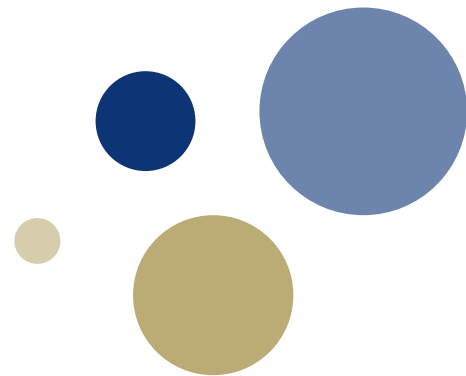




**Cochrane**  
People, Health Systems  
and Public Health



## **Why do we need a Cochrane Thematic Group on People, Health Systems and Public Health?**

Simon Lewin, Institute of Health Sciences Ålesund, NTNU

Norway Launch, NTNU

October 2023

**“In many countries, regardless of geographic region or economic resources, women are more likely than men to lack the knowledge and the power to make informed health-care decisions...[]...”**

**Gender transformative actions can shift us from blaming women for “late presentation”, “neglected cancer”, or “treatment abandonment”, to valuing women, in all their diversities, as equals of men, with agency and knowledge, empowered to make evidence-based informed decisions about their own care.”**

**(page 2)**



**Women, power, and cancer:  
a Lancet Commission**

From: Ginsburg O et al. Women, power, and cancer: a Lancet Commission. The Lancet. 2023 Sep 26.



Republic of Uganda

MINISTRY OF HEALTH STRATEGIC PLAN  
2020/21 - 2024/25

### 3.0 VISION

A responsive, resilient and people centered health system that protects and promotes the health and wellbeing of all the people in Uganda.

### 3.1 MISSION

To promote and ensure Universal Health Coverage in Uganda through evidence-based and technically sound policies, standards and strategies that are client centered.

### 3.2 CORE VALUES AND PRINCIPLES

The Ministry of Health strives to coordinate the provision of user-friendly services by promoting the notion of putting all clients in the sector at the forefront with openness to dialogue and feedback for purposes of progressive improvement.

**Our core values include;**

#### **i. Client Focus and Responsiveness**

The Ministry of Health endeavors to ensure that the Country's health services meet the client needs and expectations, and their interests will be the first priority of the health service. The health system shall attend to all its clients' needs, ideas, and feedback in a timely and professional manner.

Adapted with permission from slides by: Dr Rehema Bavuma,  
Makerere University, Uganda

## User participation at system level

Helse Midt-Norge has a strong tradition of user participation through patient organizations and user committees, and this cooperation must be developed further.

There must be functioning user committees at all levels, and users must be involved early in processes, not just as stakeholders who are heard in the final phase. (page 18)

Translated from: <https://www.helse-midt.no/49d50f/siteassets/documents/2023/regional-utviklingsplan--2023-2026.pdf>



HELSE MIDT-NORGE

REGIONAL UTVIKLINGSPLAN 2023–2026



# We need a Thematic Group on People, Health systems and Public Health as...



From: <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/health-systems-strengthening>

The intersecting challenges of:

- Achieving greater equity and reach of services
- Ageing populations and multi-morbidity
- More complex and more costly health interventions
- Human resources for health constraints
- Delivering sustainable health care and reducing 'health care waste'
- Epidemic and pandemic management and the need for resilient health systems
- Emerging digital technologies
- A host of other concerns

...reinforce the need for person-centred health and public health systems to be informed by the best available global (and local) evidence

# Person-centred health systems and public health are services and systems in which healthcare providers, managers and planners involve consumers / service users as partners in governing, planning, delivering and evaluating services (IPFCC 2012, Lowe 2021)

- The approach:
  - focuses on the person as a whole, including their context/s and communities, and on wellbeing rather than illness (Starfield 2011, Dean 2011)
  - may lead to more sustainable and resilient services that are better able to meet people's needs and promote engagement, empowerment and equity
  - may improve patient safety
- Aligns with the SDGs:
  - SDG 3 : Ensure health lives and promote well-being at all ages
  - SDG 10: Promoting social inclusion and reduce inequalities of outcome
  - SDG 16: Increase participatory decision making



