



See page 3 for details...

XV Cochrane Colloquium São Paulo, Brazil

The 15th Cochrane Colloquium held in São Paulo in October 2007 was considered to be a huge success, not only by our colleagues from Brazil, but also by our enthusiastic foreign colleagues. This Colloquium had some unique features. There were no for-profit companies represented at the Colloquium, and there was no industry funding! The opening ceremony was followed by two shows featuring the finest Brazilian singers and musicians at an excellent venue. And there were 850 registrations, which meant that registrations had sold out 10 days before the Colloquium began.

The Colloquium themes were evidence-based health care for all and patient-reported outcomes. This attracted participants from many different professional fields, including non-medical participants such as judges, general attorneys and lawyers. Brazilians accounted for 55% of the participants, and 90% of the Brazilian participants had received 100% sponsorship from entities such as the Brazilian Ministry of Health, Medical Association and Medical Ethics Board.

The organizers were happy to see the variety of participants who would wish to learn about evidence-based concepts and evidence-based practices and impacts. The plenary sessions and the ten-hour course on evidence-based health technology assessment were particularly welcomed. The workshops and abstract presentations pleased many of the participants.

The social activities included Brazilian dance classes, followed by a historical football match in which the skills of legends of

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SURVEY
of
Cochrane
News
readers



Staff from the Brazilian Cochrane Centre

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From the Co-Chairs

Congratulations to Alvaro Atallah and his team for another excellent Colloquium. For those who were not able to make it, all of the plenary addresses are available as “Slidecasts” at www.cochrane.org/podcasts/brasil/podcast.htm. Several events or announcements at the São Paulo Colloquium highlighted the continuously increasing availability and use of Cochrane reviews for consumers, clinicians and policy makers. Wiley Blackwell, our publisher, announced that Cochrane reviews will henceforth be accessible with a single click and without cost to all inhabitants of countries with a GNP per capita below \$1000. This action, along with the recent national provision for India, means that more than half of the world’s population now has free access to Cochrane reviews. Because of the importance of Cochrane reviews in the production of guidelines, the Collaboration has been asked to provide a representative to the Advisory Board of the Guidelines International Network. We heard from John Lavis that the number of systematic reviews with relevance for policymakers is growing as well – and that the majority of those are Cochrane reviews.

The Steering Group again had a full agenda. In keeping with the recommendations of the recent review of the Steering Group, we have done several things to try to improve our communications with members of the Collaboration. The key issues to be discussed were highlighted in the Steering Group bulletin that was published just before the Colloquium (and is still available at www.cochrane.org/newslett/ccsg_bulletin_oct_2007.pdf). The minutes of the meeting documenting our decisions will soon be available for viewing at www.cochrane.org/ccsg/#ccsg. As we did for our last Steering Group meeting, we will include links to background documents at relevant points within the minutes and we’ll provide a summary of our actions in the next Steering Group bulletin.

Lorne Becker and Adrian Grant
Co-Chairs, Cochrane Collaboration Steering Group

Colloquium continued from page 1

Brazilian football such as Socrates, Rivelino, Junior, Rai, Ademir da Guia, Paulo Cesar, Wladimir, Claudio Adão, Ze Maria, Edu, Afonso and Waldir Peres were pitted against a team of amateurs formed by Colloquium participants. The enthusiastic game was followed by a pleasant dinner bringing together the organizers, Cochrane members and the heroic football players.

Special sessions were carefully tailored for professionals working in the fields of health rights, mental health and mother and child health care. Other sessions covered Brazilian experiences and the impact of the evidence-based healthcare movement, which is very strong in Brazil. The broad collaboration between the Brazilian Cochrane Centre, BIREME and the Brazilian Ministry of Health was highlighted.

On the Friday night of the Colloquium there was a tropical dinner dance which featured exciting Brazilian music and included the participation of stars of the group that won the 2007 Carnival Parade in São Paulo!! The whole Colloquium became even more enjoyable thanks to the wholehearted participation of our colleagues in The Cochrane Collaboration. And a special word of thanks must go to Adrian Grant, Gordon Guyatt, Lorne Becker, Karla Soares-Weiser, Andy Oxman, Sally Green and Sir Muir Gray for their excellent talks.

