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**New Cochrane journal:  
Evidence-Based Child Health**  
See page 10

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## From Argentina to Oxford

Yanina Sguassero shares her experience  
as the 2004/05 Aubrey Sheiham Scholar

When I was asked to write about my personal experience as the recipient of the Aubrey Sheiham Scholarship in 2004/05, lots of positive thoughts came into my mind...

“Cochrane” was an unknown word for me until I started to work at the Centro Rosarino de Estudios Perinatales, a WHO collaborative centre in child and maternal health and population studies. I was surprised to learn of this ‘virtual library’ of systematic reviews. It shocked me to know that there was an international network built upon centres around the world and people from different countries and cultures sharing purposes and working together. And not only that: one of the principal aims of this collaboration was to promote the accessibility of systematic reviews of the effects of healthcare interventions, including those addressing health problems in the developing world!

I was working on an overview of interventions aimed at preventing or treating growth faltering in pre-school children jointly with the Department of Nutrition of the World Health Organization, when we decided to conduct a systematic review to assess the effectiveness of supplementary feeding programmes for promoting the growth of young children in developing countries. After registering this title, Jane Dennis, the Co-ordinator of the Cochrane Developmental, Psychosocial and Learning Problems Group (CDPLPG), suggested that I should apply for the Aubrey Sheiham Public Health and Primary Care Scholarship. She sent me the leaflet with a brief description of the scope, aims and duties of this scholarship.



Yanina Sguassero, recipient of the  
2004/05 Aubrey Sheiham Scholarship

Although I was a junior researcher and a non-native English speaker, I said to myself: why not? Well, I was to spend three months in the UK even though the idea of leaving my husband and my two little girls was not an easy decision to make. However, I decided to apply for the scholarship because of the magnitude of this challenging opportunity, i.e. studying and working at the UK Cochrane Centre (UKCC), having ‘protected time’ to complete my review while living in a university town *par excellence*.

Honestly, I was deeply honoured to be awarded this scholarship. I still

(Continued on page 3)

**COCHRANE NEWS****From the Co-Chairs**

*Cochrane News* is published by the Canadian Cochrane Centre (CCC).

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*Cochrane News* is the international newsletter of The Cochrane Collaboration (UK Registered Charity No. 1045921 registered in England No. 3044323). It is distributed by Cochrane Centres worldwide. The views expressed are those of the authors, and are not necessarily shared by The Cochrane Collaboration, the Editor, or the Advisory Committee.

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**By Mark Davies and Steff Lewis**

Following the decision of the Steering Group to establish representation for TSCs/Information Specialists on the Steering Group, we are very pleased to welcome Dymphna Hermans, TSC for the Dementia and Cognitive Improvement Group, to the Steering Group as TSC representative. We very much look forward to working with her.

As priority setting was an important theme at the last Cochrane Colloquium in Melbourne, the Steering Group has decided to devote a half day of their next face-to-face meeting to a brainstorming session on this. As we write this, the details have yet to be worked out, but we hope to discuss how to prioritise the work of CRGs and the related issues of flexibility, relevance and accessibility. Many thanks to Liz Waters, Peter Tugwell, Lisa Bero and Jini Hetherington for their hard work on this.

We have also been exploring whether we should, and how we could, produce short versions of Cochrane reviews. There seems to be a general consensus that a short version is needed, and we are currently investigating what it should contain, and how to avoid creating too many extra challenges in the editorial process.

Many of you will have used *The Cochrane Library* over the last few months and taken part in the survey that Wiley have been running to see who uses, and why they use, *The Cochrane Library*. We look forward to the results of this survey which will be of great interest to all of us.

*Mark Davies and Steff Lewis, Co-Chairs  
Cochrane Collaboration Steering Group*

**Letter from the Editor**

Welcome to the first edition of *Cochrane News* for 2006. First, I would like to welcome Elizabeth Pienaar, TSC at the South African Cochrane Centre, as the newest member of the Cochrane News and CCIInfo Advisory Committee. Elizabeth has taken over from Mark Fenton as the TSC representative. If you are a TSC and you have an idea for an article or a comment on the newsletter, don't hesitate to contact Elizabeth at [Elizabeth.Pienaar@mrc.ac.za](mailto:Elizabeth.Pienaar@mrc.ac.za). Sincere thanks to Mark for his contributions as a member of the Committee.

Don't forget that registrations are now open for the 14th Cochrane Colloquium, to be hosted by the UK Cochrane Centre in Dublin, Ireland. As always, information on the Colloquium is available at [www.colloquium.info](http://www.colloquium.info), including information on the stipends available to consumers and people from developing countries.

Here in Canada, Spring is here, the ice is melting and the squirrels and birds are busy everywhere. As you browse through the newsletter, you will see that the Collaboration is also busy, with many different projects under way. Thanks to all of you who took the time to share your news with us.

*Miranda Cumpston  
Editor, Cochrane News*

**Please send your announcements and other news items to [cochrane@uottawa.ca](mailto:cochrane@uottawa.ca)**

## From Argentina to Oxford (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

remember my emotion when Jimmy Volmink, Co-Director of the South African Cochrane Centre, sent me an e-mail of congratulations for this achievement! I was also lucky enough that Phil Alderson and Nicola McDowell from the UKCC invited me to attend my first Cochrane Colloquium in Ottawa as the Aubrey Sheiham Scholar.

During my first week in Oxford, I attended a short course of systematic reviews at the University that allowed me to make a self-assessment of my skills and basic knowledge for conducting a Cochrane systematic review.

After this first week, Esther Coren, UKCC Training Lecturer at the time, kindly helped me to outline a list of principal objectives to be accomplished during my training. To ensure that the aims were met, I asked for permission to attend a course focused on meta-analysis and to attend different workshops. The scholarship allowed me to attend a short course at the University of Bristol, where it was my pleasure to meet Matthias Egger and exchange some opinions about the work done with him and other reviewers! Meetings were also arranged with Anne Eisinga, information specialist at the UKCC, to learn more about software programs for recording and managing the results of my searches. In addition, regular meetings were held with Jane Dennis to successfully complete the review.

All these achievements were supported by the kindness of the UKCC staff, the experienced advice of Nandi Siegfried from the South African Cochrane Centre (my workmate and friend), and the valuable assistance of Jo Abbott (TSC of the CDPLPG).

