



Agustín Ciapponi sings “Cochrane”
Read more on Page 14

FEATURED ENTITY

The Cochrane Qualitative Methods Group

Registered at last!

By Jennie Popay

Some years ago a colleague, Gareth Williams, and I – two sociologists involved in qualitative research in the health field – attended the Amsterdam Cochrane Colloquium. We were keen to observe the evidence-based healthcare movement at a relatively early point in its development. At that stage there were a few people in the Collaboration interested in exploring the contribution qualitative research evidence might make to systematic reviews and hence to improving the quality of health care. However, most of the people we spoke to in Amsterdam were either bemused by the notion of qualitative research as evidence or engaged us in conversation about quality of life measures! Undaunted, Gareth and I began to explore the feasibility of establishing a Cochrane Methods Group to work on the question of extending Cochrane reviews to include qualitative research. Initially, we set up a network of people interested in exploring the methodological challenges involved in the systematic review of qualitative research in 1999. The network has held meetings at every annual Cochrane Colloquium since then and has also organised ad hoc meetings in the UK.

A key aim of the network has been to seek registration as a Methods Group within the Collaboration but progress towards this was very slow – partly because of the limited time people had to dedicate to this task and partly because before this could happen we needed a critical mass of people working within the Collaboration to support the idea. A lot has changed in the Collaboration since Amsterdam. There is now widespread interest in the value of extending systematic reviews of evidence on effectiveness to include evidence from qualitative research. For example, the Infectious Diseases Review Group gave Jane Noyes and I a small amount of money to do some exploratory work extending an existing Cochrane review on Directly Observed Therapy, Short Course (DOTS) treatment for tuberculosis (TB) to include evidence from qualitative research on factors shaping lay people’s decision-making about treatment for TB. The Health Development Agency also provided a small grant to myself and Helen Roberts and colleagues at City University in London to do similar exploratory work extending a Cochrane Systematic review on smoke alarms to include evidence from diverse sources, including qualitative studies, on factors shaping the implementation of such interventions.

Finally, in the summer of this year, with the help of Esther Coren from

About “Featured Entity”

This article will be the first in a series of articles highlighting various Cochrane entities around the world. Please send any suggestions for future “Featured Entity” articles to the Editor at cochrane@mcmaster.ca.

In this issue...

Featured entity!	1
From the Co-Chairs	2
Letter from the Editor	3
Comings and goings	3
cochrane.org is growing	4
Childhood Cancer Review Group	6
European Contributors’ Meeting	6
Improving your review	7
The copy-editing projects	7
<i>The Cochrane Library</i>	8
The Cochrane Methodology Register	8
Free access in Spain	9
Free access in Denmark	9
Remembering the Barcelona Colloquium ..	10
Upcoming Colloquia	10
The Cochrane Consumer Network at the Barcelona Colloquium	11
Looking ahead to Ottawa 2004	11
Colloquium Awards 2003	12
Kenneth Warren Prize	12
Chris Silagy Prize	12
Thomas C. Chalmers Award	13
Thank you from the Developing Countries Stipends Committee	13
Barcelona Fun Page	14
The Olympic Tournament	14
The Song Contest	14
The Painting Contest	14
Cochrane workshops	15
Deadlines and dates for Ottawa 2004	15
Deadlines and dates for <i>The Cochrane Library</i>	15
Cochrane Centres	16

COCHRANE NEWS**From the Co-Chairs**

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We would like to begin by congratulating the Iberoamerican Cochrane Centre on a wonderful 11th Cochrane Colloquium in Barcelona. They provided a great opportunity for people to meet, for news to be shared and for challenging issues facing The Cochrane Collaboration to be discussed. The Steering Group met three times during the Colloquium and discussed a wide variety of issues, some of which we'll mention here. The minutes of our meetings are available at www.cochrane.org/ccsg.

The ever increasing need to involve more people from a wide variety of cultures and places in the work of The Cochrane Collaboration, and in using what we produce, was brought out clearly in Barcelona. Work presented by Claire Allen and Kim Pollard from the Secretariat of the Collaboration showed some of the progress that has been made. There are now about 10,000 people actively involved in The Cochrane Collaboration, from more than 80 countries around the world. The number of people from low and middle-income countries continues to increase: from just over 300 in 2000, through 500 in 2002, to more than 750 now.

A continuing challenge for the coming years is to make it as easy as possible for all these people, and the tens of thousands more who will participate in The Cochrane Collaboration in the future, to work together. One of the ways to meet this challenge is through the development of the Collaboration's Information Management System. Several presentations were made at the Colloquium about the plans for this. Over the next year, the first phases of the new System will be introduced and the need to keep people informed and involved was recognised. If you would like information on the Information Management System, or to keep an eye on its progress, you can find out more at www.cc-ims.net.

Another of the ways to keep people better informed is through the Collaboration's web site. A substantial redesign of this was presented at the Colloquium and is discussed elsewhere in this Cochrane News. Some of the links we've included in this From the Chairs will take you to that new site. To go to the top page, click on www.cochrane.org.

One of the topics discussed at many times, both formal and informal, during the Colloquium was The Cochrane Collaboration's policy on sponsorship. This relates to sponsorship from the pharmaceutical industry, but also from commercial companies and other sources more generally. In keeping with much of the feedback we were given during the Colloquium, the Steering Group decided that there should be a period of wide consultation after the Colloquium about this issue. We are now in the midst of that consultation process. See www.cochrane.org/docs/commercialsponsorship.htm.

