



Results of the Cochrane Strategic Review

In this issue...

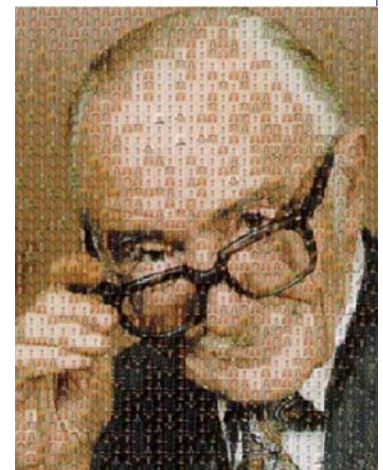
Cochrane Strategic Review	1
Development of the Cochrane Register of Studies	3
Cochrane Policy Manual	4
New IMS website.....	4
An invitation to Singapore	6
CCNet is value-adding	7
Nursing Care Network	7
Support for authors and trainers in South East Asia.....	8
Building Cochrane in Nova Scotia, Canada	8
Iranian Cochrane contributors meeting	9
Podcasts from <i>The Cochrane Library</i>	10
News, announcements and events.....	12

The Cochrane Collaboration has been in existence since 1993 – just over 16 years. During that time it has grown organically and now involves over 22,000 people worldwide. Some elements of its structure were planned, while others were the result of a specific event, need or interest at a given time.

It is a good idea, from time to time, to review an organisation’s purposes, activities, structures and governance. The Cochrane Collaboration has reviewed some parts of its organisation (e.g. periodic reviews of its governance) but never the organisation as a whole. The Cochrane Collaboration Steering Group decided that it was time to conduct the first ever formal review of the organisation with each of its elements considered in context. The Strategic Review of The Cochrane Collaboration was approved and then initiated in 2008.

The Strategic Review has been carried out in keeping with, and consistent to, the ten principles of The Cochrane Collaboration. It was conducted by Cochrane members (Jeremy Grimshaw, Mary Ellen Schaafsma, Lisa McGovern and Lucie Jones), with the guidance of a consulting firm that specialises in strategy engagement (Ashridge Consulting). It was constructed as a deliberate conversation with the Collaboration’s members, contributors, partners and funders, and carried out in a series of surveys and interviews, probing questions on the topics of:

- Purpose;
- Brand and glue (external and internal coherence);
- Competition (external environment);
- Financial viability;
- Accountability and decision-making;
- Structures and processes; and,
- Communication, advocacy and engagement with external stakeholders.



The Archie Cochrane mosaic



Results of the Strategic Review

The goal was to engage as many people as possible – both within and external to the Collaboration – in conversations on these topics to build a better understanding from our important stakeholders of how The Collaboration is perceived, how it functions, and what may affect its success into the future.

Over the life of the Strategic Review we, the Review Team, interviewed 75 Collaboration members and external stakeholders, 185 people completed on-line surveys, an average of 850 unique visitors went to our website each month from July 2008 to January 2009, and many people engaged in the process at the Freiburg Colloquium in October 2008 (for example, we gave out 450 badges saying “*I am a face of The Cochrane Collaboration*” that people wore proudly during the Colloquium).

As we considered what emerged from each Dialogue, we identified five cross-cutting themes and twenty-six recommendations that we believe will strengthen The Cochrane Collaboration as it goes forward, ensuring its ongoing success.

The full report gives details about the process of the Review. It outlines what we asked, what you told us and how we reflected on what we heard in order to arrive at these recommendations. Additional information for each Dialogue and the full Strategic Review Recommendations Report are available from the Review website: <http://ccreview.wikispaces.com/Final+Report+and+Background+Documents>.

