



Prathap Tharyan speaks to the Colloquium on the impact of the South Asian tsunami

**Impact Factor
for Cochrane reviews!**

See page 3

In this issue...

Views from the XIII Cochrane Colloquium.....	1
From the Co-Chairs.....	2
Letter from the Editor.....	3
Impact Factor for Cochrane reviews.....	3
Key dates for the XIV Cochrane Colloquium.....	5
The way forward for CCNet.....	6
Cochrane Collaboration Steering Group (CCSG) news.....	6
Congratulations to the Colloquium award winners.....	7
Reviews for Africa Programme (RAP).....	8
Cochrane Library news.....	8
Cochrane Library posters: A piece of history.....	9
RevMan 5: Coming in 2006.....	9
New Australian satellites.....	10
News and announcements.....	10
Cochrane Fellowships on the island of Ireland 2005.....	13
Sixth International Campbell Collaboration Colloquium.....	13
Top 25 Cochrane reviews.....	14
News on reviews.....	15
Deadlines and publication dates for <i>The Cochrane Library</i>	15
Cochrane Centres.....	16

Views from the XIII Cochrane Colloquium

Newcomers share their experiences from Melbourne

Strangers have left as friends

Joseph L. Mathew, South Asian Cochrane Network, Chandigarh, India

The Melbourne Colloquium (sounds much nicer than the officious XIII Cochrane Colloquium at Melbourne) was a meeting not only of minds from across the world, but hearts as well. Although this was my first Colloquium, I understand that even many 'seasoned' participants experienced this. It may never be possible to pinpoint one single factor responsible for this feeling, but the choice of Melbourne as the venue, the untiring efforts of Sally Green and Steve McDonald, and the obvious warmth exuded by all involved in organizing and hosting the event contributed greatly. Thus, many who arrived as strangers have left as friends. And that probably sums up the spirit of The Cochrane Collaboration itself.

As a clinician from India with a special focus on the pediatric respiratory system, I expected a limited array of subjects at the Colloquium to interest or impress me. However, I must admit that the themes chosen and the galaxy of speakers dispelled all feelings of being a fish out of water. The presentations and workshops were well-oriented to cater to a range of participants, from novices to veterans in the field of evidence-based medicine. The scientific programme was similar to the menu at a good party with something to entice everyone.

Another great aspect of the Melbourne Colloquium was the spotlight on developing countries. In the wake of the tsunami that hit some of these countries almost a year back, there was genuine concern and co-operation extended to understand the hurdles in the practice, pursuit and promotion of evidence-based medicine in this region. This is a very welcome change because it is an important step to ensure that the overall efforts of the Collaboration ultimately "make a good thing better." This is a trend that must be encouraged and nurtured in future Colloquia as well.



Volunteers from the Australasian Cochrane Centre welcome participants to Melbourne



Participants share skills and experiences at one of the many workshops

Any mention of the Melbourne Colloquium would be incomplete without a word about the city itself. To put it simply, Melbourne is friendly, spirited and alive, making it

(Continued on page 4)

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By Mark Davies and Steff Lewis

Congratulations to Sally Green and Steve McDonald and all the organizing team for a superb Colloquium in Melbourne. The program was packed with excellent plenary sessions and scientific sessions as well as providing for the usual high-quality workshops and numerous meetings. For us the key themes that emerged from the Colloquium (and therefore applicable to The Cochrane Collaboration at large) can be summarised as: do the right reviews, do them well and present them as best we can. That is, prioritisation, quality and dissemination are the things we need to get right.

As the body entrusted with leadership of the Collaboration, it is prudent that the Steering Group should be reviewed periodically. The last review of the Steering Group was done in 2000 and it is now due again. We are grateful to Alessandro Liberati, Director of the Italian Cochrane Centre, who has kindly agreed to chair the forthcoming review of the Steering Group, commencing in November 2005. Alessandro will select a panel of eight people, four internal members of the Collaboration and four external members, to undertake this task.

As many of you will know, the US Cochrane Center has now moved from Brown University to Johns Hopkins University and the USCC is now unable to continue to be responsible for The Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials (CENTRAL). Kay Dickersin and the staff of the USCC have put in years of hard work compiling CENTRAL and they are to be congratulated for this legacy. We would like to express our thanks for their efforts and wish Kay and the USCC continuing success. This now provides the Collaboration with an excellent opportunity for a complete review of CENTRAL. To this end the Steering Group has undertaken the formation of a small committee to develop a strategic plan for CENTRAL and to ask such questions as whether the Collaboration continues to need CENTRAL, and if so, in what form. As part of this process the current Cochrane CENTRAL Advisory Group (CCAG) has been dissolved and we would like to thank all the members of the CCAG, both past and present, for their work with this group. Rest assured that your input into the review process will be called for in the near future.

Another major decision taken by the Steering Group at its meeting in Melbourne was to establish representation for TSCs on the Steering Group as soon as possible. This position will remain until the review of the Steering Group has been completed (during which the issue of representation of all types of entity is being revisited) and a decision made by the Steering Group as to the ultimate make-up of its membership. An election for a TSC representative will be arranged in the near future.

The Cochrane Collaboration has reached another milestone in the transition of *The Cochrane Library* to publication by John Wiley and Sons, with the CD-ROM version of *The Cochrane Library* (as from Issue 4, 2005) now being produced solely by Wiley. Many of you will

(Continued on page 3)

Please send your announcements and other news items to cochrane@uottawa.ca

Letter from the Editor

Hello, and welcome to my first edition as Editor of *Cochrane News*. I would like to express my thanks and best wishes to Angus Muir, who has done such an excellent job as Editor over the past year. Angus will be missed in the Canadian Cochrane Centre office.

I would also like to thank Sally Hopewell, who has recently completed her four-year term as the Methods Group representative on the *Cochrane News* and CCInfo Advisory Committee. I am pleased to announce that Liu Xuemei, an Editor of the *Chinese Journal of Evidence-Based Medicine* and member of the Reporting Bias Methods Group, will be taking Sally's place. Methods Group members should feel free to contact their representative at cjebm2002@yahoo.com.cn if they have any thoughts about the content of *Cochrane News* or CCInfo.

