



WS05

Engaging with consumers around the world - Learning from the challenges and achievements of the Cochrane Collaboration Consumer Network

Janet Wale¹, Amanda Burls²

¹*Cochrane Consumer Network, Melbourne, Australia,* ²*Postgraduate Programmes in Evidence-Based Health Care, University of Oxford, Oxford, United Kingdom*

Type of workshop: Round table discussion

Target group: Researchers and healthcare providers interested in working with consumers in the development and implementation of evidence-based guidelines.

Main goals of the workshop: To identify key requirements for working effectively with consumers, patients, and carers in the development of guidelines on evidence-based clinical best practice models of care

Background: Consumers, patients and carers have contributed to the work of The Cochrane Collaboration since 1993. The Consumer Network became a formal entity of the Collaboration in 1995. Its purpose was to support consumer involvement in the prioritisation, preparation and dissemination of Cochrane systematic reviews of best evidence. Use of the Cochrane infrastructure is an important enabler but is not the only one. The core functions of the Consumer Network members are to provide consumer input into protocols and reviews that are under development, to increase their relevance in shared decision making; disseminate information from Cochrane reviews, promoted through the lead role in development of plain language summaries; and to promote evidence-based health care. A review of consumer involvement and the roles of the Consumer Network in working with Cochrane Review Groups will be completed by the time of the workshop and will play a large part in the development of lead questions for the discussions. Approaches to training will also be debated.