

The Cochrane Collaboration

Regina Kulier

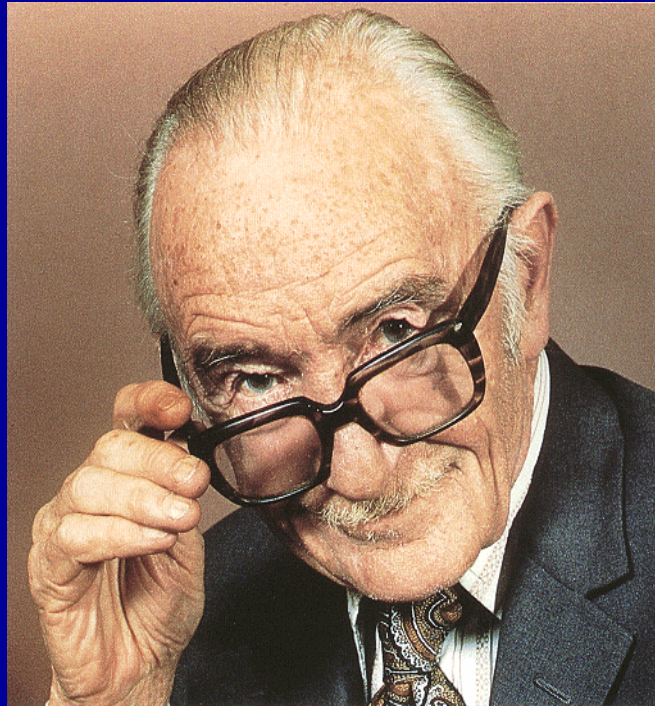
Geneva Foundation for Medical
Education and Research

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Cochrane Collaboration

An international organisation that aims to help people make well-informed decisions about healthcare by preparing, maintaining and promoting the accessibility of systematic reviews of the effects of health care interventions.

Archie Cochrane



“It is surely a great criticism of our profession that we have not organised a critical summary, by specialty or subspecialty, adapted periodically, of all relevant randomised controlled trials.”

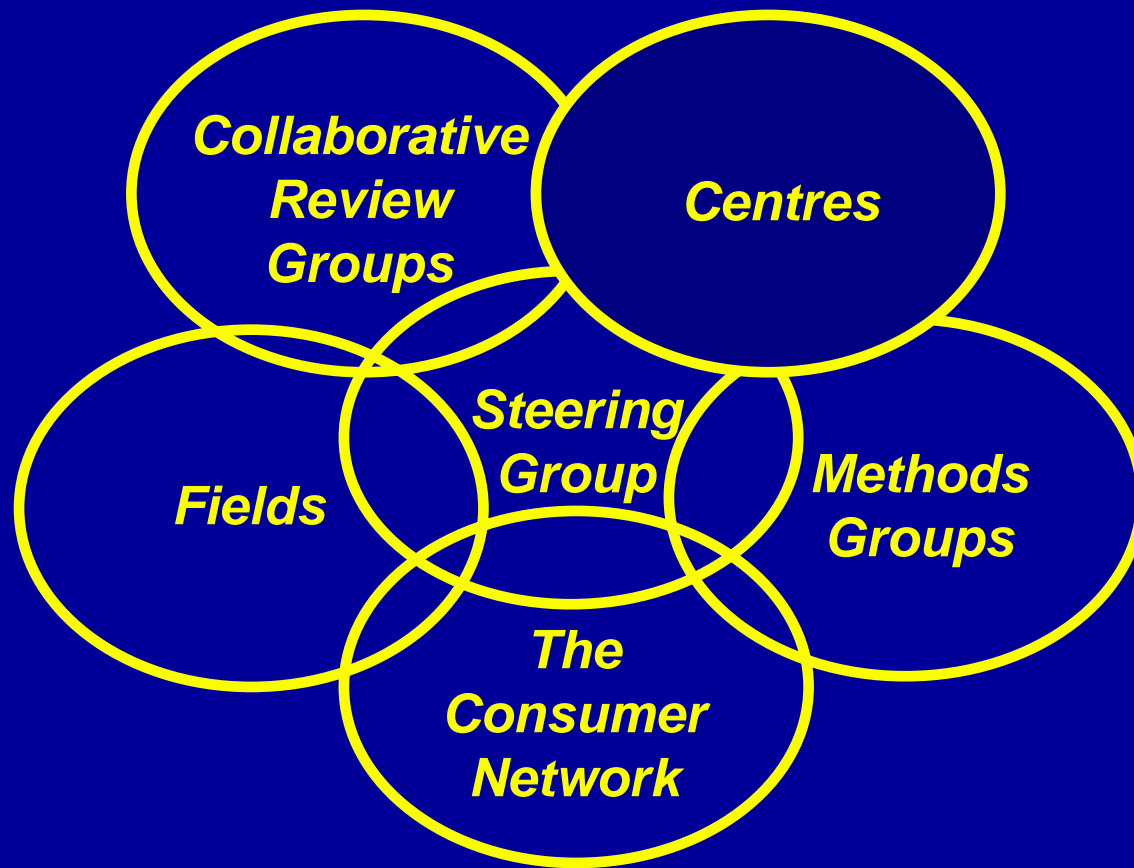
Principles of the Cochrane Collaboration

