Cochrane

Annual General Meeting 2024

Thursday 14 November 2024
09:00- 10:30

Online and in-person at the King's Fund, London

Trusted evidence.
Informed decisions.
Better health.

Dr Susan Phillips
Chair of the Governing Board

Cochrane Annual General Meeting
14 November 2024

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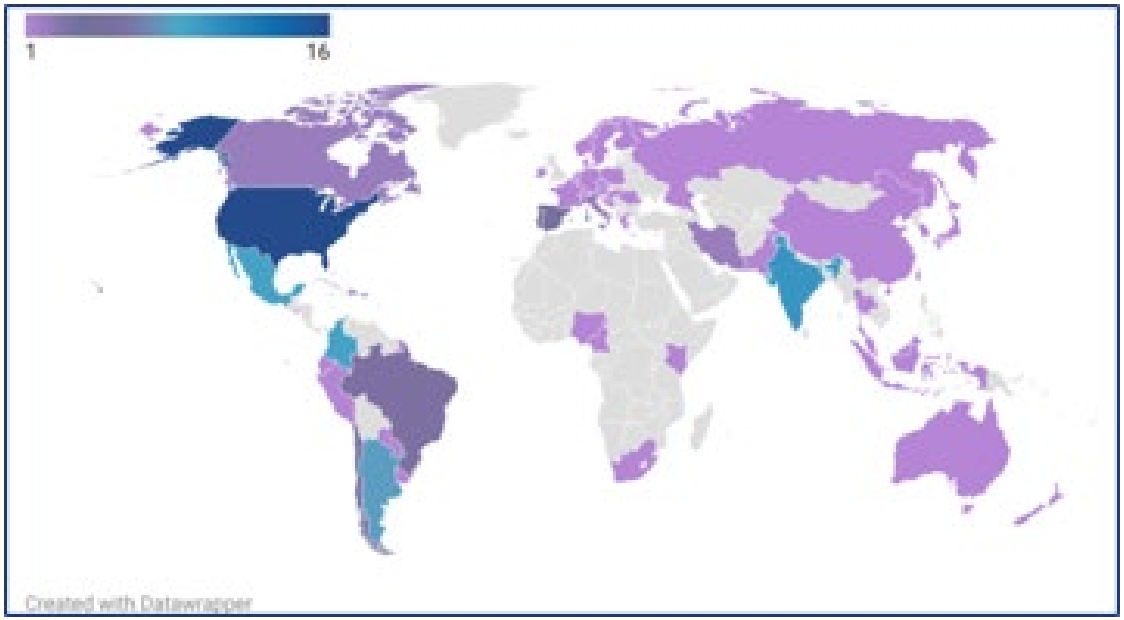
Welcome



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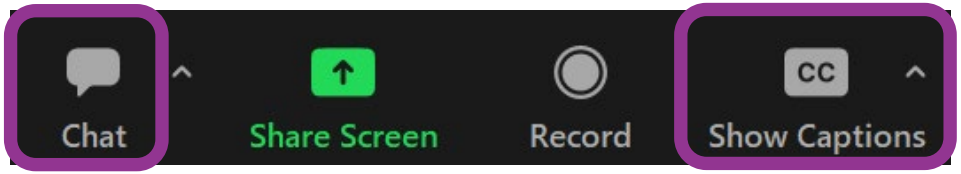
Zoom

- Your microphone will be muted to prevent background noise
- To turn subtitles on or off, click on **“Show/Hide Captions”**
- To ask a written question, click on **“Chat”** to open the chat box



Voting

- Voting is electronic.
- Go to **agm.cochrane.org** and log in to your Cochrane Account to vote on the Resolutions.
- You can vote **at any time** during this meeting.
- Voting will be closed at the end of the meeting, and results will be announced after the meeting.