Finally, from a personal point of view, I feel the need to thank Professor Aubrey Sheiham especially. I was touched by his generosity and his benevolence. Thank you very much for supporting this scholarship and for the lovely month I spent with my family at the nice flat in the neighbourhood of Jericho!

I'd also like to acknowledge the tremendous commitment of Jini Hetherington, the administrator of The Cochrane Collaboration. Loads of thanks to her (from the bottom of my heart) for the sunny mornings at the car-boot sales, the appetizing meals at her house and the sincere support she has given me throughout. We are friends for life!

*Yanina Sguassero, Paediatrician, Rosario, Argentina  
Advisory Board Member, Cochrane Child Health Field.*

### Did you know?

**Aubrey Sheiham** is a dental epidemiologist who was inspired and encouraged by Archie Cochrane to question many of the practices in medicine and dentistry.

The Aubrey Sheiham Public Health and Primary Care Scholarship is a three-month scholarship offered annually by The Cochrane Collaboration to health workers, consumers and researchers living in developing countries. The aim of the Scholarship is to enable the development of skills in preparing systematic reviews.

For further information, see:  
[www.cochrane.org/docs/  
Fellowshipsandscholarships.htm](http://www.cochrane.org/docs/Fellowshipsandscholarships.htm)

## New websites for Cochrane entities

Twenty Cochrane entities are pilot users of the Entity Website Builder. This is a system developed at the German Cochrane Centre that helps entity staff create and maintain their entity's website within a standardized Cochrane template. Users are provided web-ready content from their entity module in 'Archie', and from centrally-managed content on [cochrane.org](http://cochrane.org). They can also add their own content and pick from a variety of page themes to build the final pages. At the end of the pilot phase, the system will be offered to all interested Cochrane entities. Three sites are already 'live': The UK Cochrane Centre: [www.cochrane.co.uk](http://www.cochrane.co.uk), The German Cochrane Centre: [www.cochrane.de](http://www.cochrane.de), and UKCC's Bahrain Branch: [bahrain.cochrane.org](http://bahrain.cochrane.org).

*Dave Booker, Web Team Manager, The Cochrane Collaboration*



## Australia Day medal for Cochrane contributor

As part of this year's Australia Day celebrations, long-standing Cochrane contributor David Henderson-Smart has been honoured with an AO (Officer in the Order of Australia) medal. David's award was given in recognition of his service to medicine, particularly in the fields of paediatrics and neonatal and perinatal care as a clinician, researcher, administrator and educator.

David's medical career began early, accompanying his GP father on trips to Zulu villages in Natal, South Africa. After graduating from medicine, David spent a year as a GP at a large general hospital in Hamilton, New Zealand, before deciding to try paediatrics. His interest in neonatal medicine, especially the mechanics of breathing, led to a PhD in physiology, and internationally renowned work in respiratory physiology. After a post-doc year in Oxford, David returned to Sydney as a staff specialist in neonatal medicine, and in 1988 was appointed as Professor of Perinatal Medicine at the University of Sydney - the first such appointment in Australia and one of few in the world. David is also Director of the Centre for Perinatal Health Services Research.

David has been actively involved in evidence-based medicine for many years, and his contributions to The Cochrane Collaboration have been broad. Congratulations on a wonderful achievement.

*Miranda Cumpston, Editor  
Cochrane News*



Professor David Henderson-Smart, AO

## Cochrane.org is growing: see what's there!

Cochrane.org now serves ½ million pages each month to over 70,000 visitors! We're proud of the growth in use of the Collaboration's website, and anticipate its reach growing further, along with the rise in global awareness of Cochrane Reviews. Did you know about this content on the site?

- **New! - The Cochrane Methodology Register** can now be searched and browsed, free of charge, at [cochrane.org/cmr](http://cochrane.org/cmr). This is a database of over 7,000 studies relevant to development of methodology in EbHC.
- **New! - Abstracts from past Cochrane Colloquia** posters, workshops and oral presentations are found at [cochrane.org/colloquia](http://cochrane.org/colloquia). This year, the oral presentations from Melbourne have links to the presenters' slides, thanks to a pilot project organized by Jonathan Ipser, an author with the Depression, Anxiety and Neurosis Group.
- **Plain language summaries of Cochrane Reviews** are now found with review abstracts at [cochrane.org/reviews](http://cochrane.org/reviews). You can now browse them by topic. You'll also find abstracts in Spanish one-click-away.
- **An improved Glossary of Terms in The Cochrane Collaboration** can now be found at [cochrane.org/resources/glossary.htm](http://cochrane.org/resources/glossary.htm). Now you can find that mysterious acronym or understand your colleague's statistical jargon!
- **Hitting the Headlines** and **Editor's Picks** are two news columns of interest at [cochrane.org/news](http://cochrane.org/news). **Hitting the Headlines**, produced by the Centre for Reviews and Dissemination in York, UK, provides rapid appraisals of the original research behind selected newspaper stories. A commentary on the accuracy of the reporting is included. **Editor's Picks** is an in-house Cochrane news column, highlighting interesting developments in EbHC. These and other news and events columns are also available for you to use on your own Cochrane websites. Contact [web@cochrane.org](mailto:web@cochrane.org) for details!
- **Google comes to Cochrane!** In response to feedback from you, we'll soon begin rollout of several new features: a new professionally-designed appearance, an improved menu and Google search! We hope you enjoy the familiar Google search interface and results, making it easier to find reviews, training resources, people, and documents quickly and accurately.

*Dave Booker, Web Team Manager, The Cochrane Collaboration*

### Joining, moving, leaving?

Let us know by sending an email to [cochrane@uottawa.ca](mailto:cochrane@uottawa.ca)

## Overviews of Cochrane reviews in complementary medicine

### A joint project between the Consumer Network (CCNet) and the Complementary Medicine Field

The use of complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) by the public is an increasingly common phenomenon. Interestingly, dissatisfaction with conventional medicine is not driving the upsurge in CAM use. Rather, it is associated with the belief that a combination of CAM and conventional treatment provides more optimal healing than conventional medicine alone. CAM users also enjoy a sense of participation in their healing, and feel a similarity between CAM and their personal values and philosophy. An idealised vision of ‘what is natural is good’ also leads people to CAM.