Congratulations also to former Editor Daren Spithoff and his wife, Meaghan, who welcomed their baby daughter, Audrey, in October.



The Editor goes bowling

You will notice lots of other comings and goings in this edition—welcome to all of those who are new to the Collaboration.

It was wonderful to see so many of you at the Melbourne Colloquium. For those of you who weren't there, this edition should give you plenty of news and stories from the event.

So, please enjoy this edition of *Cochrane News*. If there's something missing that you would like to see, why not write an article for the next issue?

Miranda Cumpston
Editor, *Cochrane News*

Cochrane News is distributed internationally by Cochrane Centres and through various Cochrane Collaboration mailing lists.

If you are having problems receiving **Cochrane News**, or you would like to be added to the mailing list, please contact your nearest Cochrane Centre (see page 16 for contact details).

Impact Factor for Cochrane reviews

New and substantively updated Cochrane reviews published from Issue 1, 2005, are now appearing on the ISI Web of Science website.

The Web of Science offers access to the ISI Citation Indexes through the ISI Web of Knowledge Platform, measuring information about the output of journals and frequency of citation.

Importantly, the measurement of citations will be used to issue an official Impact Factor for the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (CDSR), allowing a comparison of impact between Cochrane reviews and other journal articles. Using two years of published reviews (2005-2006), ISI will measure citations of these reviews during 2007. The first Impact Factor will be released in 2008.

To view citations and other information, go to www.isiknowledge.com, where subscribers to the Web of Science can now search under Source Title for Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (a subscription is required, but most libraries will have access).

For more information, or if you have any further questions or comments, please contact me.

Deborah Pentescio-Gilbert, Publisher
The Cochrane Library, John Wiley & Sons, Ltd.



ISI Web of Knowledge

From the Co-Chairs

(Continued from page 2)

have already received your latest CDs. We would like to thank the many groups who have worked tirelessly to test the new product: the Search Testing Group, Statistical Methods Group, Publishing Policy Group, and many other individuals who provided input. Wiley is continuing to work closely with these groups and many others to improve dissemination of the Collaboration's output.

Finally, we want to take this opportunity to express our warm thanks to Jim Neilson, who stepped down as Co-Chair of the Steering Group at the Melbourne Colloquium. Jim had been Co-Chair for the last three years, having agreed to do an extra year as Co-Chair to provide much-needed continuity in the role. We can attest to the great personal and professional sacrifices that this has entailed and would like to give Jim our best wishes for the future.

Mark Davies and Steff Lewis, Co-Chairs
Cochrane Collaboration Steering Group

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Your one-stop resource for all things Cochrane

Views from the XIII Cochrane Colloquium

(Continued from page 1)

an ideal choice for global events bringing together people from diverse backgrounds. The sights and interactions that I enjoyed have left a lasting impression on me. Congratulations to all who were involved in making the XIII Cochrane Colloquium the “Melbourne Colloquium”.

Like an extended family gathering

Kami Kandola, Northern Canadian Cochrane Network Site, Yellowknife, Canada

“If we value independence, if we are disturbed by the growing conformity of knowledge, of values, of attitudes, which our present system induces, then we may wish to set up conditions of learning which make for uniqueness, for self-direction, and for self-initiated learning.”

Carl Rogers 1902 – 1987

It was snowing the day I left for Australia from the Canadian Sub-Arctic. Five flights later, I arrived in spring weather in Melbourne, perhaps as the most northern participant to attend the XIII Cochrane Colloquium. It certainly proved worthy of the endless hours of flight over the Pacific Ocean, strapped in the middle seat of a packed flight, behind a screaming toddler.

‘Breakfast with the Entities’ was my first formal introduction to a Collaboration that was officially founded in 1993 but with roots that date back to the late ‘80s. From humble beginnings it has expanded to be an international, non-profit independent organization with more than 13,000 people from over 90 countries working together to ensure the availability of evidence-based information about the effects of healthcare interventions in the form of systematic reviews and protocols.

Navigating myself through the display tables was quite a feat as a first time experience (I had slept in and missed the newcomer orientation at 8:00am!). Congregations mingled and chatted freely around the thematic tables, coffee cups in one hand and continental breakfast items piled precariously in saucer size dishes in another. What



Participants pick up the latest publications at a booth in the poster exhibit hall

struck me as different from other conferences was the relative ease and familiarity of the chatter. It seemed less like the cold formal beginnings of a mass conference and more like an extended family gathering, with

clans gathering around tables bearing their coats of arms.

And there were so many tables... There were tables focusing on the specific health issues of Cochrane Review Groups, whilst others represented Networks, Methods Groups and Fields. Fortunately, some tables bore national flags and I was palpably relieved to find the red maple leaf table ‘manned’ by Miranda Cumpston of the Canadian Cochrane Centre. Miranda had visited Yellowknife earlier in the spring when our Northern Cochrane Network Site was first established, and had helped us to secure funding.



Dancing at the Farewell Party continues to the early hours of the morning

With a welcoming smile, Miranda pointed out in quick succession people who had once been virtual figures communicating encouraging messages of support for our neophyte Site from cyberspace. There were Alain Mayhew, Nancy Santesso, Dorothy Forbes and Denise Thompson to name a few. I was introduced to more Canadians at the luncheon meeting scheduled later that day. The calibre and qualifications of the Canadian participants present was humbling. Cochrane seemed to promote a common language that bridged our differences. As a public health specialist, I could sit at the same table as the clinician-academician, the informed consumer and the knowledge translation expert and engage in a mutually comprehensible discussion of the Cochrane principles. Amazing!

Throughout the remainder of the conference, I realized that Cochrane also cut across international borders, between linguistic barriers and countries with varying economic status. Anyone who challenges accepted medical dogma, critically appraises scientific literature, or advocates for health interventions based on evidence would enjoy membership in this international

Did you know?

