

Brazilian Cochrane experience at Ribeirão Preto, São Paulo



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Presentation at the Brazilian workshop

Last October, the Bahrain Branch of the UK Cochrane Centre delighted a Brazilian group of researchers with a workshop on Evidence Based Medicine – a Cochrane Experience. Zbys Fedorowicz, Mona Nasser and Trent Outhouse together with The Iberoamerican Cochrane Centre's

Jordi Pardo offered this workshop on the role of Cochrane systematic reviews. In addition, there was training on the importance of randomised controlled clinical trials providing the least biased evidence for or against a treatment modality, leading to a patient's right treatment at the right time. Through this workshop, several researchers from different universities and faculties decided to contribute to the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews. During the three days of the workshop, the participants shared experiences and knowledge and had the opportunity to form various teams and start preparing systematic reviews.

Up to now, three new titles have been registered by researchers who attended the workshop:



Antibacterial agents in composite restorations to prevent dental caries; Interventions for cleaning dentures; and Interventions for treating temporomandibular joint osteoarthritis.

(Continued on page 2)

Letter from the Editor

The rollout of new and updated tools to support the production of Cochrane reviews is in full swing! However, the short articles about RevMan 5 and GRADEpro and other supporting Cochrane materials do not reflect the many hours of hard work from dedicated members of Cochrane; their commitment is what ensures Cochrane continues to evolve and grow. Thank you!

I hope you enjoy hearing about the training and community building happening around the world through workshops, symposia and consumer activism – another way that Cochrane continues to grow.

Don't forget to register for the 16th Cochrane Colloquium in Freiburg hosted by the German Cochrane Centre; newcomers and experienced Cochrane folks are all welcome.

Cheryl Arratoon
Editor, Cochrane News

Brazilian Cochrane Experience continued from p. 1



Participants in the workshop

This group of researchers has also established a Google Group which is used to share information about their activities, including further events aimed to bring together other interested colleagues and to raise awareness of the work of the Cochrane Oral Health Group throughout Brazil. The new teams created through this workshop are now organizing a local event to disseminate information about the Collaboration.

Please contact brohgcocrane@googlegroups.com for further information. This meeting was also possible due to Prof. V. Pedrazzi's initiative, who organized the event.

Tatiana Pereira-Cenci, Melissa Marchesan, Raphael Freitas de Souza and Vinícius Pedrazzi
Oral Health Group

Cochrane methods news

RevMan 5 now available

Review Manager 5 (RevMan 5) is the first major release in eight years. RevMan 5 allows users to prepare intervention reviews, diagnostic test accuracy reviews, methodology reviews and overviews of reviews. The software exists in versions for Windows, Mac OS X and Linux.

Download RevMan5 from <http://www.cc-ims.net/RevMan>. This version should now be used for preparing new and updated reviews. RevMan 4 will be phased out over the next nine months.

For more information contact Monica Kjeldstrøm (mk@cochrane.dk)

The Cochrane Style Guide updates

The Cochrane Style Guide is updated to reflect the upgrade to RevMan 5 and will be available on the Cochrane Style Resource website (www.cochrane.org/style/home.htm).

For more information contact Harriet MacLehose (hgmac@liv.ac.uk)

Updates to the Cochrane Handbook

A major revision of the Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions (Version 5.0.0) is now available. The Handbook is also included in RevMan 5, and is scheduled for publication in book form by Wiley-Blackwell in time for the Freiburg Colloquium in October 2008.

The Handbook now consists of 22 chapters in three parts. The core material (Parts 1 and 2) has been extensively revised and updated, and includes information on:

- new definitions around updates,
- the new Risk of Bias tool,
- Summary of Findings tables,
- a new chapter on reporting biases, and
- extensive resources to aid searching for studies.

Part 3 consists of chapters on special topics:

- Including non-randomized studies,
- Adverse effects,
- Incorporating economics evidence,
- Special topics in statistics,
- Patient-reported outcomes,
- Reviews of individual patient data,
- Prospective meta-analysis,
- Qualitative research and Cochrane reviews,
- Reviews in health promotion and public health, and
- Overviews of reviews.

More details at:

www.cochrane.org/resources/handbook

Online version of the Handbook:

www.cochrane-handbook.org

We are very grateful to all chapter authors and editors, and the members of the Handbook Advisory Group, for their work in bringing about this revision.

