

Call for Abstracts - Melbourne

Call for Abstracts

Abstracts for papers, posters and workshops are invited in areas relevant to the work of the Cochrane Collaboration, evidence-based health care and systematic reviews. We encourage the submission of abstracts from all groups of people that contribute to the Cochrane Collaboration.

Topic areas

The following topic areas are recommended for oral presentations, posters and workshops. Abstracts that fall outside these areas will still be considered. Please note that the submission of abstracts containing the results of individual systematic reviews is not encouraged unless the review highlights broader methodological or organisational issues.

Statistical methodology	Qualitative methodology	Other methodologies
Searching and information retrieval	Interpreting and presenting reviews and review information	Diagnosis and screening reviews
Reporting methodology and study quality	Editorial processes	Supporting reviewers
Consumer involvement	Developing country involvement	Impact of Cochrane and other systematic reviews
Policy involvement	Other	Training strategies (workshop only)
The Cochrane Library (workshop only)		

Presenters of oral papers will be allocated 20 minutes. To allow enough time for discussion, we suggest a split of 13 minutes for the presentation and seven minutes for questions.

Workshop presenters should choose from the following styles of workshop: **training workshops** should aim to teach relevant skills, promote interaction and provide time for hands-on application of the skills being taught; **discussion workshops** should aim to explore and debate particular topics and encourage interaction and meaningful discussion.

Abstract submission

The deadline for submission of all abstracts is Monday 18 April.

[Proceed to the abstract guidelines and online submission](#) [link to next page]

Off-line abstract submission

Please contact the Scientific Secretariat if you are unable to submit your abstract(s) using the online submission system.

Abstract acknowledgement

Receipt of abstracts submitted online will be acknowledged on the screen at the time of submission. Please make a note of your submission number and password to allow future editing of your abstract before the 18 April deadline. Please note that all correspondence will be sent to the email address given for the corresponding author/facilitator.

Abstract assessment

Abstracts for oral and poster presentation will be assessed by the [Abstract Committee](#), and workshops by the [Workshop Committee](#). Notification of acceptance will be given by Monday 16 May. The program of workshops, oral presentations and posters will appear on the Colloquium website in June/July.

Please note that for oral and poster presentations, at least one of the authors listed on the abstract is required to register for the Colloquium.

Scientific Secretariat
Australasian Cochrane Centre
Monash Institute of Health Services Research
Monash Medical Centre
Locked Bag 29
Clayton VIC 3168
AUSTRALIA

Phone: +61 3 9595 7530
Fax: +61 3 9594 7554
Email: melbourne@colloquium.info

Abstract guidelines - Melbourne

The following guidelines apply to structuring and formatting abstracts for oral presentations, posters and workshops. Please ignore any items that do not apply to your type of abstract.

1. Title

For all types of abstract, the first letter of the first word of the title should be capitalised; all remaining words should be lower case unless they are proper names or acronyms.

2. Abstract text

The abstract is limited to 350 words. You can copy and paste text into the abstract box. If abbreviations are used, the abbreviated term should be written out in full the first time it is used.

All abstracts **must** be written in a structured format using the headings below. If your abstract does not fit into this format, then please choose headings that are appropriate to your abstract.

Oral Presentations and Posters	Workshops
Background:	Objectives:
Objectives:	Description:
Methods:	Target audience:
Results:	Style of workshop:
Conclusions:	

Please use single line spacing, with one blank line between the heading and the preceding paragraph. Do not use a hard return unless you wish to create a new paragraph. Headings should be followed by a colon and one hard return (as below):

Background: Your introduction goes here. Methods: A description of what you did goes here.

Please note that these guidelines do not contain any instructions on text formatting, such as font types, colours or bolding, as this type of formatting will be standardised through the online abstract system.

Tables and figures

One table or figure can be uploaded with each abstract.

The table grid has a pre set number of rows and columns which can be changed by selecting the number of rows and/or columns you require then pressing the Resize button. The maximum table size is 9 x 9. You can select the number of rows you require as a header to columns. The table will appear at the end of your

abstract and should be referenced in the text of the abstract using the format: (Table 1).

Image files should be in JPG or GIF format and should have a resolution of 600dpi in order to print clearly. Click on the browse button to find and select your file name from your computer. The image will appear at the end of your abstract and should be referenced in the text of the abstract using the format: (Figure 1).