757 delegates representing 45 countries attended the Melbourne Colloquium, including 65 delegates from developing countries and 30 consumers.

(Continued on page 5)

Views from the XIII Cochrane Colloquium

(Continued from page 4)

collaboration. And, for those watching conservatively from the traditionalist camp, you do not know what you are missing!

This was really a feast

Sreekumaran Nair, South Asian Cochrane Network, Karnataka, India

The journey towards the thirteenth Cochrane Colloquium in Melbourne was a pilgrimage for us, especially people from South Asia. This was the first Colloquium after the South Asian Cochrane Network (SACN) was formed, and the first for me, too.

The beautiful city of Melbourne and enthusiastic organizers, led by Steve and Sally of the Australasian Cochrane Centre, made us feel at home and enjoy each moment of our stay in Melbourne as a memorable one.

Even though this was my second visit to Melbourne, and the organizers had sent a detailed graphical description of each and every movement one should make, I had some apprehensions about travelling from the airport and locating the hotel and Colloquium venue. Some of this anxiety vanished when we boarded the Skybus from Melbourne airport, and the rest when the bus stopped in the city and we asked the driver for directions without realizing that we were in front of our hotel. The conference venue was just 10 minutes' walk from the hotel.

The morning session of 22nd October was for registration. The Colloquium opening ceremony was held in the evening on the same day, and at night the inaugural dinner. During the Colloquium, various activities were beautifully blended. Each morning started at 8:00am sharp with meetings of various groups and committees. Everyday we had highly educative superb plenary talks from 9:30 to 11:00am. This was really a feast for me. The plenaries demonstrated the global presence of The Cochrane Collaboration. Presentations by participants were held from 11:30am to 1:00pm. The afternoons were fully dedicated to workshops, which were very informative and educative for everyone from newcomers to stalwarts.

In a nutshell, there was plenty to read, hear, debate, learn, drink, eat and enjoy. The Colloquium formally ended with a closing ceremony and farewell dinner.



Mike Clarke, Director of the UK Cochrane Centre, invites us all to Dublin in 2006



XIV Cochrane Colloquium

23-26 October 2006
Dublin, Ireland



Key dates for the XIV Colloquium

Abstracts submission deadline	3 April 2006
Workshops proposal deadline	3 April 2006
Notification of abstracts acceptance	12 May 2006
Consumer stipends deadline	19 May 2006
Developing country stipends deadline	19 May 2006
Notification of stipends acceptance	16 June 2006
Early registration deadline	14 July 2006
Meeting room request deadline	4 August 2006
Hotel registration deadline	8 September 2006
Cancellation deadline	22 September 2006

More information about the Dublin Colloquium is available at www.cochrane.co.uk/colloquium.htm

Photographs

Many of the Colloquium photographs were taken by the official photographer, Ric Magazowski. A link to more pictures is at www.colloquium.info. Additional pictures were provided by Simon French, Jini Hetherington, Steve McDonald, Caroline Rouse and Janet Wale. Thank you!

The way forward for CCNet



The Melbourne Colloquium (October 2005) provided an excellent opportunity for members of the Consumer Network (CCNet) to put heads together and come up with a potentially viable governance structure. This is important as we come under the heading of a 'regular group' within the Collaboration, a Field. A small but vigorous band of international consumers was at the Colloquium attending and running workshops, meetings and oral paper sessions, all of which affirmed the part that consumers can play in contributing to the production and dissemination of Cochrane reviews, and in working closely with others in the Collaboration.

Now that plain language summaries and abstracts of reviews are readily available to consumers on the Cochrane website (www.cochrane.org/reviews), we have a ready way to introduce people to information from Cochrane reviews. With this exposure come fresh views and interpretations of what has become regular jargon in Cochrane reviews and a need to revisit the language. This was brought home when a consumer in a workshop was disturbed by the use of the term 'insufficient evidence' for psychological therapies in cancer, implying 'do not do it', when what was meant was that studies were not of good quality.



Consumers Janet Wale, Godwin Aja, Liz Whamond and Mingming Zhang at the Colloquium.

And of public relations – Barbara Warren of New York in the US expertly interviewed selected people in front of a video camera to obtain footage on the roles that people play in the Collaboration. This will be used on the US Cochrane Center consumer training website as a draw card for consumers to become involved. The plenary sessions were also rich fertilisation grounds for fresh ideas and directions: interpreting the findings of reviews; global priorities for health, including developing countries; greater prominence to answering questions considered important by both patients and consumers; and enabling participation.

*Janet Wale, Treasurer
Cochrane Consumer Network Governing Council*

Cochrane Collaboration Steering Group (CCSG) news

Jim Neilson (Co-Chair) and Davina Ghersi (RGC/TSC representative) reached the end of their terms and stepped down from the Steering Group at the meeting during the Melbourne Colloquium; very warm thanks to them both for their hard work on behalf of the Collaboration for the past several years. The four new members to join the Steering Group at that meeting were:

- Donna Gillies (Australia), representing Authors;
- Adrian Grant (UK), representing Co-ordinating Editors;
- Narelle Willis (Australia), representing Review Group Co-ordinators and Trials Search Co-ordinators; and
- Hans van der Wouden (The Netherlands), representing members of Cochrane Review Groups ('at large' position).

In addition, the Steering Group approved at the meeting that Trials Search Co-ordinators (TSCs) should have their own representative, pending the review of the Steering Group to commence shortly (led by Alessandro Liberati). A call for nominations for someone to represent TSCs on the Steering Group has been issued, to close on 3 January 2006. If an election is required, only those entities that have TSCs and Information Specialists are eligible to vote, and each such entity will have one vote. For further information on the election process, please see cochrane.org/docs/ccsg_election_process_feb05.doc. Once the TSC representative has been elected, Narelle will represent Review Group Co-ordinators only.