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Agenda

1. To approve the minutes of the last AGM

2. Report from the Chair

3. Report from the Treasurer

4. To receive the Annual Report and Finance Statements 2023

5. To appoint the auditor

6. Report from the Chief Executive Officer

7. Report from the Editor in Chief

8. Members' Questions

9. Awards and Prizes

10. Resolutions: result of members' votes

11. Any other business and date of next AGM

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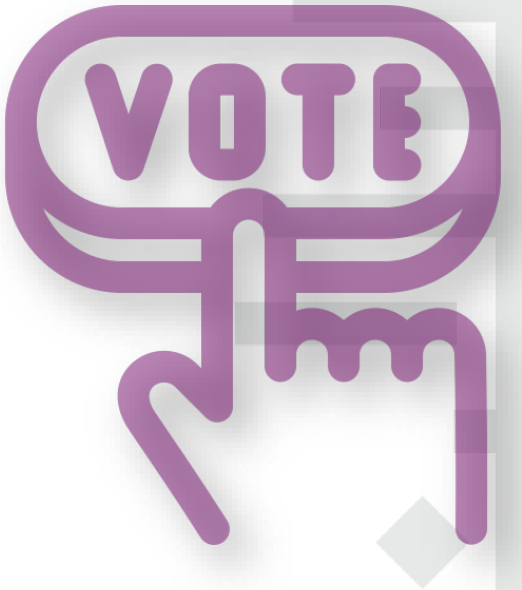
Proposed resolution

Vote at agm.cochrane.org



To approve the Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held in London on 4 September 2023

Proposed by Susan Phillips
Seconded by Karen Kelly

Report from the Chair

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Global Evidence Summit 2024

Governing Board Developments

- **Elected board members**
  - 4 positions in 2024 elections, at least 1 from LMIC
  - 1 position in 2025 elections
- **Appointed board members**
  - New Chair appointed July 2024
  - New Treasurer begins December 2024
  - Up to 2 positions in 2025
- **Directors coming to the end of their terms**
  - Sally Green
  - Jordi Pardo Pardo
  - Karen Kelly

Achievements during 2024

- **Approved Organisational Strategy for 2024-2027**
  - The strategy is underpinned by 4 key goals:
    1. Produce timely and relevant evidence
    2. Save and improve lives
    3. Collaborate locally and globally
    4. Secure our long-term sustainability
- **Monitored Strategy Implementation and Performance (quarterly reports)**
  - CEO and EiC presentations will provide greater details

Achievements during 2024 (cont'd)

- **Prudent management of Cochrane resources**
  - Treasurer report on 2023 financial results and 2024 financial outlook
- **Approved the Roadmap to Open Access**
  - 80% of Cochrane Library content is Free Access (after 12 months)
  - Strong focus on increasing Public Access via national provisions
  - Strong focus on increasing Cochrane Review outputs that will be Open Access from 2025
- **Approved Cochrane Colloquium in India in 2026**

- **Supported Global Evidence Synthesis Collaboration**

Outlook for 2025

- Implementation of organisational strategy and scientific strategy
- Roll out of new and improved ways in which we communicate with members.
- Focus on our financial sustainability and cost recovery
- Focus on diversity and equity in all that we do
- Engagement in Global Evidence Synthesis Collaboration and global partnerships

Catherine Spencer
Chief Executive of Cochrane

Cochrane Annual General Meeting
14 November 2024

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Strategy for a more evidence-informed world

Diversify and collaborate to tackle the biggest health challenges

VISION

A world where health and well-being decisions are based upon timely, trusted and relevant evidence

MISSION

We are an independent organisation that collaborates with global partners to produce accessible, trusted evidence and advocates for its use to deliver better, more equitable health for all

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Goal one:
Produce timely, relevant evidence
for and with those who need it most

To work towards this:

- We have created a scientific strategy to prioritise evidence that helps those in greatest need
- We have streamlined and simplified evidence production
- We continue to develop new methods to address emerging issues
- We continue to champion research integrity and transparency

