



Cochrane
Consumer Network

Welcome



Trusted evidence.
Informed decisions.
Better health.

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Welcome from Richard Morley, Cochrane's Consumer Engagement Officer

I'm delighted to welcome you to the [Cochrane Consumer Network](#), a growing international community of healthcare consumers (patients, care-givers, family members, health service users and others). Our free-to-join community is united by a desire to find high quality health evidence, and to be part of creating and sharing that knowledge.

I hope that you will find your involvement with the Cochrane Consumer Network rewarding and stimulating.

What is Cochrane?

Cochrane is for anyone with an interest in using high quality evidence to make informed health decisions.

Cochrane is an independent, not-for-profit organisation, with 11,000 members and over 67,000 supporters from more than 130 countries. We've been gathering and summarising the best evidence from research for 25 years.

You can find out more about Cochrane [here](#).

“Cochrane is an enterprise that rivals the Human Genome Project in its potential implications for modern medicine.” The Lancet





Who are Cochrane Consumers?

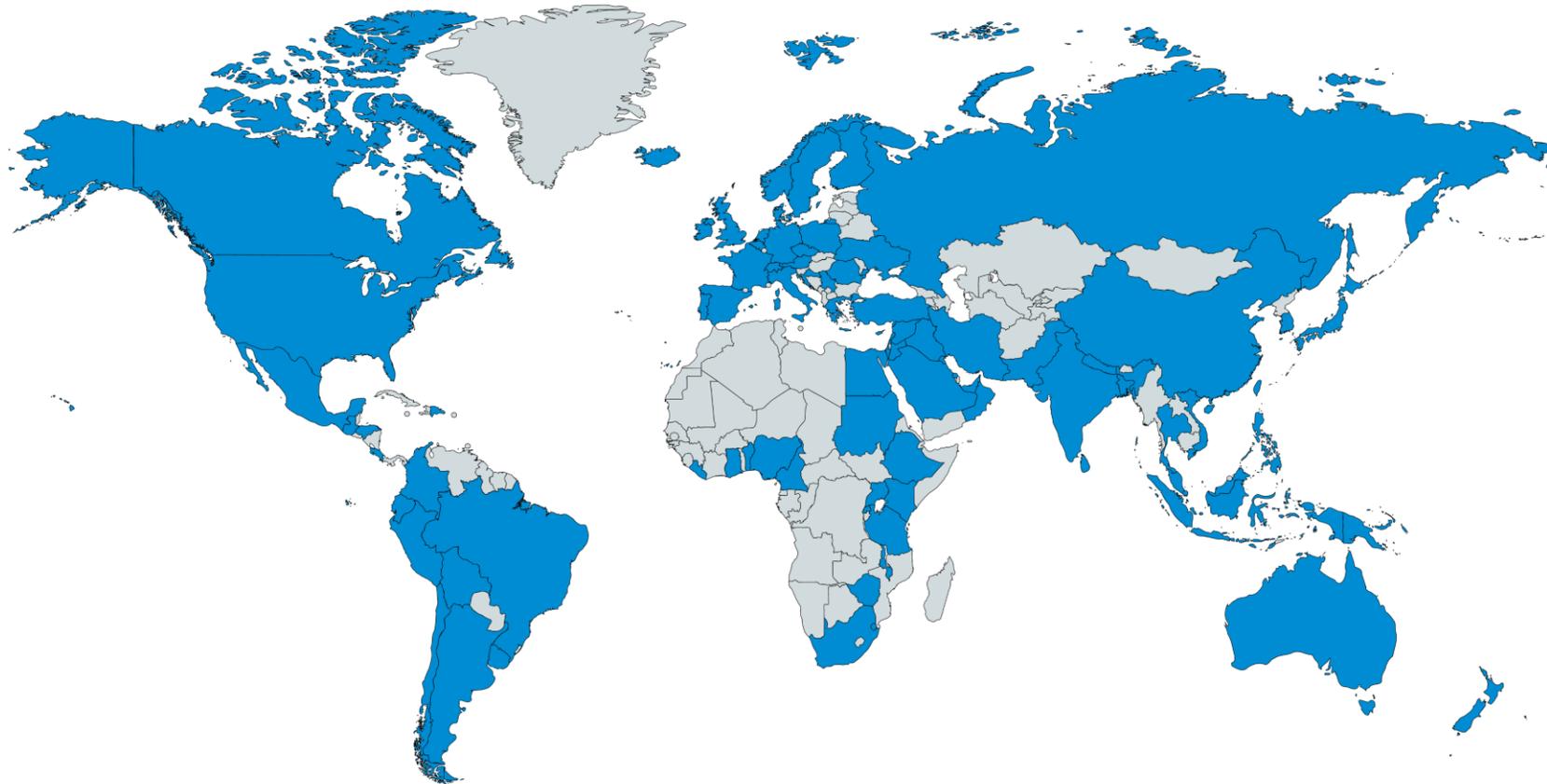
Healthcare consumers are made up from a wide range of people, including patients or people with personal experience of a healthcare condition; care givers and family members; and people who represent or speak on behalf of patients and carers. People like you.

