

#WhereAreTheyNow

Cochrane Mid-Career Professionals share their story and advice
An initiative by the Cochrane's Early Career Professionals

Cristian Herrera is currently based in France and Spain and is an Associate Editor for the Effective Practice and Organization of Care (EPOC) group and an editor in the Chilean EPOC satellite. Cristian is a mid-career professional and recently shared his experiences with the Cochrane Early Career Professionals (ECP) through the #WhereAreTheyNow series.



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How did you first get involved with Cochrane and what do you do now?

When I was a fifth year medical student, I joined a recently created health policy and systems research team at the P. Universidad Católica de Chile that was working on a Cochrane review. This connected me with the world of Cochrane and with the EPOC Group through a larger project led by a team from the Norwegian Knowledge Centre for the Health Services (this team is currently working in the Norwegian Institute of Public Health). So, starting out as an author was my entrance door to Cochrane.

Currently, I am working as a Senior health specialist in the World Bank where we support countries' efforts to achieve universal health coverage through stronger primary health systems and provide quality, affordable health services to everyone — regardless of their ability to pay. The role of scientific evidence is crucial to accomplish these objectives, where Cochrane is definitely one of the most trustworthy and high-quality sources. In addition, I am an associate editor in Cochrane's EPOC group.

What benefits have you gained from being involved with Cochrane?

I have learned about the importance of having and using the best available scientific evidence to make decisions at all levels of health systems. In addition, I have developed research and communication skills to conduct reviews and other types of studies to contribute to knowledge generation and translation in several areas. Finally, yet importantly, I have made good friends and expanded my network to foster collaboration in a range of projects in different parts of the world.

What would your message be to Early Career Professionals who want to get involved with Cochrane's work but not sure where to start....?

Approach Cochrane colleagues with more experience and be open to learn and collaborate. Cochrane is a generous organisation in a broad sense of the word, so it is very likely that you will be welcomed. From that point on, it is up to your dedication, your spirit to work with others and how eager you are for having a positive impact with your research and knowledge translation work.

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