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Goal two:
Save and improve lives

by ensuring everyone can contribute to and benefit from trusted evidence

To achieve this we have:

- Increased the number of languages our evidence is translated into
- Improved the Cochrane Library website experience for navigating our content
- Increased engagement in low- and middle-income countries
- Host a Cochrane Mentoring scheme
- Audited the infrastructure and user interface of the Cochrane Library for equity of access and made improvements in a small number of areas to optimise

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Goal three:
Collaborate locally and globally

to strengthen our community and enhance impact

To achieve this we:

- Work with partners at all levels to embed evidence-informed approaches
- Strengthen evidence synthesis capacity in low-and middle-income countries
- Facilitate greater collaboration between Cochrane groups
- Support patient and public participation in producing and using evidence

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Goal four:
Secure our long-term sustainability

To achieve this we:

- Have announced how we will move towards open access, supported by national provisions
- Are diversifying our income to enable future ambitions
- Are optimising our systems and processes such as improvements to our editorial processes and software

Balancing Open Access Ambitions

National provisions are at the core of our mission to expand global access.

We already have fourteen national provisions in place and aim to maintain these while bringing new countries onboard.

Over 3 billion people have access through national provisions and philanthropic access.

Fundraising, Communications, Advocacy, Cochrane Response

Partnerships & Impact ***Positioning – Be Findable*** ***Proposition – Be Fundable***

- Cochrane helped the WHO launch new guidance on best practice for clinical trials WHA75.8
- One of the organising partners for World Evidence Based Health Care day reaching over 80 million people for this year's campaign
- Co-hosted the 2nd Global Evidence Summit in Prague – 1,832 people from 71 countries attended
- Cochrane presented a session on Evidence Dissemination, Implementation & Impact at the funders meeting of EViR (Ensuring Value in Research)

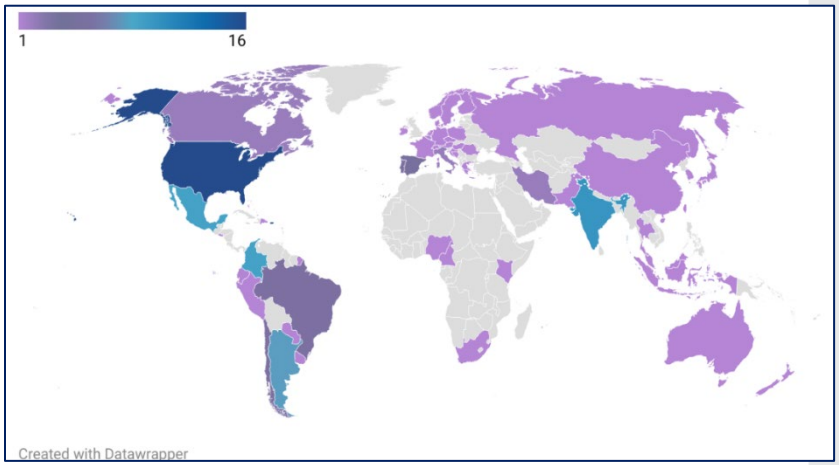
Fundraising, Communications, Advocacy, Cochrane Response

Partnerships & Impact Positioning – Be Findable Proposition – Be Fundable

- Developed donor briefs and engagement plans for key global health supporters including institutional donors in the US, Germany & Japan
- Completed reviews and presented results to 5 WHO guideline development meetings
- Completed review for 4 new commissioners for Cochrane Response – (AHA, USAID, Royal College of Anaesthetists, American Society of Anesthesiologists)

Geographic Groups

Cochrane's Global Presence



New or Full Revision in 2024:

- Spotlight series, highlighting the achievements of our groups on Cochrane.org
- Mandatory Monitoring & Evaluation Platform for all 135 groups
- United Arab Emirates joined, establishing Cochrane's first Arabic-speaking group
- Year 4 of the Health Equity Mentoring Program, 100 mentees to date over the 4 years

135 Geographic Groups
55 Countries represented

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Languages in Geographic Groups

Currently our Geographic Groups work in 26 languages, many of which are part of the official translation program (multi-language strategy)

English	Spanish	French	Italian	Portuguese
German	Dutch	Farsi	Finish	Greek
Hindi	Hungarian	Japan	Korean	Malay
Mandarin	Taiwanese Mandarin	Norwegian	Poland	Romanian
Russia	Serbian	Swahili	Swedish	Tamil
Thai				

26!

