Prioritizing Cochrane Reviews:

Pitfalls and possibilities

Lorne Becker MD

Co-Chair, Cochrane Collaboration Steering Group

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Pitfall – One Definition

An intellectual error that traps a researcher

- perhaps forever

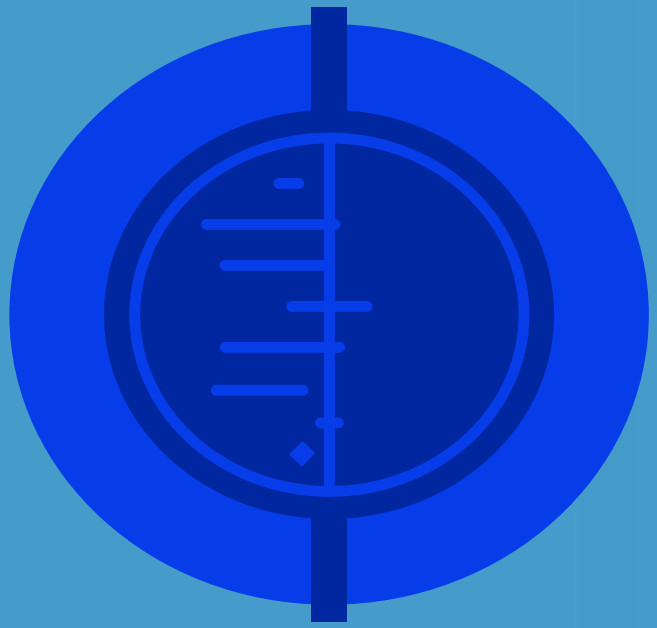
See also

- blind alley
- La Brea tar pits

http://www.lecb.ncifcrf.gov/~toms/glossary.html

Three questions

- Is prioritization compatible with the Cochrane way of doing things?
- Is it more important to do the right thing or to do the thing right?
- Whose priorities would we follow?



Is Prioritization compatible with the Cochrane way of doing things?

How Cochrane Review Topics are Chosen

- Curiosity driven
- Investigator-initiated
- Peer-reviewed

Cochrane Decision Making

- Primarily bottom up
  - Authors' interests
  - CRG scopes
- Minimally top down
  - Methods
  - Procedures
  - Updating

10 Cochrane Principles

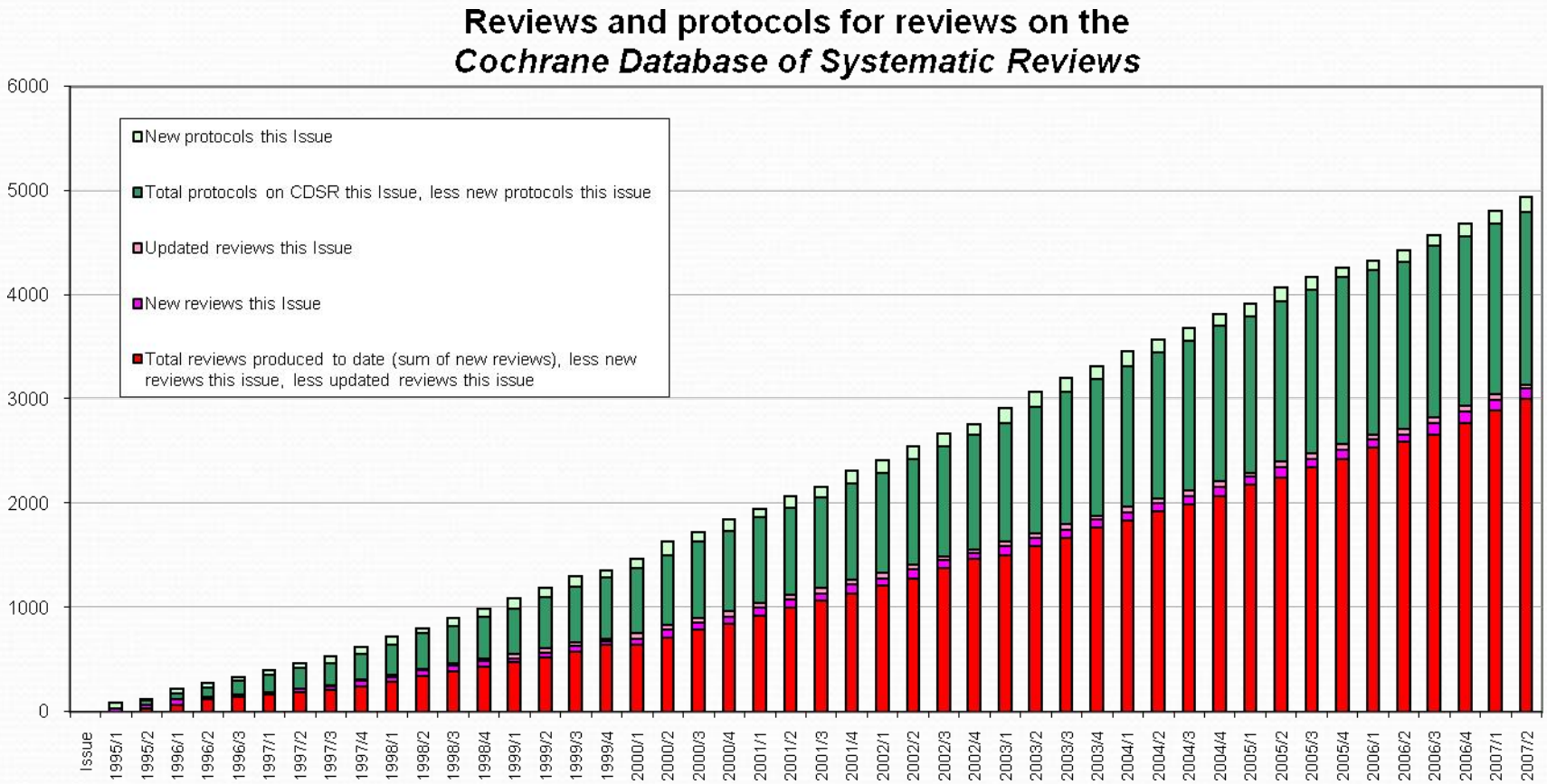
#2 - Building on the enthusiasm of individuals,