The Cochrane Complementary Medicine Field defines complementary medicine as practices and ideas that are defined by their users as “preventing or treating illness, or promoting health and well being”, and which are “outside the domain of conventional medicine in several countries.” This definition is deliberately broad as therapies considered complementary practices in one country or culture may be conventional in another. Many therapies and practices are included within the scope of the Complementary Medicine Field. These include treatments people can administer themselves (herbs, nutritional supplements, meditation), treatments administered by providers (acupuncture, massage, reflexology, chiropractic and osteopathic manipulations), and treatments under the supervision of a provider (yoga, biofeedback, Tai Chi, homoeopathy, physical therapies and Ayurveda).

People want accessible, evidence-based information about these CAM therapies and practices. They want to know if there is any evidence that they work. Cochrane reviews reported as summaries can provide some of that information, or highlight the lack of it. CCNet has joined with the Complementary Medicine Field to make summaries of Cochrane reviews more available. The overviews produced will provide short and comprehensible summaries of all the Cochrane reviews of CAM therapies used for treating a specific condition. For example, one of the early overviews summarises the Cochrane evidence for the effects of various CAM therapies on menstrual pain. The aim of the overviews is to ensure that the high quality science of the Cochrane CAM reviews is maintained, while also including the perspective of consumers who may use the therapies. The completed overviews will be posted on the Complementary Medicine Field website ([www.compmf.umm.edu/Cochrane](http://www.compmf.umm.edu/Cochrane)) and discussed on the Cochrane Consumer Network website ([www.cochrane.org/consumers](http://www.cochrane.org/consumers)).

*The Cochrane Library* is not readily accessible to consumers. Many, including most North Americans, do not have ready access to the Library, and so this project will go some way to bridging the gap in accessibility to evidence-based information. The overviews prepared will also be available in relevant newsletters, magazines, and other publications. It is hoped that Cochrane Review Groups will assist us in this project, wherever possible.

CCNet and the Complementary Medicine Field were involved in extensive early discussions over the format and structure of these overviews. The project is now organised around a core writing group, with networking and teamwork among CCNet members including the US Cochrane Center’s Consumers United for Evidence-based Healthcare (CUE). We are making every effort to make the information internationally relevant and accessible. A project advisory group oversees this teamwork, its main remit being to ensure quality by providing guidance, feedback and accountability.

*Janet Wale and Eric Manheimer*  
Cochrane Consumer Network

This project is funded in part by the Grant Number R24 AT001293 from the National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (NCCAM). This grant supports the activities of the Complementary Medicine Field at the Center for Integrative Medicine, University of Maryland School of Medicine. The contents of the overviews are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the NCCAM, the National Institutes of Health, or The Cochrane Collaboration.

**Cochrane News** is distributed internationally by Cochrane Centres and through various Cochrane Collaboration mailing lists.

If you do not currently receive **Cochrane News**, please contact your nearest Cochrane Centre (see page 16 for contact details).

## Updating Cochrane reviews

### The Cochrane Infectious Diseases Group (CIDG) approach

#### Background

Keeping reviews up to date is one of the ten principles of The Cochrane Collaboration, but it is a difficult one to achieve, as it requires searching for, and incorporating new trials, and sometimes re-assessing review methods and outcomes. The willingness and availability of the authors to update is also an important factor. The issue of how to facilitate review updates is of relevance for all Review Groups, and current debate within the Collaboration indicates that the 'two-year cycle' is not easy to implement, resulting in out-of-date reviews in the Library. At the CIDG we have recently reassessed our review update policy, and developed a new strategic approach.

#### How we update reviews now – does it work?

The CIDG has so far used the traditional time-based (two-year) approach to review updates. However, for a variety of organizational reasons, this process has turned out to be quite inefficient. As an example, out of 17 systematic search updates for CIDG reviews conducted between January and June 2004, 6 have resulted in a minor review update (no eligible trials found), but 11 have resulted in no update (as of October 2005), for the following reasons:

- Seven searches gave eligible trials, according to the author's assessment, but the update has not been completed yet.
- Three authors were unable to commit to update the review.
- One author was untraceable.

This situation led to out-of date reviews being present in *The Cochrane Library*, and to an increased workload for the editorial base in terms of correspondence with authors, identifying new ones, and conducting additional searches for trials.

#### Looking forward

In July 2005 we started reassessing our strategy for facilitating review updates. Rather than focusing on a time-based approach, we identified the factors we consider most relevant to decide whether a review needs updating:

Is the review up to date?	How important is this topic?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Age of review</li> <li>• Number of trials and participants identified by new search in relation to the number of participants already included</li> <li>• Could we base policy on the current results?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Burden of disease</li> <li>• Interventions relevant to developing countries or to Millennium Development Goals</li> <li>• Fast moving field of research?</li> <li>• Equipoise where there is current debate</li> <li>• Is it a strategic priority?</li> </ul>

We applied these questions initially to 6 out-of-date reviews. Newly identified trials were assessed for inclusion by two people from the editorial team and answers to these questions were prepared. An editorial consensus divided reviews into three:

- 1. Those where it would not be sensible to base policy on the current review:** these reviews were immediately withdrawn and new authors were sought (two reviews). A note explaining the reasons for reviews' withdrawal was added to *The Cochrane Library*.
- 2. Those where the additional trials would probably not change the findings.** These were left on the Library, with the authors requested to update (one review), or new authors sought (two reviews).
- 3. Those where no trials for potential inclusion were identified.** Search dates were revised in the current review and no other changes were made (one review).

#### Will it work?

Our new priority-setting approach shifts the initial assessment of the need for a review update from the author to the

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## Organizer: a good way to start your day in Archie

One of the more recent additions to Archie's interface is the Organizer tab. Organizer gives Archie's users a quick overview of the current events entered in the calendar of their entities, and also shows them how many messages they have.



You can make Organizer your start page in Archie by opening Preferences from the Tools menu, and then picking Organizer under Start page.

### The Calendar

The Calendar can be used both for personal entries and for entries that are available to all members of an entity. Events that are shared across an entity can be viewed by all users with a role in the entity, but they can only be created and edited by the entity's Super Users.

Calendar entries are each linked to a specific time zone, but displayed in local time for each user viewing them. For example, a teleconference entered as taking place at noon, UK time, will correctly show up as beginning at one o'clock for a participant in France.

The Calendar is also used for alerting users to submission deadlines and planned Archie maintenance.

### Messages

Archie's users regularly receive useful messages, such as general system messages or messages that relate to administrating an entity. Organizer shows the number you have in each category and provides quick access to the messages.

