

Cochrane Wounds



Newsletter of the Cochrane Wounds Group

Issue 12

February 2011

Welcome to the twelfth newsletter of the Cochrane Wounds Group. There have been many exciting developments within the Cochrane Collaboration since our last newsletter - read on!

2009 Impact factor

The 2009 impact factors have been published by Thomson ISI. The impact factor of the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews has increased to 5.653 and it is now ranked 11th out of 132 in the ISI category Medicine, General & Internal. This is significantly higher than the impact factors of all the journals in the ISI category Nursing and exceeds all but two of the journals in ISI category Surgery. The impact factor for the Wounds Group is 3.160 which compares very well with wounds related and surgical journals. The effort that goes into writing a Cochrane systemic review is considerable but authors receive a high level of support from the Wounds Group editorial base and will be rewarded with a publication in a high impact factor journal! For more information, visit the "Frequently Asked Questions" page on The Cochrane Library Website.

Lancet recognition of systematic reviews

A recent announcement by the Lancet is important recognition of systematic reviews as a key element in understanding the findings from all new research. From August 2010 all authors reporting randomised trials in the Lancet, will be required to put their new work into the context of what research has been done before on the topic. The Lancet's decision has been influenced by work done at the UK Cochrane Centre and the James Lind Library. To read more about the Lancet decision see the editorial by Stephanie Clark and Richard Horton:

[http://www.lancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(10\)61001-X/fulltext](http://www.lancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(10)61001-X/fulltext)

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News from the Editorial Base

We are delighted to welcome Nicola Thomis, our new Editorial Assistant to the Wounds Group. Nicola, who has a publishing background, will be involved in all aspects of the editorial process and will gradually be introducing herself to our authors, editors and peer referees. More from Nicola about herself in the next newsletter after she has settled in!!

Ruth Foxlee our TSC is taking up a half-time secondment as Information Specialist/TSC at the Cochrane Editorial Unit in London. At the CEU Ruth will plan and undertake scoping searches to evaluate search requirements for potential commissioned reviews ("Cochrane Response"). She will work with TSCs, the Information Retrieval Methods Group and others to set quality standards for searches in Cochrane Reviews; help develop search evaluation methods and support TSCs through the search auditing process. She will also work to ensure that there are appropriate learning and development opportunities for TSCs. Ruth will continue her involvement with the development and implementation of the new Cochrane Register of Studies (CRS) in liaison with the CRS Project Board, Advisory Group and key stakeholders.

Farewell to Wounds Group Staff

We've said farewell to two valued members of the Cochrane Wounds Group since our last newsletter. Daisy Gregory, a student at the University of York, was with us for several months helping out with Administrative work and Sally Stapley who joined us in 2009 to work on our review updating programme. Sally left to take up the post of Senior Lecturer in Research Methods at the School of Health and Social Care at Teesside University. She will be teaching research methods to pre- and post-registration nurses, occupational therapy and physiotherapy students, and also supervising undergraduate and postgraduate students. Daisy had gone on a year's placement in France as part of her degree. Sally and Daisy have made a wonderful contribution and we're sure you'll join us in wishing them well. We asked them to say both a little about their roles and their time with the Wounds Group.

Sally Stapley

'A Cochrane review is for life - and not just for one publication', as they say. Encouraging authors in the Cochrane Wounds Group to update their reviews has been my role for the past sixteen months. It is a role which I have very much enjoyed. During my time with the Group, I have seen firsthand just how hard Sally Bell-Syer and Ruth Foxlee work on getting all the reviews and updates through to publication. My task has been to gently

remind authors that their reviews are due for updating, meaning I have been in regular email contact with several Cochrane Wounds Group authors.

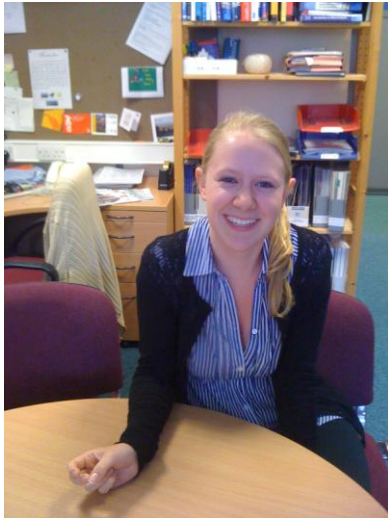


I have also helped them with various tasks throughout the updating process: suggesting potentially relevant citations from the new search results Ruth has sent them; retrieving full-text papers; conducting risk of bias assessments; helping to check through authors' update drafts; and in general helping authors with their queries. To this end, I hope I have been of some use to Sally, Ruth and our authors. I am about to leave the updating program but of course the program carries on. I'd like to offer my thanks to Sally and Ruth for their support and guidance during my time with the Cochrane Wounds Group. Thanks also to all the authors who have put up with my nudges (nagging!) and who have updated their Cochrane reviews.