- Collaboration
- Building on the enthusiasm of individuals
- Avoiding duplication
- Minimising bias
- Keeping up to date
- Striving for relevance
- Promoting access
- Ensuring quality
- Ensuring continuity
- Enabling wide participation

Systematic review

- Structured process involving several steps:
 - Well formulated question
 - Comprehensive data search
 - Unbiased selection and abstraction process
 - Critical appraisal of data
 - Synthesis of data

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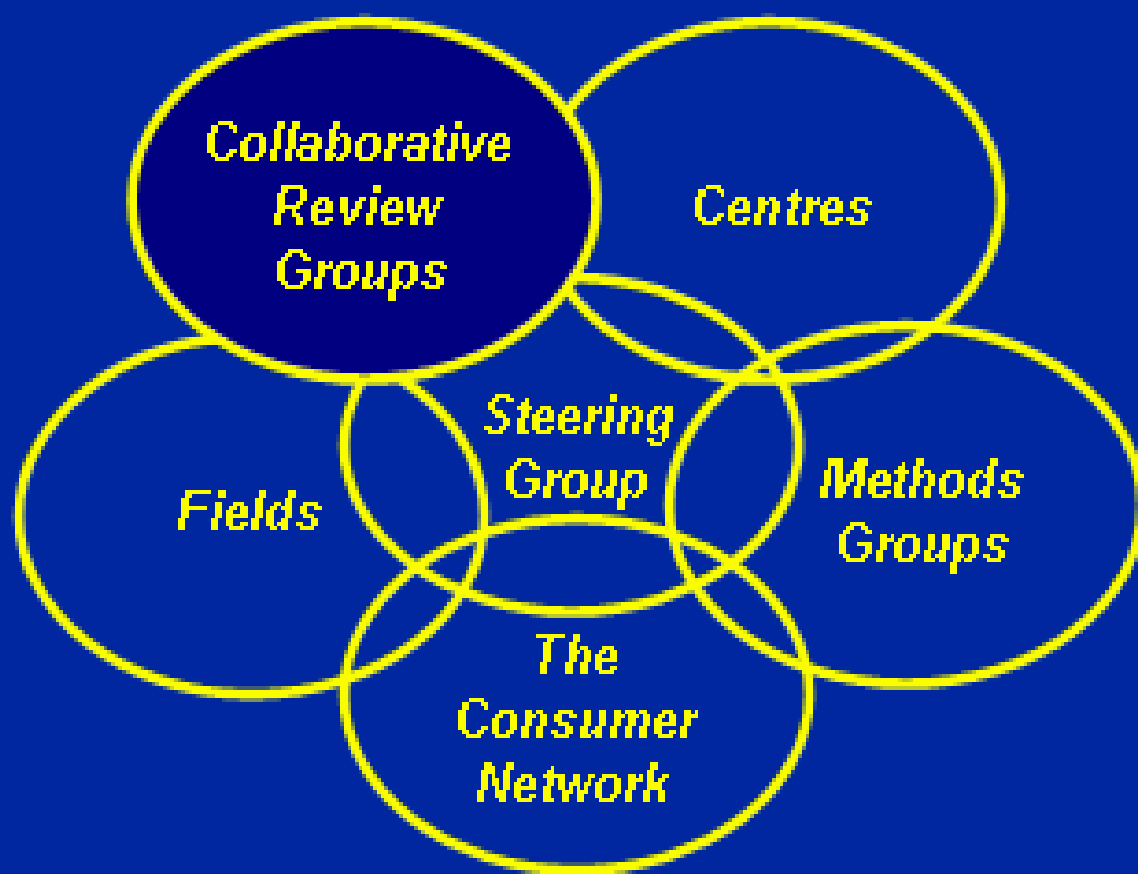
Cochrane Centres

- Provide training and consultation
- Help organise and register review groups
- Establish liaisons
- Promote the collaboration

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Review groups

Focus:

Treatment of disease or health problems

- Emphasis on clinical outcomes
- Emphasis on rigorous methodology

Review Groups

- ◆ Acute respiratory infections
- ◆ Airways
- ◆ Anaesthesia
- ◆ Back
- ◆ Breast cancer
- ◆ Colorectal cancer
- ◆ Consumers and communication
- ◆ Cystic fibrosis and genetic disorders
- ◆ Dementia & cognitive improvement
- ◆ Depression, anxiety & neurosis
- ◆ Developmental, psychosocial and learning problems
- ◆ Drugs and alcohol
- ◆ Ear, nose and throat disorders
- ◆ Effective practice and organisation of care
- ◆ Epilepsy
- ◆ Eyes and vision
- ◆ Fertility regulation
- ◆ Gynaecological cancer
- ◆ Heart
- ◆ Hepato-biliary