We would like to wish everyone well for the New Year. We look forward to the opportunity that 2004 will bring for The Cochrane Collaboration to meet together again, at the 12th Cochrane Colloquium in Ottawa.

Mike Clarke and Jim Neilson

Co-Chairs, Cochrane Collaboration Steering Group

Cochrane News is distributed internationally by Cochrane Centres and through various Cochrane mailing lists. If you are having problems receiving *Cochrane News* or you would like to be added to a mailing list, please contact your nearest Cochrane Centre (see page 16 for contact details).

Letter from the Editor

This is a special issue for me. While we were in Barcelona for the Colloquium, the Cochrane News and CCInfo Advisory Committee met face-to-face for the first time since I became Editor of Cochrane News. We had a very good meeting and discussed issues such as the distribution of Cochrane News, themes and topics, and future directions for Cochrane News and CCInfo.

As a result of this meeting, Cochrane News is going to be more widely distributed instead of limiting distribution to the various Cochrane Centres as in the past. It was also decided that there will be more of a focus on issues that are important to The Cochrane Collaboration, and you will start to see a shift in that direction over the next few issues of Cochrane News. Finally, we have decided to introduce a new regular feature, called "Featured Entity", where we will highlight the history and current activities of various Cochrane entities. In this issue, we are introduced to the new Qualitative Methods Group, and you can look forward to learning more about each of your favourite entities over the next months and years.

As always, I hope that you will enjoy reading this issue and that you will be informed, enlightened and entertained. On behalf of the Cochrane News and CCInfo Advisory Committee, I would like to wish you and yours a safe, peaceful and happy holiday season, and an exceptional 2004.

Daren Spithoff
Editor, Cochrane News
spithd@mcmaster.ca

Submission Deadline

The deadline for submission of articles for *Cochrane News*, Issue 30 is **March 1, 2004**. Please email articles (600 words max) to:
cochrane@mcmaster.ca



The Cochrane News and CCInfo Advisory Committee meets in Barcelona (left to right): Daren Spithoff, Peer Wille-Jørgensen, Kathie Clark, Arne Ohlsson, Dave Booker, Sally Hopewell, Mark Fenton.

Missing: William "Mac" Beckner, Mike Clarke, Thilo Kober, Jim Neilson, Mingming Zhang, Amy Zelmer.

Photo by Jini Hetherington (also a member of the Advisory Committee)

Comings and goings

Statistics Methods Group

In a recent election, Steff Lewis (UK) and Joseph Beyene (Canada) were chosen to join Jon Deeks, Doug Altman and Julian Higgins as Co-Convenors of the Statistics Methods Group (SMG).

From the original post by Jon Deeks in the SMG list (24 November 2003)

Airways Group

The Airways Group recently welcomed Liz Arnold as their new TSC. We look forward to her working with the members of our Group and others throughout the Collaboration.

From the original post by Toby Lasserson in CCInfo (16 October 2003)

Developmental, Psychosocial and Learning Problems Group

We would like to welcome Eileen Brunt who has started work as TSC for the Cochrane Developmental, Psychosocial and Learning Problems Group. She is providing cover for Jo Abbott who is currently on maternity leave.

From the original post by Jane Dennis in CCInfo (6 November 2003)

John Wiley and Sons Limited

I am pleased to inform you of three key new starters at Wiley:

Deborah Pentesco Gilbert (dpentesco@wiley.co.uk) is Managing Editor, *The Cochrane Library*. Deborah is responsible for the day to day management of *The Cochrane Library* at Wiley. She will be working closely with colleagues across all functions at Wiley on delivery through Wiley Interscience, maximising usage of *The Cochrane Library*, and maximising sales.

Laura Mellor (lmellor@wiley.co.uk) is Desk Editor, *The Cochrane Library*. Laura will be liaising with the Review Groups to enhance the accuracy and consistency of language in systematic reviews, and the clarity of the text.

Colin Bethell (cbethell@wiley.co.uk) is Marketing Manager. Colin has responsibility for marketing *The Cochrane Library* globally.

From the original email post by Deborah Dixon (19 September 2003)

cochrane.org is growing

By Dave Booker

If you have recently visited www.cochrane.org, The Cochrane Collaboration's main web site, you may have been surprised! Not only did the site receive a completely new front-end, it is also full of many new features. Events, news, workshops, and other opportunities are now found in the site's 'newsroom' and an expanded section on training resources brings manuals, databases, software, and online guides into a single collection. Some of what you can find:

For Cochrane Library users:

- Find on-line training from the Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) and the Australian National Institute of Clinical Studies (NICS).
- Get answers - Cochrane Library Users' Group (CLUG).

For Cochrane reviewers:

- Improve your review-writing skills with the new Open Learning Material.
- Finish your Cochrane review with the new Cochrane Style Resource.

For Cochrane entity administrators:

- Find and share promotional materials.
- Find your Cochrane colleagues in the new online contact database.



A variety of reports, calendars, reminders, and contact resources are now accessible from the main 'Internal resources' page, designed as a 'portal' for Cochrane entity staff and reviewers (www.cochrane.org/internal). As in the past, the site provides free access to abstracts of Cochrane reviews, now also integrated into the site's search facility. We have also added abstracts from most past Cochrane Colloquia!

And more ... press releases and Cochrane press kits are now on-line in a new section of the site, 'For the media'. Web site visitors can also learn about ways to get involved on the new Consumer Network pages.