*Julian Higgins and Sally Green
Convenors, Cochrane Handbook Advisory Group*

Latest extensions to the CONSORT statement

CONSORT for abstracts: Used for reporting randomized trials (RCTs) in journal and conference abstracts. The CONSORT Statement now includes a minimum list of essential items that authors should consider when reporting the main results of an RCT in any journal or conference abstract. The Chinese version was published in Issue 3, 2008; Chinese Journal of Integrative Medicine.



CONSORT for non-pharmacologic treatments: Used for reporting RCTs assessing non-pharmacologic treatments. These include a wide range of treatments such as surgery, technical interventions, rehabilitation, psychotherapy, behavioural interventions, implantable and non-implantable devices and complementary medicine. Assessing these treatments raises specific issues such as difficulties of blinding, complexity of the intervention, influence of care providers' expertise and volume of care of centres on treatment effect.

The CONSORT statement is an evidence-based minimum set of recommendations for reporting RCTs. More information is provided on the CONSORT website: www.consort-statement.org (see News section).

Sally Hopewell
UK Cochrane Centre

Release of GRADEpro for Summary of Findings tables

Review authors can now use GRADEprofiler (GRADEpro) software to create Summary of Findings tables for their reviews. Officially launched on 27 March 2008, the latest version of GRADEprofiler 3.2 (Beta version) is available for download at www.cc-ims.net/gradepr. With the release of RevMan 5 and the new Cochrane Handbook, review authors are encouraged to include a Summary of Findings table in their review. A Summary of Findings table is an optional, although strongly recommended, means of presenting findings for the most important outcomes.

A Summary of Findings table includes, where appropriate: typical absolute risks for people receiving experimental and control interventions; estimates of relative effect (e.g. risk ratio or odds ratio); a depiction of the quality of the body of evidence; comments; and footnotes. The assessment of the quality of the body of evidence should follow the GRADE framework, which combines considerations of risk of bias, directness, heterogeneity, precision and publication bias.

Resources and support for GRADEpro users is at www.cc-ims.net/gradepr

- Introductory materials
- FAQs
- Contacts for support

The GRADEpro software:

- imports information from a RevMan file that is needed to prepare Summary of Findings tables;
- leads authors through the development of the table, including judgements about the quality of evidence;
- provides context sensitive help; and
- produces a formatted table that can be imported into RevMan.

Training workshop

Writing, GRADEing and Using Systematic Reviews Symposium and Workshop

Date: 8-9 May 2008 Location: Rome, Italy

<http://www.gradepr.org/romeworkshop>

Holger Schünemann, Andy Oxman, Gordon Guyatt, Nancy Santesso and Jan Brozek
On behalf of the Applicability and Recommendations Methods Group

Streamlining editorial processes - Progress with workflows

The Information Management System (IMS) has been working for many months now, in close collaboration with the Editorial Management Advisory Group (EMAG), to develop a workflows system. Cochrane Review Groups will be encouraged to adopt these processes in support of their editorial practices.

In September 2006, members of EMAG and the IMS held a two-day meeting in Copenhagen to agree upon workflows for five core editorial processes: title registration, protocol, review, and update development, and refereeing. Greg Saunders, then a programmer with the IMS team, developed the software for a prototype workflow, to begin to translate these diagrams into a series of Archie-based processes.

Following the EMAG meeting in São Paulo in October 2007, a Workflows Working Group was set up within EMAG. The members are Kate Cahill, John Carlisle, June Cody and Helen Collins from the UK; and Miranda Cumpston, Liz Dooley and Narelle Willis from Australia; with Monica Kjeldstrøm and Sonja Henderson attending in an advisory capacity. All members except John, Monica and Miranda are Review Group Co-ordinators.

Our task is to put together a set of definitions for the five core workflows, plus one for Feedback. These definitions are designed to:

- (i) Explain and justify in clear English each agreed step of the workflow.
- (ii) Relate each step to any existing Collaboration policy ruling, and highlight possible gaps in policy.
- (iii) Identify those tasks that must be done sequentially, those that can be done in parallel, and those which may become mandatory for monitoring purposes.
- (iv) Link each task to the relevant action within Archie.
- (v) Link each task to existing or planned documentation being developed by the CRG Procedures Collection Group.

The workflow definitions are not meant to be prescriptive, but they should reflect best practice. They are intended to offer generic and flexible guidance on tasks to be addressed for the successful completion of a given editorial process.

So far, the Refereeing and the Title Registration Form definitions have been agreed upon, and the remaining four are expected to be completed and signed off by the end of May. The workflow software is expected to be completed and beta-tested during the course of this year, and the definitions will be linked to each workflow in Archie as a template for good editorial practice.

