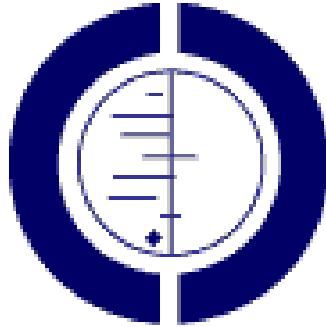

THE COCHRANE COLLABORATION



Acute Respiratory Infections Group

Newsletter 40 September 2008

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A word from the Co-ordinating Editor

Dear Readers

Freiburg 2008

We are approaching the upcoming 16th Cochrane Colloquium. This is a great opportunity for us all to get together and deal with Cochrane business, hear about new changes in the Collaboration, and learn some new stuff. I can't get away sadly, but Liz Dooley (Review Group Co-ordinator) and Sarah Thorning (Trial Search Co-ordinator) will be there, and eagerly anticipate meeting you.



Hobart 2008

An Australasian Cochrane Symposium was held in Hobart in May. This was really a miniature of the Colloquium – that is, an opportunity to catch up with old friends; update on what's happening in the Collaboration; and learn some new tricks. Congratulations to Sally Green and her team for organising a great event.

Workshops

One of our responsibilities is to provide education to people interested in learning about – and, hopefully, doing – Cochrane reviews. We take many opportunities to ensure that this corner of Australia is provided for. To that end we have been running both Evidence-Based Practice workshops, and also Cochrane systematic review workshops for medical students and other professionals. My ideal would be to have every doctor and health professional take on a Cochrane review near the start of, and nurture it for the rest of, their professional lives. Each of us should have one small part of the clinical literature that is forever ours, updated and polished to improve access of good information to other clinicians and their patients.

Wouldn't that be good?

Cheers

Chris Del Mar

Welcome

Sarah Thorning joined the Acute Respiratory Infections (ARI) Group as the Trials Search Co-ordinator in October last year. This is a part-time position. The other half of the working week is spent as a Liaison Librarian with the Health Sciences and Medicine Faculty at Bond University. Sarah has a Bachelor of Science Degree from Griffith University and a Graduate Diploma in Information and Library Studies from Curtin University.

Sarah develops search strategies and executes searches for authors and reviews search terms and strategies for authors who have developed their own search strategies. The Specialised Register proved a special challenge for Sarah as it had not been updated for over a year. Though still not up to date, the Register was submitted to Wiley in May for publication in Issue 2 of *The Cochrane Library*. It continues to

be updated on a regular basis and in future will be submitted for publication with each issue of *The Cochrane Library*.

We are pleased to announce that Dr Inge Axelsson has joined our editorial team. Inge is a Paediatrician based in Sweden and brings with him a wealth of knowledge. Inge has also become a co-author of *Acellular vaccines for preventing whooping cough in children*.

We are also delighted to welcome Johannes van der Wouden to our editorial team. He has extensive experience as an author, referee and translator for a number of entities within the Cochrane Collaboration and is also a member of the Steering Group. Hans resides in The Netherlands.

We hope that Sarah, Inge and Hans enjoy their time with us.

Farewell

We regret to announce that Juan Manuel Lozano and Abigail Fraser recently resigned from their role as ARI Group Editors. We would like to warmly thank both Editors for their valuable contributions to the quality of ARI Group reviews. Their dedicated support and expertise will be missed. We wish them all the best for the future.

Rev Man 5

It has been a very busy year for the ARI Group as one of the four pilot groups that was involved in the initial Pilot Period of the new RevMan 5 software.



During the Pilot Period we had a number of great suggestions from the Pilot groups, which allowed us to make a number of positive changes before the new software was implemented across the whole Cochrane Collaboration. Some of the comments that we received were:

- Add review number, as well as review title to RevMan 5 for

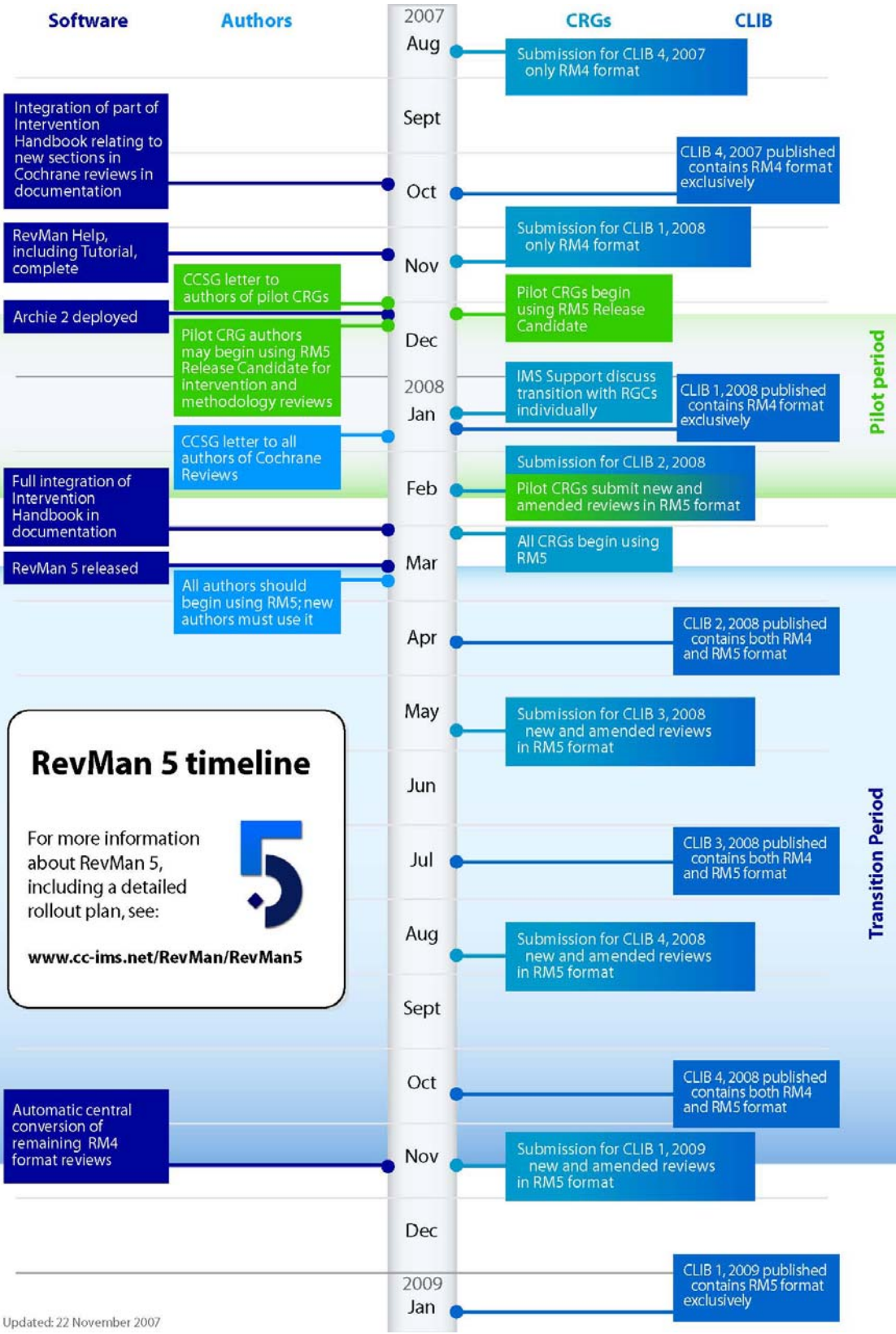
people who keep track of reviews by number

- Add a confirmation step before checking out a review
- Error with 'find and replace' editing tool

After the Pilot problems were corrected, overall feedback for RevMan 5 has been really positive. The main comments have been that tables are much easier to read and edit, the interface for RevMan 5 is more user-friendly, and reviews are much easier to read now because you no longer have to open and close new screens to access each section of the review.

The problems that used to occur in RevMan 4, such as, authors working on multiple copies of the same review and old versions of reviews being checked in no longer occur in RevMan 5. This has made editing and keeping track of the most recent version of reviews much easier, as only one person can check a review out to edit at a time.

We are now nearing the end of the transition period from RevMan 4 to RevMan 5, and central conversion of remaining RevMan 4 reviews will take place in November. All reviews will be published in RevMan 5 format in Issue 1, 2009 of *The Cochrane Library*. Please see the following page for RevMan 5 timelines.



RevMan 5 timeline

For more information about RevMan 5, including a detailed rollout plan, see:

www.cc-ims.net/RevMan/RevMan5



Updated: 22 November 2007

Upcoming Colloquium in Freiburg



The 16th Annual Cochrane Colloquium will be held in Freiburg, Germany, 3 - 7 October 2008.

