



COCHRANE

CHILD HEALTH FIELD

Newsletter

November, '08

Hello again to all Child Health Field members. The Child Health Field has recently had the great joy of having so much information to send out to our members, that we decided to write this special edition of the newsletter. Please read below for updates regarding the Child Health Field and other initiatives.

2008 Cochrane Colloquium in Freiburg, Germany

The theme of this year's Cochrane Colloquium was, "Evidence in the era of globalization." The program was designed to challenge Cochrane's current scope of work and provoke thought about whether we are truly a global organization – and whether we truly want to be.

The Colloquium was of particular interest for the Child Health Field, as points raised by several of the speakers were related, in one way or another, to global child health. The importance of enhancing the linkages between research and policy was brought up many times, with speakers emphasizing the need for partnerships and collaboration.

Tore Godal, an international public health specialist who works as a special advisor to the Prime Minister of Norway, spoke about the crucial contribution that the Cochrane Collaboration could make to achieving Millennium Development Goals #4 (reduce child mortality) and #5 (improve maternal health) by working in the areas of evidence review and methodological development.

Richard Horton, editor of *The Lancet*, spoke at both a plenary on "Health care and globalisation: does evidence make a difference?" and an impromptu extra session on "Should Cochrane be more global?" With a focus on MDGs 4, and 5, Horton discussed the work the *Lancet* has done in partnership with many academic researchers to collate and disseminate knowledge about what works in maternal and child health, particularly its special issues presenting data on child survival. He emphasized that scientists have a crucial role to play in influencing policy, saying there is "an urgent desperate need for good knowledge to drive decision-making."

Plenary speaker Dr. Leonila Dans spoke about "Globalising knowledge translation for evidence-based care," using newborn screening in the Philippines as a case study. In her talk, she reiterated the challenge she made to the Cochrane Collaboration, particularly the Child Health Field, in an editorial published last year in the Field's journal, *Evidence-Based Child Health: Cochrane should* (i) help identify knowledge gaps and inequities; (ii) take advantage of its network of collaborators to increase capacity for primary research and systematic reviews in developing countries; and (iii) encourage governments and non-governmental organizations to continually adopt evidence-based strategies in their efforts to promote child health and development amidst poverty(1).

In many of the talks at Colloquium, Cochranites – review authors, entity staff, and others – were repeatedly challenged to be more involved in implementation of review findings and in getting reviews used. Richard Horton made the point that nobody cares more about the implications of a particular review than those who wrote it, so authors have an important role to play in making sure that their work has an impact.

We'd be interested in hearing from Field members about how Cochrane, especially the Child Health Field, could be active in the global health community. Please contact the Field Administrator, Denise Thomson, at dthomson@ualberta.ca with your suggestions. We'll publish your thoughts in upcoming newsletters.

(1) Roth, DE and Dans LF. Putting the Cochrane Collaboration to work for global child health. *Evidence-Based Child Health* 2(3): 2007, pp. 940-42.

Education, crime and justice, and social welfare: call for papers

The *Lancet* and The Campbell Collaboration are hosting a joint conference in Oslo, Norway that will coincide with The Campbell Collaboration's annual Colloquium. The conference theme is "Better evidence for a better world." The conference organizers are accepting papers related to education, crime and justice, and social welfare until Dec. 15, 2008. Please see the attached article from the *Lancet* for more information on this exciting opportunity.

Submission address (please submit papers online): Arild Bjørndal, Richard Horton, Campbell Collaboration, Norwegian Knowledge Centre for the Health Services, N-0130 Oslo, Norway (AB); and The *Lancet*, London, UK (RH), arb@nokc.no

Note: Please note in the covering letter that your submission is in response to The *Lancet*'s call for papers.

Financial support for patients to attend the Canadian Cochrane Symposium

The Canadian Cochrane Centre and Network offers an annual stipend to help support patients (consumers) to attend the Canadian Cochrane Symposium. The deadline for applications is Dec. 1, 2008. If you are interested in applying, please see the attached application. If you would like additional information on the Symposium please visit www.wavetothefuture.ca. For any questions about the Symposium or application process, please contact Cheryl Arratoon at the address below. Cheryl Arratoon: Knowledge Broker, Canadian Cochrane Centre, carratoo@uottawa.ca, 613-562-5800 ext 2085.

Survey: Cochrane Collaboration Strategic Review

The Cochrane Collaboration is currently conducting a review of its operations with the goal of making recommendations on how to take the Collaboration forward for the next 10 years. If you would like to contribute to the conversation, please fill out the one-page survey by clicking on the link below.

<http://www3.cochrane.org/surveys/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=n4LJ9nm>

Additional Information?

Please visit our website at www.cochranechildhealth.ualberta.ca or email us at child@ualberta.ca.