

PRIORITISING WITHIN A COCHRANE REVIEW GROUP

TWEAKING OUR CULTURE

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Cochrane Infectious Diseases Group

LIVERPOOL

European Capital of Culture



Lambanana



Lambanana



Lambanana



Lambanana







LIVERPOOL

Team culture

Liverpool Football Club

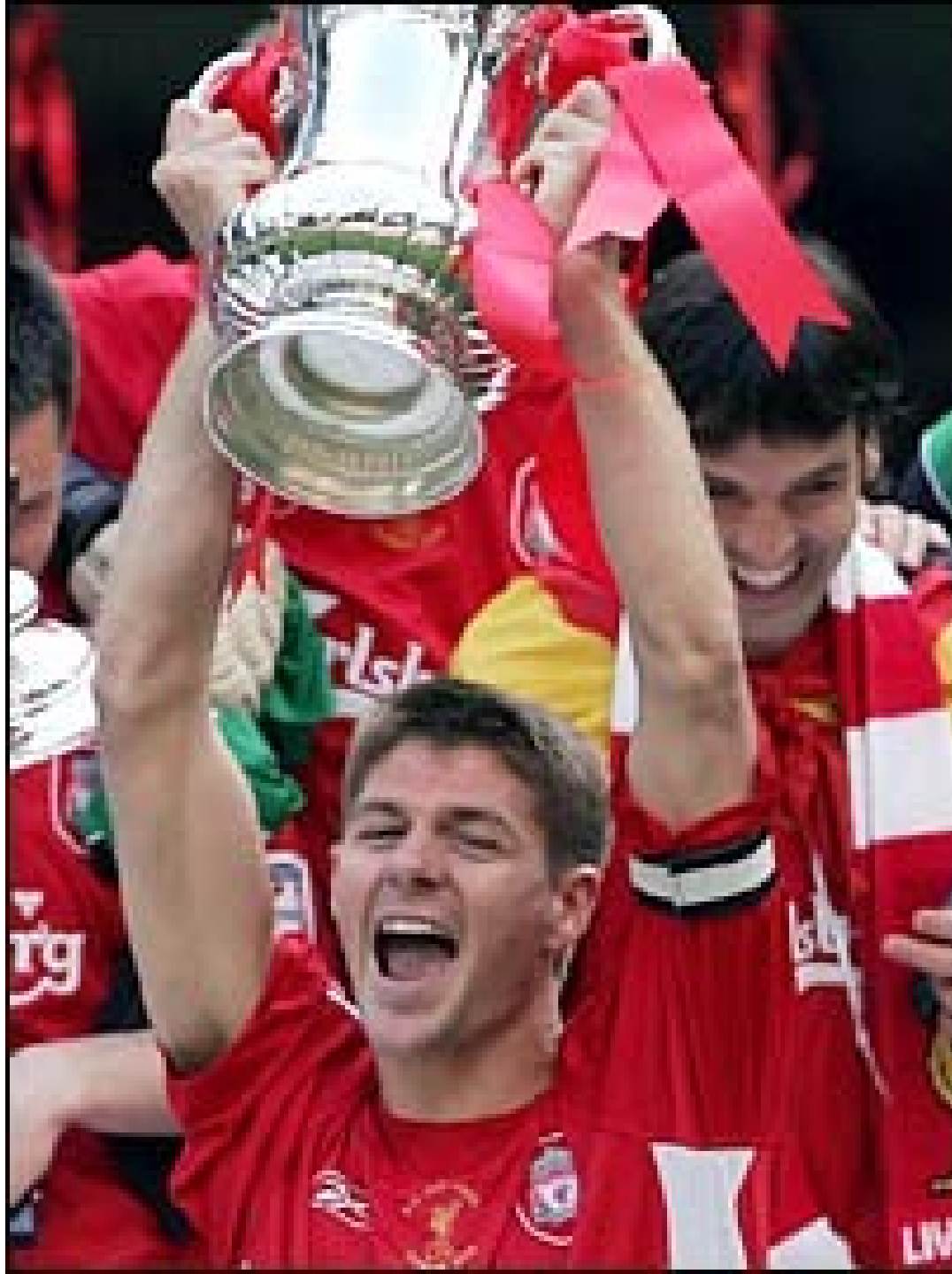
WE'LL NEVER FORGET YOU



EST. 1892

Liverpool

**Five times
European Cup
Champions**



GOAL ORIENTATED CULTURE

Cochrane Infectious Diseases Group needs GOALS

- **Why the Editorial Team developed a strategic plan**
- **Aspects of implementation**
- **Implications for the Cochrane Collaboration as a whole**

What was the need? Post-review reflective audit

Author 1: district medical officer

Author 2: hospital doctor

AUTHORS and CIDG staff had spent months on this

CONCLUSION

- **The system had failed this people**
- **Neither really had a chance of succeeding**
- **Cochrane volunteerism was not working**

- **Failing with our customers: the authors**

Not responded to one of our main customers

World Health Organization wanted head to head comparisons of artemisinin combination treatments for malaria

- 3. One very large review**
- 5. 4 medium sized reviews**
- 7. 14 small reviews (with overview)**

Stuck because we knew option 1 was needed, but 2-3 more compatible with volunteers

PROBLEMS

- **Delays with submission**
- **Poor quality protocols**
- **Reviews we could not accept**
- **Massive work load for full time Editor**

RESPONSE

**Editors meeting
2 days**

Strategic plan



A. ↑

proportion
of high-
impact
reviews

Definition of impact review (any of the following)

- **Likely to generate considerable interest in the international public health community;**
