

## **Newsletter - Cochrane Health Care for Older People Field September 2008**

*Greetings all!*

Here is the third email Newsletter for the Health Care of Older People Field.

During the past year further consolidation has taken place in the work of the Older People Field. The joint project with the Cochrane Bone Joint & Muscle Trauma Review Group (see below) has progressed well, and an abstract of this work will be presented at the Colloquium in Freiberg. The Health of Older People (HOP) website, which organises and summarises Cochrane evidence for effectiveness of interventions and health care and rehabilitation of older people, has been maintained and kept up-to-date. We continue to provide support to other Cochrane entities including advice on proposed systematic reviews. However the resources to perform this work remain very limited, and it is apparent that additional external funding will be required for us to substantially increase our activity. Two opportunities for external funding are currently being pursued, through the 'Age-Related Diseases and Health Trust', a new Age-related charity in UK, and an application (lead Dr Barbara van Munster) through the 'Nationaal Programma Ouderenzorg' (NPO), a government program in the Netherlands.

**Annual Monitoring Report (August 2008):** A number of suggestions have been made in the annual report from the Monitoring and Registration Group. These include working with the Developing Countries Network, extending links with consumers, development of a specialist register, interaction with more Review Groups, tagging protocols and reviews relevant to our Field, and to extend the prioritisation project with Bone Joint and Muscle Trauma Review Group, to involve other relevant review groups in prioritisation and conduct of future reviews. The previous suggestion to establish a formal board of advisors is not included in this annual report. All of these are desirable, but cannot be implemented unless we secure resource to do the work.

### **Delivering on priorities: Developing and implementing effective collaboration between a Cochrane Review Group and a Cochrane Field.**

Good progress has been made in the joint project working with the Bone Joint & Muscle Trauma Review Group to develop and pilot a framework for effective collaboration between a review group and a field (funded by the Cochrane Collaboration). The pilot centres on hip fracture rehabilitation. Field members were canvassed for views on priority topics within this clinical domain. Responses were categorised and evaluated. Priority topics were then chosen for two reviews, which have been commissioned and are in progress.

It is hoped this project will help develop strategies to harness the combined strengths of a review group and field for delivering high-priority reviews in a timely fashion. The review group and field will also work together on ways to enhance dissemination of the review findings as well as placing them on a broader context. An abstract of this work will be presented at the Colloquium in Freiberg.

### **Request from the Bone, Joint and Muscle Trauma Review Group**

Are you interested in acting as an author or in peer-reviewing protocols and reviews published by this group? Their scope includes randomised and other controlled clinical trials of interventions in:

1. the primary and secondary prevention of fractures, dislocations, and soft tissue injuries of the appendicular skeleton and associated soft tissues, and the prevention of complications or adverse effects of treatment;
2. the management (treatment and rehabilitation) of people with fractures, dislocations, and soft tissue injuries of the appendicular skeleton and associated soft tissues.

This includes many areas of importance to older people.

If interested please contact [amy.kavanagh@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:amy.kavanagh@manchester.ac.uk).

### **The Health of Older People (HOP) project ([www.effectiveolderpeoplecare.org](http://www.effectiveolderpeoplecare.org)).**

This searchable website / database summarises Cochrane systematic review evidence for best practice in healthcare and rehabilitation for frail older people. The focus is 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.

The website consists of a content tree with themes, sub-topics, questions and interventions with evidence statements, was created and a website developed to disseminate the information. The database currently contains evidence statements from more than 250 interventions in relation to 19 different topics and has been openly accessible on the web from 10 September 2007. 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 on Cochrane. The tree structure also allows ready identification of gaps where further reviews could be prioritised. This has been particularly useful in planning the joint project with the Bone, Joint & Muscle Trauma Review Group.

We would be grateful for any feedback on the website ([heather.moorhead@clinmed.gla.ac.uk](mailto:heather.moorhead@clinmed.gla.ac.uk)).

### **Future meetings**

Cochrane Colloquium, Freiberg, October 2008 – Prof. David Stott will represent the Older Peoples Field at the Colloquium. There will be an opportunity to meet with David at or after the fields and networks meeting on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October 7.30-9.00am. Please look at the Colloquium programme for further details.

### **Feedback**

Please send any comments regarding the Newsletter, or its contents, to [heather.moorhead@clinmed.gla.ac.uk](mailto:heather.moorhead@clinmed.gla.ac.uk). If there are other contacts that you are aware of who would like to receive communications from the Field, please let us know.

Best Wishes,

*David Stott / Gil Ramirez / Shelley de la Vega*