Types of Geographic Group Activities

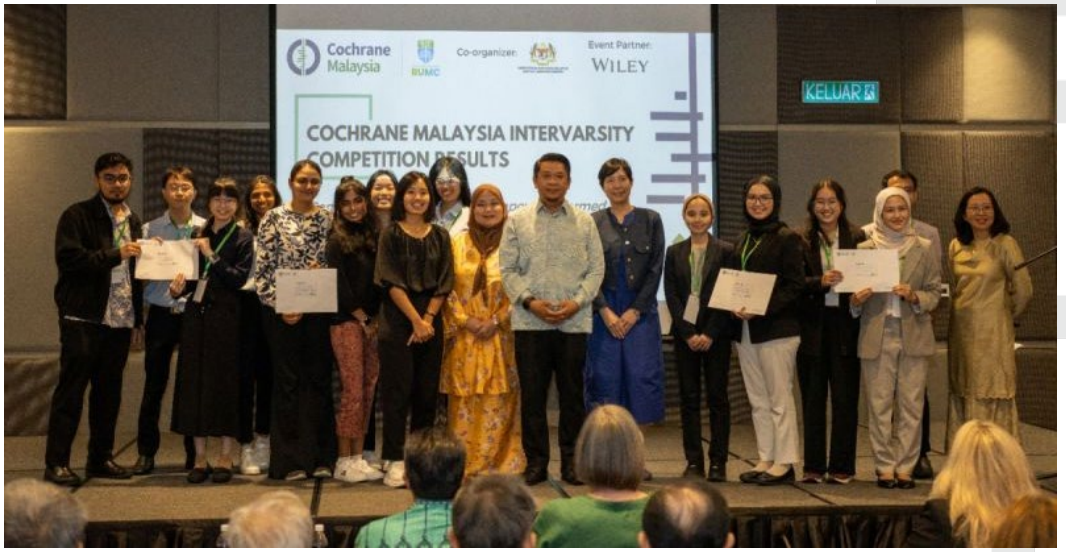
as reported by the Geographic Group Monitoring & Evaluation Platform

- Language Translations
- Evidence Production
- Trainings, Learning Opportunities, Workshops
- Partnership Development
- Guideline Development
- Collaborations with policy makers
- Publications (Cochrane Corners, Blogshots, journal manuscripts, visual data series)

Geographic Groups

Cochrane Country Symposia 2024:

- Cochrane Iberoamerica
- Cochrane Europe
- Cochrane US
- Cochrane Colombia
- Cochrane India
- Cochrane Malaysia



Membership

	2023	2024		
	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
Members	10825	10397	10613	10752
Supporters	121668	121870	140735	147069

New Membership & Support badges
(updated to be more visible online)

New Membership & Support newsletter to better share ways to engage with Cochrane

Members' eNews

Supporters' eNews

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Cochrane Training

Cochrane Learning Live

- 22 webinars in 2024 attracted 6,099 registrations and 2,009 attendees
- Webinar series on *Rapid Reviews*

Cochrane Interactive Learning

- New 12th module on *Qualitative evidence synthesis*
- Modules 1-12 accessed over 70,000 times in 2024
- Rated 4.6/5 on average, based on 2,675 user reviews

Cochrane Evidence Essentials

- New 6th module on *Critical appraisal of rapid reviews*
- Modules 1-6 accessed over 15,000 times in 2024