We heard from you that The Cochrane Collaboration needs:

Clarity of purpose, and should:

- Reaffirm our primary purpose to be the production of systematic reviews
- Formalise additional purposes including training, methods development and advocacy for evidence-based decision-making and identify responsibilities of entities for these purposes
- Identify principles for developing new products or lines of activity

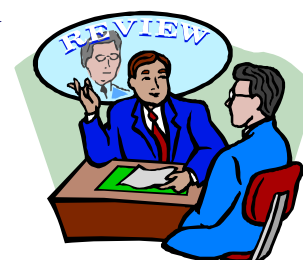
Engagement of partners for mutual benefits, and should:

- Develop a Marketing and Communications Strategy to promote external and internal awareness of the value arguments for and achievements of The Cochrane Collaboration
- Improve the usability of *The Cochrane Library* and other products for diverse stakeholders
- Develop a partnership strategy to engage other systematic review producers and knowledge packagers
- Establish formal membership for its contributors
- Establish an External Advisory Board

New resource options for supporting strategic objectives, and should:

- Invest in a development function for new products or lines of activities
- Investigate the development of a broad-based educational program (*‘Cochrane Education’*)
- Investigate the development of a responsive review program (*‘Cochrane Response’*)
- Acknowledge the reality of our current infrastructure funding model and work to maintain it
- Explore and pursue new funding opportunities

(cont'd on page 3)



Results of the Strategic Review (cont'd)

Management, accountability and effective leadership, and should:

- Clarify the roles and responsibilities of its scientific/professional, managerial and editorial leadership
- Develop and implement a formal succession planning mechanism for entity leadership
- Develop and implement performance appraisal mechanisms for entity leaders
- Enhance accountability mechanisms of entities to ensure core functions are met and Collaboration policies are implemented
- Develop and implement policy for minimal competencies for review author teams
- Develop and implement central decision-making processes that clearly identify communication, implementation and monitoring plans
- Review the membership of the Cochrane Collaboration Steering Group (CCSG) and its alignment with the purposes of the Collaboration
- Define required competencies for CCSG membership and induction and ongoing training for CCSG members
- Review terms of reference and membership of CCSG Sub-Groups and Advisory Groups

Strategic Thinking' embedded at all levels, and at all times, in the Collaboration, and should:

- Undertake a formal environmental scan every two to three years
- Use uncommitted income strategically to develop new products/lines of activity
- Review terms of reference, and number and geographic spread of Cochrane entities to ensure efficient alignment with the purposes of the Collaboration
- Develop an ongoing and participatory approach to strategy formation

*Jeremy Grimshaw
Strategic Review Team*

Development of the *Cochrane Register of Studies*

The Collaboration has invited Oakleigh Consulting (www.oakleigh.co.uk) to finalise the user requirement and invitation to tender for the new *Cochrane Register of Studies*. This database will comprise all the specialised registers from Cochrane Review Groups and Fields together with hand-searched records from all Cochrane entities and records sourced from MEDLINE, EMBASE and other databases.

Over the past few weeks, Oakleigh has been conducting interviews with a cross-section of the Collaboration's members to get their views and expertise on what is needed from the *Register*. In March, Oakleigh presented their recommendations to participants at the UK and Ireland Cochrane Contributors' Meeting in Edinburgh, for feedback and refinement. This has generated some further discussion, but it is hoped that the invitation to tender for parties interested in developing the Register will be released by the end of April 2009. A podcast of the meeting in Edinburgh will soon be made available on www.cochrane.org – watch for the announcement!

*Lucie Jones
The Cochrane Collaboration Secretariat*

Cochrane Policy Manual now online

An online version of the Manual is now available on our website at <http://www.cochrane.org/admin/manual.htm>, where a downloadable PDF version is also available. A couple of sections have been updated in a minor way (section 2.4 - Annual prizes and awards; and section 2.5 - Fellowships, scholarships and bursaries). Also please see section 1.1.1.1 about the role and remit of the new Editor in Chief, David Tovey.

Julian Higgins has kindly and painstakingly converted the Manual into the same software as the Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions; these two resources form a 'suite' of Cochrane online resource material. Hopefully you will now find the Manual more accessible, especially if you are already familiar with the appearance and usability of the Handbook.

There has been confusion in some people's minds over the years between the Handbook and the Manual: hopefully, the latter's change of name to the Cochrane *Policy* Manual may help to dispel confusion.

We would very much appreciate your comments on the online version of the Manual if you have a spare moment.

Jini Hetherington
The Cochrane Collaboration Secretariat

New IMS website

A new version of the Cochrane Collaboration Information Management System (IMS) website was recently released. At the same time, the web address has changed to ims.cochrane.org, adopting the notation used by many other Collaboration entities. The address www.ims.cochrane.org is also valid, and the old address, www.cc-ims.net will continue to work for a period of time.