Alvaro Nagib Atallah
Director, Brazilian Cochrane Centre

Congratulations to award recipients!

Each year at the Cochrane Colloquium the following awards and prizes are presented to individuals in recognition of their contributions and excellence.

The Chris Silagy Prize



Ms Maxwell accepting her award

This prize is awarded to an individual (or team) who has made an extraordinary contribution to The Cochrane Collaboration exceeding their employment and who has contributed to the spirit of the Collaboration.

Heather Maxwell of the Peripheral Vascular Diseases Group was the recipient of this year's prize for her dedication to the Collaboration, her volunteer efforts, her role as Review Group Co-ordinator and her service on various committees, particularly the Monitoring and Registration Group.

The Kenneth Warren Prize

This prize has been offered since 2000 and honours people in developing countries who are authors of reviews judged to be of high methodological quality and relevant to the developing world.

This year's recipient is Gawrie Galappaththy from the Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka for the review *Primaquine for preventing relapse in people with Plasmodium vivax malaria*.



A few words from Ms Galappaththy

Thomas C. Chalmers Award

This award is presented to the principal authors of the best oral and poster presentations at the Colloquium addressing methodological issues related to systematic reviews. The two recipients of this year's award are:

Best Oral Paper: *Ratio of means as an alternative to mean differences for analyzing continuous outcome variables in a meta-analysis: a simulation study*

Jan Friedrich, Neill Adhikari, Arne Ohlsson and Joseph Beyene from Toronto, Canada

Best Poster: *Uncertainty of heterogeneity in meta-analysis*

Nikolaos Patsopoulos, John Ioannidis and Evangelos Evangelou, Ioannina, Greece

Letter from the Editor

Attending the XV Colloquium in Brazil brought home to me once again the poignant differences faced by countries around the world. HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis were held up as urgent health priorities, and yet in contrast, in the same panel, obesity and climate change were identified as our main challenges. These issues originate from quite different living conditions and it was a good reminder of other people's realities. This issue of Cochrane News also reminds us that RevMan 5 is being launched. Look for training opportunities with your local Cochrane Centre or Review Group. Other new products derived from Cochrane reviews that make it easier to find reviews on specialized topics are highlighted on pages 6-7. Finally, I invite you to participate in two surveys - the survey of Cochrane News readers is finally active on cochrane.org and CCNet encourages consumers to identify and prioritise relevant review topics (see page 11).

Cheryl Arratoon
Editor, Cochrane News

RevMan 5 release plans

A major update of The Cochrane Collaboration's review writing software, RevMan 5, is now in the final stages of testing. Five Cochrane Review Groups (CRGs) will participate in a RevMan 5 pilot from the end of November 2007 to the end of February 2008 resulting in submissions to Issue 2, 2008 of *The Cochrane Library* that will include reviews in RevMan 5 format. If the RevMan 5 pilot runs smoothly, the software will be launched Collaboration-wide in March 2008. RevMan 5 will be a mandatory release, which means that all authors of Cochrane reviews must use the software for preparing new reviews or updating existing ones, and CRG editorial bases can only release new, amended or updated reviews for publication as RevMan 5 files.

If you wish to find out more about RevMan 5, including plans for rolling out the software in March 2008, please visit the RevMan 5 website on www.cc-ims.net/RevMan/RevMan5/ (look under Release plans) or see p. 5 (graphic by Jacob Riis, IMS). You might also find it useful to look at the RevMan 5 FAQ which is a collection of questions and answers relating to the distribution of the software, access to training and support, conversion of RevMan 4 reviews to RevMan 5 and more. The target audience for the RevMan 5 FAQ is initially staff at editorial bases of CRGs, but it will be expanded later with a section for review authors. Authors will also receive a separate communication much closer to the launch of RevMan 5 which will outline the implications for their future work on Cochrane reviews.

If you are an author of a Cochrane review and you have questions about the launch of RevMan 5 which are not answered by information available on the RevMan 5 website, please contact the editorial base of your CRG or alternatively your regional Cochrane Centre (see www.cochrane.org/contact/entities.htm). Staff at editorial bases can in turn contact their regional IMS Support person for general and technical support (see www.cc-ims.net/Projects/newIMS/Training/IMS_Support).