Links have been added to a wide variety of external resources, including:

- ✓ 'Little Gems' and 'Hitting the Headlines' from the UK National electronic Library for Health (NeLH) – discussion and analysis of specific Cochrane reviews, and a syndicated column evaluating evidence found in healthcare press reports;
- ✓ The 'What's New Digest' – a printable digest of summaries of new and updated Cochrane reviews;
- ✓ 'Consumer summaries' and 'Hot Topics' from InformedHealthOnline.org – short plain-English descriptions of the conclusions of Cochrane reviews, and periodic in-depth discussion of a healthcare topic and the related evidence.

Do you have a resource to share? Tell us at web@cochrane.org. As the site's popularity grows (350,000 hits in the first month of the new site), we have the opportunity to turn it into a powerful resource for all. Please use the above email address to send in your suggestions for the future of the site. Your voice counts!

The web site development is made possible by the time and effort of over 50 individual contributors and Web Advisory Committee members, and with financial support from the German Cochrane Centre, the University Hospital in Freiburg, and the Deutsche Krankenversicherung.

Dave Booker is a Web Developer with the German Cochrane Centre and is the key person behind the new web site of The Cochrane Collaboration.

Commercial sponsorship and The Cochrane Collaboration

A consultation is underway within The Cochrane Collaboration regarding commercial sponsorship. Please visit The Cochrane Collaboration web site for a description of the consultation process that is being followed:

www.cochrane.org/docs/commercialsponsorship.htm

Featured Entity

(Continued from page 1)

the UK Cochrane Centre and with two joint convenors – Jane Noyes at York University and Katrina Roen at Lancaster University – a Cochrane Qualitative Research Methods Group was registered. We held our first formal AGM as a Methods Group at the Barcelona Colloquium attended by around 20 people and also organised a workshop with three speakers talking about methodological work underway in the synthesis of qualitative research findings. The Methods Group currently has around 140 people signed up members from all over the world and a well established website which is maintained by Peter Finch. The web site address is:

http://mysite.freemove.com/Cochrane_Qual_Method/index.htm

We are obviously at an early stage in developing our work and the terrain to be covered is extensive and very diverse. Qualitative research encompasses a range of specific methods generating different kinds of data and findings. The findings from these studies can help to answer questions about the impact, appropriateness and acceptability of interventions and thus enhance the scope, relevance and utility of effectiveness reviews. But there are many methodological issues raised by including qualitative research within systematic reviews including the need for methods for searching for, appraising and synthesising qualitative evidence. The Cochrane Qualitative Methods Group is aiming to develop and support methodological work in all these areas and to disseminate this work within and beyond the Collaboration's Review Groups. Members of the Methods Group are currently involved in a number of methodological studies focusing on frameworks for critical appraisal of study quality and approaches to data synthesis. Relevant protocols and reports from this work will be made available on the group's website.

Our action plan for the next two years is available on our website and four sub-groups have been established to take this work forward. Jennie Popay (Lancaster, UK) and Mary Dixon Wood (Leicester, UK) are co-ordinating a sub-group focusing on the development of guidance on methodological standards for including qualitative research in systematic reviews. Janet Harris (Oxford, UK) and Katrina Roen (Lancaster, UK) are co-ordinating a sub-group focusing on training and they have plans to undertake a survey of training currently available and an assessment of training needs within the Collaboration. A third sub-group is focusing on the development of registers of relevant methodological texts/papers and protocols and completed reviews incorporating qualitative research co-ordinated by Andrew Booth (Sheffield, UK) and maintaining and developing the membership register coordinated by Jane Noyes (York, UK). Helen Smith and Helen Bromley (Liverpool, UK) are co-ordinating a fourth sub-group considering how best to disseminate the work of the Methods Group and how to promote discussion amongst our members. At the AGM in Barcelona we also agreed to explore the feasibility of organising workshops at the Ottawa Colloquium on training and on searching, retrieving and managing information in systematic reviews of qualitative research. Look out on the website for more information about the work of our sub-groups and about our other activities!

Currently, the central reference point for the group is the Institute for Health Research at Lancaster University in the UK where Jennie Popay and Katrina Roen are based. We are slowly putting in place a system to ensure that enquiries about the group's work are responded to as promptly as possible – but the group has no core funding at present so please be patient with us! We are also beginning to establish a register of people willing to comment on Cochrane protocols where relevant, and to provide advice for reviewers considering the inclusion of qualitative findings in their reviews. As you can see, the convenors of the Methods Group and the co-ordinators of our sub-groups are very UK-based at the moment and we are looking for people from outside the UK to get actively involved. Looking forward to hearing from you.

Please contact Jennie at j.popay@lancaster.ac.uk.

Jennie Popay is one of the Co-Convenors of the new Cochrane Qualitative Research Methods Group

Looking for photos of the Barcelona Colloquium?

You can see a selection of photographs on the Barcelona Colloquium web site at:

www.colloquium.info/2003

Proposed Childhood Cancer Review Group (ChCRG)

By **Leontien C.M. Kremer and Marjolein J.E. Postelmans**

In March 2003 preparations for a new Cochrane Childhood Cancer Review Group got underway in collaboration with the Cancer Network in Oxford, the Dutch Cochrane Centre and the Emma Children's Hospital of the Academic Medical Centre in Amsterdam.

In the second half of the last century, clinical trials have led to major developments in paediatric oncology. Presently about 70% of children with childhood cancer survive longer than 5 years. This is related to clinical scientific research and treatment intensification. It is now very important to consider the pros and cons of the current intensive therapy strategies carefully. The pros and cons can be weighed and analysed in systematic reviews.

