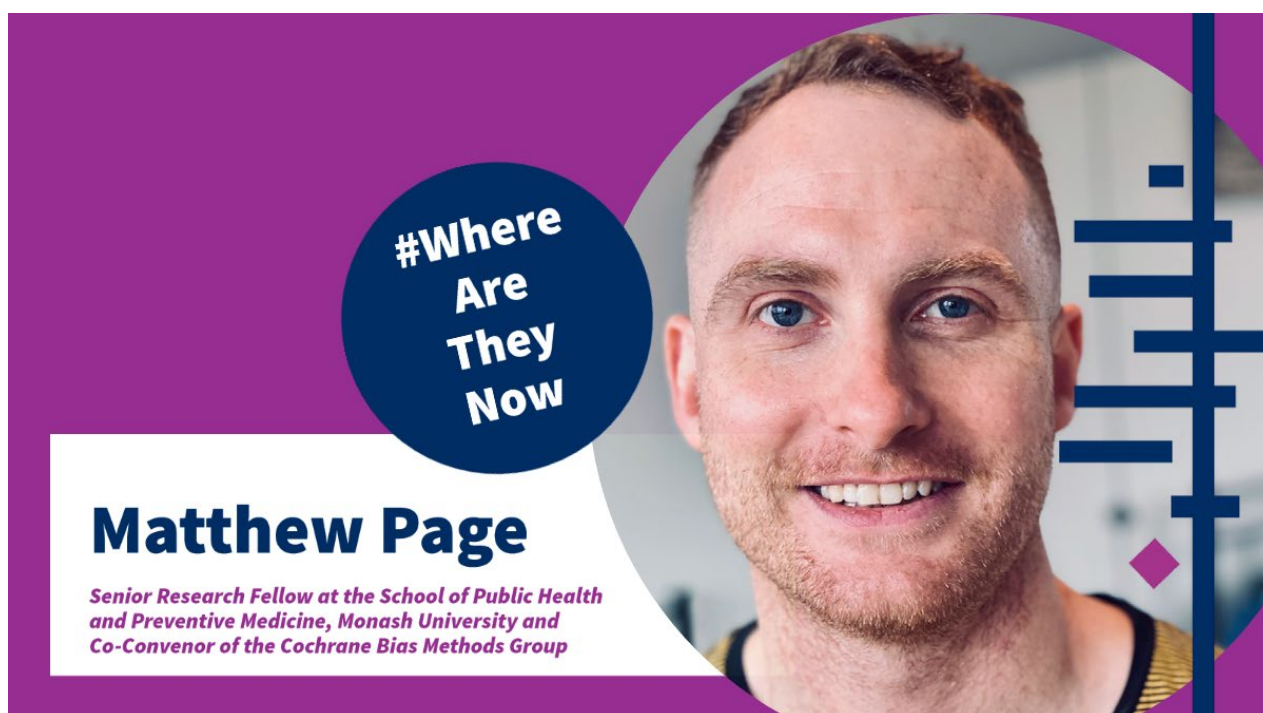


#WhereAreTheyNow

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

Dr Matthew Page, from Australia, is a Senior Research Fellow at the School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, Monash University. He is also a Co-Convenor of the [Cochrane Bias Methods Group](#). Matthew 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.



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

In the final months of my undergraduate degree in psychology, I decided I should get some work experience for a year, before returning to study as a clinical neuropsychologist. I saw an ad for a research assistant position at what was then the Australasian Cochrane Centre (now Cochrane Australia) and went for it, having taken an interest in meta-analysis during my psychology degree. Lucky for me, I got the job, started working there in 2008, fell in love with systematic review methodology, and gave up on my initial plan so I could focus on developing the science of how to conduct and report systematic reviews optimally.

I am now a Senior Research Fellow at Monash University, investigating the transparency, reproducibility and risk of bias in systematic reviews of health interventions and developing methods to address these issues. I am a co-convenor of the Cochrane Bias Methods Group, co-led the 2020 update of the PRISMA statement for systematic reviews, and was an associate scientific editor for the 2019 edition of the Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions.

What benefits have you gained from being involved with Cochrane?

Being involved in Cochrane has benefited me in hundreds of ways, but I will focus on two. Firstly, co-authoring 11 Cochrane Reviews has sharpened my skills at determining what is trustworthy evidence and what is not, and helped me advise others on how to better design and report their studies. Secondly, Cochrane has introduced me to a network of friendly methodologists who are always keen to mentor and support one another; without them there is no way I would be taking on the leadership positions I have been fortunate to attain at this stage of my career.

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

My advice is to first figure out what it is you want to contribute to Cochrane. If you are interested in producing high quality systematic reviews for a particular clinical area, I would approach the Co-ordinating Editor(s) of a relevant [editorial team](#), and volunteer your services as a review author. If you are not tied to a particular clinical area, hop onto [Task Exchange](#) to see if any systematic review tasks listed sound interesting to you. Or if you are more keen on advancing the science of systematic reviews, contact the co-convenors of one of the 17 [Cochrane Methods Groups](#) who are involved in methods research, development and evaluation and setting standards for the conduct and reporting of reviews. Cochrane contributors are some of the nicest people I have ever met, so do not hesitate to contact them, regardless of how intimidating their credentials may seem!

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