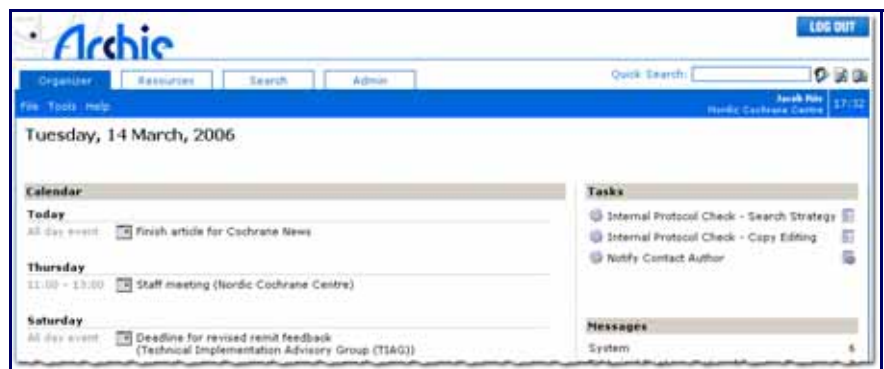
Archie messages are important because CRG Super Users send 'suggest changes' messages in Archie if a set of contact details for one of their authors needs updating by another entity. If contact details for review authors are not kept up-to-date, incorrect contact details could be attached to reviews and protocols and published in *The Cochrane Library*.

**Tip:** Archie users can choose to have their messages sent to their email address instead of inside Archie. This can be set using 'Edit notifications' on the Settings tab of your Properties sheet.

### Future plans

One of the major features of the new IMS is the workflow system, which has yet not been introduced. Once it becomes available to Archie's users it will also have a section under Organizer where you can quickly see if there are any tasks that require your attention – a simple example is pictured here.

Jacob Riis, IMS Support  
Nordic Cochrane Centre



### Archie Basics

- Archie is the central server used by Cochrane entities to manage documents and contact details.
- Each entity has a 'Super User' who manages the entity's information in Archie, and controls the members' access to Archie. The 'average' members, such as review authors, are not yet supposed to be using Archie.
- Archie is part of the Information Management System (IMS) – see [www.cc-ims.net](http://www.cc-ims.net).

## Updating Cochrane reviews (cont.)

(Continued from page 6)

editorial team. The new factors we take into consideration help us to identify reviews which do not need to be updated or those where new methodology has to be applied. This will result in a more realistic dialogue with the existing review authors regarding planning for an update, and save effort and resources for the editorial team. Out-of-date reviews are withdrawn from *The Cochrane Library* until fully updated.

Vittoria Lutje, Information Specialist  
Cochrane Infectious Diseases Group

## Dublin Colloquium stipends: apply now!

Are you interested in attending the Colloquium in Dublin (23-26 October 2006) but need financial support to get there? Stipends provide financial assistance towards travel, accommodation, living expenses and Colloquium registration.

Two categories of stipend are available:

- Developing Country Stipends: open to residents of a developing country who contribute to The Cochrane Collaboration.
- Consumer Stipends: open to healthcare consumers and consumer advocates involved in The Cochrane Collaboration.

For more information about Consumer and Developing Country Stipends, please visit the Dublin Colloquium website at [www.colloquium.info](http://www.colloquium.info). The deadline for applications is Friday 19 May 2006.

Submitting a workshop abstract? If you are applying for a stipend, please ensure that you indicate this in the appropriate place on your application form.

Notification of acceptance of workshop proposals is after the deadline for stipend applications. Workshop proposals from stipend applicants will be fast tracked through the system so that notification is given before the stipends deadline. Therefore, it would be helpful if you could submit your workshop proposal early.

**Register now for the Dublin Colloquium at [www.colloquium.info](http://www.colloquium.info).**

*Caroline Rouse, Developing Country and  
Consumer Stipend Committees  
Scientific Secretariat  
XIV Cochrane Colloquium*



**XIV Cochrane Colloquium**

23-26 October 2006  
Dublin, Ireland



### Key dates for Dublin

Notification of abstracts acceptance	12 May 2006
Consumer stipends deadline	19 May 2006
Developing country stipends deadline	19 May 2006
Notification of workshop acceptance	30 May 2006
Notification of stipends acceptance	16 June 2006
<b>Early registration deadline</b>	<b>14 July 2006</b>
Meeting room request deadline	4 August 2006
Hotel registration deadline	8 September 2006
Cancellation deadline	22 September 2006

## From the Handbook: Including adverse effects

Some of you may already have noticed our new section in the *Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions: Appendix 6b, Including Adverse Effects*.<sup>1</sup> With this we aim to encourage Review Groups to tackle the often thorny problem of evaluating evidence on the potential harms of interventions, and we hope that our advice will help to make the process easier.

Of course, this is a new, evolving area, and most of us are learning along the way, just like everyone else. So, we would like to hear from the Review Groups and authors about how they are getting on with handling adverse effects. Most of all, we'd like to know if authors have found the advice on adverse effects helpful or not, and to have any suggestions on how the current advice can be improved. And if you would like to discuss any specific problem you face, please let us know.

We intend to run a workshop on Adverse effects at the Colloquium in Dublin, and also to have a meeting to explore and discuss the future Adverse Effects Methods Group.

We're never more than an email away - comments, suggestions and questions to [y.loke@uea.ac.uk](mailto:y.loke@uea.ac.uk) would be most welcome.

*Andrew Herxheimer, Co-Convenor  
Adverse Effects Subgroup*

1. Loke YK, Price D, Herxheimer A, editors. Including adverse effects. In: Higgins JPT, Green S, editors. *Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions* 4.2.5 [updated May 2005]; Appendix 6b. In: *The Cochrane Library*, Issue 3, 2005. Chichester, UK: John Wiley & Sons, Ltd. [www.cochrane.org/resources/handbook](http://www.cochrane.org/resources/handbook).

## New Cochrane journal from the Child Health Field

The Cochrane Child Health Field was built on the belief that synthesizing all the available evidence on child health questions is the best way to provide a solid foundation for pediatric care. Our latest project aims to make that evidence easier to find, interpret and use. The Field's new online journal, *Evidence-Based Child Health: A Cochrane Review Journal*, will be launched next month in partnership with Wiley InterScience. This journal will profile timely and topical child-relevant systematic reviews from *The Cochrane Library*.