- by involving and supporting people of different skills and backgrounds.

Is it more important to do the right thing

- Or to do the thing right?

Opportunity Costs of Prioritization



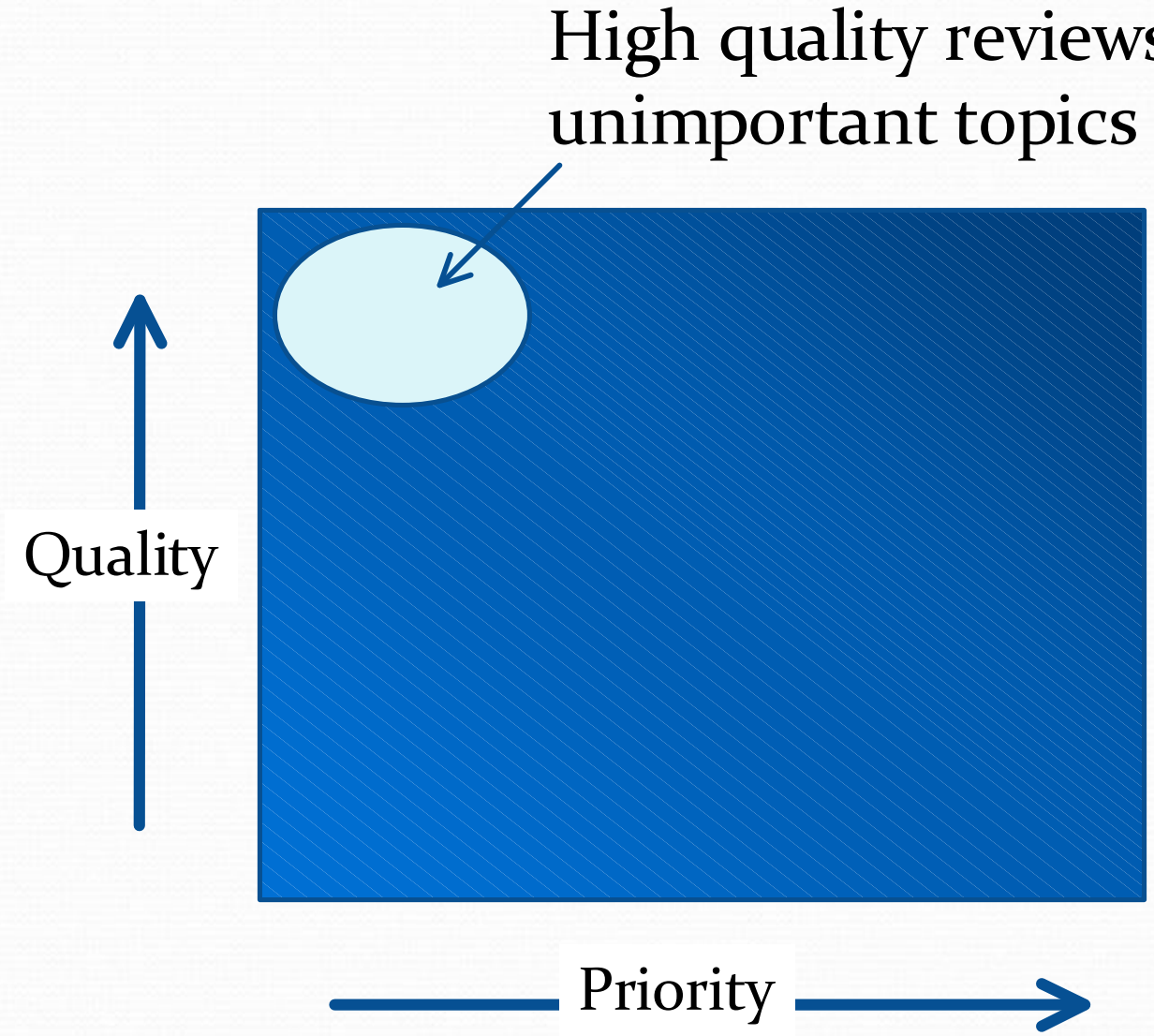
Could Prioritization Threaten Quality?

