# Introducing the Disability Coordinating Group of the Campbell Collaboration

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Carlton Fong, PhD; Oliver Wendt, PhD; Ann Williams Outlaw, MA

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>> JOANN STARKS: Hello and welcome to today’s webcast, brought to you by the Center on Knowledge Translation for Disability and Rehabilitation Research (or [KTDRR](http://www.ktdrr.org/)) at American Institutes for Research. The Center on KTDRR is funded by the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living and Rehabilitation Research (known as NIDILRR) in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Community Living. I am Joann Starks, with the Austin office of American Institutes for Research (or A I R), and I want to thank some of my colleagues who are helping with today’s event: Ann Outlaw, Steven Boydston, and Kathleen Murphy.

**(Slide 1)** This webcast will describe the new Disability Coordinating Group recently approved by [The Campbell Collaboration](http://www.campbellcollaboration.org/), which is an international research network that promotes positive social and economic change through the production and use of systematic reviews and other evidence synthesis for evidence-based policy and practice. This will just be a brief introduction to Campbell and to the Disability Coordinating Group.

***[The following Instructions can be ignored for archivde video.]***

First, I want to review some basic features of the Adobe Connect platform. You should be listening to the presentation through your computer speakers. To increase the volume, you can use your own computer audio settings. There is also a speaker icon in the control bar at the top left-hand side of the screen and this icon is green when it is active. You can also adjust the volume using the arrow next to the speaker icon.

The presentation slides are in the center of the screen. On the bottom right side is a box labeled “Presentation Materials,” where you can download a PDF file of these slides, as well as a text version. The slides on the computer screen may be a bit small, so having the file or a printout could be helpful. If you do have any problems, you can call our toll-free number at 1‑800‑266‑1832 or send email to ktwebcasts@air.org.

On the left side of the screen, you will find the Chat Box. If you have any questions, or would like to make a comment, please type into the chat box and I will read your question to our presenter. Please feel free to ask a question at any time during the presentation, and we hope to have some time at the end for questions and answers.

Now I’d like to introduce our facilitator, Dr. Marcel Dijkers. He is a member of the Advisory Board of the newly approved Disability Coordinating Group. He also serves as facilitator of the Center on KTDRR's Community of Practice on Evidence in Disability and Rehabilitation Research. Dr. Dijkers is research professor in the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine and senior investigator in the Brain Injury Research Center at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai.

Also joining us this afternoon will be Carlton Fong, whois Managing and Associate Editor for the Education Coordinating Group of the Campbell Collaboration and will be serving as the first Editor for the Disability Coordinating Group of the Campbell Collaboration.

We are hoping to have Oliver Wendt join us later on; he will be serving along with me as a Co-Chair of the Disability Coordinating Group. We will also have with us Ann Williams Outlaw and Kathleen Murphy of the AIR staff, who also have roles working with this Coordinating Group. Thanks everyone, and now let's get started. Marcel?

>> MARCEL DIJKERS:  Okay, thank you. I noticed that Oliver Wendt already has joined us so we hope there's an appropriate place in this session and he will say a few words. Welcome, everybody, who has joined the activities of the Community of Practice previously, and welcome if you're new. What we want to do today is just have a quick session, about half an hour, to talk about what's happening at the Campbell Collaboration, specifically, with respect to collecting, analyzing and disseminating evidence related to the life and well‑being of people with a disability.

**(Slide 2)** The Agenda is a little bit about the Campbell Collaboration overall, a quick word about what are systematic reviews and, specifically, what they are in the Campbell Collaboration. A word about the existing Coordinating Groups, the Disability Subgroup of the Education Coordinating Group, which now has become the Disability Coordinating Group. And your opportunities for submitting ideas for a systematic review; becoming an active member of the Coordinating Group; and what resources you will have available; and, whatever questions and answers people have. As indicated before you can type them in, there in the chat box on the left-hand corner at any time, but we'll address them at the very end of the proceedings.

**(Slide 3)** So, the Campbell Collaboration (was) established in 2000 to produce systematic reviews in social welfare and related fields. And, its vision is nicely summarized in “better evidence for a better world.”  As Joann already indicated, the Collaboration aims to promote positive social and economic change through the production and use of systematic reviews and other ways of synthesizing evidence for evidence‑based policy and practice.

