

Cochrane Airways Priority-Setting Group – seeks new members

We are inviting applications for membership of the Cochrane Airways Priority-Setting Group (CAPSG). This is a new group and we are looking for a mix of people to join including patients, carers, health care professionals, researchers and funders.

[Cochrane Airways](#) produce [Cochrane](#) systematic reviews in respiratory research – this includes asthma, COPD, bronchiectasis, chronic and subacute cough, obstructive sleep apnea, pulmonary hypertension, sarcoidosis and interstitial lung diseases. Our reviews cover interventions (treatments) including drugs, medical devices, physiotherapy, exercise and complementary therapies. Our priority-setting exercise aims to identify new review topics and existing reviews that need to be updated with new evidence.

We have planned two main strands of priority-setting – which will be guided by the CAPSG. The first is an open survey consultation called '[your lungs, your questions](#)' where anyone can submit a question about respiratory health. The second is a rolling program to consider the key new questions and updates of reviews identified from our existing work of scanning for new research. These questions may come from reviews we know to have new studies, possible new review titles identified through analysis of reviews which have particularly high interest from our readers (i.e. citations, website accesses/downloads and Altmetric), the [updating classification project](#), horizon-scanning (where the information specialist in the group gets alerts about new trials from PubMed and other databases) and review topics requested by guideline producers. Members of the CAPSG will also be able to raise their own questions for consideration in the process.

The CAPSG will work together with the Cochrane Airways Editorial team to identify possible review titles from the questions identified in the two strands, and rank them in terms of priority. We aim to complete the survey and the first round of the rolling program by December 2019.

The full plan can be found [here](#).

Who are we looking for?

- Three people living with a respiratory condition such as asthma, COPD or bronchiectasis, interstitial lung disease (ILD) or people who care for them – either as a family member, friend or carer.
- Four external stakeholders, such as healthcare professionals, including doctors and nurses, people linked to organisations that are involved with healthcare research, providing patient information, developing guidelines, or funding research.
- Three Cochrane stakeholders, for example people working in the Cochrane Fields, Cochrane Airways authors and members of our editorial board.

What's the commitment?

Initially you'll need to commit to joining 2-4 online meetings between October and December 2019. We also expect that you spend some time before meetings reading through the potential research questions. You will also need to rank the review questions in order of how important you think they are. This will be done over email. After the first round of prioritisation, we would like you to remain on the group and participate in our ongoing program of priority setting. Membership of the group will be for two years in the first instance. This is a voluntary role.

I'm a lay person and have never done anything like this before

Great – we want to hear what you have to say and to work with you! We realise it can be daunting people to join in, especially if you don't have much experience working with researchers or clinicians. We will be able to offer some support to consumers – the term Cochrane uses for patients or carers or lay people – a phone call to go through any concerns and to explain the project and what is going to happen. We would also be happy to put consumers in touch with each other for shared support (provided all agree to this!).

Conflict of interest

Members of the board must not be employees or shareholders or paid members of advisory boards of drug companies and device manufacturers (see Cochrane [conflict of interest policy](#)).

How to apply

If you wish to be involved, please send an email to Emma (edennett@sgul.ac.uk) containing the following information:

- Why you want to get involved
- What is your experience of living with, or caring for someone with, a chronic respiratory condition and what other relevant experience you bring to this role?
- Please state if you have received money from a drug company or device manufacturer
- It would be helpful to know where you live (so we can consider logistics of meetings which may have people from all around the globe) and any other background information you think we would find useful!

The closing date for applications is the 9 September 2019.

We're looking forward to hearing from you! Many thanks.