### Journal contents

For each issue, the journal editors will select six child-relevant Cochrane reviews, according to the clinical relevance of the topic, interest level, implications for practice and the maturity of the available evidence. The selected reviews will be reprinted in full in the journal, thereby increasing their accessibility to interested readers. To highlight the findings and the clinical implications of the results, for each review the editors will also commission a two-page summary, a table of the key findings, and an expert commentary.

As well, each issue will include a methodology piece and an umbrella review, prepared in close collaboration with the new Cochrane Umbrella Reviews Working Group. These umbrella reviews will focus on a condition or health problem for which there are two or more potential interventions, highlight the results of the Cochrane reviews that address these interventions, and compile the evidence from these reviews into one accessible and usable document.



### Our editors

The Editorial Board, drawn from Europe, Australia and North America, is composed of seven physicians with extensive experience in pediatric care. All are active within The Cochrane Collaboration, and are members of the Child Health Field. Dr Terry Klassen, one of the Editors-in-Chief, is the founding Director of the Field. Dr Martin Offringa, the other Editor-in-Chief, has been on the Field's Advisory Board since its inception. Martin and Terry have pursued the dream of creating such a journal for many years, and were very pleased when Wiley InterScience agreed to take the project forward.

Dr Leontien Kremer of the Netherlands is the proposed Co-ordinating Editor of the new Childhood Cancer Review Group. Dr Jonathan Craig, in Australia, is the Co-ordinating Editor of the Renal Group. Two of our editors are based in the United States: Dr Virginia Moyer edited the well-respected BMJ text, *Evidence Based Pediatrics and Child Health*; and Dr Lorne Becker chairs Cochrane's Umbrella Reviews Working Group. Finally, Dr Kent Stobart, of Canada, has extensive experience in teaching and promoting evidence-based medicine, and is an author for the Cystic Fibrosis and Genetic Disorders Group.

### What will the journal do?

Our hope is that the content of this journal will serve as a friendly front end to *The Cochrane Library*. By highlighting certain especially relevant reviews, the journal will increase the profile of important findings in the pediatric care community. The summaries, tables of key findings, expert commentaries and umbrella reviews will allow our readers to quickly discern the relevance of Cochrane findings to their clinical decision-making. The methodology piece in each issue will help those who are unfamiliar with evidence-based medicine to learn more about how to incorporate evidence into their practice. In short, we believe this journal will be an excellent means of increasing the uptake of child-relevant Cochrane reviews, and this can only help to advance the cause of improved child health.

Please take a look at the journal website ([www.evidence-basedchildhealth.com](http://www.evidence-basedchildhealth.com)) and stay tuned for our first issue, coming on May 15!

*Denise Thomson, Evidence-Based Child Health Editorial Board*

## Cochrane spirit in action

Thanks to the generosity of Mr Stephen Milan, former Review Group Coordinator of the Cochrane Airways Group, a bursary of 1,000 British pounds was made available to assist Dr. Joseph Okebe of Nigeria, currently residing in Gambia, to complete his review under the auspices of the Cochrane Haematological Malignancies Group (CHMG), and with expert supervision by his co-author Sue Richards and Mike Clarke of the UKCC, during April 2006 in Oxford. We think these developments are noteworthy, and testimony of what is possible when 'Cochranites' have common aims and show good will. Here is a brief summary of how this wonderful example of an intra-organisational collaboration at an international level evolved.

The CHMG editorial base was first contacted by Ms. Jane Dennis, Cochrane Developmental, Psychosocial and Learning Problems Group, in the second part of 2005, informing us of plans by Mr. Milan to create a special fund in memory of his father, Jim Milan. This private bursary was to be used for any cause considered worthwhile and in the realm of the scope of the CHMG.

After conferring with colleagues locally, it was initially decided to approach two review teams, one in the Gambia, the other in Iran. After further close consultation with Steve, Jane and relevant others, it was finally agreed to invite Dr Joseph Okebe from Banjul, Gambia, to Oxford to finalise his review 'Therapeutic interventions for endemic Burkitt's lymphoma in children'. From early January 2006 to the present, various organisational and methodical requirements were sorted out between Bristol, Oxford, London, Cologne and Banjul. As a result of all these activities, Joseph has recently confirmed he can be in Oxford from 14-28 April 2006.

All this could not have happened without the drive and commitment of several people, especially in the UK. For example, the UK Cochrane Centre has been extremely helpful in providing accommodation at the Aubrey Sheiham flat free of charge, and providing a letter of recommendation towards obtaining a visa.

The London-based Airways Group and the Developmental, Psychosocial and Learning Problems Group in Bristol have mustered their resources with particular reference to searching and obtaining full-text copies of trial reports. The Cochrane Cancer Network investigated flight schedules and airfares. Colleagues here in Cologne assisted Bristol and London in finding as many relevant randomised trial papers as possible.

A co-author of the Burkitt's review, Dr Sue Richards, a CHMG Methods and Statistics editor, is also based in Oxford. Sue has kindly offered to spend dedicated time with Joseph, as has Mr. Toby Lasserson, RGC of the Airways Group.

We would like to say thank you, and extend our appreciation to the following people for their exemplary commitment in promoting and keeping the Cochrane spirit truly alive:

- Mr Steve Milan, Editor, Cochrane Developmental, Psychosocial and Learning Problems Group
- Ms Jane Dennis, RGC, Cochrane Developmental, Psychosocial and Learning Problems Group
- Ms Joanne Abbott, TSC, Cochrane Developmental, Psychosocial and Learning Problems Group
- Mrs Julie Millener, Research Secretary, Cochrane Developmental, Psychosocial and Learning Problems Group
- Mr Toby Lasserson, RGC Cochrane Airways Group
- Mr Helge Hülsewede, TSC, CHMG
- Dr Sue Richards, Editor, CHMG
- Prof Mike Clarke, Director, UK Cochrane Centre
- Ms Jini Hetherington, Secretariat, Cochrane Collaboration
- Mr Mark Lodge, Executive Officer, Cochrane Cancer Network
- Dr Julia Bohlius, Assistant Co-ordinating Editor, CHMG

*Professor Andreas Engert MD, Co-ordinating Editor, Cochrane Haematological Malignancies Group*