The new website has been completely restyled and both the appearance and the content organisation have been redesigned in order to give a better visibility and usability. Here follows a brief description on how the content has been made available within the new website.

Navigating through the website

Generally speaking, the site aims to provide users with all the information about the current and future IMS. Particular attention has been paid to organizing the site so that newcomers can easily get to know what the IMS is and where to find the correct information about it.

Each page of the site presents the same graphical and functional layout:

- The navigation bar across the top shows the main sections of the site: the Home Page, RevMan, Archie, Support and Organization. The content of each area is illustrated below.
- Within each section, a navigation menu on the left lists the main subsections of that particular area. The section's front page provides an introduction and a general index of its subsections. The only exception to this general rule is represented by the home page, where instead of a sub-navigation menu a 'News' section appears to the right-hand side.

(continued on page 5)

New IMS website (cont'd)

At the very top right of the page, you always have access to the site search; a site map providing an overview of all the content; accessibility information; and a form for contacting us about the site.

Here is a short description of the content available for each main area of the site.

Home page – The IMS

Viewers will find general information on The Cochrane Collaboration, on the IMS and on the website itself. On the right is a 'News' section with the latest updates about the IMS.

RevMan

This area presents all the information available for RevMan 5, the current release of the software used for preparing Cochrane Reviews. This area includes information on licensing and permission, information on how to download and install the software, on documentation (FAQ, What's New, user guide, tutorial) and on support (updates, problem reporting and suggestion forms, wish list).

Archie

This main area presents all the information available for Archie, The Cochrane Collaboration's central server for managing documents and contact details. Some of the content available: Terms of use, how to request an account to access Archie, documentation, user guide and wish list.

Support

In this main area all useful information for supporting all those using the IMS has been collected and grouped according to people's roles and entities: Authors, Editors, CRGs and non-CRG entities. You can also find training materials in this section.



Monica Kjeldstrøm
Director, IMS

Organisation

This main area presents the groups of people who are behind the IMS: the IMS Development Team; the IMS Support Team; and the Information Management System Group (IMSG) and its advisory groups. For each of these groups, information on members, remits and meeting minutes is given. Improving the usability of a website is an ongoing challenge, and we welcome your feedback and suggestions, either sent via the site, or to ims@cochrane.dk.

Submission deadline for next issue of Cochrane News: 10 July, 2009
Please email articles (500 words max.), pictures and announcements to: cochrane@uottawa.ca

An invitation to Singapore

Six months to go to the first Cochrane Colloquium in Asia – the 17th Cochrane Colloquium will take place from 11-14 October, 2009 in Singapore. The Colloquium website www.colloquium09.com has been launched, and many of you have already taken the opportunity to browse the site and submit abstracts and workshop proposals.

This year's Colloquium will focus on the key challenges and opportunities both for our region and for The Cochrane Collaboration. The scientific programme, like Singapore itself, will embrace the future while maintaining a healthy respect for the traditions of the past. The website features regular updates on the planned scientific sessions – go online to find out more!



You are kindly invited to contribute to the development of an exciting and challenging programme by submitting paper and poster abstracts as well as workshop proposals online. Submissions are due on 15 April, 2009. Also visit our website to register for the Colloquium, request meetings, and find information about stipends for consumers and participants from developing countries, the social programme plus lots of practical advice for visitors.

Located in the heart of Asia, Singapore thrives as an international financial and trading hub. It's a city of contrasts offering enriching experiences from nature to nightlife and from culture to couture. Bring your family along and add some time for a holiday in tropical climes.

Come see, hear and taste the uniqueness of Singapore! See you there in October.

Key dates - Colloquium 2009

15 April	Abstract and workshop submission deadline
18 May	Notification of abstract and workshop acceptance
01 June	Stipend applications deadline
29 June	Notification of stipends acceptance
13 July	Early registration deadline
10 August	Meeting requests deadline
11 August	Workshop and meeting sign-up opens
11 September	Cancellation deadline
11-14 October	17th Cochrane Colloquium

Juliane Reid
Singapore Branch of the Australasian Cochrane Centre

Cochrane Consumer Network is value-adding

Many of the people contributing to the output of The Cochrane Collaboration do so in a voluntary capacity, perhaps none more so than in the Cochrane Consumer Network (CCNet). This Network is underpinned by basic funding and plenty of passion.