**(Slide 4)** I presume that everybody who is on this call knows what systematic reviews are and, of course, we don't have the time to have an extensive presentation on the varieties of systematic reviews or how different organizations address them or fail to address them. The definition here, I think, everybody will agree on; the systematic review sums up the best available research on a specific question, by synthesizing the results of several studies. And typically, systematic reviews must have clear inclusion/exclusion criteria for the primary studies, explicit strategy for searching the literature, systematic coding of study characteristics and findings, a logical analysis of the studies included, and if possible, a meta‑analysis.

The Campbell Collaboration adds a few things that are the minimal requirements for its systematic reviews. One is that in order to avoid publication bias, all systematic reviews must do a systematic search for unpublished reports; the famous file drawer problem. Because the Campbell Collaboration is international, typically the systematic reviews are international with people from various countries, if not continents, working together. Campbell requires that every systematic review is initiated with the writing of a protocol, and we have more to say about that later; which protocol is peer‑reviewed within the Collaboration. Then the extracting information of making decisions on appropriate studies and extracting information needs to be done by two people independently who, of course, compare their results and have various ways available to come to a consensus when they disagree. And then the final systematic review in Campbell is subject to peer review and editorial review before it's officially posted in the [Campbell Library](https://www.campbellcollaboration.org/library.html).

**(Slide 5)** Here are the three major steps, with the documents that are part of the Campbell systematic reviews. And, Carlton, would you like to say something about these three things?

>> CARLTON FONG: Sure, I can go ahead and explain the process for the Campbell systematic reviews. There are three phases that Campbell implements, and the first phase is the Title phase and this is where you allow the Disability Coordinating Group to determine if your review is in line with the scope of Campbell, and whether it’s different enough from the previous reviews that have been done in the Campbell Library. (You) want to give the editorial team an idea what your research question is, but the basic information background about the topic, the various populations or outcomes you're trying to target, as well as information about the intervention you're trying to study. This document just goes through editorial review, and we just deem that it's a viable topic for a systematic review within Campbell.

The second phase as Marcel mentioned, is a protocol phase and this one is a much more detailed document that outlines your procedures for conducting this review. And so, whether your search strategy, whether the databases, your analytic method, search terms; whether those are all well‑defined and systematic and unbiased and essentially meeting the standards of the Campbell Collaboration. This will go through a peer review, and it is sent to a methods reviewer, information retrieval reviewer and two content peer reviewers. It's quite rigorous in terms of the peer review and the editorial staff will also review the protocol as well. It ensures that our author teams are prepared and ready to conduct a Campbell review. This protocol is a very important document.

And then lastly, of course, the third document is the completed review in which the protocol is implemented and the meta‑analysis or review is summarized and detailed in this final document with implications for policy, for practice, and a discussion of kind of the state of the field. So, these three phases are the general process for the Campbell systematic review. And also, that third phase goes through a full peer review as well, where it gets sent up to a methods reviewer and two content reviewers, as well.

**(Slide 6)** >> MARCEL DIJKERS:  Thank you. Campbell at the moment works through 6 different ([Coordinating) Groups](https://www.campbellcollaboration.org/about-campbell/coordinating-groups.html); 4 focused on topic areas: Crime and Justice, Education, International Development, Social Welfare, and at the very bottom, is the new Disability Coordinating Group, which until recently was a Subgroup of Education.

In addition, there is a Methods Group and the Knowledge Translation and Implementation Group, which focus very much on the smooth transition of evidence and formats that are maximally useful to people who can use the information.

**(Slide 7)** So the Education Coordinating Group was, has been in existence (longer than) 2000, but its Disability Subgroup was established in 2008 following a request to do so from John Westbrook, who until his death last year, was one of the key people working at AIR, American Institutes for Research.

And the idea was to help connect individuals interested in conducting systematic reviews with experienced reviewers with experience and expertise in disability as consultants, co‑authors or whatever other roles they might play.