Jini Hetherington, Administrator and Company Secretary, The Cochrane Collaboration Secretariat

Minutes

The minutes of the Steering Group meeting held in Melbourne on 21 and 24 October 2005 were approved by the Steering Group Executive on 28 November 2005.

Steering Group minutes are available on the Collaboration website at

cochrane.org/ccsg

Congratulations to the Colloquium award winners

The Chris Silagy Prize



Award winner
Janet Wale

The recipient of this year's Chris Silagy Prize was Janet Wale of the Cochrane Consumer Network. Sonja Henderson provided information about the Prize to those attending the Annual General Meetings in Melbourne, and Jane Silagy then presented the Prize to Janet.

This Prize is awarded at every Cochrane Colloquium to an individual (or organisation) who has made an extraordinary contribution to the work of the Collaboration. The Prize consists of a cheque for \$AU 1000 (drawn from the Chris Silagy Memorial Fund), a certificate which includes the words 'for extraordinary contribution to The Cochrane Collaboration', and expenses associated with attending the Colloquium (to be met by the Collaboration). Many congratulations, Janet!

The Kenneth Warren Prize

The Kenneth Warren Prize is awarded each year to the primary author of the new Cochrane review judged to be most relevant to health problems in developing countries.

This year's recipient was Dr Marilla Lucero, principal author of the review 'Pneumococcal conjugate vaccines for preventing vaccine-type invasive pneumococcal disease and pneumonia with consolidation on x-ray in children under two years of age'. This review was published in Issue 4, 2004 of *The Cochrane Library*.

Dr Lucero is from the Department of Medicine, Research Institute for Tropical Medicine, Muntinlupa City, the

Philippines. Her co-authors on this review were V.E. Dulalia, R. N. Parreno, D.M. Lim-Quianzon, H. Nohynek, H. Makela and G. Williams.

Congratulations to Dr Lucero!



Dr Marilla Lucero receives the Kenneth Warren Prize from Dr Manit Srisurapanont

The Thomas C. Chalmers Award

The Thomas C. Chalmers MD Award is presented each year to the authors of the best oral presentation and the best poster at the Colloquium.

This year the Award was presented to: Poster P136: 'Trial sequential analyses of six Cochrane neonatal group meta-analyses considering adequacy of allocation concealment', authored by Jesper Brok, Kristian Thorlund, Joern Wetterslev and Christian Gluud, Copenhagen Trial Unit, Denmark.

Oral Abstract 049: 'How to determine the best treatment:

a mixed-treatment-comparisons meta-analysis (MTM) of trials of topical fluoride therapies for the prevention of dental caries', authored by Georgia Salanti and Julian Higgins, MRC Biostatistics Unit, Cambridge, UK, and Valeria Marinho, Queen Mary's School of Medicine and Dentistry, London, UK.



Award winner
Jesper Brok



Rob Scholten presents the Award to Georgia Salanti

Cambridge, UK, and Valeria Marinho, Queen Mary's School of Medicine and Dentistry, London, UK.

The Colloquium Cup

The Melbourne sun shone on this year's Colloquium Cup, featuring the genteel sport of lawn bowls.

After brief lessons from a local expert, competition got under way, accompanied by cold beer and sausages.



Fierce competition at the Colloquium Cup lawn bowls tournament

Showing great skill with the unevenly weighted bowls, local Australian team 'Crackerjack' proudly took home the trophy. Congratulations to them, and to the runners-up from the UK.



The winning team: 'Crackerjack'

Reviews for Africa Programme (RAP)

Training in the science of research synthesis for authors of Cochrane systematic reviews

The Reviews for Africa Programme (RAP), is a capacity-building initiative that will train African health researchers and providers in the science of research synthesis, and assist them to initiate and prepare a Cochrane systematic review for publication on *The Cochrane Library*. RAP is supported by a grant from the Nuffield Commonwealth Programme through The Nuffield Foundation.

RAP consists of three phases, and successful completion of each phase will lead to progression to the next phase. Phase 1 is a four-week protocol development course to equip participants with the knowledge and research synthesis skills necessary for initiating, completing, and maintaining a Cochrane systematic review. Phase 2 includes the publication of the protocol and initial preparation of the Cochrane systematic review, while Phase 3, a review finishing school, assists participants to complete the Cochrane systematic review to a standard ready for peer review.

Potential applicants must already have a title registered with a Cochrane Review Group in a topic relevant to Africa, particularly HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria. Applications are now open for the 2006 intake. The application deadline is 30 April 2006. Details and the application form are available on the RAP website at www.mrc.ac.za/cochrane/rap.htm. Review Groups with authors that may be interested in applying should contact Taryn Young (taryn.young@mrc.ac.za) at the South African Cochrane Centre.

Taryn Young, Specialist Scientist, South African Cochrane Centre

Cochrane Library news

Cochrane reviews for handheld devices

Following the advance promotion at the Melbourne Colloquium and the CRGs' input into their medical specialities classification, Skyscape and Wiley InterScience are pleased to announce the release of Cochrane reviews for use on mobile devices. We have announced this exciting new development to the 400,000 registered users of Skyscape's medical mobile products, and we will be conducting marketing and promotional campaigns throughout the coming year. We look forward to working with Skyscape and developing Cochrane as a key mobile information source. You can download a trial version at www.skyscape.com/EStore/ProductDetail_Cochrane.aspx?WT.mc_id=88874.

Deborah Pentesco-Gilbert, Publisher, The Cochrane Library, John Wiley & Sons, Ltd

Wiley CD ROM

At its meeting in April 2005 the Steering Group gave approval to Wiley to start the production of *The Cochrane Library* CD ROM from Issue 4, 2005. Wiley's CD ROM version provides users with a new interface to match the Wiley InterScience online version, with advanced searching as well as the ability to upload and transfer any saved searches used with the previous CD ROM versions.

Technical and customer service help are available both by email and by telephone to support all users in the transition to the new CD ROMs.

With the launch of this new version of the CD ROM, we are inviting users to give feedback on the CD ROM format and provide details on their needs and use of *The Cochrane Library* in a survey that will be enclosed with the Issue 4, 2005 CD ROM. The results of this survey will be used by the Publishing Policy Group and Steering Group to help identify our future development priorities.

