, Areti Angeliki Veroniki
Coordinator: Elizabeth Korevaar

Highlight:
Hosted the virtual ‘A day with … the Statistical Methods Group’, which provided an important forum for bringing together our Cochrane Statistical Methods community

Research and development
• An empirical study comparing the impact of using different statistical methods for random effects meta-analysis applied to meta-analyses in the Cochrane reviews. Specifically, examining the impact of using different heterogeneity variance estimators (Paule-Manel, Restricted Maximum Likelihood, and DerSimonian and Laird) and different methods for confidence interval calculation for the summary effect estimate (Hartung-Knapp-Sidik-Jonkman, Wald-type)

Best practice and guidance
• Co-organised webinars with Cochrane Training, including identifying publication bias in meta-analyses of continuous outcomes and comparing test accuracy
• Contributed to other events and workshops including Cochrane Training in Australia and the Advanced Methods and Innovative Technologies for Evidence Synthesis Virtual Methods Symposium

Methods implementation
• Informed the development of Cochrane’s Authors Training Materials
• Provide support to review authors, Cochrane Review Groups and the Methods Support Unit by contributing expertise as peer reviewers and advisers
• Co-author Cochrane Reviews