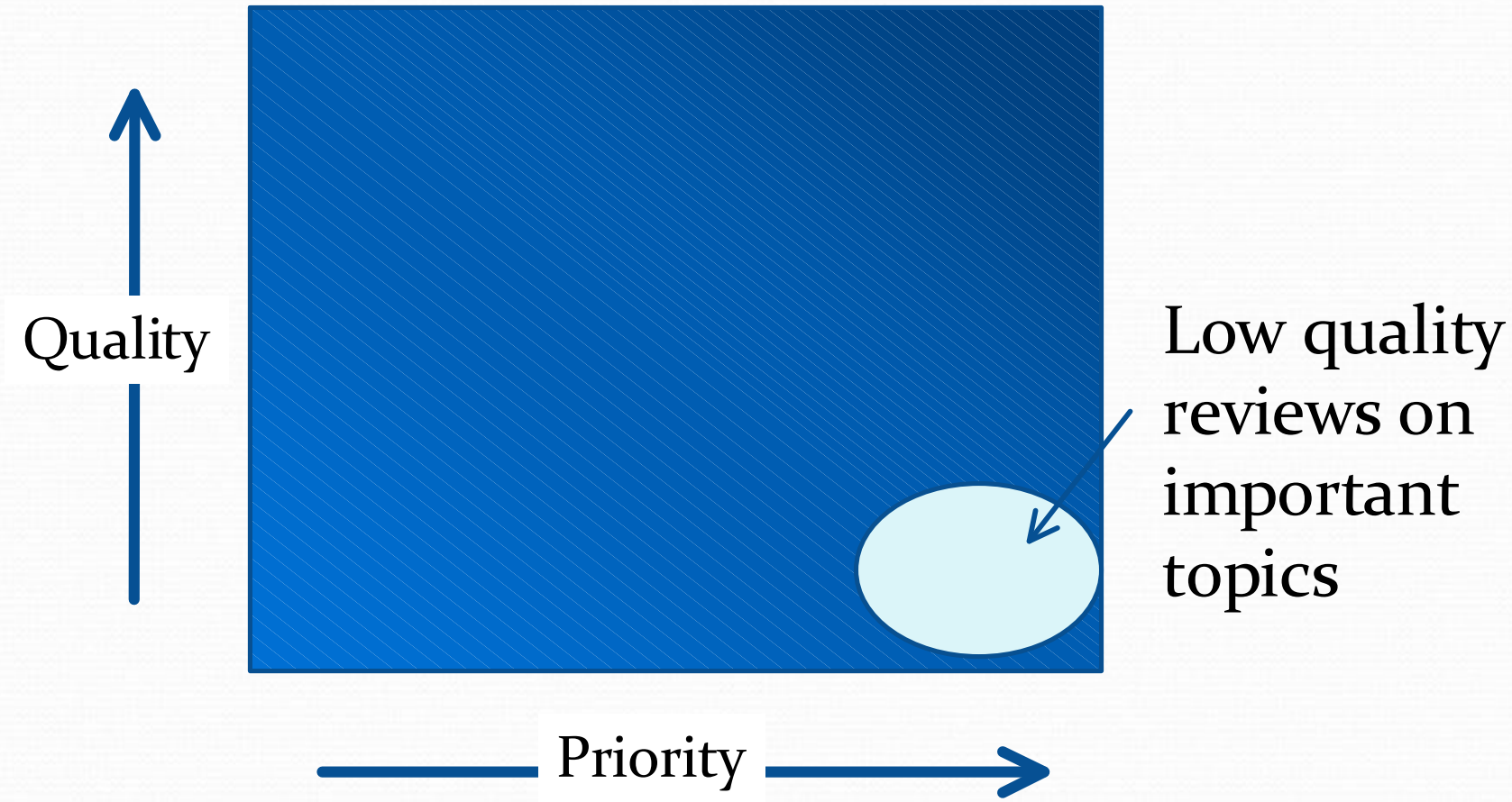
- Appropriate methods and high quality an important goal
- Good reputation, but have identified the need to do better