**(Slide 8)** The idea always was for the Subgroup to become a Coordinating Group, if growth and a number of people contributed, and production of systematic reviews in this specific area would justify such, and that actually happened. The Board of Campbell approved the elevation of the Subgroup to Coordinating Group on May 5th (of) this month. As soon as possible we put this call together to disseminate this news. The American Institutes for Research have pledged financial support for editorial and peer‑review infrastructure for a 5-year period, which should help a lot, keeping the momentum that was started going.

**(Slide 9)** What the Coordinating group, which is co‑chaired by Oliver Wendt and Joann Starks, wants to do, what its key objectives are, is to undertake and maintain a series of high-quality and timely systematic reviews of interventions aimed at improving the quality of life and outcomes of individuals with disabilities, and to establish this network of expertise of people who want to contribute in whatever way they can make available.

**(Slide 10)** The group also wants to involve a wide spectrum of people, stakeholders; people with disabilities, their family members and other disability‑oriented stakeholders, in all steps of the systematic review development process, including the interpretation of review results.

And if you are reading on the left pane on your computer screen, you will see that we have among our audience Tiev Miller who's a volunteer and she is from British Columbia, who works with Marie-Louise, no last name, in community implementation. Welcome, Tiev, and I hope what is being presented here is of interest to you.

And then the group wants to offer training opportunities for authors and potential authors to make them maximally effective and efficient in producing systematic review ‑‑ reviews under the Campbell umbrella.

**(Slide 11**) Well, what have they have done this far and what happened between 2008 when the Subgroup was established and May of this year, which is this May? The Subgroup shepherded into existence 27 or 28 systematic reviews and only 4 of those are listed here to give you some indication of what the topics are, and there are some names mentioned of people who performed this work.

The first two of these were created with, by grant supported groups, the grants coming from the National Institute of Disability, Independent Living and Rehabilitation Research. That doesn't mean that the grant specifically funded the systematic review, but either the grant recipients have proposed systematic review as part of their activities or they saw a systematic review as a logical extension of their other activities and got permission to contribute to those systematic reviews.

**(Slide 12)** We already threw out the names Oliver Wendt, Joann Starks, who are the Co-Chairs. Carlton Fong, who spoke before, as the Editor and Ann Williams Outlaw, who is handling the technical issues of this webcast, as the Managing Editor. Oliver, you want to say something at this point?

>> OLIVER WENDT:  Yes, thank you very much. Thank you, Marcel, thank you Carlton, for giving us a great overview of the systematic review production process and the objectives for the Disability Coordinating Group. I have the pleasure, together with Joann Starks, to serve as the Co-Chair. I have a few years of experience with the Education Coordinating Group and also in the past few years have been involved with Joann Starks and some of her activities at the American Institutes for Research. We’ve done quite a few webcasts and training activities on knowledge translation and research training. So, I think we're off to an excellent start here with getting the Disability Coordinating Group set up.

Our duties as Co-Chairs, what Joann and I will be doing, is internally making sure that the systematic review production process gets off to a good start. That we are soliciting high quality reviews. That we are supporting our review teams at all stages and that they're being productive. And that they're meeting the aims set by the Campbell Collaboration for establishing this Coordinating Group.

We will also be serving as representatives to the outside, to the larger Campbell community and interacting with Campbell and other entities on larger issues surrounding systematic reviews.

A little bit more on my own background. I'm a researcher in the Department of Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences and Educational Studies at Purdue University. My own research background is in treatment research and autism spectrum disorders. I have quite a little bit of experience in systematic review production. Particularly meta‑analysis and systematic reviews of single subject experimental designs are my specialty and my expertise. And I've mentored quite a few systematic review teams on those issues. With that having said I'll turn it over to Joann and see if she wants to add anything.

>> JOANN STARKS:  Thanks, Oliver. I think you covered quite well the kinds of challenges we have facing us. But I would like to invite Ann Williams Outlaw to introduce herself to the group.

