A Symposium on Nutrition and Evidence for Policy and Practice

Friday 2nd October 2015

at the Palais Niederösterreich in Vienna

Opening

9:10 – 9:30: Welcome, introductions and overview - Mark Lawrence, Deakin University and David Tovey, Editor in Chief, Cochrane

Session 1: The global nutrition context

Chair: Davina Ghersi, National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC)


- How WHO prioritises its policy guidelines and coordinates dietary guideline and micronutrient recommendations
- What WHO needs from Cochrane


- Politics and interests
- Governance and procedures
- Evidence synthesis models

10:20 – 10:45: Reshaping evidence use for nutrition policy. Mark Lawrence, Deakin University

10:45 – 11:10: Questions and discussion

11:10 – 11:30: Morning tea
Session 2: Strengthening the evidence base for action - What is needed?

**Chair: Geraldine McDonald, University of Belfast**

11:30 - 11:50: Models and methods available for nutrition evidence. David Pelletier, Cornell University

11:50 – 12:10: Challenges facing low and medium income countries in generating the required evidence amid multiple interventions and competing interests. Namukolo Covic, International Food Policy Research Institute, Addis Ababa

12:10 – 12:30: Cochrane Nutrition Field: Feedback from the Cape Town 2015 exploratory meeting. Taryn Young, Centre for Evidence-based Health Care, Stellenbosch University

12:30 – 13:00: Questions and discussion

**13:00 – 14.00: Lunch**

Session 3: Interactive discussions around challenges and opportunities

**Chairs: Mark Lawrence, Deakin University and Taryn Young, Stellenbosch University**

14:00 – 14:15: Introduction to the interactive discussion session - Mark Lawrence and Taryn Young

14:15 – 15:15: Group interactive discussion. Each group will be allocated a lead and will discuss one of these four topics:

Q1: How do we create an evidence approach (models, methods) relevant to contemporary nutrition questions and priorities?

Q2: What governance arrangements should accompany evidence analysis and synthesis? And future possible partnerships?

Q3: What could Cochrane do for nutrition policy, program, research and evaluation improvements and developments?
Q4: Challenges facing low and medium income countries in generating required evidence amid multiple interventions and competing interests: what can the Cochrane process do to help address the situation?

15:15 – 15:45: Afternoon tea (Table rapporteurs synthesise main points into a cluster report)

Session 4: Report back from discussions

Chairs: Geraldine McDonald and Harriet MacLehose

15:45 – 16:40: Cluster reports

16:40 – 17:00: Next steps (Mark Lawrence and Taryn Young)

- Strategic framework for moving forward
- Action commitments
- Wrap up and close