

NEWSLETTER NO. 1 WINTER EDITION

THE INAUGURAL BIAS METHODS GROUP NEWSLETTER

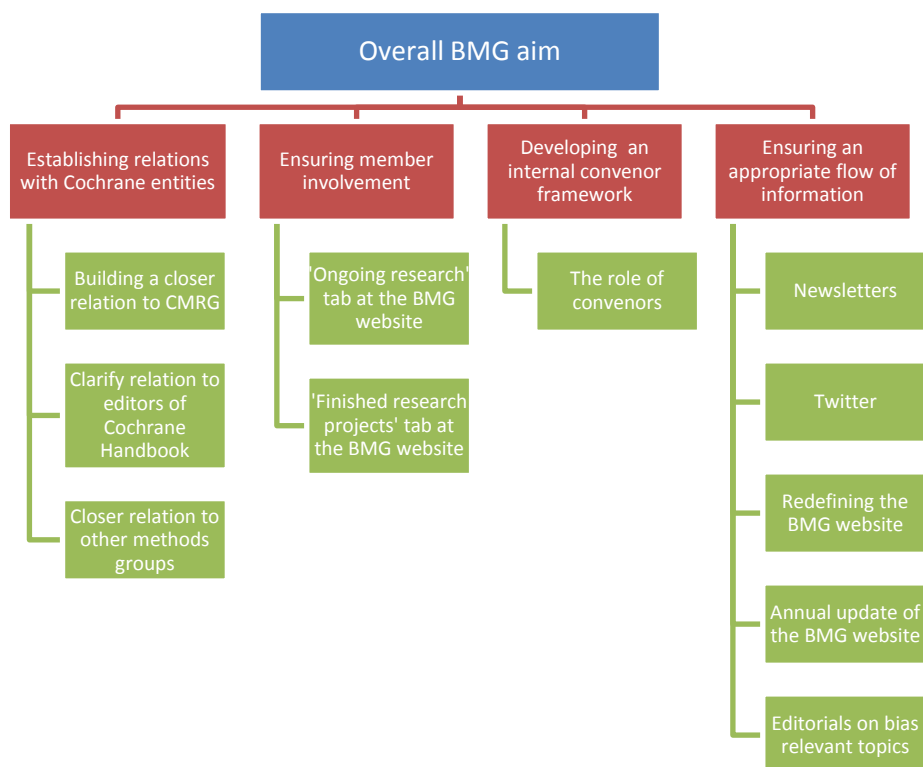
This newsletter marks the beginning of a new tradition that involves biannual newsletters (distributed in Winter and Summer). With this newsletter, the Bias Methods Group wishes to provide some insight into the group's activities, and to keep you abreast of the bias literature. We hope that you find our newsletter informative and enjoyable to read.

NEW CONVENOR

In the beginning of 2017, David Moher decided to step down from the leadership of the Bias Methods Group. We thank David for his many years of hard work and many valuable contributions. We welcomed Matthew Page (Australia) as our new convenor. For more information about Matthew and other convenors of the group, please visit: <http://methods.cochrane.org/bias/convenors>

A NEW BIAS METHODS GROUP STRATEGY

In the past year, the Bias Methods Group has been working on the development of a group strategy. The aim of the strategy is to ensure that the Bias Methods Group remains an active and visible group with the ability to adapt to the internal changes within Cochrane and an evolving publication environment for systematic reviews. The strategy defined four main themes (Figure).



If you are interested in reading more about the strategy, please visit <http://methods.cochrane.org/news/developing-methods-group-strategy>.

WINTER READING LIST

We have been keeping an eye on the bias literature, and think our members may be interested in the following articles published in the last 6 months:

Page MJ, et al. Assessing risk of bias in studies that evaluate health care interventions: recommendations in the misinformation age. *J Clin Epidemiol* 2018. PMID: [29352995](#).

Viswanathan M, et al. Recommendations for assessing risk of bias in systematic reviews of health care interventions. *J Clin Epidemiol* 2017. PMID: [29248724](#).

Thomson H, et al. Applying the ROBINS-I tool to natural experiments: an example from public health. *Syst Rev* 2018;7(1):15. PMID: [29368630](#).

Gates A, et al. Technology-assisted risk of bias assessment in systematic reviews: A prospective cross-sectional evaluation of the RobotReviewer machine learning tool. *J Clin Epidemiol* 2018;96:54-62. PMID: [29289761](#)

Savovic J, et al. Associations between risk-of-bias assessments and results of randomized trials in Cochrane reviews: the ROBES meta-epidemiologic study. *Am J Epidemiol* 2017. PMID: [29126260](#).

Mayo-Wilson E, et al. Cherry-picking by trialists and meta-analysts can drive conclusions about intervention efficacy. *J Clin Epidemiol* 2017;91:95-110. PMID: [28842290](#).

Whiting P, et al. A proposed framework for developing quality assessment tools. *Syst Rev* 2017;6(1):204. PMID: [29041953](#).

CONTACT US

The Bias Methods Group is hosted by Center for Evidence-based Medicine, at Odense University Hospital in Denmark. If you have any comments or questions, please share them with us at:

Mail: cochranemethodsbias@gmail.com

Twitter: @CochraneBias

Website:

<http://methods.cochrane.org/bias/>

WHO WE ARE

Convenors: Doug Altman, Isabelle Boutron, Asbjørn Hróbjartsson, Matthew Page

Coordinator: Camilla Hansen

THE YEAR TO COME

During 2018, the Bias Methods Group has several items on the agenda. You may want to keep an eye out for:

- 1) Updates to the Cochrane Handbook version 6
- 2) The development of a new tool for assessing risk of bias due to missing evidence (the ROB-ME tool)
- 3) The development of a new tool for assessing conflicts of interest (the TACIT tool)

WITH THE WISHES OF A HAPPY NEW YEAR

With this, convenors and coordinator of the Bias Methods Group wish you a happy new year with all the best for 2018.

We hope to see you at the 25th Cochrane Colloquium in Edinburgh in September.