*Dr Thilo Kober, Executive Officer, Cochrane Haematological Malignancies Group*

### Cochrane News Submission Deadline

The deadline for submission of articles for *Cochrane News* Issue 37 is **26 June, 2006**. Please email articles (600 words max.) and short announcements to:

**[cochrane@uottawa.ca](mailto:cochrane@uottawa.ca)**

### Joining, moving, leaving?

Let us know by sending an email to  
**[cochrane@uottawa.ca](mailto:cochrane@uottawa.ca)**

## News and announcements

### South African Cochrane Centre: Nigerian Branch

It is with great pleasure that the South African Cochrane Centre (SACC) announces the registration of its Nigerian branch. The branch will be hosted by the Institute of Tropical Diseases Research and Prevention at the University of Calabar, and co-ordinated by Dr Martin Meremikwu. The branch will be of immense benefit to the growing number of Nigeria-based authors, and will raise awareness of evidence-based approaches and the activities of The Cochrane Collaboration. The core functions of the Branch will be providing training and support, conducting reviews, promoting the use of *The Cochrane Library* and handsearching African journals for controlled trials.

*Taryn Young, Specialist Scientist,  
South African Cochrane Centre*

### US Cochrane Center

We are pleased to introduce six individuals joining the US Cochrane Center (USCC):

- Ayana Burrus, USCC Administrative Assistant
- Ann Ervin, Project Director, Eyes and Vision Group
- Marianne Hamilton, USCC Consumer Coordinator
- Kelly Manos, USCC Coordinator
- Roberta ("Bobbi") Scherer, USCC Associate Director
- Kersti Winny, Assistant to Kay Dickersin

*Kay Dickersin, Director, US Cochrane Center*

### Melbourne Colloquium Abstracts

Abstracts from the Melbourne Colloquium are now available on the Cochrane website at: [www.cochrane.org/colloquia/abstracts](http://www.cochrane.org/colloquia/abstracts). Thanks to Dave Booker and the Cochrane Web Team for their help with this. You'll also find that many of the oral presentations from Melbourne have links to PDFs of the presenters' slides, thanks to a pilot project led by Jonathan Ipsier from South Africa.

*Steve McDonald, Melbourne Organising Committee*

### Monitoring and Registration Group

Sally Green will be standing down as Co-Convenor of the Monitoring and Registration Group (MRG) from 20 March 2006, as she is expecting a baby. Sally had been scheduled to stand down at the Dublin Colloquium. Sally and MRG Co-Convenor Rob Scholten are thrilled that Heather Maxwell has been approved by the Executive of the Steering Group to take over Sally's position, and think she will do a wonderful job.

*Sally Green, Director, Australasian Cochrane Centre*

### Behavioral Medicine Field

The Behavioral Medicine Field has been officially registered with the Collaboration. The Field Convenor is:

Karina W. Davidson, Ph.D.  
Convenor, Cochrane Behavioral Medicine Field  
Director of Intervention Research  
Behavioral Cardiovascular Health & Hypertension Program  
Columbia University  
Ph9 Room 948, 630 West 168th St  
New York, NY 10032, USA  
Tel. +1 212 342 4493, E-mail: [kd2124@columbia.edu](mailto:kd2124@columbia.edu)

The administrator of this new Field is Kimberlee Trudeau, email: [Kimberlee.Trudeau@mssm.edu](mailto:Kimberlee.Trudeau@mssm.edu).

*Jini Hetherington, Administrator and Company Secretary,  
The Cochrane Collaboration Secretariat*

### Qualitative Research Methods Group

For information, the Cochrane Qualitative Research Methods Group has two new co-convenors. The methods group administrative centre remains in the UK. The co-convenors are:

- Jennie Popay ([j.popay@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:j.popay@lancaster.ac.uk))
- Jane Noyes ([jane.noyes@bangor.ac.uk](mailto:jane.noyes@bangor.ac.uk))
- Alan Pearson ([alan.pearson@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:alan.pearson@adelaide.edu.au))
- Karin Hannes ([karin.hannes@med.kuleuven.ac.be](mailto:karin.hannes@med.kuleuven.ac.be))

*Jennie Popay, Co-Convenor  
Qualitative Research Methods Group*

### Haematological Malignancies Group

The Cochrane Haematological Malignancies Group is saying farewell to Thilo Kober, their Review Group Co-ordinator. After years of valuable contribution, Thilo is returning to Australia, where we wish him all the best with his future endeavours.



Farewell to Thilo Kober

### TSC representative on Steering Group

Dymphna Hermans has been elected to represent Trials Search Co-ordinators on the Cochrane Collaboration Steering Group - congratulations, Dymphna!

*Claire Allen, Deputy Administrator  
The Cochrane Collaboration Secretariat*

## Events and workshops

### Qualitative Research in Evidence Based Healthcare

An exploration of scope and methods  
Adelaide, Australia, 10-11 July 2006

The Cochrane Qualitative Methods Group invites you to send abstracts for oral or poster presentation at the Cochrane Qualitative Research Methods Group Oceania Regional Symposium. The deadline for submission is 15 May 2006. Please find details on the Joanna Briggs Institute website; [www.joannabriggs.edu.au/events](http://www.joannabriggs.edu.au/events).

*Jane Noyes, Co-Convenor*  
*Qualitative Research Methods Group*

### Oxford Workshop on Evidence-Based Diagnostics

St. Hilda's College, Cowley Place, Oxford  
17-19 July 2006

The workshop aims to give a thorough grounding in diagnostic research methods, including the appraisal of diagnostic accuracy studies and systematic reviews of diagnostic studies. The workshop is open to clinicians and laboratory staff interested in how to improve their usage and interpretation of diagnostic tests. For further details please contact Olive Goddard, Centre Manager, Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine.

Tel +44 (0)1865 226991, Fax +44 (0)1865 226845  
Email: [olive.goddard@dphpc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:olive.goddard@dphpc.ox.ac.uk)

*Jon Deeks, Co-Convenor*  
*Diagnostic Reviews of Test Accuracy Initiative*

### 4th Asian-Pacific Conference on Evidence-Based Medicine

The 4th Asian-Pacific Conference on Evidence-Based Medicine will take place from 15-17 April 2006 in Chengdu, China. The Conference will feature a broad spectrum of ideas on evidence-based medicine in the application of research, education, practice and quality improvement. For more information, contact the Chinese Cochrane Center (see p.16 for contact details).