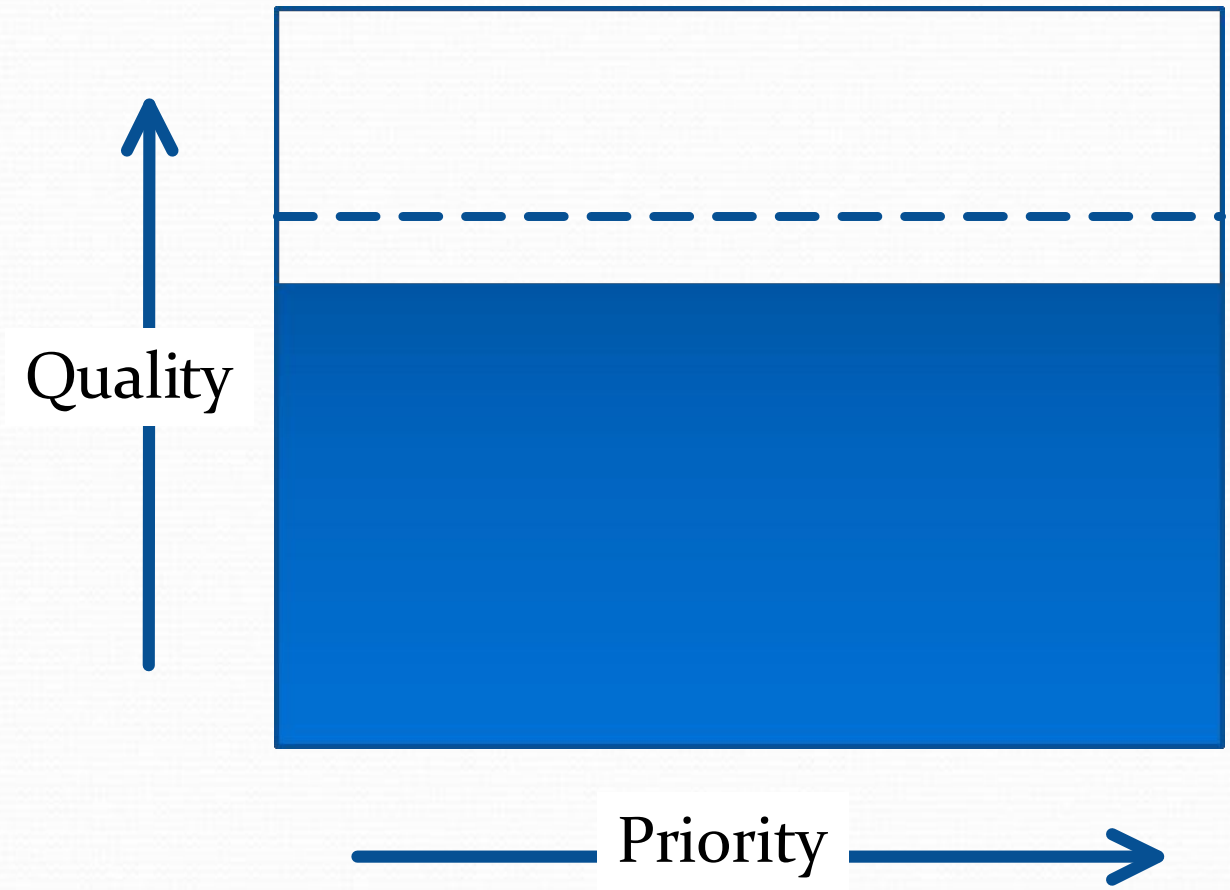
Recent Quality Initiatives

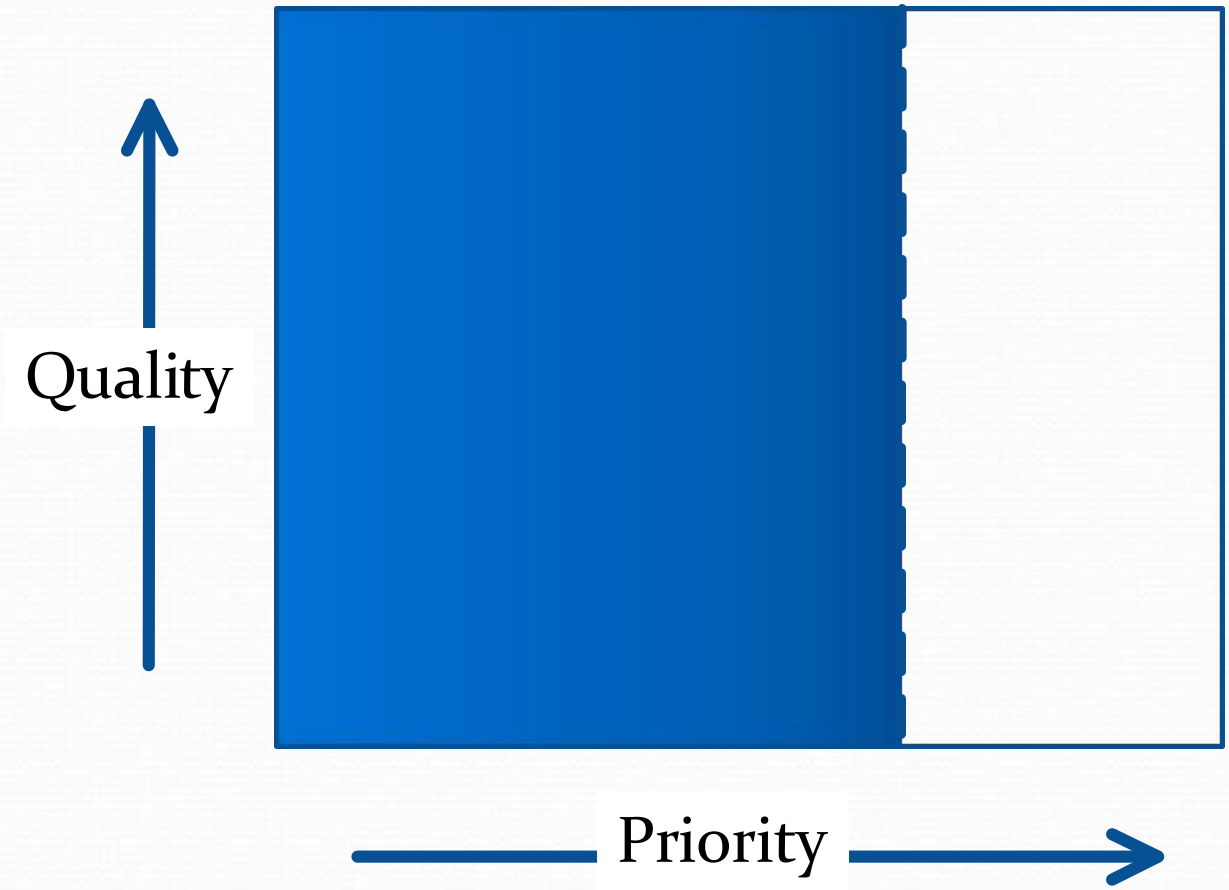
- Half day strategic discussion in April 2007
- Decision to form an "editorial board"
  - Planning process directed by Sophie Hill now underway