Review Groups

- ◆ HIV/AIDS
- ◆ Hypertension
- ◆ Incontinence
- ◆ Infectious diseases
- ◆ Inflammatory bowel disease
- ◆ Injuries
- ◆ Lung cancer
- ◆ Menstrual disorders and subfertility
- ◆ Metabolic and endocrine disorders
- ◆ Movement disorders
- ◆ Multiple sclerosis
- ◆ Muskuloskeletal
- ◆ Muskuloskeletal injuries
- ◆ Neonatal
- ◆ Neuromuscular disease
- ◆ Oral health
- ◆ Pain, palliative and supportive care
- ◆ Peripheral vascular diseases
- ◆ Pregnancy and childbirth
- ◆ Prostatic diseases and urologic cancers
- ◆ Renal
- ◆ Schizophrenia

Review Groups

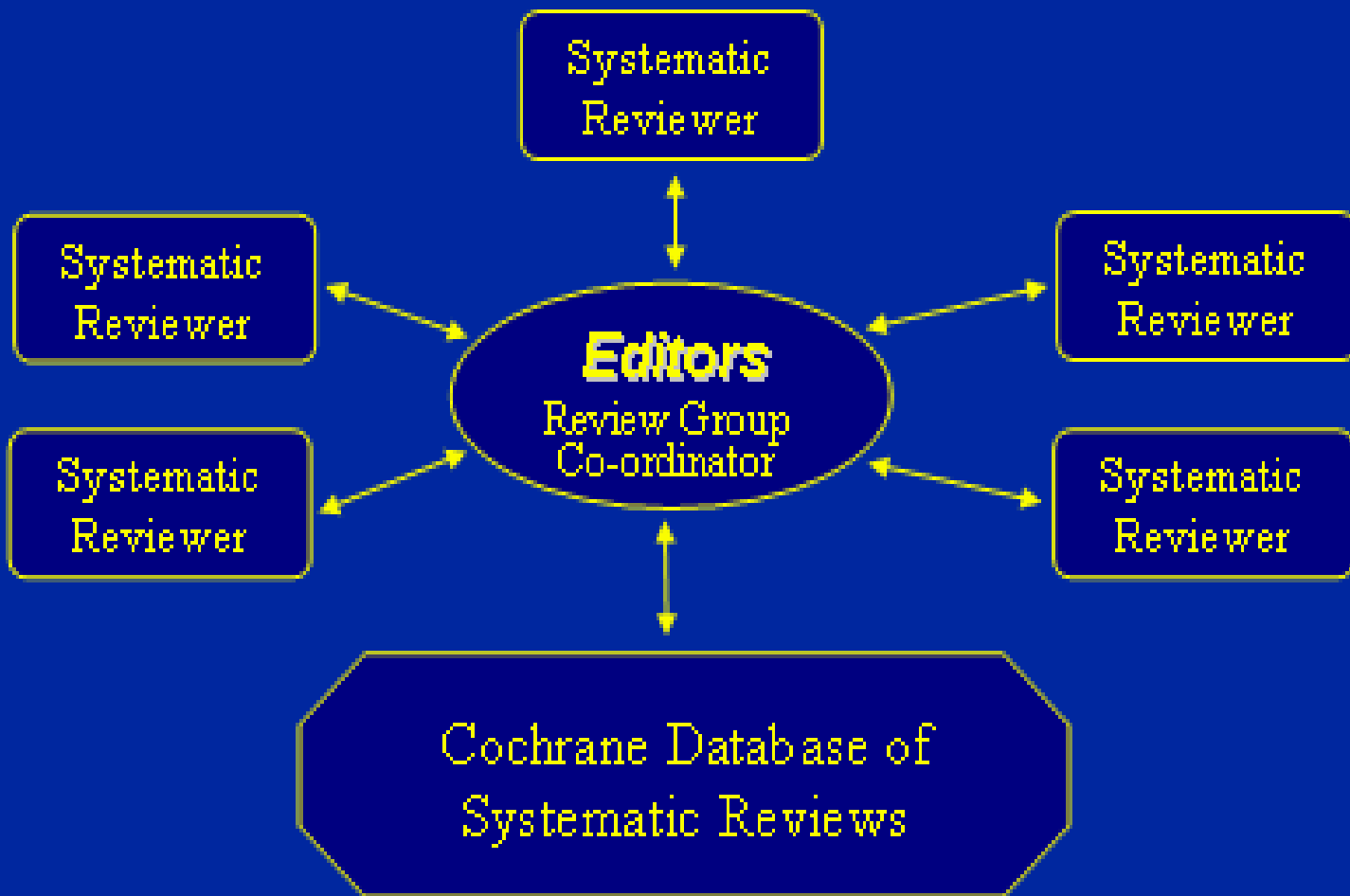
- ◆ Sexually transmitted diseases
- ◆ Skin
- ◆ Stroke
- ◆ Tobacco addiction
- ◆ Upper gastrointestinal and pancreatic diseases
- ◆ *Wounds*
- ◆ Haematological malignancies
(possible)

