

## *"Just 3 from the CSG"*

### 1. Shorter review preparation

A paper published on [PLOS ONE](#) found that the median time from Cochrane protocol publication to the publication of the first review is 2.4 years: "Only about 80% Cochrane protocols were published as full reviews after over 8 years of follow-up. The median time to publication was 2.4 years and some reviews took much longer. Strategies to decrease time to publication should be considered, such as streamlining the review process, increased support for authors when protocol amendments occur, and better infrastructure for updating Cochrane reviews."

Tricco AC, Brehaut J, Chen MH, Moher D (2008) Following 411 Cochrane Protocols to Completion: A Retrospective Cohort Study. *PLoS ONE* 3(11): e3684. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0003684

The CSG's median time in 2012 was 200 months; thus, in future we will be reticent to extend deadlines as readily as we have done in the past.

### 2. The Cochrane Collaboration's new publishing arrangements

"More than half the world's population already has one-click access to Cochrane content through licenses or free access through the low- and middle- income countries programme. Under the new publishing agreement with Wiley, all Cochrane Reviews and updates published from February 2013 will become available on an open access basis 12 months after publication in the *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews*, and in PubMed Central or various country-specific PubMed databases. Additionally, authors and funders will have the option to fund individual articles, or groups of articles, to be open access immediately upon publication. Authors from many low- and middle- income countries will be eligible to have their publication fees waived. These new arrangements represent the initial steps in a longer journey towards open access for Cochrane content." The highlights of the new publishing agreement can be read [here](#).

### 3. CSG author gets a MBE!

The lead author of the CSG review, 'Interventions for vitiligo', received a MBE at Buckingham Palace on May 10<sup>th</sup> 2013 for her involvement with vitiligo research and patient support.

Maxine Whitton, who will be presenting with a co-author about their review and its update at the Centre of Evidence Based Dermatology's '[Vitiligo: An Evidence Based Update Meeting](#)' on May 23<sup>rd</sup>, said: "All went well and I did not fall over walking backwards and even managed to curtsy, in a manner of speaking. It was Prince Charles, not the Queen, but he was charming. He only asked a few questions, not ones I was expecting, but it was only a short time with each person. When we went into our briefing area I was told that the Lord Chamberlain wanted to know how to pronounce vitiligo. Was it Vie-tiligo? So I put them straight. Everyone in the palace treated us so well and all congratulated us when we had been given the medal. An amazing experience and not to be forgotten.



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