The Childhood Cancer Review Group has the following goals:

1. Collecting and critically weighing the available evidence on interventions in paediatric oncology: concerning treatment, supportive care and late effects of treatment.
2. Distributing knowledge to professionals and lay people regarding the making of well-informed decisions about interventions used in paediatric oncology.

Thanks to a start-up subsidy from the departments of Paediatrics and Paediatric Oncology of the Emma Children's Hospital of the Academic Medical Centre, the positions of Co-ordinating Editor and Review Group Co-ordinator for this proposed CRG have already been filled.

The Emma Children's Hospital is prepared to function as a base for the Childhood Cancer Review Group. Many ideas are being explored to raise core funding for another three members of the group.

Currently, the group has twelve editors who want to give their support, time and enthusiasm to the group. Also, via the Cancer Network a lot of professionals have already shown their interest in the Childhood Cancer Review Group and that is a good sign!

The first exploratory meeting is going to be held in Amsterdam on February 2, 2004. The expectation is that the Childhood Cancer Review Group can be registered with The Cochrane Collaboration soon after this exploratory meeting.

Anyone who is interested in the group, has any suggestions or ideas which might help us, can contact Marjolein Postelmans at m.j.postelmans@amc.uva.nl.

*Leontien C.M. Kremer is the proposed Co-ordinating Editor of the proposed Childhood Cancer Review Group
Marjolein J.E. Postelmans is the proposed Review Group Co-ordinator of the proposed Childhood Cancer Review Group.*

European Contributors' Meeting 2004

From 12-14 May, 2004, the Dutch Cochrane Centre will host the next annual Continental European Contributors' Meeting. The meeting will be held in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, and is directed to members of Cochrane entities located in continental Europe. The first day (Wednesday 12 May) is reserved for a workshop regarding the use of the new Information Management System (IMS), run by Monica Kjeldstrøm. The next two days (Thursday and Friday) will be devoted to the annual meeting itself. Various workshops will be organised. Please contact the Dutch Cochrane Centre for further information (cochrane@amc.uva.nl).

Submitted by Rob Scholten, Co-Director of the Dutch Cochrane Centre

Find all the latest newsletters from your favourite Cochrane entities at:

www.cochrane.org/newslett/

To post your entity's newsletter on the Collaboration web site, please email it to Daren Spithoff at spithd@mcmaster.ca

Improving your review

The copy-editing projects

By Philippa Middleton

Background

In 2002, the Steering Group of The Cochrane Collaboration kindly provided funding for three copy-editing projects:

- a prospective copy-editing project based in the northwest of England, which also included developing the Cochrane Style Guide, led by Harriet MacLehose and Sonja Henderson
- a copy-editing support project (prospective) for new reviews, led by Nancy Owens
- a retrospective copy-editing project, led by Philippa Middleton

Prospective copy-editing project

This project provided training to the people responsible for copy editing (internal copy editors) within five Collaborative Review Groups (CRGs) in conjunction with monitoring of their copy editing by an external copy editor. The development of the Cochrane Style Guide and copy-editing checklists was an important part of the project. The Cochrane Style Guide is available on the Web as part of the Cochrane Style Resource and continues to be maintained and updated by the Cochrane Style Guide working group in response to feedback. A comprehensive report is available at:

www.liv.ac.uk/lstm/ehcap/CSR/project_past.html

Copy-editing support project

Two phases have been carried out (for Issues 2 and 3, 2003 of *The Cochrane Library*) and another phase for Issue 1, 2004 has just been completed. In this project, any CRG could submit new or updated reviews (or new protocols) to be centrally copy edited (after being copy edited at the CRG). In the first two phases, 26 reviews, one updated review and six protocols were centrally edited. Nine CRGs participated in one or both of the first two phases. These reviews have taken an average of two hours to edit, probably reflecting the increased amount of copy editing now done by CRGs before review publication.

Retrospective copy-editing project

An estimated 100 reviews from five CRGs have been retrospectively edited to date. Five copy editors (all familiar with Cochrane reviews) have participated in this project. These reviews are taking an average of four to six hours each to edit, more than in the copy-editing support project. This has often meant a significant workload for CRGs to integrate the suggested changes and resubmit the edited reviews for publication. Most of the reviews that were retrospectively edited have now been republished in *The Cochrane Library*.

General comments

The feedback from CRGs for all projects has been very positive. For example, one participant in the support project was able to see that their internal editing had improved from phase I to phase II. One CRG participating in the retrospective project commented “the work was turned around very quickly and to a high standard”. The people participating in the prospective project felt that their copy-editing skills had improved, although they could not pinpoint to what extent this was as a result of the time spent developing and using the Style Guide, the copy-editing training, or the feedback received from the external copy editor. The Style Guide continues to receive accolades throughout the Collaboration.

The various copy-editing projects and associated training activities have increased awareness of copy-editing issues in Cochrane reviews, and improved the standard of copy editing in Cochrane reviews, although this has not been formally evaluated. There was general support for the introduction of external (centralised) editing.

Future

These projects demonstrate that external copy editing was generally welcomed by the CRG personnel who participated. The prospective projects have shown that pre-publication copy editing (in the form of monitoring and feedback on the internal copy editor’s performance) is feasible, although present publication deadlines present some difficulties. Preliminary discussions with John Wiley and Sons Ltd indicates that they are very interested in using the experiences of the copy-editing projects to formulate plans for external copy editing.