Monica Kjeldstrøm
Cochrane Information Management System

Subscribing to the IMS Bulletin

The IMS Bulletins have been produced by the IMS Support team since November 2004. Bulletins are sent to all CRG 'Super Users' (including RGCs and Assistant RGCs) by email. The IMS Bulletins are archived at www.cc-ims.net/Projects/newIMS/Bulletins/ for others who may be interested.

All Archie users can now subscribe to the IMS Bulletin by adding a public note with the title "Subscribe IMS Bulletin" to their record.

To add a subscription note in Archie:

1. Open your Properties sheet and go to the Notes tab.
2. Click New to add a note.
3. Enter the title "Subscribe IMS Bulletin"
(copy and paste this text to ensure an exact match).
4. Click the Sharing tab.
5. Choose Public note.
6. Click Save and Exit

If you do not receive an IMS Bulletin within one month of subscribing, please inform Sonja Henderson (sonja@support.cc-ims.net).

Becky Gray, Sonja Henderson, Karen Hovhannisyanyan, Liz Dooley
IMS Support

Note

Sharing

Title:

Author: Jacob Riis

Subject: Jacob Riis

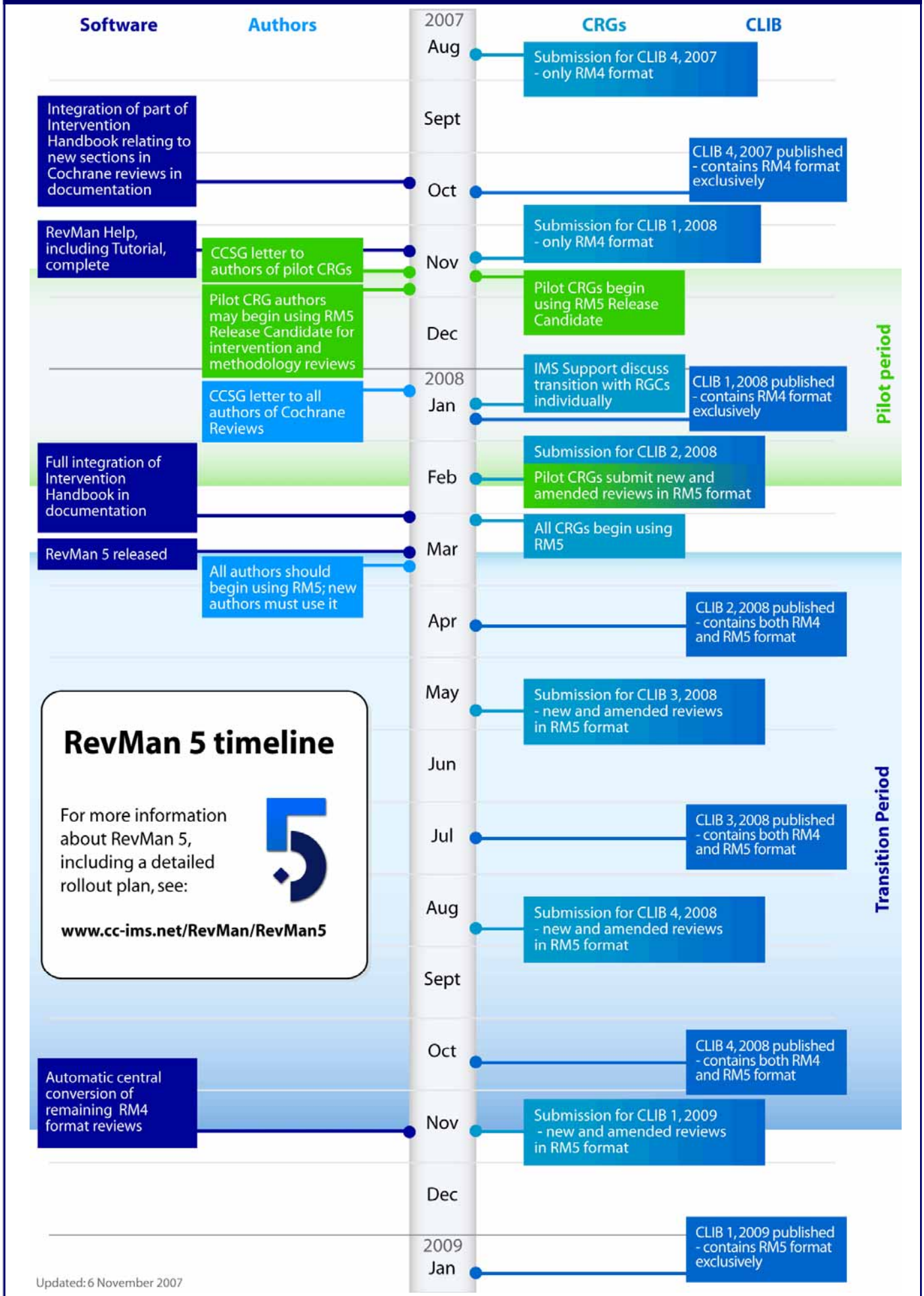
Note

Sharing

Public note

Public notes can be read by everybody.


RevMan 5 Timeline



RevMan 5 timeline

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

www.cc-ims.net/RevMan/RevMan5



Updated: 6 November 2007

The Health of Older People (HOP) project



During the last two years a small group of researchers (Ben Adler, Gisela Creed, and David Stott) in the Academic Section of Geriatric Medicine in Glasgow has collated and summarised Cochrane evidence for best practice in health care and rehabilitation for frail older people and synthesised this into a website for dissemination (www.effectiveolderpeoplecare.org).

Titles and abstracts in the Cochrane Database of Systematic reviews were handsearched for relevant content. The selection was refined with a focus on common health problems in old age (i.e. continence, falls, etc.) and different models of service organisation (i.e. acute care, long-term care, etc.) for older people. A searchable database was created consisting of a content tree with themes, sub-topics, questions and interventions with evidence statements, and a website was developed to disseminate the information.

