



An opportunity at Cochrane's Governance Meeting, Krakow, Poland: Supporting policy-makers in the use of evidence in governmental policy-making

Cochrane's vision is a world of improved health where decisions about health and health care are informed by high-quality, relevant and up-to-date synthesized research evidence.

Cochrane evidence is only helpful to inform decision making if the people who need it are able to interpret and use it. In order to improve the uptake of evidence in our target audiences (practitioners, policy-makers and healthcare managers, researchers and research funders, consumers and the general public), we need to understand their needs and support their ability to use the evidence.

We therefore want to expand capacity within our organization to engage more effectively with one of the most important target users of our evidence: health policy-makers. By working in partnership with policy-makers we can better understand their needs and support them by producing relevant, timely reviews which may have the influence and opportunity to be used to develop evidence-informed policies. We hope this focus will increase the up-take and impact of Cochrane evidence with these users; and give valuable lessons on how we embed effective Knowledge Translation approaches and tools across Cochrane to reach other target audiences better in future.

We are offering a four-hour training opportunity designed to support people working within Cochrane who are, or who have plans to, work with government policy-makers (at a local, regional or national level). It aims to strengthen knowledge of policy-making processes and develop skills for working with policy-makers to meet their needs; and, it has been developed as part of Cochrane's KT implementation programme (<https://training.cochrane.org/online-learning/knowledge-translation>).

Course Summary:

Title: Supporting policy-makers in the use of evidence in governmental policy-making.

Designed for: anyone working within Cochrane (Centres, Fields, Networks, Review Groups) who is already, or who has plans to work with, government policy-makers at a regional, subnational or national level.

Aim: To strengthen capacity to support policy-makers in government (regional, subnational or national) in their use of evidence in decision-making. This includes working with policy-makers to set agendas, and to develop and implement evidence-informed policies.

Date and time: The course will be held on Wednesday 3rd April 2019 (09:00 – 13:00) at [Cochrane's Governance Meeting](#), Galaxy Hotel, Krakow, Poland. In addition to the 4-hours of contact time, participants will be encouraged to complete **2-3 hours of pre-work** prior to the course.

Facilitators: The session will be led by John Lavis, member of Cochrane KT Advisory Group, co-Director Cochrane Canada and Director of the McMaster Health Forum, and facilitated by people within Cochrane recognized for their experience in working with policy-makers across geographic settings.

Cost: The training will be provided free of charge.

Learning Objectives

1. **To understand your current situation:** using the evaluation completed as pre-work, document the types of policy making processes that you and your Centre/Field/Group are trying to inform.
2. **To understand and begin applying skills and methods:** to understand the types of skills (e.g., policy, systems and political analysis) and methods (e.g., evidence synthesis/packaging and stakeholder engagement and partnership) that you and your Centre/Field/Group can use to inform policy making processes.
3. **To prioritize a menu of approaches:** that you and your Centre/Field/Group and Cochrane as a whole, can use to inform policy making processes including in the context of a rapid learning health system. Examples may include: engaging policy-makers in setting priorities, develop SUPPORT summaries or other policy briefs and products for policy-makers, contextualize and implement existing guidance, convening policy dialogues
4. **Evaluation and identification of future support needs:** building on the workshop pre-work, this objective will encourage the use of a theory of change model that can be used to monitor and evaluate efforts in this area. In addition, any further training and support needs will be discussed in order to plan a future programme of work, which may include webinars, mentorship and further training.

How to take part

The programme is open to anyone working within Cochrane. However, as there are limited spaces available for the initial training, a selection process may be required. If you are interested in taking part, please complete the application form (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RSRTZ97>) which includes a short statement (maximum 500 words) responding to the following questions:

- Why would you like to attend this training?
- How does this programme fit in with your training and support needs?
- How do you expect to use the training in your Cochrane work in 2019?
- What existing links to policy-makers do you have or are you trying to build?

Criteria for selecting participants will be based on the following:

- existing or imminent remit for working with government policy-makers (regional, subnational or national)
- identified opportunities for using the training in 2019
- existing links with key policy-makers or a clear ability to be able to make those links
- identified need for training for working in this area
- willingness to complete the pre-workshop activities (estimated time 2-3 hours)

We will aim to have a wide representation from across Cochrane Groups.

Submissions will be reviewed by a panel of members from Cochrane's KT Advisory Group and facilitators.

Applications should be submitted via the application form (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RSRTZ97>) by **16:00 GMT, 25th February 2019**. All applicants will be contacted by 4th March 2019.

More information

If you are interested in this programme but aren't planning on attending the Governance meeting, or would like more information please contact either Jo Anthony, Head of Knowledge Translation (janthony@cochrane.org) or Karen Head, KT Project Manager (khead@cochrane.org).