The result is now apparent on the 'What's happening' pages of the CCNet website (www.cochrane.org/consumers/happenings.htm). A link to our new video collection can be found at the top of the webpage.



These videos inform people about The Cochrane Collaboration and evidence-based health care; how consumers are disseminating the evidence from Cochrane reviews; and the role that consumer advocates play at the US Cochrane Center. These videos were made possible through the energy and 'get up and go' of Barbara Warren and the sensitivity and flair of Richard Davis of the US, not to mention his fluency in a number of languages. Both are base at the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community Center of New York City, where Barbara is Director for Organizational Development, Planning and Research and Director of Government Relations and Richard is the Director of Center Media.

Richard Davis

The other new addition is the provision of links to consumer prioritised review topics from *The Cochrane Library*. These titles were identified through an international online survey. The results of the survey formed the basis of the CCNet Prioritisation Project, which is funded by The Cochrane Collaboration Steering Group. The prioritised titles are the result of basic funding and a united front of consumers working to further the uptake of evidence-based health care. These links connect to a database of prioritised titles spanning a number of areas of health care (with a short description of the project). The links also lead to healthcare questions that the review topics address. The next challenge is for people within and external to The Cochrane Collaboration to make use of these new resources to enhance their work and the value to healthcare consumers.



Barbara Warren

Janet Wale
Cochrane Consumer Network

Nursing Care Network officially registered

I am pleased to announce that the Nursing Care Network was officially registered with the Collaboration on 25 February 2009. Please pass on this information to interested members of your entity. The Network Co-ordinator/Convenor is Alan Pearson, whose contact details are as follows: Professor Alan Pearson Co-ordinator, Cochrane Nursing Care Network School of Population Health and Clinical Practice The University of Adelaide South Australia 5005; Tel: +61 8 8303 6157; Fax: +61 8 8303 8280; E-mail: alan.pearson@adelaide.edu.au

Claire Allen
The Cochrane Collaboration Secretariat

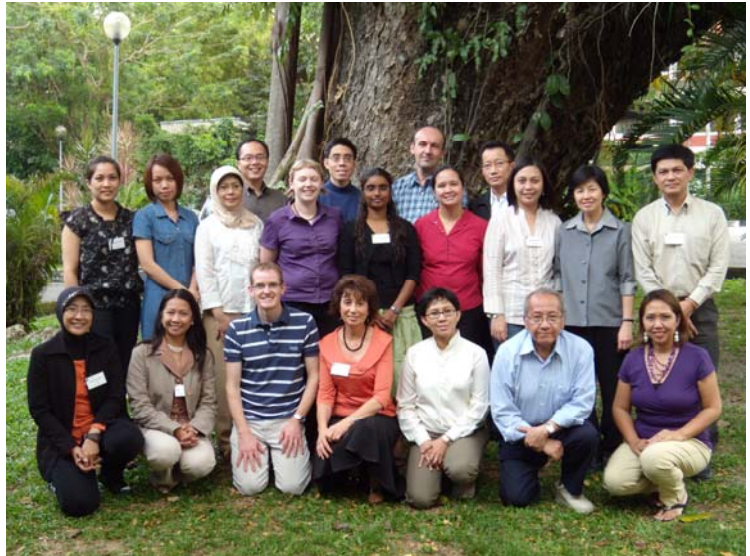
Submission deadline for next issue of Cochrane News: 10 July, 2009
Please email articles (500 words max.), pictures and announcements to: cochrane@uottawa.ca

Support for authors and trainers in South East Asia

A group of 20 trainers and experienced authors from South East Asia came together in Penang, Malaysia, in December 2008 for a two-day 'train-the-trainer' workshop focused around new methods and RevMan 5.

The meeting was an opportunity to pass on the learnings from the Cambridge training meeting held earlier in the year. Representatives from the Thai Cochrane Network, the Singapore Branch of the Australasian Cochrane Centre, as well as the Philippines, Indonesia and Malaysia attended the meeting, bringing their local perspectives and sharing their experiences.