The database currently contains evidence statements from more than 250 interventions in relation to 19 different topics and became accessible on the web. It is hoped that the website will be of value to healthcare workers and providers of health services for older people, giving a rapid overview of the richness of information that is available. This project was commissioned by the Greater Glasgow Health Board.

David Stott
Health Care of Older People Field

A Cochrane review journal participates in global theme issue on poverty

The Council of Science Editors has organized a global theme issue on poverty and human development. Science journals throughout the world will simultaneously publish papers on this topic of worldwide interest - to raise awareness and stimulate interest and research into poverty and human development. This is an international collaboration with journals from developed and developing countries. For more information visit www.councilscienceeditors.org/globalthemeissue.cfm.

Evidence-Based Child Health, Issue 3, is participating with reviews and commentaries on the following global theme topics:

- Vaccines for women to prevent neonatal tetanus
- Antibiotics for preventing pneumococcal infection in children with sickle cell disease
- Interventions for Burkitt's lymphoma in children
- Corticosteroids for treating dengue shock syndrome

There will also be an overview of reviews on trachoma, plus the usual Tips and Tricks and tables of findings.

All the articles in this issue are currently available free of charge to all institutions that have registered for complimentary access to Evidence-Based Child Health.

You can register now by visiting www.evidence-basedchildhealth.com

Fabienne Reynolds
John Wiley & Sons, Inc.



Child Health Trials Register

The Child Health Field's Trials Register is now available online. The Register is a searchable database of over 30,000 pediatric RCTs and CCTs published from 1948 onwards.



Please visit www.cochranechildhealth.ualberta.ca/trialsregister.html.

The mission of the Child Health Field is to ensure that children and adolescents receive effective interventions for the best health outcomes based on up-to-date evidence.

*Denise Thomson
Child Health Field*

Cochrane Primary Care Field is growing rapidly

Come and see our P.E.A.R.L.S.