The refereeing definition can be inspected on the EMAG website at:

www.cc-ims.net/IMSG/EMAG/workflows/Refereeing-TEXT%20DEFINITION-FINAL.doc/view

Feedback to kate.cahill@dphpc.ox.ac.uk is very welcome.

Kate Cahill
Convenor, Editorial Management Advisory Group

Submission deadline for next issue of Cochrane News - 2 July 2008

Please email articles (500 words max.), pictures and announcements to: cochrane@uottawa.ca

Cochrane workshop in Korea

A small, but keen, group of authors from Korea has been involved in preparing Cochrane reviews for several years. In 2007, under the co-ordination of Prof Hyeong Sik Ahn from Korea University, the first steps were taken to establish an informal network of Korean contributors as a way of promoting The Cochrane Collaboration, encouraging involvement in Cochrane activities and providing support to review authors.



Participants at the Cochrane workshop in Seoul, Korea

A visit from Nick Royle, CEO of The Cochrane Collaboration, in July 2007 was followed in November 2007 by the first Cochrane systematic review workshop in Korea. The two-day workshop was held at Korea University in Seoul in unseasonably cold weather and attended by over 70 enthusiastic participants from a variety of academic institutions, government agencies and hospitals. The directors of the Australasian Cochrane Centre were supported in the teaching by Prof Ahn and A/Prof Juneyoung Lee of the Dept of Biostatistics, Korea University.

After the workshop, review authors and other interested parties (representing academia and government) came together for the inaugural meeting of the informal Korean Cochrane Network. Following presentations about the Collaboration and other regional initiatives, discussion focused on future activities and priorities. The network is also keen to maintain and develop links with groups involved in Cochrane activities in East Asia.

Steve McDonald
Australasian Cochrane Centre

Big Sky continued from p.7

Presentations and podcasts from the Canadian Symposium are available at www.ccs2008.ca in English and French!

We have so many people to thank for the success of our Symposium. Our many sponsors were instrumental in helping us to bring in many of our speakers and allowing us to put on an event of this quality and magnitude. The Steering Committee members put considerable thought and creativity into designing the programme, and an army of dedicated volunteers reviewed abstracts, moderated sessions, prepared conference packages and looked after the delegates during the conference.

We look forward to seeing you again at **Wave to the Future**, the 7th Annual Canadian Cochrane Symposium in Halifax, Nova Scotia on 11-12 March 2009!

Denise Thomson
Child Health Field

6th Canadian Cochrane Symposium: Big Sky



The recent **Big Sky** 6th Annual Canadian Cochrane Symposium was acclaimed as a “big, BIG success.” The Symposium focused on the theme of ‘new horizons for systematic reviews in health care.’ Conference delegates, who gathered from all parts of Canada as well as Africa, Europe, the United States and Australia explored this topic from many angles and discussed the latest thinking around creating, presenting, disseminating and using research evidence.

The plenary sessions covered four themes. We opened with **Big Sky: new and innovative themes in systematic reviews**, focused on engaging a broader range of evidence, the experiences in trying to do this and new themes and methodologies in systematic reviewing beyond the traditional Cochrane model. Dr Trish Greenhalgh gave a lively presentation about her experiences of doing ‘realist reviews’ and ‘meta-narrative reviews,’ methodologies which incorporate qualitative research. Dr Tammy Clifford, of the Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health (CADTH), rounded things off with a look at CADTH’s experiences with commissioning evidence reviews over a variety of timeframes.

The second plenary session was called **Finding true north: Cochrane bias assessment tools**. The phrase, ‘finding true north’ refers to how explorers navigate through uncharted territory without getting lost. The conference organizers felt that this phrase offered a playful context for the vigorous debate currently underway within The Cochrane Collaboration about moving away from traditional quality assessment to newer bias assessment tools and the rationale, risk of bias, and technical aspects behind using these tools. Our two speakers, Terry Klassen and Doug Altman, did not disappoint, offering lively and thought-provoking discussions of where we have been and where we are going in this area.

Day 2 of the Symposium opened with a discussion around the **Point of contact** - the successes and challenges of disseminating evidence at the bedside. Drs Brian Haynes and Martin Offringa discussed their experiences of finding effective and innovative ways of bringing systematic reviews to individual clinicians. Their highly entertaining and informative session concluded with many questions from audience members eager to explore these ideas further.