The meeting revealed the wide range of support that trainers and authors in different settings need. Equally important as training in review methods is the facilitation role that local Cochrane trainers have in brokering communication with Review Groups, serving as a first point of contact for questions and building networks of authors. The meeting heard about current activities in each country, and participants received in-depth training in updated Cochrane methods, including Risk of Bias and Summary of Findings tables. This group will now be able to pass these skills on to others, and continue their invaluable work in supporting Cochrane authors in the region.



Train-the-trainer workshop participants, Penang

*Miranda Cumpston and Steve McDonald
Australasian Cochrane Centre*

Building Cochrane activities in Nova Scotia, Canada

We are pleased to announce the funding of new Cochrane activities in Nova Scotia, Canada. The Nova Scotia Health Research Foundation (www.nshrf.ca) has funded an initiative to develop Cochrane Collaboration activities and linkages in the province. Three complementary components will help build capacity to conduct and use Cochrane Reviews:

- The development of the Cochrane Prognosis Methodology Resource Group;
- the maintenance and increased activity of the Dalhousie University Cochrane Network Site; and
- the establishment of a Nova Scotia-based Regional Cochrane Training Centre.

The *Cochrane Prognosis Methodology Resource Group*, a new sub-group of the Prognosis Methods Group, will develop and maintain databases of relevant methodological studies, protocols, and systematic reviews of prognoses. This group will also help co-ordinate methodological research in the area of prognosis systematic reviews, and support-related training strategies.

The *Dalhousie University Cochrane Network Site*, part of the Canadian Cochrane Network & Centre (CCNC), will support and expand Cochrane activities in Nova Scotia, with objectives to build a strong local support network and increase awareness for the conduct and use of evidence-informed healthcare decision-making. (*cont'd on page 9*)

Building Cochrane activities in Nova Scotia, Canada (cont'd)

The *Nova Scotia Cochrane Resource and Training Group*, in collaboration with the Canadian Cochrane Network and Centre (CCNC), will further build local capacity through co-ordinated training and support for Cochrane contributors and users in the region.

These initiatives will support the local research community, while building capacity to conduct, interpret and apply high quality research syntheses. For more information, please contact Dr. Jill Hayden, Dalhousie University (jhayden@dal.ca).

Jill Hayden

Dalhousie University Cochrane Network Site

The first Iranian Cochrane contributors' meeting

The Iranian Cochrane informal network (ICInet) hosted the first Iranian Cochrane contributors' meeting (<http://www.dent.sbm.ac.ir/icinet.asp?section=1>) on 27 December, 2008 at the School of Dentistry, Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences (SBMU), in Tehran, Iran. Iranian Cochrane contributors, researchers, faculty, post- and undergraduate students attended the meeting. They were representing different universities and research centres around the country such as Tehran, Mashhad, Isfahan and the Iranian Registry of Clinical Trials (<http://www.irct.ir/>).

The session started with opening remarks from the dean of the dental school, Behzad Houshmand, on the importance of evidence-based medicine in clinical practice and this was followed with an overview of the two years of activities by the Iranian Cochrane informal network from Mona Nasser, the co-ordinator of the network. The second part of the meeting was a discussion chaired by Mona Nasser and Mohammad Khoshnevisan, the organizer of the meeting. The discussion ranged from the challenges individuals encountered in conducting systematic reviews, using systematic reviews to inform policy-making and developing guidelines.

Different members from around the country were able to introduce their activities and programs in evidence-based medicine and in conducting systematic reviews, and highlighted the challenges that they encountered to get funding and support for their projects. Different dissemination techniques to involve a larger number of individuals around the country were also discussed. This meeting provided the opportunity for different Cochrane contributors to meet and discuss possible collaboration. The meeting was followed by a workshop on The Cochrane Collaboration and Cochrane reviews for individuals who were new to The Cochrane Collaboration.

Mona Nasser and Mohammad H Khoshnevisan
Iranian Cochrane informal network (ICInet)



*Welcome on behalf of the
organizing committee*

Submission deadline for next issue of Cochrane News: 10 July, 2009
Please email articles (500 words max.), pictures and announcements to: cochrane@uottawa.ca

Are you listening? Podcasts from *The Cochrane Library*

Podcasts from *The Cochrane Library* began as a pilot project after approval from the Collaboration Publishing Policy Group (PPG) in November 2007. Thirteen months, lots of positive feedback and 56 podcasts later, Cochrane podcasts are included for every issue and are now a regular and popular feature of *The Cochrane Library* (see opposite page for table tracking podcast usage).