Finally, Wiley would like to express thanks to all those who participated in the testing of the new CD ROM, especially the Trials Search Co-ordinators, Search Testing Group and Statistical Methods Group. A special thanks to Update Software for their original development and the continued production of the CD ROM over recent years.

*Deborah Pentesco-Gilbert, Publisher
The Cochrane Library, John Wiley & Sons, Ltd*

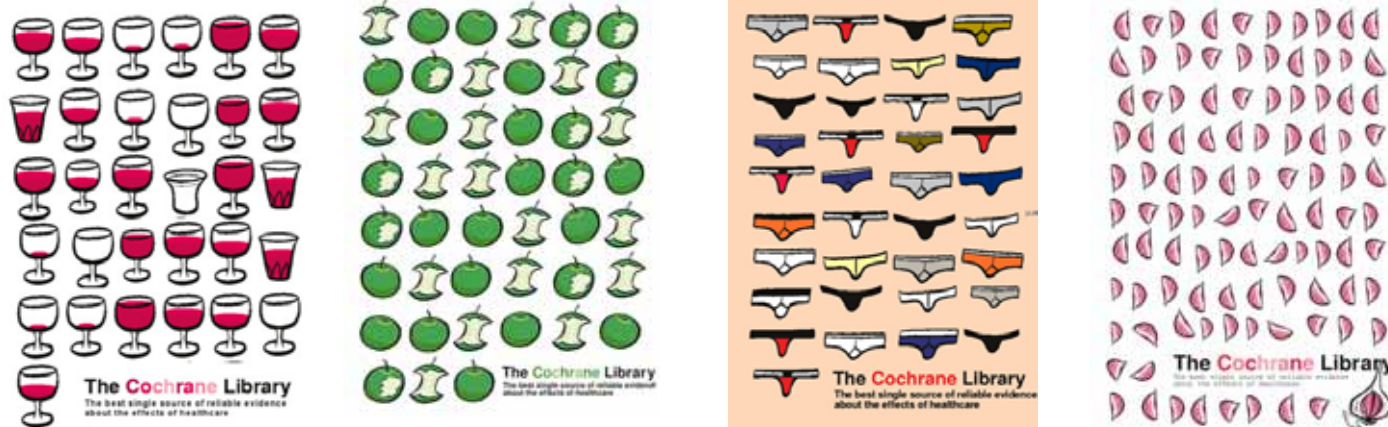
*Mark Davies, Convenor, Publishing Policy Group
The Cochrane Collaboration*

Cochrane News Submission Deadline

The deadline for submission of articles for *Cochrane News* Issue 36 is **27 February, 2006**. Please email articles (600 words max.) and short announcements to:

cochrane@uottawa.ca

Cochrane Library posters: A piece of history



Following many requests, Update Software has made their first edition *Cochrane Library* posters available from www.update-software.com/posters.

Those by the graphic artist Phil Hankinson date back to the turn of the century, while the later ones were based on commissioned artwork by Trevor Price and feature the Cochrane logo etched into richly coloured layers. The posters are shown in a permanent exhibition in the waiting area of the Cochrane Collaboration Secretariat in Oxford, UK. Trevor's other work is held in numerous collections including the Bank of England, P&O and Yale University.

On the same poster page you can view and order the beautiful 'Swelling Lady' - the latest Reproductive Health Library poster, and also our 'Critical Appraisal Made Easy' poster that was inspired by the recent Matisse exhibition at the Royal Academy in London.

From Update Software - the original publishers of *The Cochrane Library*.

Like everything else we do, we take our poster design seriously!

Rachel Stancliffe, Update Software



RevMan 5: Coming in 2006

When RevMan 4 was made available in 1999, it was guaranteed that the next mandatory release of the software would not be for at least three years. This was to minimise the work involved for Cochrane Review Groups and their authors when they have to change to new software for the preparation and maintenance of Cochrane reviews.

For the last few years, the Information Management System (IMS) team, in collaboration with the IMS Group and its advisory groups and in consultation with the Steering Group and others, has been planning and developing the new IMS. The new IMS consists of the IMS server - Archie - and RevMan 5. Archie is already being used by all entities to maintain contact details, and is currently being piloted by the editorial bases of 15 Cochrane Review Groups for managing reviews and submitting them for publication in *The Cochrane Library*.

Alongside continued development of Archie, the IMS team is now working on RevMan 5 and we are better able to estimate its likely release date. This takes account of the more comprehensive requirements for RevMan 5 than had been originally intended, and we now anticipate that RevMan 5 will be ready towards the end of 2006. As well as supporting the standard Cochrane reviews of the effects of interventions, RevMan 5 will also support the preparation of reviews of diagnostic test accuracy and reviews of methodology.

In the meantime, if you have any queries about RevMan 5 or the development of Archie, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Monica Kjeldstrøm, Director, Cochrane Collaboration Information Management System



New Australian satellites

Musculoskeletal Group

The Musculoskeletal Group is delighted to announce the establishment of a satellite branch in Australia. CMSG editor, Rachele Buchbinder, will lead the satellite which will be based at Monash Department of Clinical Epidemiology at Cabrini Hospital, Melbourne. The Monash Department is affiliated with the Department of Epidemiology and Preventative Medicine, Monash University.

The CMSG is well represented by Australian authors and peer reviewers, and the aim of the CMSG Australian Satellite is to increase capacity within the Australian musculoskeletal community to prepare and maintain Cochrane reviews through training events and mentoring of individual review authors. The satellite will support the CMSG editorial base in Ottawa in the production and updating of Cochrane reviews and facilitate the dissemination of the results of relevant Cochrane reviews to clinicians, consumers, and policy makers in the Australian musculoskeletal community.