3. Presentation preference and category

There are four presentation options: oral, poster, oral or poster, and workshop. Once you have selected your preferred option you will need to choose a topic area.

4. Authors/Facilitators

Full contact details are required for the corresponding author only. For all remaining authors or facilitators please provide their first and last names and institution. In the program and abstract book, author names will be presented in first name last name format for orals, posters and workshops. The email address of the corresponding author will be published beneath the title.

5. Submitting your abstract

Please enter a password before submitting your abstract. When you press submit, your abstract will be processed and a copy of your abstract and contact details will appear on your screen. We recommend that you print and retain a copy of the returned submission page which includes your submission number and password for editing at a later date.

If you require help with submitting your abstract, please contact the Scientific Secretariat at:

Australasian Cochrane Centre
Monash Institute of Health Services Research
Monash Medical Centre
Locked Bag 29
Clayton VIC 3168
AUSTRALIA

Phone: +61 3 9595 7530
Fax: +61 3 9594 7554
Email: melbourne@colloquium.info

[Submit your abstract](#) [link to ICMS]

13th Cochrane Colloquium – sample oral or poster abstract

Title

How different are conference abstracts of surgical RCTs from their subsequent full publication?

Background:

Systematic reviewers of new surgical procedures are often forced to rely on low level and/or poor quality evidence because randomised controlled trials (RCTs) of new surgical procedures are relatively rare. As a result, reviewers may be faced with the decision of whether to include conference abstracts of surgical RCTs in systematic reviews or only include evidence which has been fully published, including lower level evidence.

Objectives:

This study compared conference abstracts of surgical RCTs to their subsequent full publication to determine the level of agreement between the publications.

Methods:

The conference proceedings of three surgical specialty conferences were handsearched for abstracts of randomised controlled trials. The Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials, MEDLINE and EMBASE were searched to identify subsequent full publications. Data regarding study design, characteristics and numbers of participants, outcomes reported and conclusions were extracted by two reviewers and checked by a third. The level of concordance between abstracts and full publications was summarised into a percentage score for key outcomes.

Results:

Of 1843 abstracts, only 92 were reports of RCTs and of these only 45 (2.4%) were surgical. 39/45 (87%) conference abstracts had been published in full in the five years since presentation at a conference (average time to publication 22.3 months, range 2 – 66). Two non-English language studies were excluded leaving 37 abstracts and full publications for analysis. The quality of reporting in abstracts was poorer than in full publications, due, at least in part, to space restrictions; however, some aspects of reporting were poor in both abstracts and full publications.

Conclusions:

While it is difficult to judge the methodological quality of abstracts, this problem also exists in many full reports of surgical RCTs. As the direction of results and the conclusions drawn rarely differed, abstracts of surgical RCTs can be included in systematic reviews, but caution must be exercised. Reviewers should attempt to contact authors for additional study details, and abstracts included in meta-analysis should be clearly identified and sensitivity analysis performed to allow readers to judge the validity of the findings.

13th Cochrane Colloquium – sample workshop abstract

Title

Train the trainers: techniques for running Cochrane training workshops

Objectives:

The workshop will provide planners and instructors of workshops for training systematic reviewers with the knowledge and skills to organize and to lead a successful program. At the conclusion of the workshop, participants will be able to:

1. Identify and access appropriate materials useful in teaching others how to start and complete a systematic review;
2. Decide on inclusion of program topics given time constraints;
3. Explain techniques for keeping small groups on task; and
4. Provide examples of how to explain and to demystify the review process.

Description:

Cochrane systematic reviews follow a particular methodology, and prospective reviewers need support in the processes of review development, revision, and completion.

The facilitators of this workshop will share their techniques for planning and implementing successful training workshops for systematic reviewers. Topics will include: participants' registration information needed to tailor materials; communication of complex concepts to novice reviewers; methods of encouraging input and feedback from participants; and facilitation and documentation of individual and group progress.

The session will include a brief presentation, demonstration of interactive exercises such as how to facilitate protocol development within a small group, and discussion. Examples of program evaluation instruments will be distributed.

Target audience:

People involved in Cochrane training activities

Style of workshop:

Training workshop