*Mingming Zhang, Coordinator, Chinese Cochrane Center*

### Occupational Health Field

Evidence-based Medicine for Occupational Health Professionals: a three-day course in Kuopio, Finland from 21-24 May 2006 organised by NIVA, the Nordic training institute for occupational health and safety. More information is available at [www.niva.org](http://www.niva.org).

*Jos Verbeek, Coordinator, Occupational Health Field*

### Oral Health Group Symposium

The Cochrane Oral Health Group is holding a two-day international symposium, 'Evidence for up-to-date clinical dental practice: 10 years of the Cochrane Oral Health Group', in Manchester from 30-31 May 2006. Further details can be found at the following website: [www.cochrane-oral.man.ac.uk/symposium.html](http://www.cochrane-oral.man.ac.uk/symposium.html)

*Emma Tavender, Cochrane Oral Health Group*

### Leeds Systematic Review Course

Worsley Building, University of Leeds, UK  
9-12 May 2006

Led by an experienced group of tutors and facilitators, this course will give you practical, individual assistance to enable you to complete your Cochrane-style review. For course enquiries, contact Tessa Grant: +44 (0) 113 343 1965. For an information leaflet and booking form, contact The Andrew Sims Centre: +44 (0) 113 305 5638, email: [Louise.Gardham@leedsmh.nhs.uk](mailto:Louise.Gardham@leedsmh.nhs.uk), or visit [www.andrewsimscentre.nhs.uk](http://www.andrewsimscentre.nhs.uk)

*Louise Gardham, Andrew Sims Centre*

### Dutch Cochrane Centre: Belgian Branch

The Belgian Branch of The Cochrane Collaboration is repeating its three-day program, "Evidence-Based Medicine in Clinical Practice", from 3-5 May 2006 in Dutch. A one-day program for nurses is offered on 11 May in French. For more information see [www.cebam.be](http://www.cebam.be).

*Karin Hannes, Belgian Branch, Dutch Cochrane Centre*

### Continental European Cochrane entities

The programme and registration form for the Continental European Cochrane Entities' Meeting from 3-5 May 2006 in Copenhagen is now available at [www.cochrane.dk/cecem/](http://www.cochrane.dk/cecem/). We hope that you will find the programme attractive and sign up as soon as possible.

*Peter C. Gøtzsche and Jannie Hedegaard*  
*Nordic Cochrane Centre*

### Oxford Course in Evidence Based Dentistry

Oxford University is offering a 2-day or 5-day course in Evidence-Based Dentistry during the week 15-19 May 2006. The course aims to help dentists and oral health care professionals develop their understanding of the evidence-based approach. For more information contact Pheobe Chen: [cpdhealth@conted.ox.ac.uk](mailto:cpdhealth@conted.ox.ac.uk) or +44 (0) 1865 286947, or see [www.conted.ox.ac.uk/health](http://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/health).

*Rachel Cox, University of Oxford*

## Who is using *The Cochrane Library*?

*The Cochrane Library* (CLIB) is available to millions of users throughout the world via national licences funded by governments, WHO/PAHO/Bireme, HINARI and INASP, institutional licences and personal subscriptions. However, little is known about who uses CLIB, when it is used and for what purpose. We used a web-based survey to determine the demographics, profile and usage patterns of Wiley InterScience CLIB users between 6 December 2005 and 12 January 2006. The survey was provided via a pop-up window to users of the CLIB website (presented only once to each user).

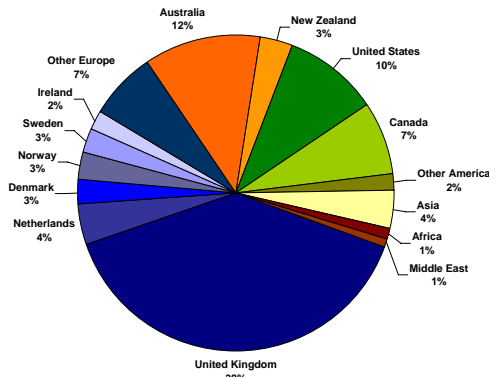
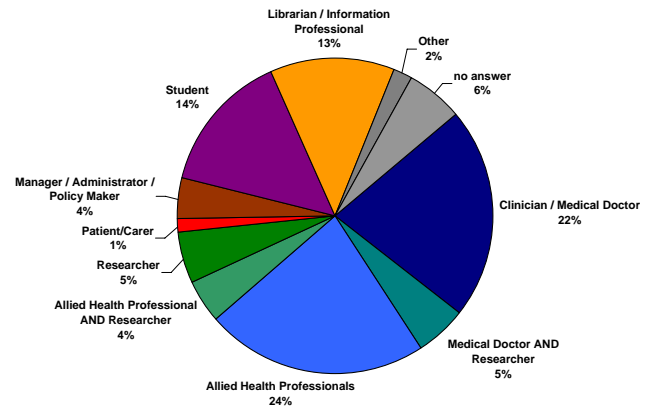
We received 1320 valid responses. 38% of the respondents were based in the UK, 12% in Australia and 10% in the USA.

24% of respondents classified themselves as allied health workers, including mainly nurses, but also midwives, pharmacists, physiotherapists, psychologists, physician's assistants, practitioners of alternative medicine, occupational therapists, optometrists/opticians, dietitians/nutritionists, dentists and other allied health. The clinical/medical doctor category made up 22% of respondents, with an additional 5% indicating they were both a researcher and medical doctor. 14% were students and 13% were librarians or information specialists. 40% of respondents worked in a hospital-only setting; 19% at a university, medical school or research institute; 14% at an affiliated academic hospital or healthcare institution; and 11% at a healthcare-only institution.

It was the librarians who reported the most frequent usage, with over 50% accessing CLIB on 50-100 days. Among the other groups, at least 10% were first time visitors to the site. When asked, "Why are you accessing *The Cochrane Library* today?", 52% of users responded, "research", followed by the responses "to help a patient" and "to develop a policy or guideline". Access to CLIB was mainly from a personal computer at the workplace, although respondents from Asia reported the highest access from a library. Most users indicated that they had received no training, or only self-learning through trial and error.

Further user research is desirable. Another online survey will be conducted again in April/May 2006 to further profile CLIB users.