Opportunity Costs of Prioritization


High quality reviews on unimportant topics
Quality
Priority

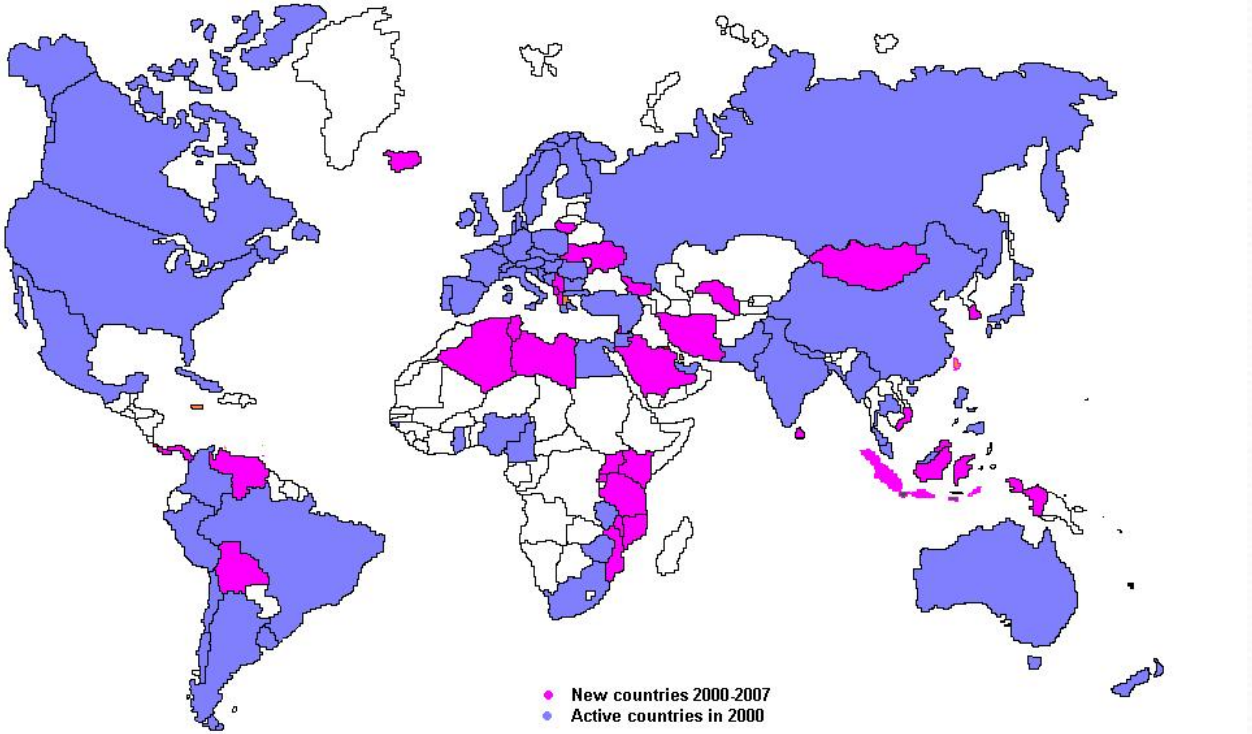

Quality
Priority
Low quality reviews on important topics


Quality
Priority


Quality
Priority

Whose priorities should we use?