Healthcare consumers are important to Cochrane. You are users of Cochrane evidence and the people we want to benefit from it. We want to support you and hear your voices. When you're ready to try it, we'd love to involve you in producing our evidence. You can play a vitally important role in making sure that evidence addresses important questions and is produced, presented and made available in a way that's useful when people are making difficult decisions about healthcare.

“Medicine is there to benefit patients. The priorities, desires and interests of patients should be central to all of medicine.” (Cochrane Consumer)

What is the Cochrane Consumer Network?

The [Cochrane Consumer Network](#) is a growing community of healthcare consumers, currently over 1800 strong, and from 89 countries. Formed in 1995 the Network has a formal role in Cochrane and elects an Executive group to oversee its work. Two consumer members are chosen by the Executive to serve on the Cochrane Council.





Membership of the Network means that you can:

- Learn more about health evidence and how you can use it to make health choices.
- Receive monthly news digests that keep you up to date with health evidence and other topics of interest.
- Stand and vote in elections for membership of the Cochrane Consumer Network Executive.
- Take part in a range of Cochrane events at a reduced rate.
- Apply for discretionary help with costs to attend some Cochrane meetings (symposia) and our annual conference (colloquium).
- Get involved, if you'd like to, and help to produce Cochrane evidence in a range of ways. There's something for everyone.

Where can I find out about healthcare evidence?

To help you find out more, we've created an interactive learning resource, Cochrane Evidence Essentials.

Meet Eleni and join her as she learns about Evidence Based Medicine, clinical trials, systematic reviews, and how to find, understand and use Cochrane evidence. You can find out more [here](#).





Cochrane
TaskExchange



How can I get involved?

Sign up to TaskExchange

Cochrane's volunteering platform, [TaskExchange](#), connects people working in health evidence with people who have the time and skills to help. By signing up to this platform you can find ways to shape health research, from setting research priorities, being part of an author team on reviews, peer reviewing forthcoming research, and also opportunities to work with Cochrane's partner organisations.