Daisy Gregory

People have jokingly called me a "Cochrane Baby"; I've grown up holidaying at Colloquia, and I've worked every summer since I was 13 at the Collaboration Secretariat in Oxford. Now that I'm all grown up and studying French at the University of York, there's still no escaping the Collaboration! Since the beginning of this year I have been spending one day a week in the Wounds Group (conveniently situated on the campus where I attend lectures), providing administrative support to Sally Bell-Syer. After hassling this superwoman for years by email about her group's permission for publication forms, it was great to finally put a face to the name. My knowledge of the weird and wonderful workings of the Collaboration undoubtedly

saved us lots of training time; there was no need for Sally to explain what the Collaboration does, the difference between a Managing Editor and a Co-ordinating Editor, or what on earth an Archie account is for. However, working with a Review Group on the "front line" of Cochrane was a totally new, eye-opening experience.



Sally and the gang do a great job of co-ordinating the group's network of authors and peer referees, some of whom I had the pleasure of corresponding with. There were some familiar faces in the office such as Nicky Cullum and Ruth Foxlee, but I made some new friends, too. Everyone was really friendly and helpful, especially my "roommate" Sandi Newby. Sally has been a brilliant boss, offering total flexibility and letting me fit the work around my studies. I couldn't have found a better part-time job and I hope that I was a help to the group in their very important work. Sadly, I have to leave the Group as I am off to spend a year working in a primary school in Agen, France. I will never stray too far from Cochrane, though! A huge thanks to everyone at the Wounds Group, especially my brilliant boss, Sally Bell-Syer.

Visitors to the Editorial Base

I'm Loai nabil Barqouni, a final year medical student from Gaza, Palestine. I recently spent about two months (15th of August – 2nd of October) with the Cochrane Wounds Group in the Department of Health Sciences at the University of York. I joined the group to progress the writing of a systematic review entitled "Interventions for treating phosphorus

burns". I was very delighted to have the opportunity to join the Wounds Group editorial team, who were without doubt very helpful. I was extremely impressed from the first day until the last day of my visit! The atmosphere was informal, friendly and fun, however, they were professional, helpful and very attentive. They arranged all the facilities that I could need to do my work, and I feel lucky to have worked with them. Prof. Nicky Cullum, Sally Bell-Syer and Ruth Foxlee shared their great knowledge and professional experience in preparing Cochrane systematic reviews, and helped me to progress my review.



During my visit I enrolled in a course about designing and conducting of clinical trials, run by the York Trials Unit. I also attended protocol writing and review analysis workshops run by the UK Cochrane Centre at the University of York. At the end of my stay, I give a presentation to the staff at the Department of Health Sciences about the situation in Palestine and my research on phosphorus burns.

Finally, I just want to take a moment to express my thanks for the extra effort that staff in the department made for me. It is people like you who make our world a better place. I am writing to place on record my deep sense of gratitude for the very timely and personal support given by you all during my stay in York.

Editor Profile

This issue see the first of our Cochrane Wounds Group Editor Profiles and our first

profile is on Liz McInnes. We asked Liz to tell us about herself:

I have been involved with the CWG for nearly 10 years, firstly as an author and now also as an Editor. The two reviews I have co-authored have been on the topics of Support Surfaces for the Prevention and Treatment of Pressure Ulcers. I became involved with the CWG when I worked in the UK for the NICE Collaborating Centre for Nursing and Supportive Care. We were commissioned to develop national guidelines on the prevention of pressure ulcers. We needed to do a systematic review so linking up with the CWG and becoming involved in updating an existing review seemed the most practical way of achieving a rigorous systematic review to inform the guideline recommendations.



I currently work in Sydney for the Australian Catholic University where I am lucky to work as a full-time researcher at the Nursing Research Institute which is based in a large city teaching hospital. Our research is focused on implementation and health services research and current clinical research areas include stroke, hand hygiene, medication errors, VTE. As well I have an interest in methods of qualitative synthesis and last year completed a PhD which was a meta-ethnography and cross-study synthesis on falls prevention. When I am not working or doing Cochrane reviews I love bushwalking and planning my next overseas holiday!

Progress Report

The Wounds Group published 68 reviews and 33 published protocols in Issue 12, 2010 of

The Cochrane Library, plus there are a further 36 registered titles. A full list can be found on our website: <http://wounds.cochrane.org/>

Recently Published Protocols and Reviews:

The following protocols, reviews and updates have been published in *The Cochrane Library* since our last newsletter (current to Issue 12 2010):

New protocols

- Aloe Vera for treating acute and chronic wounds
- Antibiotic prophylaxis for preventing burn wound infection
- Decontamination of environmental surfaces in hospitals to reduce hospital acquired infections
- Debridement for venous leg ulcers
- Primary closure versus delayed closure for non bite traumatic wounds within 24 hours post injury

New reviews

- Cyanoacrylate microbial sealants for skin preparation prior to surgery
- Hyperbaric oxygen therapy for treating acute surgical and traumatic wounds

Updated reviews

- Oral zinc for arterial and venous leg ulcers
- Removal of nail polish and finger rings to prevent surgical infection
- Repositioning for treating pressure ulcers
- Silver based wound dressings and topical agents for treating diabetic foot ulcers
- Therapeutic touch for healing acute wounds
- Topical negative pressure for partial thickness burns
- Wound drainage for caesarean section

Tips for Authors

- Use the Cochrane Style Guide, to ensure your review is written according the Cochrane 'house style'. You can find the guide at <http://www2.cochrane.org/style/csg.htm>
- It is helpful to run a validation report of your review before submitting it for publication. This can be done in RevMan under the menu heading "reports." Please fix any errors and consider any warnings.