- **has the potential to change policy or treatments with a substantive impact on the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals**
- **is frequently cited in the scientific literature;**
- **is of considerable public interest and likely to capture high levels of press coverage.**

EACH REVIEW IS A RESEARCH PROJECT

Needs managing like any other

WHAT ARE HIGH PRIORITY TOPIC?

Strategically important or reviews requested by policymakers with a deadline

With 2+ trials

4 STEPS

Try and elicit authors to do this

- 3. Appraise title registration form and the team**
- 5. Build team**
- 7. Find support (salary, meetings, visits)**
- 9. Actively manage**

STEP 1. APPRAISE Title registration

APPRAISE TEAM. Only accept if

- **Demonstrable topic expertise (published peer-reviewed articles in the topic)**
- **Completed at least 1 Cochrane Review or equivalent**
- **Contact author has time to dedicate to review (3 to 6 months for review with > 3 trials)**

Step 2. Build team

If team have potential but have gaps, indicate this to them

See if they can solve it

We do make suggestions

CIDG authors from the Africa Cochrane Network



Step 3. Find support

- **Help find financial support e.g. Salary, author meeting**
- **Build in deliverables to contract**

The Iron Team (IRON IN MALARIA)

- **Juliana, from Nigeria:** Naive author, clinician
- **Joseph, MRC The Gambia:** Full time researcher

EDITORIAL TEAM ADDED

- **Mical Paul** Editor and researcher
Extensive experience in SR
- **Dafna** Research assistant, clinical
Employed for four months

GRANT TO JULIANA



Step 4. Actively Manage

- **Check on progress**
- **Dialogue**
- **Conference calls**

- **Further develop response mode for reviews**
- **Same as “high priority topics” except we need to assemble review team**