The idea to include podcasts in *The Cochrane Library* came after the success of the Dublin and São Paulo Colloquia's video and audio podcasts of the plenary sessions. The thinking was - if our plenaries were popular, imagine the impact of our Cochrane reviews. The preparations were made for Issue 1, 2008 to host the first collection of podcasts: Mike Clarke (UK Cochrane Centre) accepted the role of Podcast Editor providing support and guidance to authors; technical support was led by Chris Mavergames (German Cochrane Centre) and co-ordination and support were provided by Wiley-Blackwell, publishers of *The Cochrane Library*.

The reviews for podcasting are selected from each issue's press release list. The authors of these selected reviews are invited to record a podcast. The instructions provided include editorial information on preparing the summary of the review, some technical information and a stipulation to contact the Podcast Editor before recording their podcast. On average, in 2008, 60% of invited authors accepted to record and publish a podcast, summarising their review's findings.

The whole process is completed within four weeks, with some authors providing their podcasts within two weeks of being invited. Ivo Tremont-Lukats, podcast author from Issue 2 had this to say, "I can tell you, my experience was a breeze. I received excellent coaching from Mike, who was very receptive and helpful. I felt proud of myself after I made my first podcast ever! Finally, Chris' assistance was superb. We should podcast all reviews from now on."

Recording a podcast is very simple, and requires some software (freely available) to generate the mp3. The recording should take place in a quiet room, using a headset microphone. If any problems arise from the test file, there are opportunities to correct these or use another format, i.e. Skype. More information at: <http://www.cochrane.org/resources/podcasting-guide.htm>. "Hearing authors tell the story of their Cochrane review is a great way to improve access to their findings," said Mike Clarke.

Once the podcasts are available online, visitors can do three things: 1) Listen to the podcast (i.e. download or play now); 2) Read the review (i.e. go straight to the reviews in *The Cochrane Library*); 3) Freely subscribe to receive the podcast collection and future postings (i.e. subscribe using iTunes). In 2008, for the 56 podcasts published, 44,072 hits to the *Listen now* and *Read review* pages were recorded. On average, this translates to approximately 120 people per day accessing the podcasts from February to December, 2008.

Mike Clarke and David Tovey, Editor in Chief of *The Cochrane Library*, will be working together to further expand the dissemination of Cochrane Reviews in podcast format. "We aim to build on the success of this pilot project, with podcasts reflecting the needs of our international audience, extending further the diversity of involvement and the range of topic coverage," said David.

Laura Sampson
Wiley-Blackwell and Sons



Are you listening? Podcasts from *The Cochrane Library*

Rank	CD Number	Article title	Issue number	Number of clicks to 'listen now'	Number of clicks to 'read review'
1	-	Summary – Issue 4	4	570	N/A
2	-	Summary – Issue 3	3	503	N/A
3	CD004517	Music therapy for depression	1	399	Stats not available
4	-	Summary – Issue 2	2	351	N/A
5	CD000448	St John's wort for major depression	4	291	274
6	CD001321	Cranberries for preventing urinary tract infections	1	262	Stats not available
7	CD003373	Regular self-examination or clinical examination for early detection of breast cancer	3	248	83
8	CD003054	Exercise or exercise and diet for preventing type 2 diabetes mellitus in ethnic minority groups	3	223	125
9	CD003822 CD003823 CD007066	Blood Pressure lowering efficacy of angiotensin receptor blockers, angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors and renin inhibitors for primary hypertension (3 Reviews in 1)	4	218	86 (no details on split)
10	CD006920	Acupuncture and assisted conception	4	215	120
11	CD001823	Lumbar supports for prevention and treatment of low back pain	2	210	96
12	CD000011	Interventions for enhancing medication adherence	2	208	37
13	CD001187	House dust mite control measures for asthma	2	206	43
14	CD005592	Huperzine A for Alzheimer's disease	2	189	66
15	CD006363	Regular treatment for salmeterol for chronic asthma: serious adverse events	3	186	59
16	CD005139	Antiangiogenic therapy with anti-vascular endothelial growth factor modalities for neovascular age-related macular degeneration	2	178	25
17	CD001497	Interventions for preventing tobacco sales to minors	3	170	89
18	CD005381	Physical activity and enhanced fitness to improve cognitive function in older people without known cognitive impairment	2	158	42
19	CD006801	Custom-made foot orthoses for the treatment of foot pain	3	155	62
20	CD006145	Exercise for the management of cancer-related fatigue in adults	2	154	36