# Goal of the Thematic Group



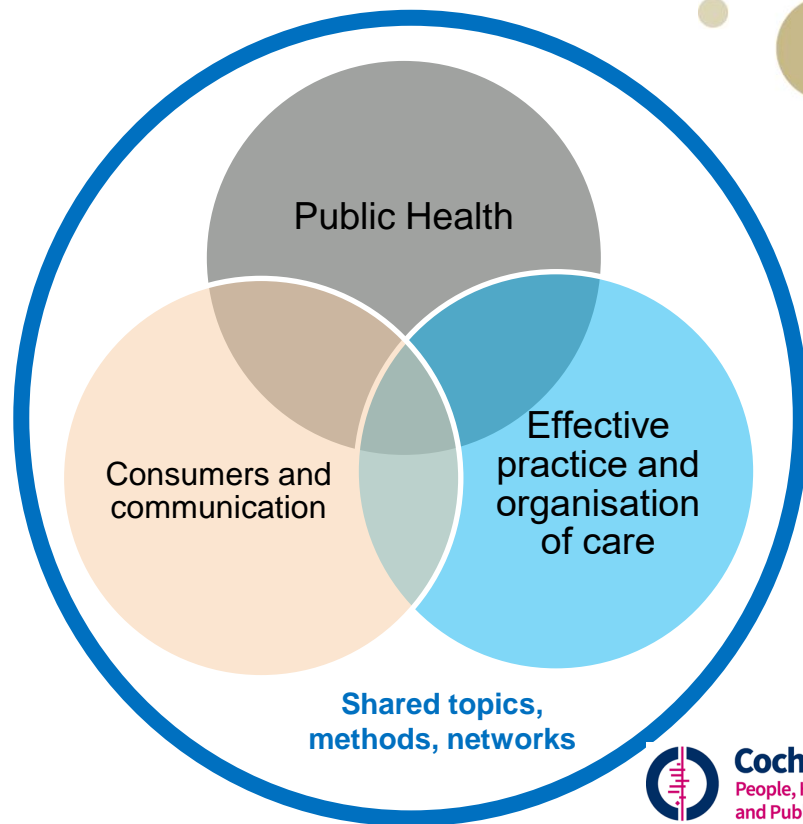
From: <https://www.mathematica.org/news/new-studies-highlight-trend-toward-integrated-health-systems-and-their-impact-in-latest-issue>

To collaborate in providing leadership and expertise to:

- support Cochrane’s production of priority syntheses on person-centred care, health and public health systems, and
- help ensure that systems for health are more effective, equitable and accessible for all

# Cochrane People, Health Systems and Public Health

- Combines the expertise and networks of Cochrane EPOC, Cochrane Consumers and Communication and Cochrane Public Health
- Provides a base to generate evidence beyond the performance of health systems to include how health systems and public health can be more person-centred
- Focus on systems as well as individual service users
- Global focus to address cross-cutting methodological challenges and interests