LOW PRIORITY TOPIC

Results of the review unlikely to be relevant to achieving the MDGs

Assess Team on title registration form

Includes topic expertise by way of discipline or training

Has capacity to do the review

Consortium Partner or Cochrane Centre can provide technical support

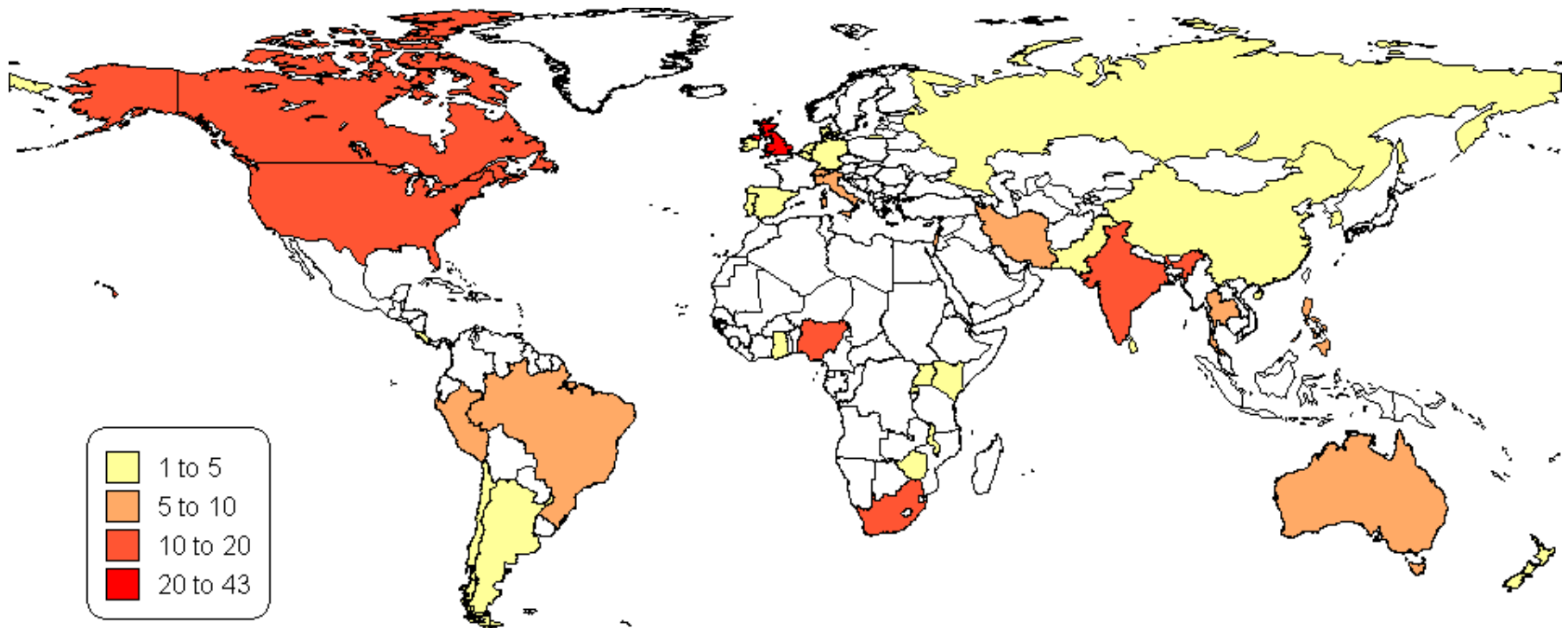
....then accept

- **In developed countries, massive investment in commissioned systematic reviews**
- **In developing countries, Cochrane, some basic courses, but expected to do reviews for free**
- **Vital to address this fundamental imbalance**