Countries With Cochrane Contributors



Poster 69: International Activity Within Cochrane Review Groups

Claire Allen

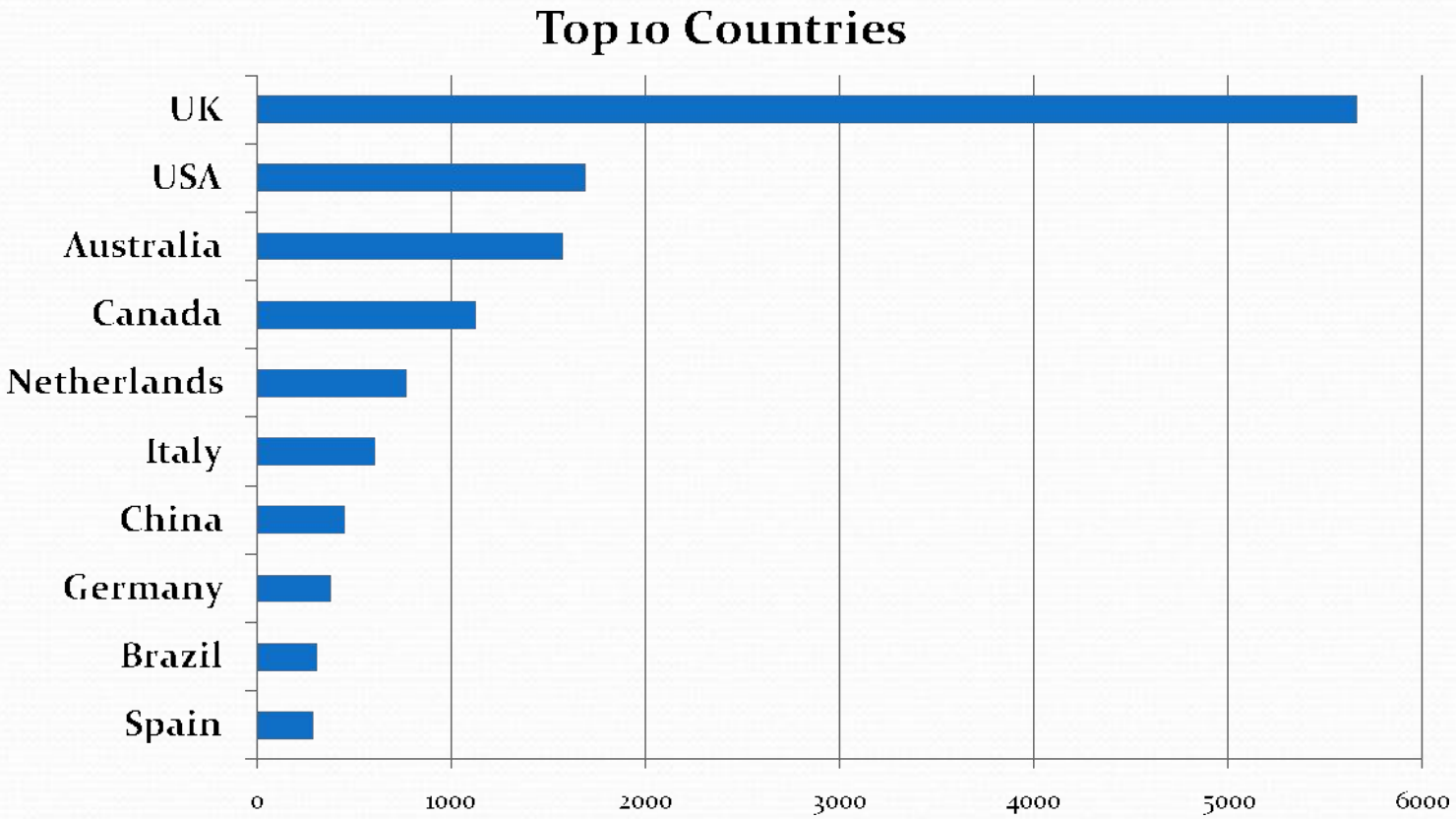
