

Open Equity Meeting
Freiburg, Germany
Tuesday, October 7th, 2008
7:30 AM, Runder Saal

ATTENDEES:

Philip Baker, Arild Bjorndal, Libby Bogdan-Lovis, Fiona Campbell, Esther Coren, Jodie Doyle, Daniel Francis, Janet Harris, Josephine Kavanagh, Julia Littell, Miranda Mugford, Sandy Oliver, Jordi Pardo Pardo, Tracey Perez Koehlmoos, Mark Petticrew, Megan Prictor, Elizabeth Tanjong Ghogomu, Roger Thomas, Peter Tugwell, Erin Ueffing, Vivian Welch.

ACTION ITEMS:

- 1.7.1 Equity Field (Erin/Peter) to contact NGOs for priority-setting exercises.
- 2.1.1 Next Equity Update newsletter to include article on Equity Evidence Aid.
- 2.4.1 Erin to add extrapolation to agenda for next Cochrane and Campbell equity meetings.
- 2.5.1 Erin/Peter to contact Jane Smith at University of East Anglia for literature on asthma and disadvantage.
- 2.5.2 Miranda to send references on asthma and disadvantage.
- 3.2.1.1 Group members to contact Miranda to indicate interest in a new project on how funding is allocated vis-à-vis needs assessment.
- 3.4.2 Mark to send reference(s) on theory of risk for inequalities with interventions.
- 4.15.1 Erin to post Checklist on Cochrane database of forms and procedures.
- 4.16.1 Tracey to send review summary of her latest reviews.

ATTACHMENTS:

Daniels 1998
Martin 2002
Martin 2003
Shadish 1995
Equity checklist

DISCUSSION POINTS:

1. Priority-setting

- 1.1. The Cochrane Collaboration Opportunities Fund awarded a small grant to the Developing Country Network (DCN), the Equity Group, and the Public Health Field-[now Public Health Review Group (PHRG) to review and start the

development of approaches to incorporate the perspectives [the 'lens'] of Equity, Public Health and Lower/Middle Income Countries issues in Priority setting in the Cochrane Entities.

- 1.2. Vivian outlined the Priority-Setting Workshop given by the DCN, the PHRG, and the Equity Field on October 4th. The group discussed the challenge of taking priority-setting from the individual Cochrane review groups to the whole Collaboration.
 - 1.2.1. Minutes from the meeting, including the slides, are posted at http://www.equity.cochrane.org/Files/Priority_Setting_Minutes_2008.pdf.
 - 1.2.2. We are proposing to test this model out as a pilot with some Cochrane and Campbell Entities. Peter invited the group to offer feedback and contributions to the project.
 - 1.3. Sandy described the work of the James Lind Alliance (www.lindalliance.org), and explained that its work is unique because it brings patients and clinicians together for priority-setting.
 - 1.4. Miranda emphasized the importance of model-building in economic priority-setting.
 - 1.5. Peter described the Accountability for Reasonableness Framework (see attached Daniels 1998; Martin 2002; Martin 2003):
 - 1.5.1. According to accountability for reasonableness, health care institutions engaged in priority setting have a claim to fairness if they satisfy four conditions: 1) rationales for priority setting decisions must be publicly accessible (*publicity condition*); 2) these rationales must be considered by fair-minded people to be relevant to priority setting in that context (*relevance condition*); 3) there must be an avenue for appealing these decisions and their rationales (*appeals condition*); and 4) there must be some means, either voluntary or regulatory, of ensuring that the first three conditions are met (*enforcement condition*). (Martin, 2002)
 - 1.6. Jodie discussed the importance of identifying appropriate stakeholders; it's difficult to find people who are not too nationally-focussed.
 - 1.7. Miranda suggested contacting NGOs for their priority-setting methods (e.g. UNICEF, OXFAM).
 - 1.7.1. **ACTION: Equity Field (Erin/Peter) to contact NGOs.**
 - 1.8. Mark noted synthesizing evidence and the methods to do so are important components of priority-setting.
 - 1.9. Roger suggested that the Equity Field could consider aligning its work and priorities with the Millennium Development Goals.
 - 1.10. The mapping approach of Russ Gruen et al (www.evidencemap.org/index.html) is another approach that this group should consider.
2. **Equity Evidence Aid**
 - 2.1. **ACTION: Next Equity Update newsletter to feature article on Equity Evidence Aid**
 - 2.2. Vivian gave a presentation on Equity Evidence Aid (see summary slides in http://www.equity.cochrane.org/Files/Priority_Setting_Minutes_2008.pdf).

