

Impossible mountains of COVID research have driven record numbers of healthcare practitioners and policy makers to Evidence Aid for help – but we need to be ready for the overdue major earthquake

Since the pandemic broke, over 75,000 scientific papers have been published on COVID-19 across the world and a new one is appearing **every three minutes** in November. Those needing guidance on what to do have been presented with such a plethora of information, it has been impossible for them to sort out the good from the bad and to find what should matter most to them.

The situation has led to a 1000% increase in visitors to the Oxford based Evidence Aid website. Their brilliant team, working in seven languages, has systematically checked thousands of papers to refine the latest scientific findings and summarise them for use by healthcare practitioners.

Their Chairman, Professor Mike Clarke, Research Director of Evidence Aid and Chair of Research Methodology in the Centre for Public Health at Queen's University Belfast in Northern Ireland, said today: *"It has been enormously satisfying to see our work being used by people at the international frontline of healthcare and those who support them in these challenging times, but we are still failing to convince funders to move some investment from doing new research into reviewing what has already been done. Most of our people are working voluntarily and our amazing team of just two part-time paid workers cannot go on for much longer."*

He added somewhat sadly: *"Our work is intended to cover all manner of humanitarian disasters and it is vital to practitioners in the field. Although we are really proud of our COVID-19 collection, we need to do more for other disasters and we know that we are overdue a major earthquake. Unless funding can be found, we will definitely not be able to provide the necessary help that people will need when that strikes."*

For more information visit www.evidenceaid.org or call Mike Clarke: +44 074699 24347 (callen@cochrane.org)