*Lara Maxwell, Co-ordinator
Cochrane Musculoskeletal Group*



Effective Practice and Organisation of Care Group

The National Institute of Clinical Studies (NICS) is funded by the Australian Government to improve health care by helping close important gaps between best available evidence and current clinical practice. Recognising the importance of evidence to rational health policy-making, the Australian Government has provided funds for the Cochrane Effective Practice and Organisation of Care Group (EPOC) and NICS to establish an Australian EPOC satellite. The satellite was announced at the Melbourne Colloquium.

The goal of the Australian EPOC satellite is to assist evidence-based policy-making and provide information on methods that could improve evidence uptake in clinical settings. Under the direction of EPOC editor Russ Gruen, the satellite will promote and support systematic reviews of interventions designed to improve health care practice and the delivery of effective health services. It will focus on reviews that are particularly relevant to Australia and the south-east Asian region.

For further information, please contact: Alain Mayhew, EPOC Review Group Co-ordinator, +1 613 562 5800 x2361 (al.mayhew@uottawa.ca), or Jan Davies, Executive Officer, NICS, +613 8866 0402 (jdavies@nicsl.com.au).

Alain Mayhew, Co-ordinator, Cochrane EPOC Group

News and announcements

Oral Health Group

The Cochrane Oral Health Group has been awarded \$216,000 over two years by the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIH), USA, to undertake a series of Cochrane reviews on the treatment of oral cancer and the management of oral complications associated with cancer and its treatment.

*Emma Tavender, Review Group Co-ordinator
Cochrane Oral Health Group*

Dutch Cochrane Centre

We are pleased to announce that Marcel van der Paardt and Jacqueline Limpens have joined the Dutch Cochrane Centre as information specialists. They will address the core functions of the DCC regarding handsearching and information retrieval. Both Jacqueline and Marcel will work one day a week at the Dutch Cochrane Centre.

Hanni Spitteler, Administrator, Dutch Cochrane Centre

Health Care of Older People Field

The Health Care of Older People Field is pleased (and very excited) to announce its reorganization and new leadership. For everyone's convenience, we have chosen Des Moines University as the location for the Field's 'central office' but we want to emphasize we have incorporated a shared leadership model with representation from Scotland, the Philippines and the United States.

The primary convenor is Gil Ramirez (Co-Director of the former San Antonio Cochrane Center), and the Field Administrator is Olivea Mead. Contact information for the Field and for Gil and Olivea is as follows:

Older.People@dmu.edu; Gilbert.Ramirez@dmu.edu; and Olivea.Mead@dmu.edu. From all of the HCOP leadership (the others include David Stott and Peter Langhorne in Scotland, Shelley de la Vega in the Philippines, and Sue Bravard and Ann York at Des Moines University) - Hello! Come join us! Let's make this one of the most active entities in the Collaboration!

Gil Ramirez, Convenor, Health Care of Older People Field

News and announcements

US Cochrane Center

The US Cochrane Center is settling into its new home at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland. Our new contact details are:

US Cochrane Center
Center for Clinical Trials
Johns Hopkins University
Bloomberg School of Public Health
615 N. Wolfe Street, Mail RM W5010
Baltimore, MD 21205, USA
Phone: +1 410 502 4640
E-mail: uscc@cochrane.us

We are busy hiring new staff and establishing our Center in this new location. We appreciate your continued patience as we may not be able to respond to inquiries as quickly as normal during the transition period.

Laura Coe, Co-ordinator, US Cochrane Center

Lung Cancer Group

We have a new, very young member of the Lung Cancer Group: Laia. Her mother, Marta Roqué, Review Group Co-ordinator of the Group, delivered her on October 13th. Both mother and daughter are perfectly well. Marta is enjoying now her new times with a maternity leave. From now and until she comes back, Jordi Pardo, Administrator of the Iberoamerican Cochrane Centre, will be the acting Review Group Co-ordinator.

Congratulations to Marta and welcome to Jordi!
Jordi's address is jpardo@santpau.es

*Sera Tort, Joint Co-ordinating Editor
Lung Cancer Group*

Sending a newsletter?

For easy access and a lighter Inbox for your mailing list, post your Cochrane newsletter at cochrane.org/newsletters

Just send your newsletter to cochrane@uottawa.ca

Schizophrenia Group

I am delighted to announce that Sangeetha has joined the Cochrane Schizophrenia Group as Assistant Trials Search Co-ordinator. She is based at the South Asian Cochrane Network office where we hope to establish a satellite group in the near future.

Mark Fenton and I continue to work as part-time TSCs, though Mark has reduced his TSC hours as he is now editor of the DUETS database for the James Lind Alliance.

Sangeetha's contact details are:

jaysangeetharose@rediffmail.com

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Tamil Nadu
India

Tel: +91 416 2284499

Fax: +91 416 2260085

*Judy Wright, Trials Search Co-ordinator
Schizophrenia Group*

Health Promotion and Public Health Field

The former Co-Director of the Cochrane Health Promotion and Public Health Field, Rebecca Rees, has changed roles within the UK EPPI-Centre, and it is with pleasure that we announce that Sandy Oliver from the EPPI-Centre has agreed to take on the Co-Director position, effective immediately.

Sandy brings a great deal of expertise and experience to this role, as a prolific writer of many systematic reviews, including two Cochrane reviews and two Cochrane protocols. She has been involved in the Health Promotion and Public Health Field since its inception.

As a grant holder on the EPPI-Centre's health promotion work for the Department of Health in England and Wales, Sandy has played an active role in decision-making for the EPPI-Centre's Field work. She therefore has a very good overview of current developments and has kept abreast of the previous work of EPPI-Centre Co-Directors.

Thanks to Rebecca for her dedication to the Field over the last year and we look forward to continued input from her into Field activities. Elizabeth Waters remains Co-Director of the Field from its central administrative base in Australia.