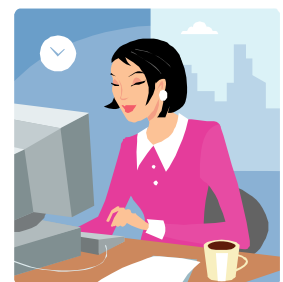
The Cochrane Primary Care Field now has more than 900 subscribers to its P.E.A.R.L.S. (practical evidence about real life situations) on the English mailing list and more than 100 on the Spanish mailing list. A P.E.A.R.L.S. is a one-page summary of a Cochrane Review relevant to primary care. The Field sends out two P.E.A.R.L.S. every two weeks with no charge for subscription. If you wish to join, email Bruce Arroll at b.arroll@auckland.ac.nz

*Bruce Arroll
Cochrane Primary Care Field*

Free online courses

Handsearching: Free online course through the US Cochrane Center

Handsearching is the process of manually screening peer-reviewed biomedical journals, conference proceedings and other publications for the best-available evidence. It is an integral part of identifying research results that can be used in Cochrane reviews. This course will prepare handsearchers to identify clinical trials that fit the rigorous standards expected from The Cochrane Collaboration. To enrol, complete the brief online registration form using the link below. Once this has been processed, you will be assigned a UserID and Password by email. To register: http://webct.jhu.edu/public/ph_handsearching/
Additional resources: www.cochrane.org/resources/hsearch.htm#MLIST



Understanding Evidence-based Healthcare: A Foundation for Action

This web course has been created by the United States Cochrane Center as part of a project undertaken by Consumers United for Evidence-based Healthcare (CUE), and is designed to help consumer advocates understand the fundamentals of evidence-based healthcare concepts and skills. Course registration will be offered every 3 months. Participants will have three months to complete the course and must commit to completing all evaluations. Register on the US Cochrane Center website at <http://apps1.jhsph.edu/cochrane/>.

XV Cochrane Colloquium podcasts

Audio podcasts of the plenary sessions from The Cochrane Colloquium in São Paulo are now online! You can subscribe to the podcast feed of all the plenary sessions, or select individual presentations for download or in-browser viewing or hearing. Visit <http://cochrane.org/podcasts/brasil/podcast.htm> today!



Workshops in Manila

Workshops in Manila were enthusiastically attended by researchers from the Philippines

Last 25-28 September 2007, Cochrane systematic review workshops were conducted in Quezon City, Metro Manila. St. Luke's Medical Center and St. Luke's College of Medicine hosted the workshops in coordination with the UK Cochrane Centre and the SEA-ORCHID project of the Australasian Cochrane Centre.



Over 130 participants attended a 2-day systematic review workshop in Manila

The workshops attracted a record number of health researchers from the Philippines. Over 130 participants filled the plenary hall to capacity during the two-day core workshop 'How to conduct a Cochrane systematic review' (25-26 September 2007). Six systematic review authors benefited from the Review Completion Workshop (27-28 September 2007).

Cochrane facilitators were Phil Wiffen (Training Director, UK Cochrane Centre), Steve McDonald (Deputy Director, Australasian Centre) and Jackie Ho (Malaysian Cochrane Node). Eight local physicians also acted as workshop facilitators. The course co-ordinator was Dr. Belen Dofitas of the Cochrane Skin Group and of St. Luke's Department of Clinical Research, Research and Biotechnology Division.



Workshop facilitators received 'rave reviews' for their workshops

With the 'rave reviews' received about the Cochrane workshops, expect many more Cochrane training events here in the near future!

Belen Lardizabal-Dofitas
Cochrane Skin Group

Did you know?

You can view online demos of The Cochrane Library in English, French, German, Spanish and Turkish by visiting www3.interscience.wiley.com/aboutus/demo

Important changes to Copy Edit Support

Attention all Review Groups!



Have you ever considered using Copy Edit Support but have been put off by the amount of work involved, or run out of time before the module deadline? If the answer is yes then you may wish to reconsider...

We have begun to copy edit reviews in RevMan format within Archie. This means that:

- You no longer need to export and import your reviews between RevMan and Word.
- You no longer need to transfer copy edits manually from a Word document to the RevMan file.

If you already participate in Copy Edit Support, ask us about transferring to Archie. If you haven't participated recently, or if you have never taken part, why not give us a try?

