



**EVIDENCE SYNTHESIS**  
IRELAND



**Cochrane**  
Ireland

## **Evidence Synthesis Ireland Fellowship Scheme 2021**

### **Review Identification Form**

#### **Review Centre/Group Mentor**

Cochrane Skin  
Mentor: Robert Boyle

#### **Review title**

Systemic pharmacological treatments for chronic plaque psoriasis: a living network meta-analysis

#### **Review type**

Cochrane review of effectiveness

#### **Review details**

Many new pharmacological treatments are compared to placebo in clinical trials, since drug companies do not want to take the risk of comparing them with other active treatments, and are not obliged by regulators to do so. This makes it difficult to compare their efficacy with older treatments or with competing new treatments.

Network meta-analysis is a technique which allows indirect comparison of treatments to try to identify the most effective or safest treatment where there is insufficient information from direct comparative trials.

Cochrane Skin have published a network meta-analysis of systemic pharmacological treatments for psoriasis [Systemic \(oral or injected\) medicines for psoriasis | Cochrane](#), since there are many competing treatments with few direct head-to-head comparative effectiveness trials. The review is a 'living review', which means that it is frequently updated at the moment due to the high volume of trials and new treatments in this field.

The review is being led by Cochrane Skin's France Satellite, who are an experienced, enthusiastic and supportive systematic review team.

#### **Review current status**

A 'living update' is in progress for the effectiveness review, and discussions are in progress about starting a specific 'adverse events' review.

**Any specific/desirable requirements for fellow (e.g. clinical expertise, methodological expertise)**

This project would suit a Fellow with an interest in new methods for systematic reviews and the issues around the lack of comparative effectiveness trials in the literature.

**Estimated start and completion dates**

1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 start, for one year.