*Jodie Doyle, Co-ordinator
Health Promotion and Public Health Field*

News and announcements

The Canadian Cochrane Network and Centre



Kathie Clark, outgoing
Co-Director of The Canadian
Cochrane Network and Centre

After 12 years at McMaster University in Hamilton, The Canadian Cochrane Network and Centre has relocated to the University of Ottawa. The Director, Jeremy Grimshaw, and the staff of the Cochrane entities in Canada would like to say farewell and a big thank you to Kathie Clark, outgoing Co-Director of the Centre.

Kathie has made an outstanding contribution to The Cochrane Collaboration over many years. She has been an extremely hardworking contributor as a member and Co-Chair of the Steering Group, Co-Convenor of the Monitoring and Registration Group, Convenor of the Publishing Policy Group, and Editor of the CCInfo electronic newsletter. Although she is no longer working for the Collaboration, Kathie will continue to contribute as one of the Collaboration's two Ombudsmen.

We are also saying goodbye and thank you to Angus Muir, the Canadian Cochrane Centre's Communications Specialist and Editor of *Cochrane News*, and Arne Ohlsson, the former Centre Director, who moved on at the beginning of this year.

We thank Kathie, Angus and Arne for their hard work and friendship over the years. We wish them all the best for the future.

Please take note of these new contact details:

The Canadian Cochrane Network and Centre
Centre for Best Practice
Institute of Population Health
University of Ottawa
1 Stewart Street
Ottawa Ontario K1N 6N5
Canada
Email: cochrane@uottawa.ca
Web: www.cochrane.uottawa.ca

*Miranda Cumpston, Education Co-ordinator
The Canadian Cochrane Network and Centre*

Did you know?

Cochrane Collaboration Ombudsmen and Publication Arbiters

The role of the **Ombudsmen** is to help resolve areas of conflict that arise between people or entities within The Cochrane Collaboration, for which the usual process of involving the Directors of the reference Cochrane Centre(s) has not been sufficient. The Ombudsmen are Peter Langhorne (p111m@clinmed.gla.ac.uk or p.langhorne@clinmed.gla.ac.uk) and Kathie Clark (kclark@interlynx.net).

The role of the **Publication Arbiters** is to help people to reach a mutually acceptable agreement in areas of dispute between the editorial teams of Cochrane Review Groups (e.g. of the appropriate home for a specific Cochrane review), and between review authors and their editorial team (e.g. when review authors are unwilling to make changes suggested by the editors). The Publication Arbiters are David Henderson-Smart (dhs@perinatal.usyd.edu.au) and Kay Dickersin (kdickers@jhsph.edu).

Back Group

I'm pleased to announce that Heather Widdrington has joined the Cochrane Back Review Group as our Research Assistant. Heather just finished her Masters of Science in Ergonomics at the University of Auckland, New Zealand, and so brings with her a wealth of experience in musculoskeletal disorders and research. Heather's main responsibilities will be to maintain the Specialized Trials Registry and assist with the admin duties of running the editorial base. Heather may be contacted at cochrane@iwh.on.ca.

Vicki Pennick, Co-ordinator, Cochrane Back Group

Bahrain Branch, UK Cochrane Centre

I am pleased to announce that Dunia Alhashimi has been appointed to the post of Co-Director of the Bahrain Branch of the UKCC. Dunia's tremendous energy and enthusiasm have helped to establish a firm footing for the Bahrain Branch within the Arabic speaking region. We now look forward to hearing from colleagues who are interested in the work undertaken by the Branch, both within and outside the region. Dunia may be contacted via email at alhashimi@aladraj.com or through our website at www.cochrane.org/bahrain.

Zbys Fedorowicz, Director, Bahrain Branch, UKCC

Joining, moving, leaving?

Let us know by sending an email to cochrane@uottawa.ca

Cochrane Fellowships on the island of Ireland 2005

For the fourth year, the Health Research Board in Dublin, Ireland, and the Research and Development Office in Belfast, Northern Ireland, have awarded Cochrane Fellowships for people on the island of Ireland to work on Cochrane reviews (as advertised in CCInfo on March 17, 2005). These Fellowships are for people resident in Northern Ireland or Ireland, who are working in health or social care. The Fellow is provided with protected time on a part-time basis of up to two days per week for up to two years to prepare a Cochrane review.

I am pleased to announce that the recipients of this year's awards are:

- Genevieve Becker, 'Methods of milk expression in lactating women' (Pregnancy and Childbirth Group)
- Clodagh Cashman, 'Alcohol and drug screening of people whose work involves driving to prevent injury' (Injuries Group)
- Brendan Dineen, 'Laser treatment for diabetic retinopathy' (Eyes and Vision Group)
- Josephine Hegarty, 'Watchful waiting versus prostatectomy for prostate cancer' (Prostatic Diseases and Urologic Cancers Group)
- Carmel Hughes, 'Infection control measures and isolation policies for preventing transmission of MRSA' (Wounds Group)
- Bernadette Lyons, 'Botulinum for spasticity or no progressive brain lesion' (Stroke Group)
- Malcolm MacLachlan, 'Psychosocial interventions for physical disability arising from injury' (Injuries Group)
- Patrick Manning, 'Ciclesonide for chronic asthma in adults and children' (Airways Group)
- Dierdre Walsh, 'Transcutaneous Electrical Nerve Stimulation (TENS) for acute pain' (Pain, Palliative & Supportive Care Group)

Mike Clarke, Director, UK Cochrane Centre



The Sixth International Campbell Collaboration Colloquium: Producing Systematic Reviews of Evidence

February 22-24, 2006
USC School of Social Work
Los Angeles, CA

The Sixth Annual Campbell Collaboration Colloquium is being held on February 22-24, 2006 in Los Angeles, California. This three-day event is an opportunity for policy makers, researchers and consumers from over 20 countries to collaborate on the production and dissemination of systematic reviews. How do systematic reviews affect interventions? How can they be used in policy and program settings? The 2006 agenda includes presentations of systematic reviews developed by Campbell Collaboration participants and other organizations that are trying to provide better evidence for making important decisions. The Colloquium will feature presentations on methodological issues and developments that support the production and dissemination of systematic reviews, and includes a series of presentations in Spanish and Chinese.