Philippa Middleton is an honorary Research Fellow with the Australasian Cochrane Centre

The Cochrane Library

The Cochrane Methodology Register

By Marit Johansen

What it is

The *Cochrane Methodology Register* (CMR) is a bibliographic collection of studies relevant to the methods of systematic reviews of healthcare and social interventions. The register includes journal articles, book chapters, conference proceedings, conference abstracts and reports of ongoing methodological research. Relevant records are identified primarily through a programme of handsearching, undertaken by the UK Cochrane Centre, and through the development of a series of search strategies run in MEDLINE. The register aims to include all published reports of empirical methodological studies that could be relevant for inclusion in a Cochrane methodology review, together with comparative and descriptive studies relevant to conducting a systematic review of healthcare interventions. While the register's primary focus is on bias, the more general scope is on the conduct and critical appraisal of reviews of healthcare evaluations. In Issue 4, 2003 of *The Cochrane Library*, CMR contains 4626 records. All records include a range of bibliographic details such as where and when the study was published and one or more CMR index terms, named 'CMR keywords' in the records field. A large number of records also contain an abstract.

Who it's for

The register is relevant to all who are about to do a Cochrane methodology review as well as those who have methodology questions when conducting a systematic review or a healthcare evaluation.

Where and how to search

The *Cochrane Methodology Register* is published in *The Cochrane Library*. To search the register, use the 'Search phrase' box on the opening screen. More information about CMR and details of the indexing terms assigned to the records can be found by clicking on 'Using *The Cochrane Library*' on the opening screen. From the page, 'Searching *The Cochrane Library*', go to the link CMR. To use an index term as a search term it must be edited before searching. Be aware of punctuation marks that are non-searchable, such as colons, commas, hyphens, numbers, etc.

The future

The intention of the Cochrane Methodology Review Group is to develop the CMR to include all relevant methodological articles. A complete register would then be the only resource needed when looking for an article concerning methodology questions. The register is not there yet. To make a user-friendly register, the records should be well-indexed to ease the retrieval. MEDLINE indexing terms do not reflect methodological questions satisfactorily and this makes searching for records to be included in the register a challenge. The UK Cochrane Centre is working to develop and refine the list of useful index terms to make up for the rather poor MEDLINE indexing.

Help

You should contact the Methodology Review Group Co-ordinator, Elizabeth Paulsen (elizabeth.paulsen@shdir.no), if you are conducting or about to conduct a Cochrane methodology review and need help to search the register. Elizabeth will forward your request to the Group's Trials Search Co-ordinator, Marit Johansen (marit.johansen@shdir.no), who will be happy to help.

Marit Johansen is the Trials Search Co-ordinator with the Methodology Review Group.

Did you attend the Colloquium in Barcelona?

Did you enjoy it?

Are there things that you would do differently?

Are there things that you would like to see at the next Colloquium?

If you answered yes to any of these questions and you have not yet filled out an evaluation form, you should download one from the Barcelona Colloquium web site at:

www.colloquium.info/2003

Please email or fax your completed evaluation form to Ester López at:

Email: congresos.barcelona@viajesiberia.com Fax: +34 93 510 10 09

The Cochrane Library

Free access in Spain

By Carol Jones

The Minister of Health for Spain launched *La Cochrane Library plus en español* at the recent Cochrane Colloquium in Barcelona. Everyone in Spain with Internet access may now access *The Library* without charge. Update Software is very happy to be working with InfoGlobal Support and the Iberoamerican Cochrane Centre on the translation and publication of this important resource for the Spanish-speaking world. It shows what can be achieved through collaboration to increase the reach of Cochrane reviews.



The latest issue of *La Cochrane Library plus en español* (2003, Issue 4) is now available. This contains all the documents published in *The Cochrane Library* 2003, Issue 4, as well as Spanish translations of Cochrane reviews: 957 reviews have now been translated. It also contains five other sections in Spanish, of particular interest to healthcare workers in Spain and Latin America.

Visit Update Software's web site at www.update-software.com/clibplus/ for further information about this product, and for details of how to order a subscription.

As originally posted by Carol Jones on the Cochrane Library Users' Group (CLUG) discussion list (10 November 2003).

Free access in Denmark

The National Public Health Portal, www.sundhed.dk, The Danish Elektronik Research Library, www.deff.dk, and Knowledge and Research Centre for Alternative Medicine, www.vifab.dk, have made an agreement with John Wiley & Sons to make *The Cochrane Library* freely available for all Danes from 10 December 2003. *The Library* can also be accessed from www.cochrane.dk.

We regard this as a large step forward for evidence-based medicine in Denmark and are happy to join the growing number of countries with free, national access.

Submitted by Peter C Gøtzsche, Director of the Nordic Cochrane Centre



Colin Bethell represents John Wiley and Sons Ltd at the Barcelona Colloquium

National provisions for *The Cochrane Library* - Correction

Editor's Note:

In Cochrane News, Issue 28, we listed a number of countries that had free access to *The Cochrane Library*.

However, we neglected to mention that all residents of South Africa also have free access to *The Cochrane Library*.

Thank you to Joy Oliver for pointing this out.

Did you know?

The Cochrane Library is getting a facelift. Check www.cochrane.org regularly for information about the new web interface being introduced by the new publisher of *The Cochrane Library*, John Wiley and Sons Limited.

Remembering the Barcelona Colloquium

(or what are the side-effects of organising a Colloquium?)

By Jordi Pardo



The Barcelona logo:
one last look

It's a few days after the Colloquium. No more deadlines, no more last minute problems. A strange feeling in your mind. Too many stressful days, now nothing seems important. Your mailbox has three hundred pending emails, but it doesn't matter. We survived it! The Colloquium is finished! After so many days working to the limit of our strength, we finally did it!