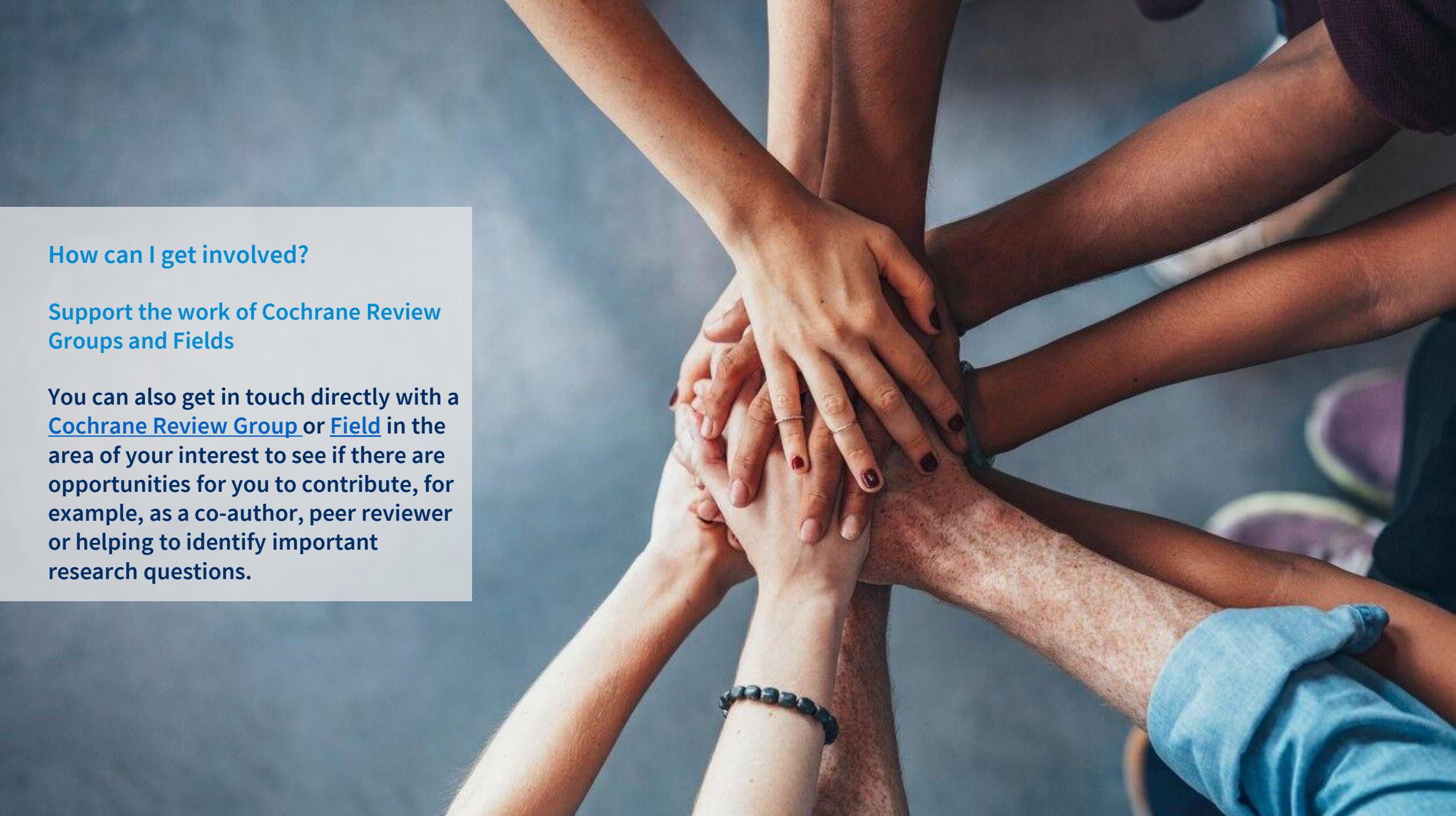


How can I get involved?

Become a Consumer Peer Reviewer

You can read and comment on systematic reviews and protocols on topics you have experience of, in order to make sure they're relevant, accessible and sensitive to other consumers like you. You'll find requests for consumer peer reviewers on [TaskExchange](#).





How can I get involved?

Support the work of Cochrane Review Groups and Fields

You can also get in touch directly with a [Cochrane Review Group](#) or [Field](#) in the area of your interest to see if there are opportunities for you to contribute, for example, as a co-author, peer reviewer or helping to identify important research questions.

How can I get involved?

Help translate Cochrane evidence

Translating Cochrane content into other languages is a priority for us. For more information about becoming a volunteer translator, please see this [page](#).



A photograph of a group of people in a meeting or conference. Many of the people have their hands raised, indicating they want to speak or vote. The background is bright and out of focus. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent grey box on the left side of the image.

How can I get involved?

Vote in elections for, or stand for membership of, the Cochrane Consumer Network Executive

You can find out more [here](#).



How can I get involved?

Join the citizen scientists of Cochrane Crowd

Anyone can join this collaborative volunteer effort to help categorise and summarise healthcare evidence so that we can make better healthcare decisions. You can volunteer to carry out short tasks and you'll be walked through everything you need to know. Just sixty seconds a day could be really helpful:

crowd.cochrane.org



Cochrane
Crowd



@cochrane_crowd

crowd.cochrane.org

Follow us on the internet

Join the conversation on Twitter at [@CochraneConsumr](https://twitter.com/CochraneConsumr)

Follow us and take part on [Facebook](#)

See our [website](#)

Contact information

If you have any questions, or comments, please email us at support@cochrane.org

And finally

We'll contact you again in 3 months with an optional satisfaction survey. It's also an opportunity for you to ask us any questions.

Thank you again for joining this growing worldwide community. It exists to support you, and also for you to be involved, and even to help run. Very best wishes!

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