The major theme of this year's colloquium is "Evidence in the era of globalisation".

Other themes include:

- Consumer issues and shared decision making
- Methodology of diagnostic test accuracy, non-randomised studies, qualitative studies, statistics, and reporting and publication
- Disseminating reviews and their findings
- Downstream products of reviews
- Editorial process and supporting reviewers
- Education and training issues
- Health economics and equity
- Implementation and impact of reviews
- Information technology
- Policy maker issues
- Resource-constrained country issues
- Searching and information retrieval
- Study quality

The Cochrane Colloquium 2008 will be a great opportunity to interact with many people active in evidence-based health care, global knowledge management and systematic reviews. It will also be a chance to catch up on current international developments and attend workshops to delve further into individual topics.

There will be dozens of workshops tailored to specific areas. There will be opportunities to tailor this Colloquium to meet your own needs, with plenary sessions, parallel sessions, poster presentations, workshops and opportunities for meetings, accommodating the needs of both veterans of the Cochrane Collaboration and newcomers.

Australasian Cochrane Symposium 22 - 23 May 2008

The annual Symposium was held on 22 - 23 May 2008 in Hobart, Tasmania.

Over 70 Cochrane contributors from Australia and New Zealand met in Hobart in May for the annual Australasian symposium. Sessions on the first morning included a personal account from Sophie Hill on the evolution of the new Co-ordinating Editors' editorial board and a glimpse into the future of the Cochrane IMS from Monica Kjeldstrøm. There were several presentations on the emerging methodologies involved in evidence mapping, a technique that promises to be valuable for prioritising Cochrane reviews.

Practical workshops included new methods for combining continuous data and how to generate summary of findings tables that are now available in RevMan. Peter Jüni showed us the possibilities that lie ahead by presenting his work exploring mixed treatment or networking meta-analyses. The focus of the second day was on the use of evidence by policy makers.

The chance to catch up socially and networking is always a feature of these meetings. The Symposium dinner was a special occasion this year because it marked the official launch of the new Cochrane Public Health Review Group.

Recent workshops and events

Cochrane ARI Group workshops

Chris Del Mar, Mieke van Driel and Sarah Thorning, in collaboration with Bond University's PHCRED Co-ordinator, Elly Scheermeyer, have been conducting a series of Cochrane systematic review workshops for Bond University medical students and other interested professionals. The purpose of the workshops is to increase the publication of Cochrane systematic reviews.

The first workshop is a general introduction to the systematic review process, with an overview, and discussion of how to phrase a question and how to search whether a topic has already been reviewed. In this session attendants are

encouraged to group themselves according to their interests.

The focus of the second session is discussing more thoroughly the phrasing of the question, how to register a title and how to research the literature. Following this session the groups that have committed to write a review will be guided through the process of registering the title, writing the protocol, doing a meta-analysis, and using software such as Endnote and RevMan.

These sessions have been very successful and have received a lot of positive feedback. A number of new titles have been identified, orphaned reviews taken over, and new reviews registered across the Cochrane Collaboration.

Due to the success of the first round of workshops, another round began on 10 September, 2008. The workshops are being held at Bond University's Health Sciences and Medicine Building. Anyone interested in attending a future workshop can contact Elly Scheermeyer on +61 7 5595 4411 or email escheerm@bond.edu.au

EBM Workshops

Chris Del Mar and other Evidence-Based-Medicine (EBM) colleagues will be running a 2-day EBM workshop from Friday 24 October to Saturday 25 October, 2008.

This will be an intensive interactive workshop designed for clinicians wanting to learn and apply evidence-based-practice in their clinical area.

Day 1 will be an introduction to evidence-based-practice, and day 2 will be about how to organise and run an EBM Journal Club.

For further information please contact Elly Scheermeyer on +61 7 5595 4411 or email escheerm@bond.edu.au. To register for this 2-day workshop, please go to www.bond.edu.au/hsm.