It is hard to say what organising a Colloquium means: it seems you are in a dream, the time goes faster and faster, and several times you do not realise what is happening: you are overworked trying to arrange all the required details for each event.

You have no chance to get the global picture. And you are too tired to even try to enjoy it. And you know that next day will be exactly the same: more work, more details to keep in mind, more problems that need to be solved at the last minute... It is so easy to believe that you will not have enough energy to finish the Colloquium.

But you have it. Everyday we got support from so many people. People enjoying the events, people just commenting on one session. Sometimes it is just a smile, sometimes a few words of thanks for some help, the willingness to arrange a solution for an unexpected problem... it could seem simple, but it helps you to get more energy and just start again...

During the Colloquium days we discovered a lot of things: some of them we knew, but sometimes we took it for granted, such as the wonderful response of the Iberoamerican Centre team and the hospital staff. But other things were completely unknown for some of us such as the enthusiasm and spirit of The Cochrane Collaboration's people.



The Iberoamerican Cochrane Centre Staff

We spent months preparing the Colloquium. It was a lot of hard work. But it was our pleasure to do it for such wonderful people as you. Many thanks for being in Barcelona, and see you next year in Ottawa!

Jordi Pardo is the Administrator of the Iberoamerican Cochrane Centre and the Chair of the Barcelona Colloquium Organising Committee

Upcoming Colloquia

12th Cochrane Colloquium

'Bridging the Gaps'

2-6 October 2004 - Ottawa, Canada

www.colloquium.info



General Program Information

cochrane@meet-ics.com
+1 604 681 2153

Scientific Program Information

cochrane@mcmaster.ca
+1 905 525 9140 Ext. 22738

13th Cochrane Colloquium - 22-26 October 2005 - Melbourne, Australia

The Cochrane Consumer Network at the Barcelona Colloquium

By Janet Wale

The 11th annual Cochrane Colloquium was an important time for the Cochrane Consumer Network, CCNet for short. Only some ten months after an elected governance structure was instigated, the members of CCNet present had a lot to discuss, important decisions to make, workshops and meetings to run. The positive, sharing attitude of the consumers who were present affirms the intent of the Consumer Network to move forward in broadening and empowering consumer participation within The Cochrane Collaboration.

Barcelona is a vibrant city. So too were the organisers of the Colloquium, they were always ready with a smile. Early in the week, we were faced with navigational challenges as meetings and sessions took place in different settings. The personal guides were, therefore, very much appreciated and it was wonderful to experience at first hand the diverse architectural gems that make up Barcelona. The busy Colloquium program, involving diverse research and social activities, provided a feast of sessions that were of interest and relevance to consumers. The initial part of the week was devoted to Cochrane issues. Debates on industry sponsorship; use of observational and controlled clinical trials, to alleviate the rigid, severe stereotype of the randomised controlled trial participant; use of qualitative data in systematic reviews, to provide a contextual, identifiable face to the data within reviews kept our attention. Meetings and workshops were also concentrated in these few days.

The latter part of the week was more general and considered The Collaboration in a global sense. Of particular interest to consumers were the clinical or health care orientated sessions that ran in parallel sessions. Three to four speakers with divergent backgrounds spoke in context. Different cultural and geographical aspects, related review groups, training and working environments were drawn upon to look at the topics from their own perspectives. Attending these sessions one also became aware of the wide number of countries represented by consumers who were present. This is an important factor for CCNet. We intend to build on our strengths by provision of effective communication and support particularly through the consumer e-mail list and the further development of the Nordic consumer web site www.cochrane.no/consumers as it moves to the main Cochrane web site in the next few months.

Janet Wale is the Treasurer for the Cochrane Consumer Network Governing Council

Looking ahead to Ottawa 2004

If you haven't marked the 12th Cochrane Colloquium in your calendar yet, you would be wise to do so! The Colloquium will be held in Ottawa, Canada, from October 2-6, 2004 and promises to be the most exciting Cochrane event of the year.

The theme of the Ottawa Colloquium is 'Bridging the Gaps'. Specifically, we will be looking at:

1. Bridging the gaps between Cochrane and clinical practice
2. Bridging the gaps across the income divide
3. Bridging the gaps between methodologists and reviewers
4. Bridging the gaps between producers and users

As indicated by the Canadian presentation at the Barcelona Colloquium, the Ottawa Colloquium will also provide many opportunities to socialize, relax and enjoy the many activities that Ottawa has to offer. Our social program will start with the Welcome Reception at the National Gallery of Canada and will close with the Farewell Party at the Canadian Museum of Civilization.

Between the Welcome Reception and the Farewell Party, you are invited to join us for local cultural and sporting events, and to enjoy the striking autumn colours that will be evident in and around the city of Ottawa.

For more information about the Ottawa Colloquium, please visit the Colloquium web site at www.colloquium.info. This will be a dynamic and growing source of information about the Colloquium, so you are advised to visit early and often.

Submitted by Daren Spithoff on behalf of the Canadian Coordinating Committee



Dressed as Canadian Mounties, Kathie Clark and Arne Ohlsson promote the Ottawa Colloquium (in Barcelona).
Photo by Luis Gabriel Cuervo

Colloquium Awards 2003

Kenneth Warren Prize

By Daren Spithoff

The Kenneth Warren Prize is awarded annually to the principle author of whichever systematic review, published electronically in the *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* and authored by a national living in a developing country, is judged to be both of high methodological quality and relevant to health problems in developing countries.