• Pay close attention to the quality of the plain language summary section and refer to the *Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions*, section 11.9 for writing guidelines. Remember the audience for Cochrane reviews is broad and will include people who are not familiar with medical terminology.

Training Workshops

For a current list of training workshops, please visit The Cochrane Collaboration web site at:

<http://www.cochrane.org/training>

Information about training opportunities can also be found on several Cochrane Centre websites:

Australasian Cochrane Centre

<http://www.cochrane.org.au/training/timetable.php>

Centro Cochrane do Brasil

<http://www.centrocochranedobrasil.org/>

Canadian Cochrane Centre

<http://www.ccnc.cochrane.org/en/events.html>

Das Deutsche Cochrane Zentrum

<http://www.cochrane.de/de/locaevents.htm>

Dutch Cochrane Centre

<http://www.cochrane.nl/>

Centro Cochrane Iberoamericano

<http://www.cochrane.es/?q=es/agenda>

Nordic Cochrane Centre

<http://www.cochrane.dk/courses/index.htm>

South Asian Cochrane Network & Centre

http://www.cochrane-sacn.org/Workshop_Future.html

US Cochrane Center

<http://apps1.jhsph.edu/cochrane/workshops.htm>

Online training for Cochrane Review authors

If you are a contributor to The Cochrane Collaboration, or are thinking about becoming one, the following website will provide access to a range of resources to meet all your training and support needs:

<http://training.cochrane.org/authors/olm>

The six introductory modules available are

systematic reviews - an introduction; writing a Cochrane protocol; searching for studies for a Cochrane review; collecting data for a review; meta-analysis - an introduction; and heterogeneity - an introduction. Further modules will be added during 2011.

'Ripe' Reviews

Are you thinking of undertaking a systematic review? We maintain a list of suggested topics, which are 'ripe' for review. These include:

- Debridement for burn wounds
- Dressings and topical agents for malignant wounds

For a full list of ripe reviews see "Reviews needed" at: <http://wounds.cochrane.org/>

In addition we have a small number of published protocols where the current review authors were unable to progress the protocol through to a full review. We would be interested in hearing from experienced review authors who would be willing to 'adopt' one of these protocols. Examples are the following:

- Educational interventions for health care professionals to prevent pressure ulcers
- Pressure garment therapy for treating burns
- Topical warming for treating chronic wounds

Are you interested in becoming a Peer Reviewer?

We are constantly trying to improve the quality of our output and an important part of this process is the feedback on our protocols and reviews, which is provided by our peer reviewers.

Peer review of protocols (proposed reviews in development) and completed systematic reviews ensures that protocols and reviews published in *The Cochrane Library* are of a high standard. Protocols and reviews are assessed by members of the Cochrane Wounds Group editorial team, as well as external individuals knowledgeable about the review topic and the methodology of

systematic reviews. Peer reviewers should have no conflict of interest that would interfere with their ability to fairly critique the review and should not have been involved in the preparation of the review.

We provide guidance for peer reviewers, use a structured feedback form and acknowledge their contribution, both in the review and in the Wounds Group entry on *The Cochrane Library*.

If you have expertise in any of our topic areas and are interested in becoming one of our peer reviewers we would be happy to hear from you.

Topics:

- Chronic wounds – for example: pressure ulcers, venous leg ulcers, diabetic foot ulcers.
- Acute wounds – for example: surgical wounds, traumatic wounds, burns, bites, lacerations.
- In addition we undertake reviews concerned with the prevention and treatment of wound infection.

Dates for Your Diary

16th Annual Meeting of UK and Ireland-based Contributors to The Cochrane Collaboration

15-16 March 2011 in Belfast

Publication date for Issue 2, 2011 of *The Cochrane Library*

16 February, 2011

Publication date for Issue 3, 2011 of *The Cochrane Library*

16 March, 2011

Publication date for Issue 4, 2011 of *The Cochrane Library*

13 April, 2011

Publication date for Issue 5, 2011 of *The Cochrane Library*

11 May, 2011

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Editorial Base Staff

Sally Bell-Syer sally.bell-syer@york.ac.uk
Managing Editor

Nicola Thomis
Editorial Assistant nicola.thomis@york.ac.uk

Ruth Foxlee ruth.foxlee@york.ac.uk
Trials Search Co-ordinator:

If you would like to join the Cochrane Wounds Group, please contact Sally Bell-Syer:

Tel: +44 (0) 1904 321342

Fax: + 44 (0) 1904 321739

Email: sally.bell-syer@york.ac.uk