Funding

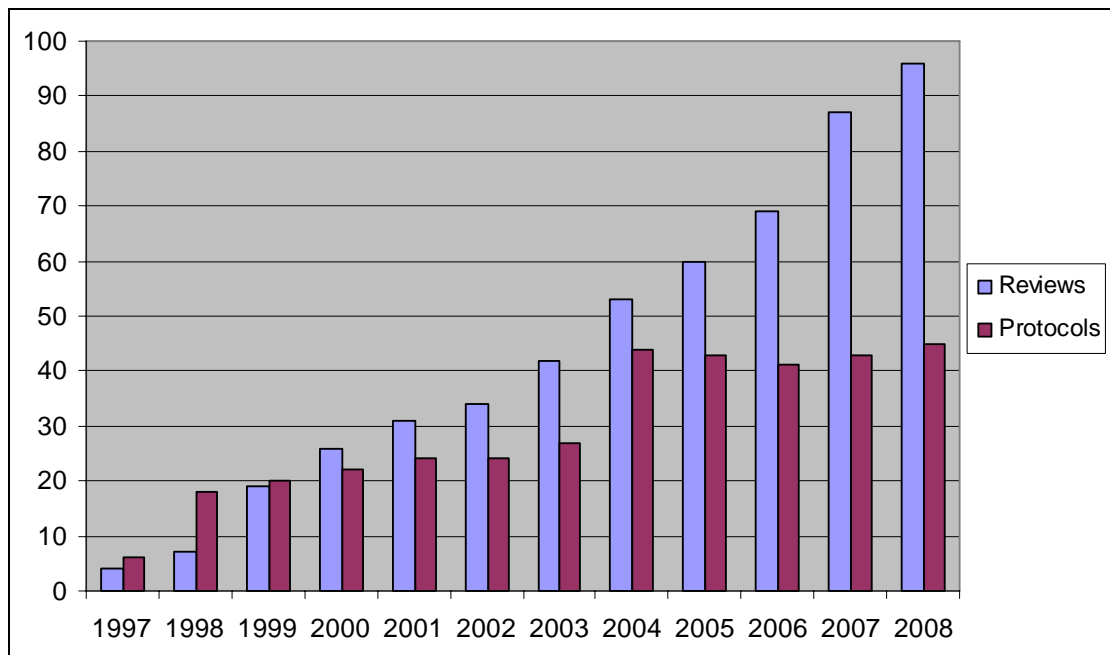
The ARI Group has received continued funding from the Department of Health and Aging for a Review Group Co-ordinator (RGC for another 12 months).

ARI Group website

The Cochrane ARI Group website (<http://ari.cochrane.org>) is up and running and proving to be a great resource. Issue 4, 2008 of *The Cochrane Library* is now accessible from this website.

Anyone with an interest in authoring a Cochrane review or assisting as a referee should go to the 'Getting involved' link on the ARI Group website and submit the relevant form.

Progress of the ARI Group's output of published protocols and reviews on *The Cochrane Library*



Latest additions to *The Cochrane Library*

Issue 4, 2008 includes a number of new reviews and protocols as well as a substantially updated reviews produced by the ARI Group. A big thanks to all those who contributed.

New protocols published since August 2007

- Heliox for croup in children (Vorwerk C, Coats T)
- Nebulised colistin for nosocomial *Acinetobacter baumannii* respiratory tract infection (Wareham D, Bean D)
- Saline nasal irrigation for acute upper respiratory tract infections (Kassel J, King D, Spurling GKP)
- Heliox inhalation therapy for bronchiolitis in infants (Liet J, Ducruet T, Gupta V, Cambonie G)
- Probiotics for preventing acute upper respiratory tract infections (Lu Z, Dong B, Huang C, Wu T)
- Comparing antibiotics for acute exacerbations of chronic

obstructive pulmonary disease (Ram FSF, Barnes NC, Granados-Navarrete A, Garcia-Aymerich J, Sestini P, Melani AS, Rodriguez-Roisin R)

- Honey for acute cough in children (Oduwole O, Meremikwu MM, Oyo-Ita A, Udoh EE)
- Xylitol for preventing acute otitis media in children up to 12 years of age (Azarpazhooh A, Lawrence HP, Limeback H, Shah PS)
- Fluid therapy for pneumonia (Correia JB, Bezerra PGM, Duarte MMB, Britto MCA, Mello MJG)
- Procalcitonin to initiate or withhold antibiotics in acute respiratory tract infections (Schuetz P, Briel M, Christ-Crain M, Wolbers M, Stolz D, Tamm M, Bucher H, Müller B)
- Zinc supplementation as an adjunct to antibiotics for pneumonia in children 2 to 59 months of age (Haider BA, Humayun Q, Bhutta ZA)