The winner of the Kenneth Warren Prize for 2003 was Maurício Silva De Lima, an Associate Professor with the Department of Mental Health at the Universidade Federal de Pelotas in Brazil, for his review on “Antidepressants for cocaine dependence”. He was presented this award before the Annual General Meeting of The Cochrane Collaboration on October 29, 2003.

Following the Annual General Meeting, Bongani Mayosi, Chair of the 2003 Kenneth Warren Prize panel, commented that he would like to see more awareness about the Kenneth Warren Prize and more active participation by reviewers from low-income and middle-income countries in the competition for the Kenneth Warren Prize.

Dr. Mayosi encouraged all reviewers from developing countries who publish a Cochrane review in *The Cochrane Library* (Issues 3 and 4, 2003 and Issues 1 and 2, 2004), and whose topic is relevant to health problems in developing countries, to contact Marissa Alejandria (mmalejandria@pacific.net.ph), Chair of the 2004 Kenneth Warren Prize panel.

For more information about the Kenneth Warren Prize and other Cochrane awards, please visit the new web site of The Cochrane Collaboration at www.cochrane.org/docs/prizes.htm.

Daren Spithoff is a Communications Specialist with The Canadian Cochrane Network and Centre

Previous winners of the Kenneth Warren Prize:

2002	Prathap Tharyan (India) - Electroconvulsive therapy for schizophrenia
2001	Manit Srisurapanont (Thailand) - Quetiapine for schizophrenia
2000	Anelise Lima (Brazil) - Carbamazepine for cocaine dependence
2000	Marissa Alejandria (Philippines) - Intravenous immunoglobulin for treating sepsis and septic shock

Chris Silagy Prize

At the Barcelona Colloquium, the 2003 Chris Silagy Prize was awarded to Gill Gyte.

The Chris Silagy Prize is awarded annually, at the Cochrane Colloquium, in memory of Chris Silagy. Chris was the founding director of the Australasian Cochrane Centre, a past Chair of the Cochrane Collaboration Steering Group, and Collaboration Ombudsman. He was instrumental in establishing The Cochrane Collaboration in Australasia. In December 2001, he sadly died, and is much missed by his colleagues and friends. The Chris Silagy Prize is awarded to an individual or organization nominated by their peers in recognition of an extraordinary contribution to the work of The Cochrane Collaboration. The person awarded the Prize is funded to attend the Cochrane Colloquium in order to receive the Prize, and presented there with a certificate and a cheque for \$1,000 Australian dollars.

Gill Gyte is a consumer working with the Cochrane Pregnancy and Childbirth Group, and is a past Consumer Network representative on the Cochrane Collaboration Steering Group. Gill served as Co-Convenor of the Monitoring and Registration Group, and is currently one of the two Ombudsmen for The Cochrane Collaboration, a role she shared with Chris before his death.

We congratulate Gill, and thank her for her extraordinary contribution to the work of The Cochrane Collaboration.

Submitted by Sally Green, Director of the Australasian Cochrane Centre and a member of the Chris Silagy Prize Selection Committee

Previous winner of the Chris Silagy Prize:

2002	Jini Hetherington was the winner of the inaugural Chris Silagy Prize
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Colloquium Prizes and Awards

Thomas C Chalmers Award

The Thomas C Chalmers prize is awarded for the best oral or poster presentation at the Colloquium.

The winners of the 2003 Thomas C Chalmers Award were Sally Hollis from the Medical Statistics Unit at Lancaster University, and Carrol Preston from the Centre for Medical Statistics and Health Evaluation at Liverpool University.

Sally and Carrol will share a prize of US \$1,000.00.

Submitted by Jini Hetherington, Administrator of the Cochrane Collaboration Secretariat

Thank you from the Developing Countries Stipends Committee

As read by Luis Gabriel Cuervo during the closing ceremony of the XI Cochrane Colloquium in Barcelona, 2003.

“Federico Mayor Zaragoza just stressed the need to behave as a brotherhood.

I am here on behalf of the Stipends Committee for Developing Countries which I chair, to express our gratitude towards brotherhood in The Cochrane Collaboration.

The Stipends Committee allocates stipends to contributors based in developing countries that have made substantial contributions to the Collaboration during the previous year.

Thanks to:

- The Rockefeller Foundation, the Kenneth Warren Prize Committee and the Cochrane Collaboration Steering Group for agreeing that the balance left over following the award of the Ken Warren Prize should be used for Developing Country Stipends.
- BMJ Knowledge from The BMJ Publishing Group, for once more providing support to the Developing Countries Stipends Committee.
- The organisers of the 10th Cochrane Colloquium for distributing the surplus of the Stavanger meeting among the Developing Countries and Consumer Stipends.

I also need to thank the members of the Stipends Committee and organisers of the Colloquium for their hard work and their enthusiasm. Members of the Stipends Committee for Developing Countries were:

- Consol Serra
- Elizabeth Pienaar
- Karla Soares-Weiser
- Reive Robb
- And myself, Luis Gabriel Cuervo

Administrative support was kindly provided by Margarita Garcia-Mas, Nuria Altamira and Ester Lopez.

For the Norway Colloquium it was decided that stipends should be comprehensive to promote integration and networking, such as offering access to all social events and other opportunities for interaction. We have received such positive feedback from members on the Collaboration that we would like to encourage future Committees to continue this policy.

Finally, I am very happy to mention that, thanks to the gracious collaboration of our supporters and the effort by several of our applicants to find additional sources of support, this year we have been able to offer comprehensive stipends to all the 20 applicants that provided evidence of substantial commitment and achievements during the last year (2002).