Feedback from the Review Groups who already use Archie for copy editing suggests that the new way of approving reviews for publication in Archie results in a more even spread of workload than the traditional peak immediately prior to the module deadline. This allows more time for the copy editing phase of the editorial process, and enables Review Groups to take full advantage of Copy Edit Support for the first time.

Liz Dooley, RGC of the Acute Respiratory Infections Group says, "Copy Edit Support has been a huge help in ensuring our final drafts are in the best possible shape before they are submitted for publication. It's an easy system to use – just let Copy Edit Support know when the draft is ready for publication and you'll be notified whom to assign as Copy Editor. The draft is then edited and checked back into Archie. You can see the changes made by using the 'Compare' function in Archie. It's that easy."

In response to increasing demand we are expanding the current team of five copy editors to a staff of around ten. The new copy editors, many who are already involved with The Cochrane Collaboration in some capacity, will complete extensive training before starting work on your reviews. We are working hard to train up the new copy editors as soon as possible.

"Copy Edit Support has been a huge help in ensuring our final drafts are in the best possible shape...It's an easy system to use. . ."

Liz Dooley

We hope that these developments will help all Review Groups to achieve a high standard of copy editing, and improve the quality of Cochrane reviews. For more information, please see our website: www.cochrane.org/style/project_ces.htm.

*Laura Mellor
Desk Editor, The Cochrane Library
John Wiley & Sons, Ltd.
on behalf of Copy Edit Support*

Key dates for The Cochrane Library

The Cochrane Library	Copy edit support deadlines	Module submission deadlines	Publication dates
Issue 1, 2008	24 October 2007	15 November 2007	23 January 2008
Issue 2, 2008	30 January 2008	21 February 2008	16 April 2008
Issue 3, 2008	23 April 2008	15 May 2008	9 July 2008

Note: Submission deadlines are for Cochrane Review Groups (CRGs) and other Cochrane entities. Individual authors should contact their CRGs for editorial deadlines.

News and announcements

Updates to the Cochrane Manual

The following updates to the Cochrane Manual since May 2007 are now available at www.cochrane.org/admin/manual.htm:

- Section 2.2.2.6 - Access to archived reviews (new)
- Section 3.3 - Clarification of the status of Branches of Cochrane Centres (update)
- Appendix 2 - Co-publication agreements/correspondence with journal editors re publishing Cochrane Reviews (update)
- Appendix 4 - Contact people at Wiley-Blackwell (update)

New editor for the IBD/FBD Group

We are pleased to announce that Dr Nicholas J Talley (Mayo Clinic, Jacksonville, Florida, USA) has agreed to serve as an editor for the Cochrane IBD/FBD Group. Dr Talley is an internationally recognized expert in the therapy of functional bowel disorders. He is currently the Chair of the Department of Internal Medicine at the Mayo Clinic Jacksonville and Professor of Medicine and Epidemiology, Mayo Clinic College of Medicine. We would like to take this opportunity to welcome Nick in his new role as Editor and we look forward to working with him in this capacity.

Change in Directorship at the South African Cochrane Centre

Nandi Siegfried (Co-Director of the South African Cochrane Centre 2003-2004) was re-appointed to the position in August 2007, working alongside Jimmy Volmink. Nandi recently returned to South Africa after completing a DPhil degree under the supervision of Mike Clarke at the University of Oxford.

Update from Health Promotion and Public Health Field

The Cochrane Health Promotion and Public Health (HPPH) Field has recently held two exploratory meetings regarding its proposed transition to a Cochrane Public Health Collaborative Review Group. The first of these was held in September in Cork, Ireland, and the second in October in Beijing, China. Both meetings were well attended and resulted in stimulating discussion and feedback regarding the development of the proposed new Group.

Slides and minutes of both meetings are now available at the HPPH Field's website at www.ph.cochrane.org. Please contact Jodie Doyle (jdoyle@vichealth.vic.gov.au) or Naomi Priest (npriest@unimelb.edu.au) for more information.

New website for Cochrane Health Equity Field and Campbell Equity Methods Group

Our first website has been launched and can be accessed at www.equity.cochrane.org. You can find important dates and upcoming events, updates on our activities, our publication list, and other Field information. If you have any pictures or materials that you would like to share with us, please send them to Erin Morris at emorris@uottawa.ca; we're happy to post equity-related information.