Dr. Haynes presenting

We concluded our Symposium with the plenary, **How do we get there from here?**, which looked at factors, other than the nature of research evidence itself, that affect the uptake and use of evidence. Dr Sumit Majumdar talked about the role that media and marketing play in bringing attention to research findings, Dr Carole Estabrooks looked at the influence of organizational and professional factors in how individuals use research in their practice, and Dr David Alter discussed the differing needs for evidence with regard to adoption of drug therapies versus devices.



A welcoming exhibit

Our emphasis on innovation continues into the post-Symposium period. For the first time, podcasts of the Symposium plenary sessions will be available – in both official languages, no less! English versions of most sessions are already available on the website, with more coming soon, and the French translations will be uploaded shortly.

(Continued on page 6)

One-stop-shop: Cochrane reviews for healthcare managers

Changing practice – what works?

We all know antibiotics can be over prescribed, but how do we change prescribing practice effectively? Although Cochrane reviews are mainly known for determining what works in practice, how to change people's behaviour is often more of a challenge. And how behaviour is changed should be based on research evidence.



Rx for Change provides this evidence as a new searchable database. Key findings from Cochrane and other systematic reviews of behaviour-change strategies that promote the optimal use of medicines by both practitioners and patients have been selected for the database. Search results provide progressively more detailed information on each intervention from an overall summary of systematic reviews, to summaries of the individual reviews, then links to the individual studies included in each review. Reviews were assessed for quality, then key characteristics and evidence relevant to decision making are highlighted.

Rx for Change can be accessed at www.rxforchange.ca.

This database is the product of a joint collaboration of the COMPUS program from the Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health and the Cochrane Effective Practice and Organisation of Care and Consumers and Communication Review Groups.

Alain Mayhew, EPOC
Janet Crain, COMPUS, CADTH

New Research-to-policy database

Program in Policy Decision-Making

A research program affiliated with McMaster University's Centre for Health Economics and Policy Analysis



Are you looking for Cochrane reviews relevant to how health care is governed, financed and delivered? Health system managers and policymakers often do not know where to find reliable research evidence related to these broader health policy and system topics. A new, searchable database has been developed that consolidates Cochrane and other systematic reviews on these topics and groups them into easily understandable categories. Review titles are linked to their citation and abstract if available.

The Research-to-policy database is available at www.researchtopolicy.ca/search/reviews.aspx.

This initiative is the result of a partnership between the Canadian Cochrane Centre and the Program in Policy Decision-Making at McMaster University. The work was funded by a grant from The Cochrane Collaboration's Opportunities Fund and by a grant to the Canadian Cochrane Centre from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research.

John Lavis, McMaster University

CCNet updates

Health is inclusive of civil society and not just for researchers

Patients for Patient Safety is a World Health Organization (WHO) program (www.who.int/patientsafety/patients_for_patient/en/) that began in October 2004 as part of the WHO World Alliance for Patient Safety. An international Patients for Patient Safety workshop was held in November 2005 that led to two major outcomes: the 'London Declaration' (www.who.int/patientsafety/patients_for_patient/London_Declaration_EN.pdf) and identification of WHO Patient Champions, of which there are now nearly 100.



The strength of the Cochrane Consumer Network (CCNet) as a network of international consumers is very evident in that CCNet has seven of the first Patient Champions in its membership: Claudia Cattivera (Argentina); Stephanie Newell (Australia); Kathy Kovacs Burns, Anne Lyddiatt, Durhane Wong-Rieger (Canada); Mingming Zhang (China) and Silvana Simi (Italy). The December 2007 issue of the Consumer Network newsletter (see page 11, www.cochrane.org/newslett/index.htm) profiled these people.

CCNet members are particularly able to contribute a good understanding of the importance of effective healthcare interventions. This involves a commitment to an evidence base for health care, a balance of potential benefits and harms of healthcare interventions, and a strong health system approach to accessible, safe and appropriate health care.

*Janet Wale
Cochrane Consumer Network*

Partnership and action in Israel—Notes from Sara and Yael

Since returning from the Colloquium last year in Dublin, we have been busy planning and working together on various projects. Our goal is to increase patient involvement in promoting a safer healthcare environment.

Our major efforts have focused on founding a national organization in Israel in line with Patients for Patient Safety. We have recruited additional patient activists and healthcare professionals to form a founding committee. The committee is drafting our mission statement and agenda. We will implement hard-learned lessons gathered from the experiences of others around the world, adapting them to our local culture. We are actively seeking the participation of all stakeholders.