Mike Clarke

Diana Wyatt

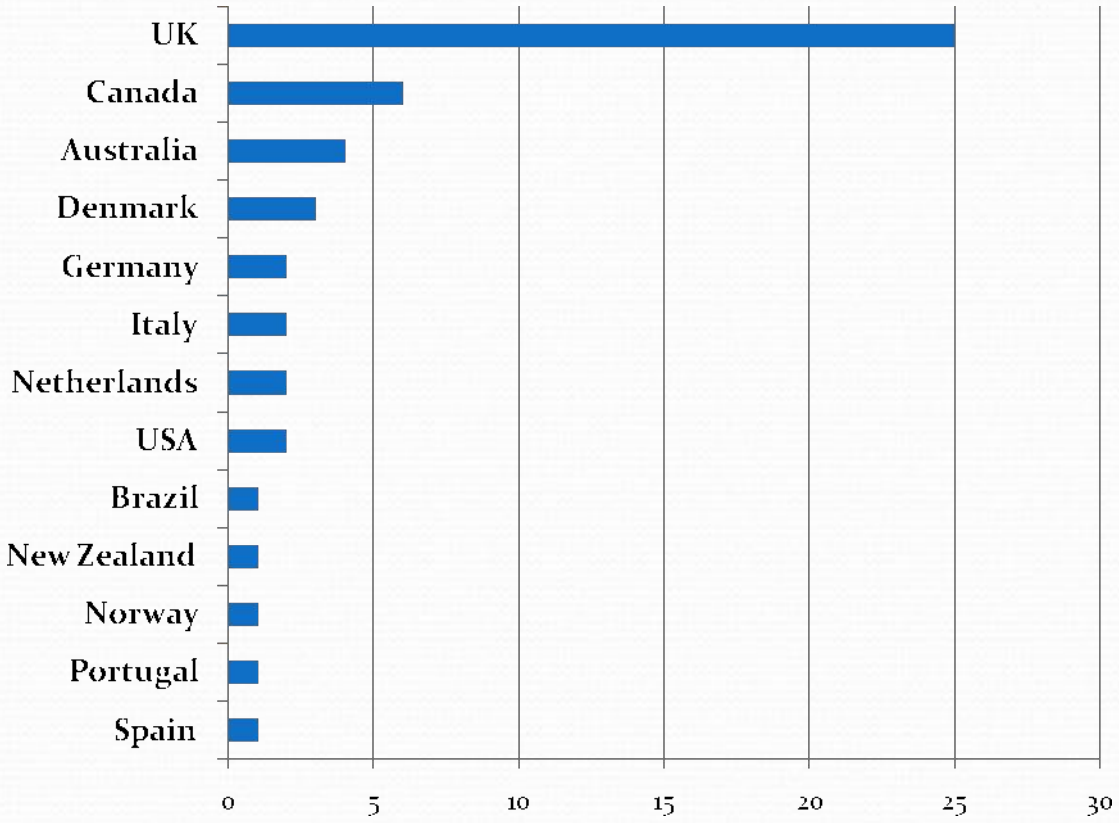
The Cochrane Collaboration Secretariat

The UK Cochrane Centre

Cochrane Authors (2007)