# Who is leading the Thematic Group?



Rebeca Ryan, La Trobe University,  
Melbourne, Australia



Luke Wolfenden, University of  
Newcastle, Australia



Sasha Shepperd, University of  
Oxford, UK



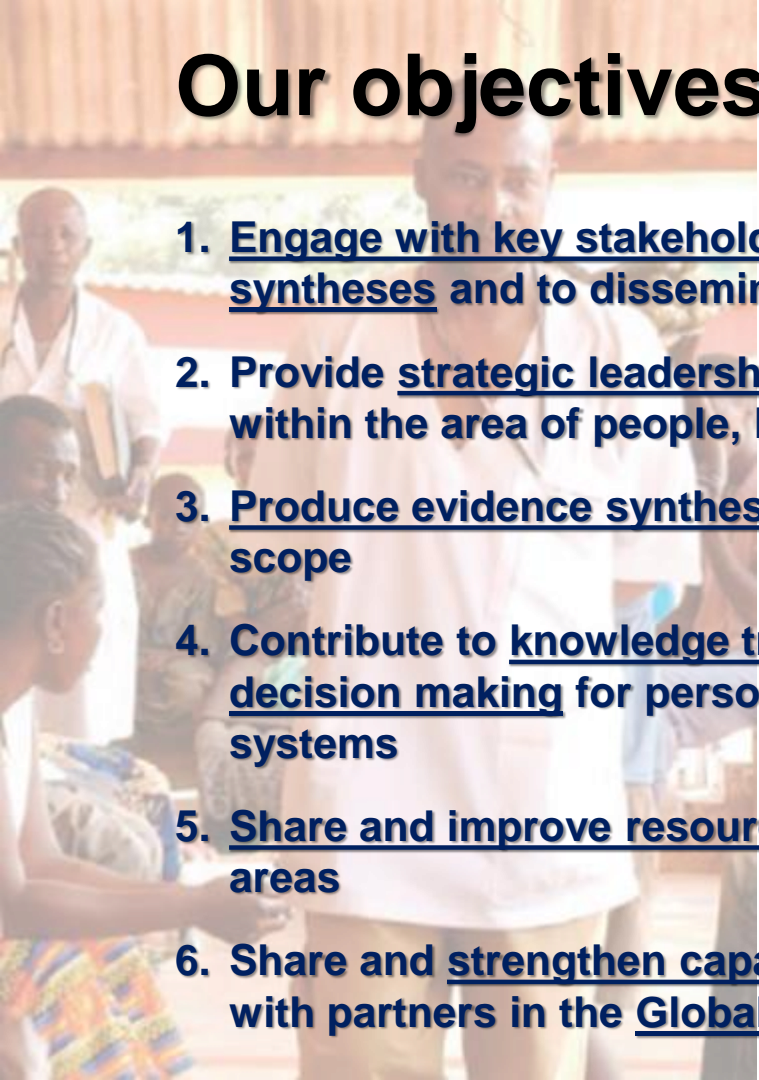
Simon Lewin, Norwegian University  
of Science and Technology  
(NTNU), Norway and South African  
Medical Research Council

A number of colleagues from the lead organisations are also involved!



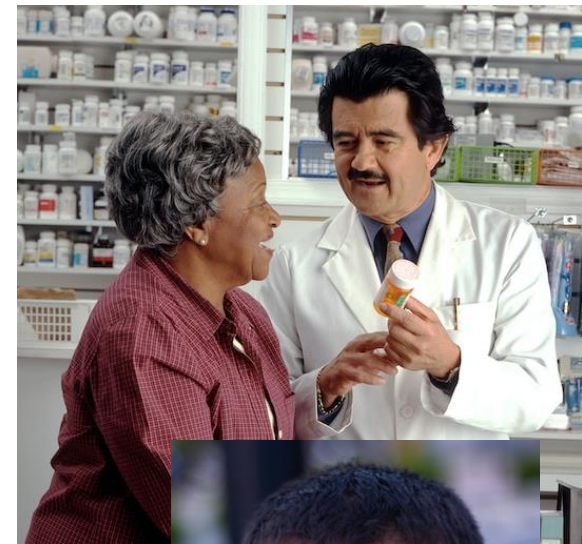
# Our objectives

1. Engage with key stakeholders to identify future priority areas for syntheses and to disseminate Cochrane evidence
2. Provide strategic leadership on review priorities and content expertise within the area of people, health systems and public health
3. Produce evidence syntheses in priority areas within the Thematic Group scope
4. Contribute to knowledge translation (KT) and evidence-informed decision making for person centred care, health and public health systems
5. Share and improve resources to support evidence synthesis in complex areas
6. Share and strengthen capacity on synthesis and KT methods, including with partners in the Global South



# Planned areas of work

- Strengthen collaboration and capacity by **building a network** nationally and internationally
- **Horizon scanning with stakeholders** to identify priority areas for new reviews
- **Undertake methods research** to improve the conduct of systematic reviews in our scope
- **Explore approaches for implementing the best practice principles on consumer-health provider partnerships** for health and public health service improvement
- **Undertake high priority, policy relevant systematic reviews**, where funding is available



**We would like to hear your views on areas that should be prioritised**



**Cochrane**  
People, Health Systems  
and Public Health

<https://www.cochrane.org/about-us/our-global-community/thematic-groups/person-centred-care-health-systems-and-public-health>

# Questions?

- To join our mailing list and get involved:



- To contact us:  
[support@cochrane.org](mailto:support@cochrane.org)