Thanks, and I will invite all to applaud our applicants for the excellent work, and the Colloquium organisers for their gracious support.”

Submitted by Luis Gabriel Cuervo, Clinical Editor, BMJ Clinical Evidence

Barcelona Fun Page

The Olympic Tournament

After almost a week of meetings, workshops and plenary sessions, everyone was ready for a change of pace. The Olympic Tournament provided an opportunity to get to know new and old friends on a completely different level.

The Olympic Tournament was heaps of fun and featured some of the finest Cochrane athletes from around the globe, competing in sports such as running, ping-pong, and of course, football ("soccer" to all you North Americans). At the end of the day, everyone seemed to have a great time and there is talk of renewed rivalries in Ottawa next year.

The Great Race

To start it all off, more than twenty runners "competed" in a 2-mile race through the Montjuic area. The race was won in what was surely a world-class time by Jonathan Craig, Co-ordinating Editor of the Renal Group.

International Ping-pong Championships

After many hard-fought battles involving some of the top ping-pong players Barcelona has ever seen, Denis Gregory of Oxford finally prevailed over Giulio Formoso from the Centre for the Evaluation of Effectiveness of Health Care in Italy.

World Cup Soccer

It was all about home-town pride for this year's world champions, as the local favourites won by a score of 6-4 in an epic struggle with the Nordic Centre team. Though the outcome was never in doubt, it was an exciting game as the Spanish and Nordic Centre teams took indoor soccer to a whole new level.



World champions!
The Spanish Cochrane Centre Football Team

The Song Contest

In the always entertaining Song Contest, Agustín Ciapponi, a physician and Cochrane reviewer from Argentina, blew away the competition with a remix of a classic Eric Clapton song. With a live band behind him, Agustín belted out his version of "Cochrane" to the loud cheers of his fellow Cochranites.

For those of you who love to sing along at home, here are the winning lyrics:

Cochrane (by Agustín Ciapponi):

If you wanna review and you don't know what to do...
Cochrane.

If you wanna the fame as a big rockstar... Cochrane.
She don't lie, she don't lie, she don't lie... Cochrane.

If you got bad news, please don't involve the South...
Cochrane.

When your day is done and you wanna run... Cochrane.
She don't lie, she don't lie, she don't lie... Cochrane.

If your review is late and you wanna delay more...
Cochrane.

Don't forget this fact, you can't get it back... Cochrane.
She don't lie, she don't lie, she don't lie... Cochrane.

If your review is done and you wanna celebrate...
Cochrane.

Don't forget this fact, you can't get it back... Cochrane.
She don't lie, she don't lie, she don't lie... Cochrane.
She don't lie, she don't lie, she don't lie... Cochrane.

In a Cochrane News exclusive, Agustín Ciapponi added the following verse in tribute to his Barcelona Colloquium experience:

If you wanna relax of course this is not... Cochrane.
If you wanna make friends the right place is... Cochrane.
She don't lie, she don't lie, she don't lie... Cochrane.

The Painting Contest

Cochranites are not just athletes and rock stars, we are also artists.

The winner of the Barcelona Colloquium painting contest was Selina Shapland, the Administrator of the Australasian Cochrane Centre, for her painting 'New Life - South East Asia' (right). Congratulations Selina!

To view this and other paintings, please visit the Barcelona web site at:
www.colloquium.info/2003.



New Life - South East Asia

Cochrane Workshops

For an up-to-date list of training workshops, please visit The Cochrane Collaboration web site at:

www.cochrane.org/cochrane/workshop.htm

The following Cochrane Centres also maintain their own workshop pages:

Cochrane Centre	Web Site
Australasian	www.cochrane.org.au
Brazilian	www.centrocochranedobrasil.org
Canadian	www.cochrane.mcmaster.ca/workshops.asp
Dutch	www.cochrane.nl
German	www.cochrane.de/deutsch
Iberoamerican	www.cochrane.es/Agenda
Nordic	www.cochrane.dk/ncc/courses.htm
South African	www.mrc.ac.za/cochrane/saccevidence.htm
United States	www.cochrane.us/workshops.htm

Deadlines and dates for Ottawa 2004

Abstract submission deadline for oral presentations, posters and workshops: March 29, 2004
 Notification of abstract acceptance: April 26, 2004
 Consumer and developing country stipend application deadline: May 10, 2004
 Notification of consumer and developing country stipend acceptance: May 31, 2004
 Early registration deadline: June 14, 2004
 Meeting room request deadline: June 14, 2004
 Regular registration deadline: August 30, 2004
 Late Registration Deadline: September 21, 2004

Please visit www.colloquium.info for more information about the Ottawa Colloquium

Deadlines and dates for *The Cochrane Library*

<i>The Cochrane Library</i>	Module Submission Deadlines (Update Software)	Specialized Register Deadlines (US Cochrane Center)	Publication Date (John Wiley and Sons, Ltd.)
Issue 1, 2004	NA	NA	26 January 2004
Issue 2, 2004	25 February 2004	5 January 2004	19 April 2004
Issue 3, 2004	26 May 2004	5 April 2004	19 July 2004
Issue 4, 2004	25 August 2004	5 July 2004	18 October 2004
Issue 1, 2005	17 November 2004	6 September 2004	24 January 2005

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

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French Cochrane Centre (Centre Cochrane Français)

Closed on 6 September 2002.

German Cochrane Centre (Deutsches Cochrane Zentrum)

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