*Deborah Pentesco-Gilbert, Publisher*  
*The Cochrane Library, John Wiley & Sons, Ltd*



## News and announcements (cont.)

### Peripheral Vascular Diseases Group

I am leaving the PVD Group and moving onto pastures new at the end of this month. My last day in the office will be Friday 31st March. Andrew Wawrzyniak joins the Group on 3rd April as my replacement.

It has been a great privilege to have had the opportunity of working with you and the pleasure of meeting many of you too. I would like to express my sincere thanks for your friendship, advice and support over the past 4 years. I hope to retain links with the Collaboration through occasional copy editing and by keeping in touch with the PVD Group. However, I am also looking forward to the (very different!) challenges of working with children.

*Charlotte Archibald, Review Group Co-ordinator*  
*Cochrane Peripheral Vascular Diseases Group*

### Schizophrenia Group

We recently announced the appointment of an Assistant Trial Search Co-ordinator, Sangeetha Palani, based at the Christian Medical Centre (CMC), Vellore, India, the base of the South Asian Cochrane Network (SACN), with whom we have had strong links for many years. We are happy to announce the formal recognition of the relationship between our group and CMC through the establishment of a satellite.

*Gill Rizzello, Review Group Co-ordinator*  
*Cochrane Schizophrenia Group*

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## Top 25 Cochrane reviews



### Top 25 reviews accessed from *The Cochrane Library*, February 2006

*Figures include access from Wiley InterScience online version*

	Article Title	Abstract accessed	Full text accessed
1	Interventions for preventing falls in elderly people	1401	961
2	Interventions for preventing obesity in children	1157	890
3	Glucosamine therapy for treating osteoarthritis	612	427
4	Interventions for helping patients to follow prescriptions for medications	766	420
5	Support surfaces for pressure ulcer prevention	455	363
6	Nicotine replacement therapy for smoking cessation	425	339
7	Preoperative fasting for adults to prevent perioperative complications	373	330
8	Vaccines for measles mumps and rubella in children	490	330
9	Acetaminophen for osteoarthritis	542	311
10	Physiotherapy interventions for shoulder pain	486	308
11	Cholinesterase inhibitors for Alzheimer's disease	584	304
12	Acupuncture for low-back pain	572	297
13	Omega-3 fatty acids for prevention of cardiovascular disease	539	296
14	Abdominal decompression for suspected fetal compromise/pre-eclampsia	499	292
15	Exercises for mechanical neck disorders	545	289
16	Continuous support for women during childbirth	421	282
17	Antibiotics for acute otitis media in children	337	277
18	Amantadine and rimantadine for preventing and treating influenza A in adults	85	276
19	Physiotherapy treatment approaches for the recovery of postural control and lower limb function following stroke	352	275
20	Nursing interventions for smoking cessation	348	273
21	Interventions for promoting the initiation of breastfeeding	364	268
22	Exercise therapy for low-back pain	481	264
23	Interventions for treating obesity in children	417	253
24	Water for wound cleansing	313	243
25	Interventions to improve the management of diabetes mellitus in primary care, outpatient and community settings	365	242

These and other Cochrane reviews can be found at [www.thecochranelibrary.com](http://www.thecochranelibrary.com).

*Deborah Pentesco-Gilbert, Publisher*  
*The Cochrane Library, John Wiley & Sons, Ltd*

## Delivery of *The Cochrane Library* Issue 2, 2006

Wiley successfully conducted its first module submission for *The Cochrane Library* at the end of February 2006 without the involvement of Update Software in the conversion process.

We used a new process, developed by Monica Kjeldstrøm's team at the Nordic Cochrane Centre together with Wiley, that enables all reviews marked for publication in all modules to be collected from Archie on the submission deadline. Most Cochrane Review Groups (CRGs) had migrated to Archie before the deadline for Issue 2, and their modules were successful downloaded. A new publication wizard validates papers when they are marked for publication, checking such things as the date of most recent substantive amendment, the status of the record and that a record with the same title has not previously been published. Similar checks are performed by Wiley and a feedback report sent to the Review Group Co-ordinator. The remaining six CRGs emailed their modules to a new mailbox Wiley has set up to handle the submission process (cl-submission@wiley.co.uk). A small team within Wiley can all access this mailbox so that data deliveries, feedback and queries can be monitored and dealt with efficiently, without being reliant on one person.

The other databases have been delivered for Issue 2, including the Handsearch and Trials Search Co-ordinator's records from the US Cochrane Center and the MEDLINE download for CENTRAL. We identified a missing field in CMR records, which was rectified by the UK Cochrane Centre, and the Centre for Reviews and Dissemination sent in their three databases and reported a new record type in EED, which we will evaluate for publication in 2006 issue 3.

We are well on schedule to meet the publication date of 19 April and look forward to receiving the Collaboration's feedback, as we believe we have started to make improvements to the published product and anticipate making more now that the production process is under our control.

*Deborah Pentesco-Gilbert, Publisher*  
*The Cochrane Library, John Wiley & Sons, Ltd*

## Thanks to Update Software

On behalf of John Wiley & Sons, we would like to say a big thank you for the services that you and your colleagues have provided to Wiley and The Collaboration over the past few years. As a company you have been at all times professional, knowledgeable and helpful, and have worked with us in good humour throughout. The transition could not have worked without such a good working relationship and we thank you for that.

Please let your colleagues at Update Software know how much we have appreciated their individual efforts. We wish you all continued success.

*Andrew Cullis, Associate Director, Content Technology*  
*Deborah Dixon, Business Development Director*  
*John Wiley & Sons, Ltd*

## Deadlines and publication dates for *The Cochrane Library*

<i>The Cochrane Library</i>	Specialized register deadlines	Copy Edit Support deadlines (John Wiley & Sons, Ltd.)	Module submission deadlines (John Wiley & Sons, Ltd.)	Publication dates (John Wiley & Sons, Ltd.)
Issue 2, 2006	n/a	n/a	n/a	19 April 2006
Issue 3, 2006	To be advised	3 May 2006	24 May 2006	19 July 2006
Issue 4, 2006	To be advised	2 August 2006	23 August 2006	18 October 2006
Issue 1, 2007	To be advised	25 October 2006	15 November 2006	24 January 2007

**Note:** These deadlines are for Cochrane Review Groups and other Cochrane entities. Individual authors should contact their respective Review Groups for editorial deadlines.

## Cochrane Centres

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### Brazilian Cochrane Centre (Centro Cochrane do Brasil)

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