>> ANN WILLIAMS OUTLAW:  Thanks, Joann. My name is Ann Williams Outlaw. I work at the American Institutes for Research on two of our knowledge translation centers; this one the KTDRR, and [KTER](http://www.kter.org/), which is Knowledge Translation for Employment Research. I'll be the Managing Editor of the Disability Coordinating Group. And my role is more of, kind of behind the scenes where I'll be helping with the procedural aspects of the editorial process, as well as providing assistance to the group Editors. I've had the pleasure of working with Oliver and Carlton, and Dr. Westbrook on a previous systematic review, so I understand some of the challenges and the highlights of working on a systematic review in the Campbell Collaboration, and so I'm happy to serve in this role.

>> JOANN STARKS:  Thank you, Ann. I'm looking at the clock and realize we don't have much time left. We've only given ourselves 30 minutes and we only have a few. I'll give it back to you, Marcel, knowing we need to speed it up a little bit, thank you.

**(Slide 13)** >> MARCEL DIJKERS: We're going to speed it up as much we can. There is an Advisory Board, as of now consisting of 8 people, and you see the names listed here. I eyeballed it and found strong representation from people working in medical rehabilitation but I think it would be useful to explore adding to this group. Some people from psychiatric rehabilitation maybe, more vocational rehab. people, and I see some other opportunities to make this a group that really can give good advice to Oliver and Joann and through them to the rest of the group.

**(Slide 14)** How can you participate? Well, anybody can become an affiliate of the group. And that just requires you to express an interest and we'll sign you up. For people who have the qualifications and do participate actively in the work of the group, a status of member is available. And that gives you the right to vote on key decisions to be made for the group, *et cetera*, *et cetera*.

If you submit your name as an affiliate, or express an interest and become a member, your contact information will be registered by both the people specific to this Coordinating Group and by the Campbell organization at large.

**(Slide 15)** You can do more than just saying, “I'm interested” or “I'm willing to be a worker bee.” You can actually submit your ideas for a systematic review, whether you want to take a lead position or another position, in that, that's up to you. Here's the contact information if you would like to receive more information on the Coordinating Group. If you want to make a submission to Campbell, and as Carlton indicated previously, that would always start with submitting a title, which as he indicated is a little bit more than just the title, but essentially it is a stake in the sand so that the idea can be evaluated. The reference here is to the forms that are available to do such submissions.

If you would like to be a peer reviewer, please submit your name with, of course, your country and affiliation, an email address and highest degree. But most of interest to the people who are running the Coordinating Group, is a solid description of your field of expertise so that when there is a need for peer reviewers, Joann and Oliver with, quote‑unquote, “surgical precision” can select the people who would be best be placed to do peer reviewing either of a protocol or later on, of the full systematic review. And the nice thing is Campbell has some money set aside to provide a modest fee to its peer reviewers.

If it's specifically a systematic review that is funded at least in part with NIDILRR, the Center on Knowledge Translation can make its resources, some of its resources that they get under a grant from NIDILRR, available for even more extensive help than is available through Campbell.

**(Slide 16)** Here's a listing of various and sundry resources that are available to people who would like to submit a systematic review or just look at what Campbell has produced this far. The resources available, the training that's available, *et cetera*, *et cetera*. There is a lot of stuff that's available.

**(Slide 17)** So that brings us to the end of what I had to say. We are already one minute over the official ending time. I'm not going away, I don't think, Joann, Carlton are going away, or Oliver. But if you had only half an hour available, go to whatever you needed to do next.

If you have questions, we will try to answer the questions that you type into the lower left-hand corner. I already saw one question coming through which was: Is there consistency in peer reviewers from the protocol review stage to the systematic review stage ‑‑ systematic review, peer review stage? And the answer was, yes, to the degree possible, Campbell will have the same people who review the protocol later on review the systematic review once it's completed.

I did not have a chance while talking, to read the various comments that came by in the left‑hand column. Joann, Ann, did I miss another question that I could or should be addressing or you should be addressing?

>> JOANN STARKS:  I don't think we missed any questions but we did miss some interesting comments. Here we go, there is a question; whoops that's the same question that you just answered. I apologize. Sorry about that.

We did have an interesting comment from Elizabeth saying that she and her colleagues have established quality indicators for reviews in their field of special education, following the Campbell guidelines, and they'll launch a Delphi study of those indicators this summer. That does sound very interesting, and Elizabeth is with the University of Illinois at Chicago in the Department of Special Ed.