New reviews published since August 2007

- Interventions for the interruption or reduction of the spread of

respiratory viruses (Jefferson T, Foxlee R, Del Mar C, Dooley L, Ferroni E, Hewak B, Prabhala A, Nair S, Rivetti A)

- Over-the-counter (OTC) medications to reduce cough as an adjunct to antibiotics for acute pneumonia in children and adults (Chang CC, Cheng AC, Chang AB)
- Amantadine and rimantadine for influenza A in children and the elderly (Alves Galvão MG, Rocha Crispino Santos MA, Alves da Cunha AJL)
- Pre admission antibiotics for suspected cases of meningococcal disease (Sudarsanam T, Rupali P, Tharyan P, Abraham OC, Thomas K)
- Vitamin A for preventing acute lower respiratory tract infections in children up to seven years of age (Chen H, Zhuo Q, Yuan W, Wang J, Wu T)
- Short-course versus long-course antibiotic therapy for non-severe community-acquired pneumonia in children aged 2 months to 59 months (Haider BA, Saeed MA, Bhutta ZA)
- Pelargonium sidoides extract for acute respiratory tract infections (Timmer A, Günther J, Rücker G, Motschall E, Antes G, Kern WV)
- Vaccines for post-exposure prophylaxis against varicella (chickenpox) in children & adults (Macartney K, McIntyre P)
- Nebulized hypertonic saline solution for acute bronchiolitis in infants (Zhang L, Mendoza-Sassi RA, Wainwright C, Klassen TP)
- Once or twice daily versus three times daily amoxicillin with or without clavulanate for the treatment of acute otitis media (Thanaviratananich S, Laopaiboon M, Vatanasapt P)
- Quantitative versus qualitative cultures of respiratory secretions for clinical outcomes in patients with ventilator-associated pneumonia (Berton DC, Kalil AC, Cavalcanti M,

Teixeira PJZ)

Updated reviews published since August 2007

- Chinese medicinal herbs for influenza (Chen XY, Wu TX, Liu GJ, Wang Q, Zheng J, Wei J, Ni J, Zhou LK, Duan X, Qiao JQ)
- Third generation cephalosporins versus conventional antibiotics for treating acute bacterial meningitis (Prasad K, Kumar A, Gupta PK, Singhal T)
- Azithromycin for acute lower respiratory tract infections (Panpanich R, Lerttrakarnnon P, Laopaiboon M)
- Chest radiograph in acute respiratory infections (Swingler GH, Zwarenstein M)
- Chinese medicinal herbs for acute bronchitis (Wei J, Ni J, Wu T, Chen X, Duan X, Liu G, Qiao J, Wang Q, Zheng J, Zhou L)
- Continuous negative extrathoracic pressure or continuous positive airway pressure for acute hypoxemic respiratory failure in children (Shah PS, Ohlsson A, Shah JP)
- Empiric antibiotic coverage of atypical pathogens for community acquired pneumonia in hospitalized adults (Robenshtok E, Shefet D, Gafter-Gvili A, Paul M, Vidal L, Leibovici L)
- Fluid therapy for acute bacterial meningitis (Maconochie I, Baumer H, Stewart MER)
- Over-the-counter medications for acute cough in children and adults in ambulatory settings (Smith SM, Schroeder K, Fahey T)
- Vaccines for preventing pneumococcal infection in adults (Moberley SA, Holden J, Tatham DP, Andrews RM)
- Antibiotics for acute maxillary sinusitis (Ahovuo-Saloranta A, Borisenko OV, Kovanen N, Varonen H, Rautakorpi U-M, Williams Jr JW, Mäkelä M)
- Vaccines for preventing influenza in healthy children (Jefferson T,

- Rivetti A, Harnden A, Di Pietrantonj C, Demicheli V
- Vitamin A for non-measles pneumonia in children (Ni J, Wei J, Wu T)
- Antibiotics for preventing complications in children with measles (Kabra S, Lodha R, Hilton DJ)
- Decongestants and antihistamines for acute otitis media in children (Coleman C, Moore M)
- Echinacea for preventing and treating the common cold (Linde K, Barrett B, Bauer R, Melchart D, Woelkart K)
- Chinese herbs combined with Western medicine for severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) (Liu X, Zhang M, He L, Li Y, Kang Y)

A big thank you to all the members of the ARI Group, who continue to contribute to our success.