



# Working together to beat COVID-19: Cochrane rapid reviews of evidence and the consumer rapid response group

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**Trusted evidence.**  
**Informed decisions.**  
**Better health.**

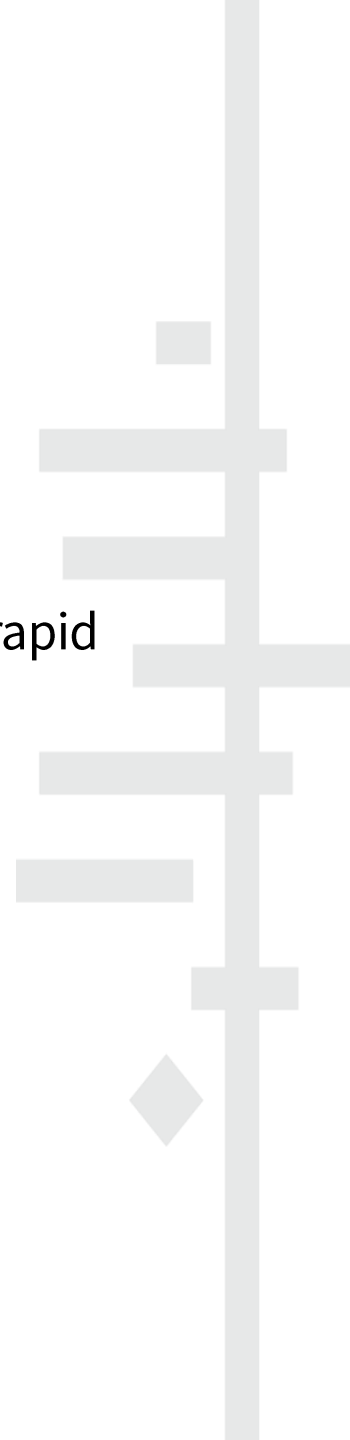


## Conflicts of interest and acknowledgements

I declare I have no conflicts of interest.

I would like to acknowledge the work of members of the consumer rapid response task group:

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- Neil Haddaway
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- Catherine Marshall
- Rachel Marshall
- Richard Morley
- Alex Pollock
- Maureen Smith
- Annie Synnott
- Oliver Willis



## I will briefly cover

1. Consumer involvement in Cochrane
2. Cochrane's response to COVID-19
3. Forming the consumer rapid response group
4. The group's work to date
5. Reflections



## Consumer involvement in Cochrane

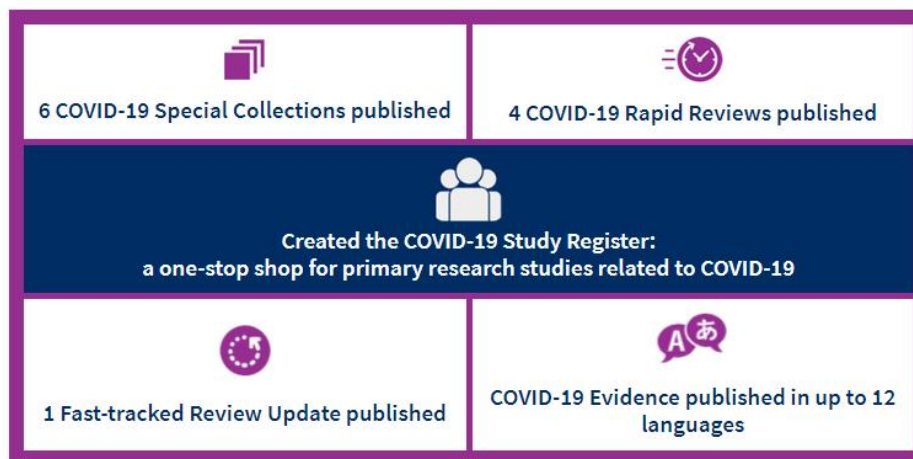


- Formed Cochrane Consumer Network 1994
- 1714 members in 80 countries
- Work with author teams, peer review, dissemination of evidence, and governance

## Cochrane's response to COVID-19

"Cochrane summarizes the findings so people making important decisions – you, your doctor, the people who write medical guidelines – can use unbiased information to make difficult choices without having to first read every study out there..."

Sifting the evidence, The Guardian, 14 September 2016



## Forming the consumer rapid response group

- Involvement of healthcare consumers (patients, carers and the public) is Cochrane policy and in guidance for the production of rapid reviews.
- Rapid reviews mean that we would need to do things differently
- Formed task group made up of consumers, researchers and others
- Create resources: learning, support for volunteers, peer support, “how to” one-page guides, short video explanations, and webpage
- Design a process for recruiting people with relevant lived experience to tasks
- Promote initiative with blog post and communication to consumer community
- Recruit volunteers via online form

## The group's work to date

- Recruited 100 volunteers
  - First review “*Community-level interventions for improving access to food in low- and middle-income countries*” connected with an experienced reviewer in Cameroon 28th April 2020
  - Connected 17 consumers with 13 reviews
  - 4 as part of author team, remainder as peer reviewers
  - Also connected a number of consumers with partners’ COVID-19 activities
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- Developing our evaluation process
  - Extending range of “tasks”
  - Intend to publish our work

## Reflections...

### 10 factors for success?

1. An issue of priority, need for evidence
2. Sustained investment in relationship building over many years
3. Leadership at senior level
4. Consumers embedded in governance
5. Champions for involvement
6. Infrastructure that supports it
7. Resources that can be re-purposed
8. Involvement underpinned by research
9. Clear roles for everyone
10. Investment in staff to deliver it





# Thank you

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