- 2.3. Peter noted that GRADE and Risk of Bias (ROB) are primarily based on internal validity.- in developing Equity Evidence Aid, we urgently need to address external validity – and so have initiated some consultations with a variety of folk inside and outside of Campbell and Cochrane on extrapolation and generalizability.
 - 2.4. Peter proposed a meeting on extrapolation at the next Cochrane meeting (Singapore; October 2009) and/or Campbell meeting (Oslo; May 2009).
 - 2.4.1. **ACTION: Erin to add to draft agenda for each meeting**
 - 2.5. Miranda described the difficulty her group had in finding literature on asthma by disadvantaged groups.
 - 2.5.1. **ACTION: Erin/Peter to contact Jane Smith at University of East Anglia for literature on asthma and disadvantage.**
 - 2.5.2. **ACTION: Miranda to send references on asthma and disadvantage.**
 - 2.6. Julia recommended an article by Will Shadish, a methodologist from California (see attached; Shadish 1995).
3. **Equity Methods**
- 3.1. Peter described the work with MEKN where we are reviewing the implications of the Commission on Social Determinants of Health (CSDH) work upon Cochrane and Campbell reviews.
 - 3.2. Miranda noted that there is concern around methods for needs assessment in the UK.
 - 3.2.1. Miranda proposed a new project on how funding is allocated vis-à-vis needs assessment.
 - 3.2.1.1. **ACTION: Group members to contact Miranda to indicate interest**
 - 3.3. Janet described an online tool on equity assessment and health impact assessment (<http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Legislation/Healthassessment/index.htm> and <http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Managingyourorganisation/Equalityandhumanrights/SingleEqualityScheme/index.htm>)
 - 3.4. Mark asked what the broad characteristics of interventions are?
 - 3.4.1. Leading to the creation of inequalities
 - 3.4.2. **ACTION: Mark to send reference(s) on theory of risk for inequalities with interventions**
4. **Group Check-In**
- 4.1. Jodie supported ongoing collaboration between the Equity Field and the Public Health Review Group. She also wondered about the Equity Field working directly with authors?
 - 4.2. Daniel noted that the methods work in equity is very useful.
 - 4.3. Jordi said that it would be useful to have a list of priority-setting methods.
 - 4.4. Julia reported that the Campbell Collaboration is starting to think about priority-setting. Julia is keen to join the work with MEKN.

- 4.5. Arild said that it would be great to have equity in all Campbell reviews. He noted that at this point, it's mainly an interest rather than a standard protocol. He also noted that Campbell is currently forming a group on disabilities.
- 4.6. Sandy is very interested in mapping of priority-setting methods; a map would be very useful for the James Lind Alliance.
- 4.7. Josephine emphasized that the MDGs are above national bias in terms of priority-setting. She echoed Roger's earlier suggestion that the Equity Field frame its work around the MDGs. She is currently applying for a fellowship in health equity, and would be very keen to join any meetings/teams on extrapolation.
- 4.8. Miranda very interested in the Field's work with Don de Savigny et al on malaria.
- 4.9. Mark suggested that Josephine may wish to speak with Betsy Kristjansson, who is working on context issues.
- 4.10. Roger wondered about the possibility of having a toolkit for tropical diseases, and/or a website for repackaging Cochrane and Campbell reviews for birth attendants?
- 4.11. Janet noted the overlap between qualitative research and both priority-setting/equity.
- 4.12. Libby wondered how best the Developing Countries Network could work with Equity?
- 4.13. Elizabeth noted that the Cochrane Musculoskeletal Group has not done any specific priority-setting work. She mentioned that the CMSG asks about equity when its authors submit their title registration.
- 4.14. Fiona expressed an interest in the Equity Checklist (see attached).
- 4.15. Peter suggested that the Checklist be posted on the Cochrane database of forms and procedures.
 - 4.15.1. **ACTION: Erin to post Checklist**
- 4.16. Tracey noted that her group in Bangladesh has just received a grant.
 - 4.16.1. **ACTION: Tracey to send review summary.**
- 4.17. Peter described the Field's manuscript on the Social Determinants of Health and Cochrane/Campbell reviews (work with the Measurement and Evidence Knowledge Network).