

You are being invited to participate in a research project titled Cochrane SA Training Evaluation. This project is being done by [Cochrane South Africa](#) at the South African Medical Research Council. We are inviting you to voluntarily participate in this research project because you are a participant / have previously participated in one of the training events offered by Cochrane South Africa (SA), or you have signed up to receive information about training Cochrane SA offers.

Why are we doing this research study?

The purpose of this research project is to evaluate the training delivered by Cochrane SA, including to routinely collect descriptive information about the training we deliver, to assess the training needs of our target audiences, and to evaluate the implementation and impact of the training delivered, both in the short and long-term, in an effort to continuously improve the delivery and impact of our training. More information about this project is available here: <https://southafrica.cochrane.org/our-work/training-evaluation-project>.

Who can participate in this research study?

Any individuals interested in training offered by Cochrane SA or that have participated in specific training events.

What will I be asked to do and how much time will it take?

You will be asked either of the following, depending on whether and which training event you attended:

- To complete an online survey about your current or future training needs. It should take you no more than 5 minutes to complete this survey.
- To complete an online questionnaire about how you experienced training received and how useful it was for you and your work. It should take you no more than 5 minutes to complete this questionnaire.
- To complete online pre- and post-questionnaires assessing your knowledge about specific systematic review methods learnt during a specific training event. It should take you no more than 10 minutes to complete this questionnaire.
- To complete questionnaires about whether skills and knowledge gained during a training event were used in your personal or professional life, and whether they informed the decisions you have made. It should take you no more than 10 minutes to complete this questionnaire.
- To participate in an interview, which can take place via the telephone or an online platform such as Zoom, both 6 months and 1 year after the training event. In these interviews we will ask you about any impact to your work or practice that has resulted from applying the knowledge gained through a training event you attended. The interview will last between 30-45 minutes and it will take place at a time of your choosing.

All online surveys/questionnaires will be on a secure online survey platform.

Will being in this research study help me in any way?

This research is not designed to help you personally, but the results may help Cochrane SA learn more about the training offered, the application beyond the training event and how to improve the training going forward.

What are my risks of being in this research study?

There are no known risks in participating in the training evaluation.

How will my personal information be protected?

To the best of our ability your answers in this study will remain confidential. We will keep your personal information confidential. To help protect your confidentiality, the information you provide will be totally private; no names will be used so there is no way that you can be identified as a participant in this study. In addition, all cookies and IP address collectors will be disabled to ensure confidentiality. Your name will not be reflected on the questionnaire or any document which might reflect the results of the evaluation.

What happens if I say yes, but I change my mind later?

Your participation in this research is completely voluntary. You may choose not to take part in the study. If you decide to participate in this research study, you may stop participating at any time. If you decide not to participate in this study or if you stop participating at any time, you will not be penalised or lose any benefits to which you otherwise qualify.

Who can I talk to if I have questions?

Should you have any questions regarding this study / training evaluation and your rights as a research participant or if you wish to report any problems you have experienced related to the study, please contact the Chairperson of the **South African Medical Research Council Human Research Ethics Committee (Adri Labuschagne, tel. (021) 938 0687; e-mail: adri.labuschagne@mrc.ac.za)**.