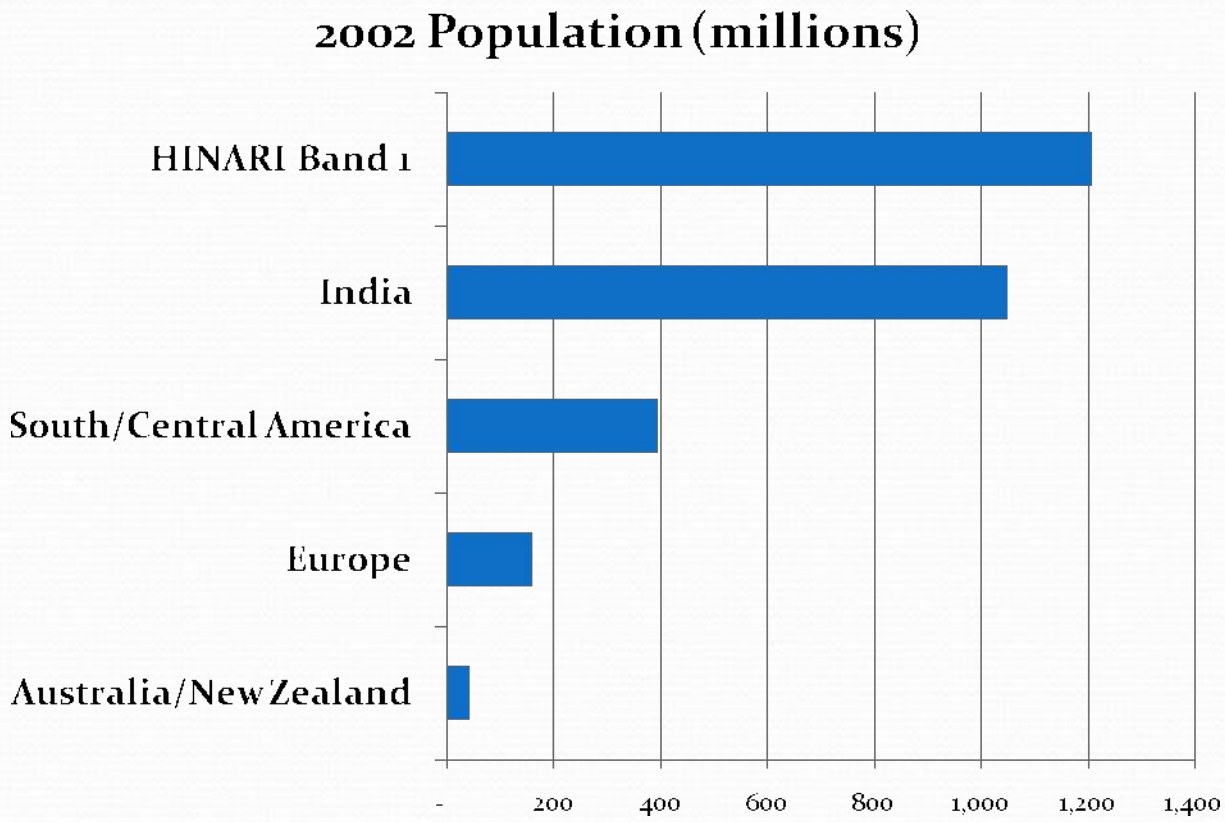


Location of Cochrane Review Groups



Who Are Potential Readers?

One Click Free Access



Who Are Our Stakeholders?

Clinicians?

Consumers?

Spouses,
Families,
Caregivers
?

Who Are Our Stakeholders?

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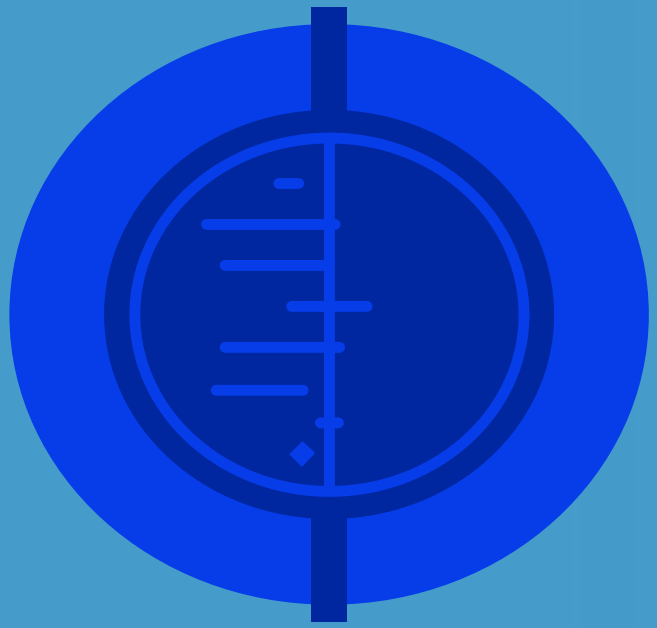
Who Are Our Stakeholders?



What's the Answer?

Steering Group Perspective

- A key recommendation of the 2006 Steering Group review
- Half day session at 2006 mid year meetings
- £100,000 to fund prioritization projects

Cochrane Prioritization Projects

- Top down vs. Bottom up
  - Call for proposals from Cochrane entities
- Opportunity Costs
  - £100,000 from central Cochrane funds
- Whose Priorities?
  - Up to applicant entities to decide

Collaboration between a Cochrane Review Group and a Cochrane Field

- Condition:
  - Hip fracture rehabilitation
- Cochrane Entities:
  - Bone, Joint and Muscle Trauma Review Group
  - Health Care of Older People Field
- Whose Priorities?
  - Members of the CRG and the Field

A patient-professional partnership approach

- Condition:
  - Incontinence
- Cochrane Entities:
  - Cochrane Incontinence Review Group
- Collaborators:
  - The James Lind Alliance
  - a UK-based patient support charity
- Whose Priorities?
  - 30 patient and professional advocacy groups

Using practice guidelines to determine review priorities

- Condition:
  - Eye and Vision Disorders
- Cochrane Entities:
  - US Cochrane Centre
  - Eyes and Vision Review Group
- Whose Priorities?
  - International clinical experts

Prioritisation of Cochrane reviews for consumers and the public

- Condition:
  - Any with a current Cochrane Review
- Cochrane Entities:
  - Cochrane Consumer Network
- Whose Priorities?
  - Consumers in low and middle income countries

Reducing the know-do gap in low and middle income countries

- Condition:
  - Any with a current Cochrane Review
- Cochrane Entities:
  - Health Equity Field
  - Health Promotion & Public Health Field
  - Developing Countries Network
  - EPOC Review Group
- Whose Priorities?
  - Experts on health of the disadvantaged in developing countries

Conclusion

Prioritization is seen as desirable

But there are potential pitfalls

The Collaboration is proceeding deliberately

And hoping to learn from our experiences