The Future

- Updates to 3 Cochrane Interactive Learning modules
- New Rapid Review Cochrane Interactive Learning module
- Increased support for new authors
- Updating training support given to groups

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Consumer Involvement & Engagement

High Priorities

Improve representation of consumers from LMICs

Consumer Network Scientific Strategy consultation (March 2024) (Strategy released Oct 2025)

Global Evidence Summit (Sept 2024)
- 2 consumer stipends awarded
- 5/6 Consumer Executive members attended, and contributed to Cochrane consumer poster & workshop

LMIC consumer survey (Nov 2024)
- >100 responses
- Ideas for enhancing equity of consumer representation: "community" of consumers; mentoring; university engagement; stipends

Next steps: Develop LMIC consumer project management plan; onboard 2025 Consumer Executive

Improve product accessibility for consumer audience

Evidence Essentials modules 5 and 6 added (2024)

3 International Patient & Public Involvement Network webinars (2024)
- >140 attendees

Representing consumers for Cochrane.org and CLIB website refresh (ongoing)
- Consumer persona developed (Oct 2024)

Consumer newsletter refreshed (July 2024)
- Impact stories added (Oct 2024)
- >190 new subscribers (June to Sept 2024)
- Positive feedback received

Next steps: Continue supporting website refresh

Improve consumer monitoring and evaluation

Representing consumers on monitoring & evaluation working group (ongoing)

Baseline monitoring established for consumer network and consumer newsletter (Sept 2024)

Next steps: Continue supporting working group; continue developing consumer monitoring & evaluation

Noteworthy other projects:
- GALENOS
- The People's Review (Cochrane Crowd)
- WHO EVIP Net x Africa Evidence Network, Community of Practice (collaboration)
- Co-Production Methods Group

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Global Evidence Summit 2024

- **1832 People Registered**
- **71 Countries Represented**
- 6 Plenaries
- 2 Evidence Challenge Sessions
- 25 Special Sessions
- 69 Long Oral Sessions
- 444 Short Oral Sessions
- 59 Workshops
- 38 Flash Oral Presentations

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Colloquium 2026

Bhubaneswar, India

27th - 30th October 2026

Cochrane India

Leadership Collaboration Meeting

We recognize the value that our Community brings to Cochrane.

We will hold a Leaders meeting in Autumn 2025 to further our collaborative work, details will be released soon.

Photo from Geographic Group Directors meeting in Prague, Sept 2024

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Editor in Chief's report

Annual General Meeting 2024

Presented by Dr Karla Soares-Weiser

Trusted evidence.
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Content

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Cochrane Library

Celebrating our impact: transforming global health and care through evidence-based research

The Cochrane Library is your trusted resource for top-quality, independent evidence in healthcare decision-making.

Let's take a look at the impact from 2023 so far...

An Impact Factor of **8.8**[1]

A 5-year Impact Factor of **9.9**[1]

A CiteScore of **10.6**[1,5]

77,231 citations[1]

90,209 social media mentions[2]

2,242 mentions in news and blogs[2]

61% of WHO accredited guidelines cited at least 1 Cochrane Review[3,6]

Users in **186** countries have full-text access to the Cochrane Library.

Cochrane Reviews have been read **17,511,407** times on the Cochrane Library[4]

6754 new translations of Cochrane Review plain language summaries and/or abstracts[3]