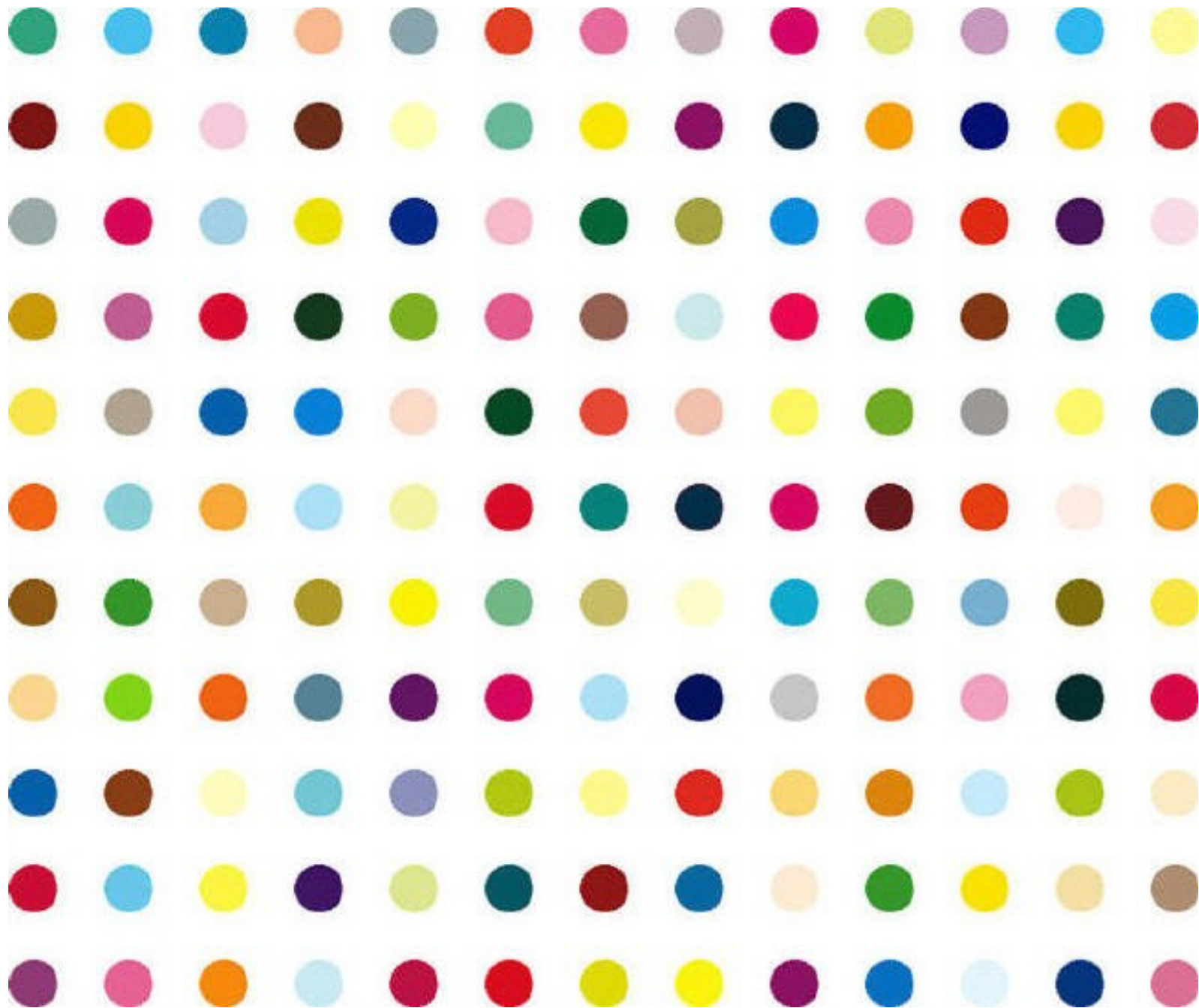
NEW CADRE OF AUTHORS

3 new authors from the UK:

Self sufficient, know the methods, quietly complete updates



WHAT IS BRAND?



Initial value

£ 60,000

**Damien Hirst adds his
signature**

£ 1,600,000

WHAT IS OUR BRAND?

Quality, timeliness and independence

We know we have issues with quality

Every single review effect the future of us all

We need to change collectively before the funders demand accountability

- **Fewer, larger, higher quality reviews**
- **Substantive editor input at title stage**
- **Teams that include experienced authors**
- **Fellowships for authors**

**COCHRANE COLLABORATION CAN
CHANGE**

NOW IS THE TIME TO MAKE THIS HAPPEN

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- **And all the editors and staff in Liverpool**