Table tracking Library podcast usage

Submission deadline for next issue of Cochrane News: 10 July, 2009
 Please email articles (500 words max.), pictures and announcements to: cochrane@uottawa.ca

COCHRANE NEWS**News, announcements and events**

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

Editor:

Jeanette Doucet, Canada
Communications Specialist, CCNC
 Tel: +1 613 562 5800 ext. 2927
 Fax: +1 613 562 5659

Advisory Committee:

Lorne Becker, USA
Co-Chair, Steering Group

Dave Booker, Germany
Website Committee Representative

Adrian Grant, UK
Co-Chair, Steering Group

Jeremy Grimshaw, Canada
Director, CCNC

Jini Hetherington, UK
Administrator, Cochrane Collaboration Secretariat

Richard Hughes, UK
Co-ordinating Editor Representative

Elizabeth Pienaar, South Africa
Trials Search Co-ordinator Representative

Megan Prictor, Australia
Review Group Co-ordinator Representative

Jacob Riis, Denmark
Centre Representative

MaryEllen Schaafsma, Canada
Executive Director, CCNC

Liu Xuemei, China
Methods Group Representative

Janet Yarrow, USA
Consumer Representative

Mingming Zhang, China
Field/Network Representative

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

Cochrane Colloquia, Freiburg and Singapore.

Abstracts of 2008 presentations are available at www.imbi.uni-freiburg.de/OJS/cca/index.php/cca/issue/view/30. Singapore Colloquium abstract deadline: 15 April; early registration deadline: 13 July. Details at www.colloquium09.com

11th Rocky Mountain Workshop on How to Practice Evidence Based Health Care (EBHC Workshop)

July 26-30, 2009
 Vail Cascade Club & Resort; Vail, Colorado (USA)
<http://ebhc.uchsc.edu>
 Jen Stachelski at 303-724-7550 or Jennifer.mcintyre@ucdenver.edu

5th International Evidence-based Health Care Teachers and Developers Conference

28 October – 1 November, 2009
 Sicily, Italy
<http://www.ebhc.org/conference2009@ebhc.org> or + 39 051 5883920

Stakeholder Summit on Using Quality Systematic Reviews

4-5 June, 2009
 Baltimore, Maryland, USA
<http://apps1.jhsph.edu/cochrane/NSconferencesandevents.htm>
 Contact: Janie Gordon, jlgordon@jhsph.edu or 410-502-4641

Australasian Cochrane Centre free training workshops in 2009
 Introductory workshops for new authors; and Review Completion and Update Programs for more advanced authors.
http://www.cochrane.org.au/training/timetable_2009.php

The successful applicant of the 2009 Aubrey Sheiham Public Health & Primary Care Scholarship is Dr Odigwe from Nigeria. The UK Cochrane Centre staff look forward to welcoming Dr Odigwe to Oxford for three months starting late April 2009. Further information: <http://www.cochrane.org/docs/Fellowshipsandscholarships.htm#ASPHPCS>

This year's Cochrane Visiting Fellowship has been awarded to Natthaleeya Narash, based at the Thai Cochrane Network, in Khon Kaen, Thailand.

The Croatian Branch of the Italian Cochrane Centre (CBICC) was officially registered with the Collaboration on 9 December, 2008. The Branch Director is Livia Puljak, MD, PhD, from the University of Split School of Medicine in Croatia. Email: livia@mefst.hr

Kevin Marsh has become a new Co-convenor of the Campbell and Cochrane Economics Methods Group (CCEMG). He can be contacted via e-mail to Ian Shemilt, the CCEMG Research Co-ordinator: i.shemilt@uea.ac.uk.

Bev Jasevicius joins John MacDonald as Trials Search Co-ordinator at the Cochrane Inflammatory Bowel Disease and Functional Bowel Disorders Review Group in London, Ontario, Canada. Many thanks and farewell to outgoing TSC Roxanne Isard.