3498 Cochrane Clinical Answers provide a clinically focused entry point to the evidence in Cochrane Reviews

12,666,972 unique visitors

Want to find out more about the Cochrane Library?
Visit www.cochranelibrary.com

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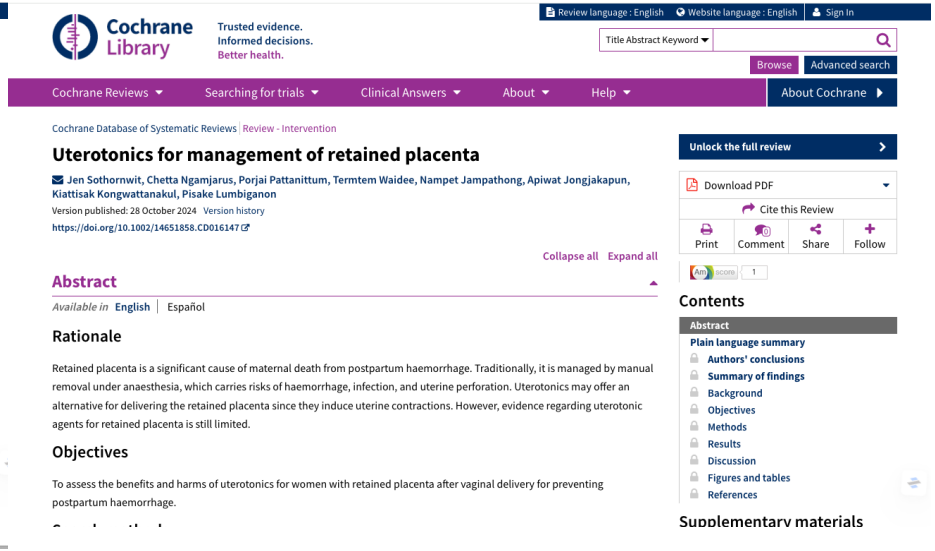
[1] Data taken from the 2023/4 Journal Citation Reports®, published on an annual basis by Clarivate Analytics.
[2] Altmetric.com based on data for all research outputs published in the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews between Jan 1 2023 and Dec 31 2023
[3] As of January 2024
[4] in 2022
[5] Data taken from the 2024 CiteScore, published on an annual basis in Scopus
[6] Based on WHO guidelines published in 2023

Diverse questions, high priority reviews

Timely and high-quality evidence



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Cochrane reviews with a global impact

Global impact

“60 million people with type 2 diabetes need insulin to achieve optimal glycaemic control, but only about 50% of these individuals are able to access this medication” – *Thermostability of human insulin, WHO, 2024*

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Evidence Synthesis and Methods

Cochrane Evidence Synthesis and Methods Journal

- Published 44 articles in the past year (35% increase)
- Media time to decision – 46 days
- Call for papers in collaboration with Campbell and CEE: AI in evidence

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12 Cochrane Thematic Groups

- Global Ageing
- Health Equity
- Heart, Stroke and Circulation
- Nutrition and Physical Activity
- People, Public Health and Health Systems
- Sexual and Reproductive Health
- Work and Health and Social Security

Additional five approved in 2024:

- **Acute and Emergency Care**
- **Functioning, Disability and Rehabilitation**
- **Maternal, Newborn and Child Health**
- **Musculoskeletal Health and Pain**
- **Planetary Health**

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The first five new Cochrane Evidence Synthesis Units across the world

- Australia – (Lead, Sally Green)
- Iberoamerica & Spain – (Lead, Eva Madrid)
- India – (Lead, Meenu Singh)
- Germany & UK – (Lead, Nicole Skoetz)
- Nigeria – (Lead, Martin Meremikwu)

Thematic Groups and Evidence Synthesis Units will join our Cochrane Review Groups in leading the development of Cochrane Systematic Reviews.

All Cochrane groups can submit reviews to the Central Editorial Service.

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Methods and Research Integrity

Timely and high-quality evidence

- **Cochrane Protocols & Reviews:** Focused format; PRISMA standards; 95% author satisfaction.
- **New random effects methods:** Implementation of advice from the Statistical Methods Group.
- **Handbook Expansion:** Includes rapid reviews, prognosis, and qualitative research.
- **Guidelines:** inclusion of non-randomized studies of interventions in systematic reviews.
- **Editorial Policies:** Support research integrity; manage preprints and retractions.
- **Complaints:** New procedure implemented ensuring fairness and transparency.
- **Data Sharing:** Align with FAIR principles.
- **Collaboration:** Guidance on responsible AI use in evidence synthesis.

