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## XIII Cochrane Colloquium

22–26 OCTOBER 2005

26 April 2005

### An invitation to support the 13<sup>th</sup> Cochrane Colloquium

The Australasian Cochrane Centre is delighted to be hosting the Cochrane Colloquium in Melbourne this year. Annual Colloquia are held to advance the work of the Collaboration and ensure that we can meet the ongoing challenge of producing reviews that address globally important healthcare questions. They also provide an important opportunity to encourage new contributors and partnerships with organisations that share the Collaboration's commitment to evidence-based health care.

Our plenaries will focus on some of the Collaboration's most important challenges:

- > to ensure that the format and content of Cochrane reviews is valid and meets the needs of decision makers,
- > to ensure that reviews address globally important healthcare questions, and
- > to enable widespread participation in the production, maintenance and dissemination of reviews.

This year's Colloquium will reflect the Collaboration's commitment to providing equitable access to healthcare information and enabling widespread participation in its production. This commitment will be evident in the plenary, paper and workshop program, but we also hope to demonstrate it by enabling a large contingent of developing country contributors and consumers to participate. As in previous years, stipends will be awarded to support travel and registration for these participants. However, the number of stipends will depend in part on the generosity of the Australian and New Zealand healthcare community, from whom we are seeking support.

If [organisation] would like to support these practical initiatives there are a number of ways you can contribute. Sponsoring stipends or sessions intended to support developing country and consumer participation are two options. Other options are described in the sponsorship package included with this letter.

We would like to extend a warm invitation to members of the [college] to join us at the Colloquium for what promises to be a stimulating scientific program and an important opportunity to demonstrate Australia's commitment to evidence-based health care and global access. A brochure is included with this letter and detailed information about the scientific program, speakers and registration can be found at [www.colloquium.info](http://www.colloquium.info).

Thank you for your time and we hope to see you at the Colloquium. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you would like more information.

With best wishes,

Associate Professor Sally Green  
Director, Australasian Cochrane Centre  
Co-Chair of Colloquium Organising Committee

Steve McDonald  
Assistant Director Australasian Cochrane Centre  
Co-Chair of Colloquium Organising Committee



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### Sponsorship Options for the 13<sup>th</sup> Cochrane Colloquium

The Cochrane Collaboration is an international, not for profit, organisation committed to the preparation, maintenance and dissemination of systematic reviews of healthcare interventions. Thanks to the dedication of more than 10,000 contributors worldwide, *The Cochrane Library* now includes over 2200 reviews representing both an important source of evidence to guide decisions and a major body of research that has had significant Australian input.

The Colloquium provides an opportunity to advance the work of the Collaboration and shape its future direction by advancing the knowledge and skills of contributors; engaging new contributors; facilitating partnerships between clinicians, researchers, policy makers, funders and consumers; and encouraging discussion and debate.

We seek your support to help us deliver a program that engages a broad cross section of participants and supports the contribution of people from developing countries and consumers, whose needs and perspectives are under represented in research.

Sponsorship options and details of how your support will be recognised are described below. If you would like more information or wish to provide sponsorship, please contact Sue Brennan, our Sponsorship Coordinator, on 9594 7566 or by email [sue.brennan@med.monash.edu.au](mailto:sue.brennan@med.monash.edu.au)

#### Sponsor a stipend to support our developing country contributors attend the Colloquium

Each year the Collaboration awards stipends to contributors from developing countries to enable them to attend and participate in the Colloquium. Providing sponsorship for stipends is one way to demonstrate your commitment to ensuring that all countries, regardless of wealth, have an opportunity to contribute to systematic reviews used to inform healthcare decisions. Stipends are allocated based on merit, and to be eligible, applicants need to have a proven record of significant contributions during the previous year.

\$5000 AUD will pay for international airfares, accommodation, registration fee and living expenses for one person. Full or partial support of stipends is welcome.

#### Sponsor a stipend to support a consumer to attend the Colloquium

Your sponsorship will support consumer involvement in systematic reviews and help ensure that all reviews reflect the needs and perspectives of healthcare consumers. Consumers contribute to the editorial process, the production of reviews and the preparation of plain language summaries. The Colloquium provides an important opportunity to facilitate this involvement, allowing consumers to acquire knowledge and skills in a forum that provides ample opportunity to share experiences with others. Stipends are allocated based on merit, and preference is given to applicants who are actively involved in the Collaboration. Australian and overseas consumers are eligible and at least one stipend is reserved for a consumer from a developing country.