Register at www.campbellcolloquium.org

What is the Campbell Collaboration? The Campbell Collaboration is a non-profit organization that helps people make well-informed decisions about the effects of interventions in the social, behavioral, and educational arenas. Its objectives are to prepare, maintain and disseminate systematic reviews of intervention studies. The Collaboration acquires and promotes access to information about intervention trials. The Collaboration builds summaries, electronic brochures of reviews, and reports of trials for policy makers, practitioners, researchers and the public.

Molly Moran, Program Specialist, School of Social Work, University of Southern California

Top 25 Cochrane reviews

Top 25 reviews accessed from *The Cochrane Library*, October 2005

Figures include access from Wiley InterScience online version

	Article Title	Abstract accessed	Full text accessed
1	Interventions for preventing falls in elderly people	1071	587
2	Interventions for preventing obesity in children	886	537
3	Vaccines for measles mumps and rubella in children	718	527
4	Acupuncture for low-back pain	829	372
5	Glucosamine therapy for treating osteoarthritis	641	368
6	Exercise therapy for low-back pain	529	308
7	Action plans for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease	551	285
8	Exercises for mechanical neck disorders	567	279
9	Decision aids for people facing health treatment or screening decisions	557	253
10	Manipulation and mobilisation for mechanical neck disorders	477	248
11	Antibiotics for acute otitis media in children	431	241
12	St John's wort for depression	523	235
13	Active versus expectant management in the third stage of labour	408	232
14	Physiotherapy interventions for shoulder pain	367	232
15	Preoperative fasting for adults to prevent perioperative complications	280	222
16	Support surfaces for pressure ulcer prevention	374	216
17	Conservative treatments for whiplash	347	212
18	Exercise for osteoarthritis of the hip or knee	297	210
19	Cognitive behaviour therapy for schizophrenia	370	209
20	Water for wound cleansing	341	207
21	Continuous support for women during childbirth	402	206
22	Antidepressants for neuropathic pain	467	202
23	Cranberries for preventing urinary tract infections	369	199
24	Interventions for helping patients to follow prescriptions for medications	393	199
25	Vitamin C for preventing and treating the common cold	342	199

These and other Cochrane reviews can be found at www.thecochranelibrary.com.

Top 10 countries accessing *The Cochrane Library*

	Countries	Visits	%				
1	United Kingdom	58,261	23.4%	6	Sweden	6359	2.6%
2	United States	50,983	20.5%	7	Germany	5048	2.0%
3	Netherlands	29,149	11.7%	8	Taiwan	4855	2.0%
4	Australia	23,026	9.3%	9	Italy	4342	1.7%
5	Canada	14,076	5.7%	10	Denmark	4165	1.7%

Laura Mellor, Associate Editor, The Cochrane Library, John Wiley & Sons, Ltd

News on reviews

Changes to module submission

There will be some changes to the way in which Cochrane entity modules will be handled for publication next year. Wiley's contract with Update Software ends on 1 March 2006. After that we will be taking over the complete publishing process of *The Cochrane Library* ourselves. After Issue 1, 2006, your communication about the production of your module should be entirely with Wiley.

Your contact concerning content and feedback on modules from 25 January 2006 will be:

Ben Hickling
Project Editor, *The Cochrane Library*
Wiley, Chichester
email: bhicklin@wiley.co.uk
tel: +44 (0)1243 770676

Your contact concerning the delivery process is:

Pauline Howarth
Content Systems
Wiley, Chichester
email: phowarth@wiley.co.uk
tel: +44 (0)1243 770522

Some changes are already taking place to the submission process with the introduction of Archie. Fifteen Review Groups have successfully moved to RevMan 4.3, and their modules were delivered for publication directly by Archie for Issue 4, 2005. We anticipate that 41 Review Groups will be using Archie before the submission deadline for Issue 2, 2006. We will be contacting the remaining nine Review Groups individually to discuss the delivery of their modules to us.

We intend to run the same quality checks on your modules as Update Software, and provide you with

similar feedback and reports. Eventually, Archie will take over the generation of routine submission reports, with Wiley providing feedback on errors and quality issues.

Deborah Pentesco-Gilbert, Publisher
The Cochrane Library, John Wiley & Sons, Ltd

Cochrane Style Guide

There is a new website for the Cochrane Style Resource, including a new edition of the Cochrane Style Guide: www.cochrane.org/style/csg.htm

Harriet G MacLehose
Cochrane Style Guide Working Group

Plain language summaries

At cochrane.org/reviews, in addition to review abstracts, you'll now find plain language summaries, organized by topic! You'll also find Cochrane review abstracts in Spanish. As always, you can search or browse these resources free of charge on cochrane.org, or link to the full text reviews in *The Cochrane Library*.

Comments and suggestions for improvement are most welcome, at web@cochrane.org. Enjoy!

Dave Booker, Cochrane Web Team

Did you know?

The Steering Group has a discretionary fund to support entity activities. Up to GBP £3000 per project is available to entities of The Cochrane Collaboration, to a maximum of £15,000 per year. Project proposals should aim to deliver significant gain to all or part of the Collaboration, and bring benefits that apply across more than one entity.

For more information see Section 2.4.1 of *The Cochrane Manual*, or contact secretariat@cochrane.org.

Deadlines and publication dates for *The Cochrane Library*

<i>The Cochrane Library</i>	Specialized register deadlines	Copy Edit Support deadlines (John Wiley & Sons, Ltd.)	Module submission deadlines (John Wiley & Sons, Ltd.)	Publication dates (John Wiley & Sons, Ltd.)
Issue 1, 2006	n/a	n/a	n/a	25 January 2006
Issue 2, 2006	To be advised	1 February 2006	22 February 2006	19 April 2006
Issue 3, 2006	To be advised	3 May 2006	24 May 2006	19 July 2006
Issue 4, 2006	To be advised	2 August 2006	23 August 2006	18 October 2006

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

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www.thecochranelibrary.com

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

cochrane.org/news/workshops.htm