We remain committed to diversity our content and methods!

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Looking foward

Addressing global health inequities

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Support the delivery of SDGs

Cochrane's work in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs)

Collaboration

Global Evidence Synthesis Community – collaborating with partners

Importance of cross-border, cross-disciplinary collaboration in evidence synthesis.

Bring everyone to table.

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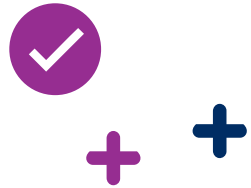
Cochrane's research priorities 2025 - 2030

Research priorities

Maternal, newborn and child health	Multiple chronic conditions	Infectious diseases and pandemics	Climate change and sustainability
Offering mothers and children the best start in life	Improving quality of life	Building a safer world	Protecting people and planet



Scientific Strategy Commitments

Collaborate
and involve

Innovate
in methods

Champion
research integrity

Promote
health equity

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Collaboration

Community of Practice

Bringing together all Cochrane groups producing systematic reviews for the Cochrane Library

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Once we accept our limits, we go beyond them.

- Albert Einstein

Thank you!

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Financial report

Karen Kelly, Treasurer
14th November 2024

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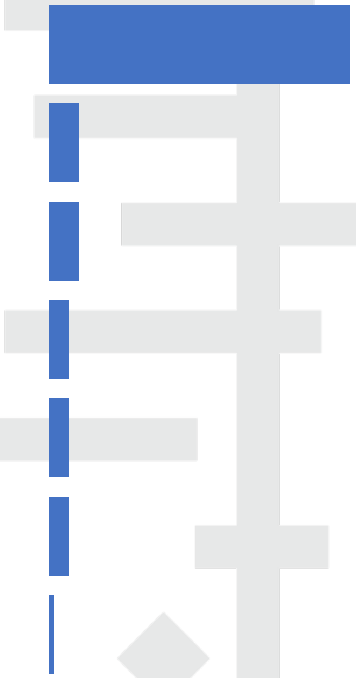
2023 financial results

£ millions	Actuals 2023	Actuals 2022	Variance	Budget 2023
Income	9.7	8.9	0.8	9.8
Expenditure	(9.4)	(7.9)	(1.5)	(10.2)
Net income/(spend)	**0.3**	**1.0**	**(0.7)**	**(0.4)**
Total funds	**9.9**	**9.6**	**0.3**	

The full statutory accounts can be found at https://tinyurl.com/r4ukkwme

In 2023, we received £9.7m

2022	Income stream (£'000)	2023	%
6,817	Cochrane Library income	6,973	72%
-	Events income	675	7%
553	Other publications income	655	7%
344	Other Cochrane products	505	5%
1,003	Cochrane response	460	5%
93	Other income	402	4%
87	Fundraising income	73	1%
8,897		**9,743**	**100%**



December 2023 - £9.9m reserves

Free reserves floor **£2.6m**	Fixed balance - cannot be allocated (minimum operational cashflow)
Excess free reserves **£1.7m**	Floating' balance - determined by annual 'business as usual' budget & financial outcomes (may be transferred).
Open access continuity **£3.0m**	Fixed until **such time** that it is required to support **any** Open Access transition period
Restricted funds **£0.1m**	Funds where the restriction is defined by the donor (legal restriction)
Strategic investment fund **£2.5m (allocated: £0.7m)**	Held for specific allocations to single- or multi-year strategic or change projects of organization-wide impact required to help Cochrane achieve its strategic plans and meet its organizational mission.

