

#WhereAreTheyNow

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

Dr Chris Rose, from Norway, is a statistician with the Effective Practice and Organisation of Care (EPOC) group, Norwegian Satellite. Chris is a mid-career professional and sat down with the [Cochrane Early Career Professionals \(ECP\) group](#) and shared some thoughts as part of the [#WhereAreTheyNow](#) series.



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Now**

Chris Rose
*Statistician with EPOC group, Norwegian
Satellite*

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

In 2018, I was appointed as a statistician at the Norwegian Institute of Public Health, with part of my salary funded to work as a statistical editor for Cochrane Effective Practice and Organisation of Care (EPOC). My Cochrane-related work is a mix of peer-reviewing (of protocols and submitted systematic reviews), what I call consulting (performing analyses for review teams that are not supported by RevMan), and teaching (delivering training on systematic reviewing).

What benefits have you gained from being involved with Cochrane?

The most important benefit I've gained from my Cochrane work is having a much better understanding of a wider range of research communities and methods than I had been exposed to previously. Prior to my work at the Institute and with Cochrane, my research had focused on statistical modelling within biomedical imaging and genomics/proteomics. These are fundamentally quantitative areas, and when talking to someone working in these areas it is often relatively easy to assume or quickly establish a common and deep understanding of research questions, data, models, and methods. Because Cochrane is global, and the Review Group I work within addresses a diversity of questions, it has been — and remains! — interesting and challenging to learn how to calibrate to people with very different educational, research, and cultural backgrounds. It has been useful to have a “wide angle lens” onto what other people do and do not understand, and especially onto what I do not understand!

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

First, I would say that contributing to a Cochrane systematic review can be a fantastic way to have an impact: this is not limited to racking up the citations (which is essential for all researchers) but extends to improving and extending lives — Cochrane reviews are actually used to help make decisions about how to treat people! Second, you will need to understand the process of doing a systematic review and if you are going to contribute to one, you will probably need to pick up new skills (e.g., perhaps you collected and analysed data for a primary study as part of your PhD, but now you need to learn how to extract data from published studies and perform and report a meta-analysis). [Cochrane Training](#) is an excellent resource, as are [Cochrane learning events](#). Third, nobody can write a systematic review alone, and as a 'newbie' it is unlikely that you can successfully take on the lead role: you will need to find and work with experienced reviewers. My suggestion is to identify a few Review Groups within the eight [Cochrane Networks](#) (Cancer, Children and Families, etc.) within your area of interest. Contact the Co-ordinating Editor or Managing Editor of each Group, expressing your interest in contributing to a review. Highlight what you can offer and make it clear that you're keen to learn. They will be able to point you in the right direction. Then, be prepared to pitch in and learn. Finally, be prepared for the process of writing a review to take a long time: within the review group I work in, I think it takes an average of around 18 months from title registration to published review, so some reviews take substantially longer.

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