Review groups

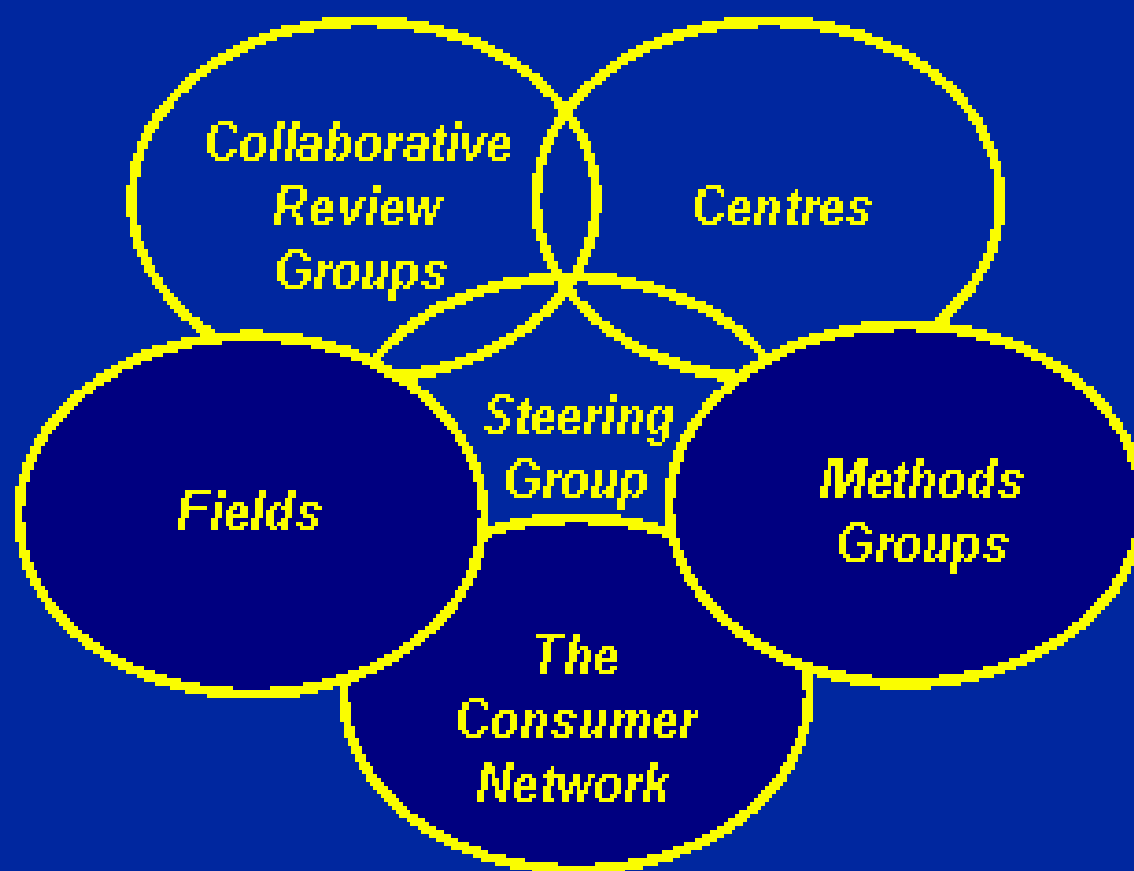
Reviewers

- International group
- Review relevant on specified health care problems
- Long-term commitment

Collaborative Review Group process



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Fields

- Represents a group, population or type of care that overlaps multiple review group areas
- Example: primary health care, complementary medicine, vaccines

Methods groups

- Develop methods and functions necessary for the internal functioning of the Collaboration
- Develop state of the art methods for systematic reviews
- Examples: statistical methods, economics, informatics

The Consumer Network

- Provides consumer input
- Helps to set priorities
- Helps with dissemination

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Steering group

- Function
 - Policy making body of the Collaboration
- Who?
 - Elected representatives from each of the entities

How to participate?

- Join a collaborative review group, field or methods group
- Hand-search a journal
- Get involved in dissemination activities
- Conduct a review!

The Cochrane Collaboration

www.cochrane.org

The Cochrane Library