\$4000 AUD will pay for an average stipend which includes international or domestic airfares, accommodation, registration fee and living expenses. Full or partial support of stipends is welcome.

#### Sponsor a plenary session

The plenary sessions provide an opportunity to hear how the Collaboration is responding to the challenges it faces in producing reviews that are both relevant and widely used. The sessions promise to be informative and thought-provoking for Colloquium newcomers and veterans alike, and will highlight the new directions the Collaboration is exploring.

#### Plenary Session 1 - Developing a valid product people want: how do we improve the format and content of reviews?

Co-Chairs: Jean Slutsky (Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality), Cindy Farquhar (University of Auckland, Cochrane Menstrual Disorders and Subfertility Group)

Speakers: Mike Clarke (UK Cochrane Centre), Jonathan Craig (University of Sydney) and Doug Altman (Centre for Statistics in Medicine, Oxford)



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### Plenary Session 2 - Doing the right reviews: how do we ensure our reviews bring about answers to important questions?

*Co-Chairs: Paul Garner (Liverpool School of Tropical Diseases, Cochrane Infectious Diseases Review Group), Cath Harmer (Department of Human Services, Victoria)*

*Speakers: Elizabeth Waters (Deakin University, Cochrane Health Promotion and Public Health Field), Sir Iain Chalmers (James Lind Alliance, Oxford) and Prathap Tharyan (South Asian Cochrane Network, Christian Medical College, Vellore)*

### Plenary Session 3 - Growing partnerships: how do we enable wide participation and access?

*Co-Chairs: Luis Gabriel Cuervo (BMJ Knowledge), Pisake Lumbiganon (Khon Kaen University, Thai Cochrane Network)*

*Speakers: Mary Ann Lansang (University of the Philippines), Will Parks (JTA International, Australia) and Metin Gulmezoglu (World Health Organization)*

More information about each plenary session, with links to speaker bios and photos, can be found on our website: [www.colloquium.info](http://www.colloquium.info)

\$8000 AUD will help cover the costs for delivering a plenary session. Full or partial support is welcome.

### Consumer workshop program

\$2750 AUD will cover registration for 10 consumers to attend a one day program that includes tailored workshops and attendance at the opening plenary session. Full or partial support is welcome.

The cost of delivering the consumer workshops have been sponsored by the National Institute of Clinical Studies.

### Sponsor a social event

Colloquia provide important opportunities for members of the Collaboration to get together at social, cultural and recreational events. These events help break down barriers to participation and foster new partnerships. If you would like more information about sponsoring a social event please contact Sue Brennan.

Information about our social program is available at: [www.colloquium.info](http://www.colloquium.info)

### Recognition of your support

Your sponsorship will have an important impact on contributors to the Cochrane Collaboration and the Organising Committee is pleased to be able to acknowledge your contribution in the following ways:

For sponsorship of stipends

- > Inclusion of your organisation's name and logo, with a link to your website, on the Colloquium website
- > Inclusion of your organisation's name and logo in the Colloquium program
- > Recognition as stipend sponsor at the closing session and at appropriate times throughout the Colloquium

For sponsorship of sessions

- > Inclusion of your organisation's name and logo, with a link to your website, on the Colloquium website
- > Inclusion of your organisation's name and logo in the Colloquium program
- > Recognition as the official sponsor of the session by Chair during the session
- > Inclusion of logo and acknowledgement as official sponsor on introductory slide for the sponsored session
- > Opportunity to display your organisation's banner at the session (full sponsorship only)

We are happy to discuss the details of acknowledgement with you and will confirm all arrangements in writing.

### Further information and expressions of interest

Please contact Sue Brennan on +61 3 9594 7566 or by email [sue.brennan@med.monash.edu](mailto:sue.brennan@med.monash.edu) for more information or to express your interest in providing sponsorship.

To help us ensure that your sponsorship has maximum impact we ask you to submit your expression of interest by the following dates: For stipends - by the **30<sup>th</sup> May 2005** For other sponsorship - by the **30<sup>th</sup> July 2005**

The Organising Committee is extremely grateful for all offers of assistance and will follow the Collaboration's Colloquium Sponsorship Policy and principles of independence, transparency, promotion of worldwide access and encouragement of diversity when considering offers. Commercial funding from medical and pharmaceutical companies will not be accepted.

Any profit made from registration fees for the Colloquium will be used to further the Collaboration's work and fund stipends for contributors from developing countries and consumers at future Colloquia.