2024 financial outlook

£ millions	2024 F	2024 B	Variance	2023 A
Income	10.7	11.1	(0.4)	9.7
Expenditure	(11.1)	(12.1)	1.0	(9.4)
Net (spend)/ income	**(0.4)**	**(1.0)**	**0.6**	**0.3**
Total funds	**9.4**	**8.9**	**0.5**	**9.9**

F = what is forecast to be spent, B = what is budgeted to be spent, A = actual spend.

Longer-term financial sustainability

Strategic risk:
Are we managing the finances to ensure we continue to make an impact in the medium to long term?

Financial sustainability (actions in place/plans identified)

Income dependency	In 2025, one of our five primary planning objectives is to increase revenue from non-Cochrane Library products & services (Cochrane Library: 72%)
Open access pathway	We are working with our publishing partner, Wiley, to establish a sustainable long-term transition to open access
Strategic partnerships	We are maintaining and developing relationships with our key partners including Wellcome Trust, WHO and other key institutions and major foundations supporting work across global health.
Review pipeline	We will continue to invest in our Central Editorial Service to ensure a healthy and sustainable publication pipeline
Cost recovery	We are increasing awareness, systems & processes to ensure that 'full cost recovery' is embedded in the Charity
Financial governance	Our Finance, Audit & Risk Committee '*assists the Board in its duty to oversee the Charity's financial affairs and risk management'.*

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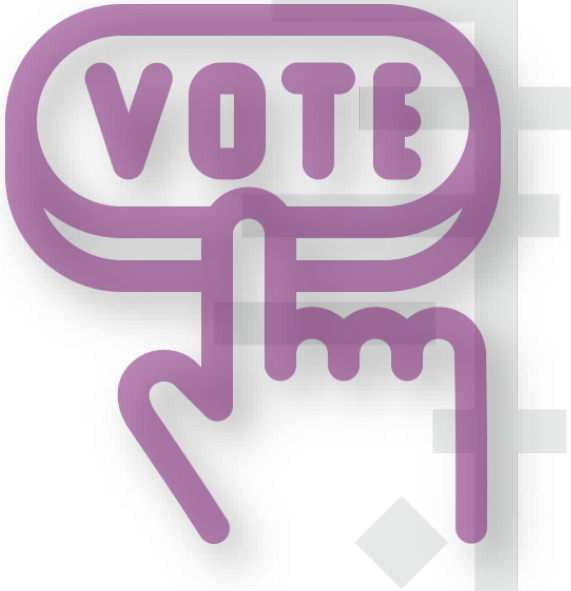
Proposed resolution

Vote at agm.cochrane.org

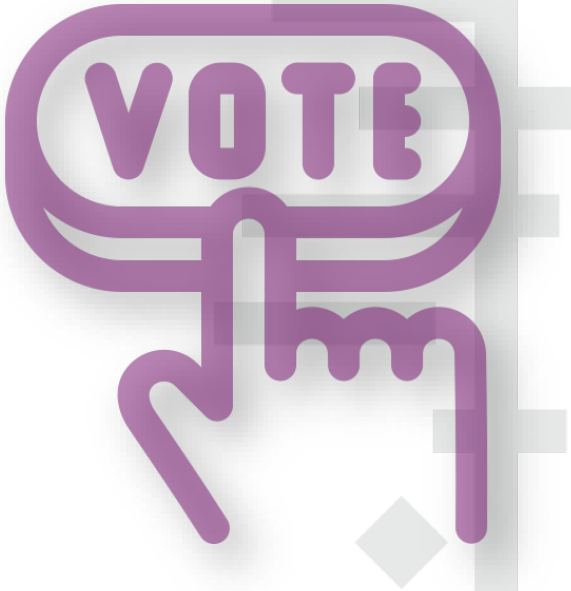


To receive the Trustees' Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

Proposed by Karen Kelly
Seconded by Susan Phillips

Proposed resolution

Vote at agm.cochrane.org



To reappoint Price Bailey as auditor until the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting 2025

Proposed by Karen Kelly
Seconded by Susan Phillips