16th Cochrane Colloquium—Evidence in the era of globalization Freiburg, Germany 3-7 October 2008



Important Colloquium Dates

15 February 2008	Registration opens
17 March 2008	Abstract submission deadline
28 April 2008	Consumer and developing country stipends deadline

For more information visit www.cochrane.de/colloquium

CCNet Survey—What are your priorities?

Individual consumers and patient groups – we invite you to take the Cochrane Consumer Network survey!

The Cochrane Collaboration aims to improve consumer access to relevant health information through the prioritisation of Cochrane reviews. The process of establishing the most important, useful and relevant health information will be accomplished through your contribution to the survey.

The survey assesses the criteria that you find useful when seeking health information. You will also be asked to select the topic area (Review Group) in which you would like to prioritise reviews. Please note that the CCNet Survey requires only a small amount of your time to achieve invaluable results. With the consideration of review titles and health topics within the survey, we would ask for your patience and input in seeing the survey through to the end.

Please go to <http://www3.cochrane.org/surveys/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=n6K1618> to access the CCNet survey.

For more information about this project or the survey, please contact:

Maria Belizan at maria.belizan@gmail.com

Or visit http://news.cochrane.org/view/item/review_one.jsp?j=1013

Thank you very much! You will receive our feedback from the project.

Any personal information collected is kept strictly under Privacy Regulations and is used solely to inform consumer participation activities of The Cochrane Collaboration.

Janet Wale, Maria Belizan and Sita Vij
Cochrane Consumer Network Prioritisation Project

Submission deadline for next issue of Cochrane News—6 March 2008

Please email articles (500 words max.) and announcements to: cochrane@uottawa.ca

17th Cochrane Colloquium
11-14 October 2009

Singapore, Southeast Asia

www.colloquium.info/2009



Please note:

The dates of the Singapore Colloquium were originally set for early October but had to be changed because of the risk of clashing with the Formula One Grand Prix. Efforts to identify alternative dates were constrained by Singapore's hosting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum in November 2009. Thus the only available alternative (11-14 October) unfortunately clashes with Canadian Thanksgiving. In approving the new dates, the Steering Group regrets the clash, but accepted that there was no viable alternative.

Joining, moving, leaving?

Keep our mail list updated by sending an email to cochrane@uottawa.ca

COCHRANE NEWS**Events and workshops**

Cochrane News is published by The Canadian Cochrane Centre. To subscribe contact your nearest Cochrane Centre at www.cochrane.org/contact/entities.htm#CENTRES

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Fourth Annual Cochrane in Ireland Conference

31 January 2008

School of Nursing, Dublin City University

Details on speakers, registration forms and additional information on the call for poster abstracts (deadline 10 December 2007) can be found at www.dcu.ie/cochrane

Meta-synthesis of qualitative research

14 February 2008

Provinciehuis Vlaams-Brabant, Leuven, Belgium

Steps to integrate qualitative research findings into a systematic review and different types of meta-synthesis.

To register: Ester.Vanachter@med.kuleuven.be

For more information on the course content:

Karin.Hannes@med.kuleuven.be

6th Annual Canadian Cochrane Symposium: New Horizons for Systematic Reviews in Health Care

6-7 March 2008

Edmonton, Canada

Pre-symposium workshops: Systematic review author training and RevMan 5 training. Workshops for healthcare consumers offered during Symposium.

Contact: Krystal Harvey at krystal.harvey@ualberta.ca
www.ccs2008.ca

Striving for Relevance**13th Annual Meeting of UK and Irish Contributors to The Cochrane Collaboration**

11-12 March 2008

Park Inn Hotel, York, UK

For further information and to register go to:

www.cochrane.co.uk.

Systematic Review Training Workshop

6-9 May 2008

University of Nottingham, UK

Contact: Jun Xia at jun.xia@leedspft.nhs.uk,
 telephone +44 (0)113 3058 303

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www.cochrane.org/contact/entities.htm#CENTRES

**Contact details for other Cochrane groups are available at:
www.cochrane.org/contact/entities.htm**