Let's see if anyone else does have a question. Please go ahead and write it there in the chat box or you can call our 800‑number or you can use our email address: ktwebcasts@air.org

**(Slide 18)** >> MARCEL DIJKERS: Okay, and while we give people a chance to type, Elizabeth, thank you for volunteering that information. As you may know, various people associated with the KTDRR have been interested in the issue of the quality of systematic reviews and did develop an instrument called [AQASR](http://www.ktdrr.org/aqasr), that is freely available on the KTDRR website. So, we might have some information from you and possibly once you have finished your Delphi study maybe have you do some presentation for the Community of Practice, maybe in the fall of this year, that fits with your timeline.

>> JOANN STARKS:  That's a great idea, Marcel. We'll certainly follow up on that.

>> MARCEL DIJKERS:  Okay.

>> JOANN STARKS:  I'm not seeing any questions so maybe we should go ahead and wrap everything up.

>> MARCEL DIJKERS:  We still have two people typing.

>> JOANN STARKS:  Oh, there we go, Ok, let's hang on then.

>> MARCEL DIJKERS:  Elizabeth said she would love to do that, so that's good. And Jen Weaver is typing as fast as she can.

Everybody, you also notice that Joann typed in the proper name and the [web address](http://www.ktdrr.org/aqasr) for the instrument I referred to, AQASR. OK, Jen is asking, can you talk a little bit about how an experienced reviewer can assist with the process of conducting an SR. Jen is referring to one of the slides in the very beginning and I will try to ‑‑

>> JOANN STARKS:  I think it might have been with the goals of the Disability Coordinating Group. Maybe past that; past that.

**(back - Slide 7)** >> MARCEL DIJKERS:  I'm going to take and maintain a series of high quality timely reviews, *et cetera*. I see various possibilities, one is you indeed proposed that you and colleagues perform a particular systematic review and you would start with writing what is called the title. Once that has been given the green light, I presume the Coordinating Group can help find additional collaborators on something like that.

A second way you could help is to register yourself as a peer reviewer, somebody who, based on your expertise in a particular area of disability and rehabilitation studies, is willing to review protocols and then later on, the systematic reviews. If you are strong in the methodological issues for systematic reviews you may want to see whether you would be a suitable peer reviewer for methodological issues. And then, of course, you can be an active participant in whatever discussion goes on within the Coordinating Group. Sign up as a member of the group and available to help out in various and sundry areas. Slide 7, she refers to…

**(Slide 8)** >> JOANN STARKS: That's where we were, okay.

>> MARCEL DIJKERS:  How come I have no idea which is Slide is 7?

>>JOANN STARKS: The numbers are very tiny in the bottom. That was Slide 7, that we were just on, so you got it.

>> MARCEL DIJKERS:  Okay. We got it. Purely by mistake, Jen, we gave you the right answers. I promise it won't happen again.

**(Slide 19)** >> JOANN STARKS: Okay. I'm going to go ahead to move back to the end, because I think we are about out of time now. I just want to thank everybody for coming and definitely I want to thank the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living and Rehabilitation Research for supporting our activities in these webcasts and other events.

**(Slide 18)** I'll go ahead and leave our contact information up so if people would like to get in touch with us, please do. And I want to thank Dr. Marcel Dijkers, Dr. Carlton Fong, Dr. Oliver Wendt and Ms. Ann (Williams) Outlaw for sharing information with us, including how our listeners can get in touch to learn more about the Disability Coordinating Group.

We hope you'll also take a few minutes to give us some feedback by filling out our [brief evaluation form](http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/3557241/Evaluation-DCG), and we will be sending an email with [this link](http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/3557241/Evaluation-DCG) to everyone who has registered ahead of time. I want to thank everyone for coming today, and to thank the AIR staff in helping with planning and logistics. We look forward to seeing you for our next webcast, which actually takes place tomorrow at this same time. Visit [www.ktdrr.org](http://ktdrr.org/training/webcasts/webcast39/index.html) for the details. Thanks again for coming, and good afternoon.