Other activities we are engaged in include the preparation of dedicated standardized forms for patients to report safety issues they encounter. Efforts are being made to include input from patients when investigating medical errors and to encourage structured mediation between involved partners after errors and mishaps happen, before litigation takes over.



To find out more you can contact either Sara or Yael at:
Sara - aron-i@bezeqint.net
Yael - YAEL.APPLBAUM@moh.health.gov.il

*Sara Yaron, Family Member and Yael Applebaum, Ministry of Health
Patients for Patient Safety Champions, Israel*

Finding alternative words and phrases for search strategies

You say acetaminophen. I say paracetamol. They say tylenol, neopap, silapap and fanalgic.

You know how it is. You're trying to think of all the ways that a drug, procedure or state of health could have been described in studies that might be eligible for a Cochrane review. You are keen not to miss any of the relevant literature, and desperate not to miss the gem that others have overlooked or the pivotal trial that could transform the results or conclusions of the review. You are probably familiar with looking up the correct index terms for databases such as MEDLINE and EMBASE, but what about articles or abstracts that have been badly indexed? Or not indexed at all, such as many of the records in the Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials? For those articles, you will have to rely on the words used by the original authors.



You might also be familiar with the use of trials registers, such as those accessed through the WHO portal (<http://www.who.int/trialsearch/>) for finding ongoing studies that might be relevant for your Discussion, Implications for practice and research, and updating plans. But, did you know that one register, ClinicalTrials.gov (www.clinicaltrials.gov) might also be a useful source of words and phrases to add to the search strategy? A useful feature of this register is that typing in a term leads to its translation into other words and phrases. Whether or not you are interested in the studies retrieved, click on the Search Details tab to reveal the full list of terms, some or all of which you may want to adopt in your search of other places.

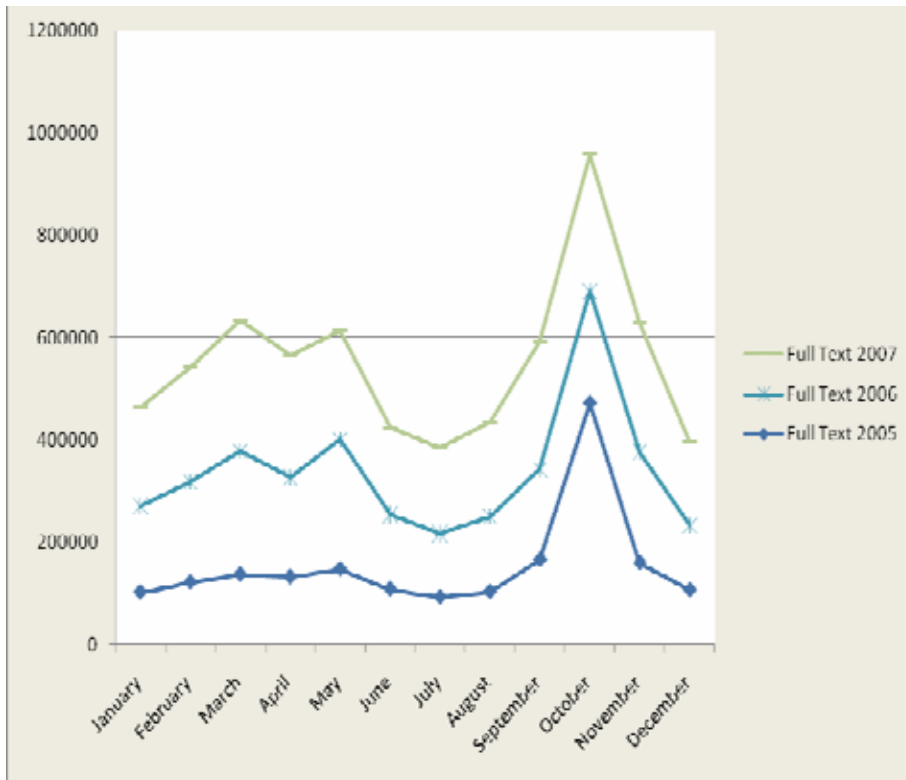
Try searching for paracetamol, or acetaminophen, whichever you prefer. You'll find all the other drug names in the title of this piece and a whole lot more - 83 in total, in fact. Now, have a go with your own favourite drugs. And don't forget also to have a try for states of health, such as 'breathlessness'; or interventions, such as 'physiotherapy'.

Mike Clarke
UK Cochrane Centre

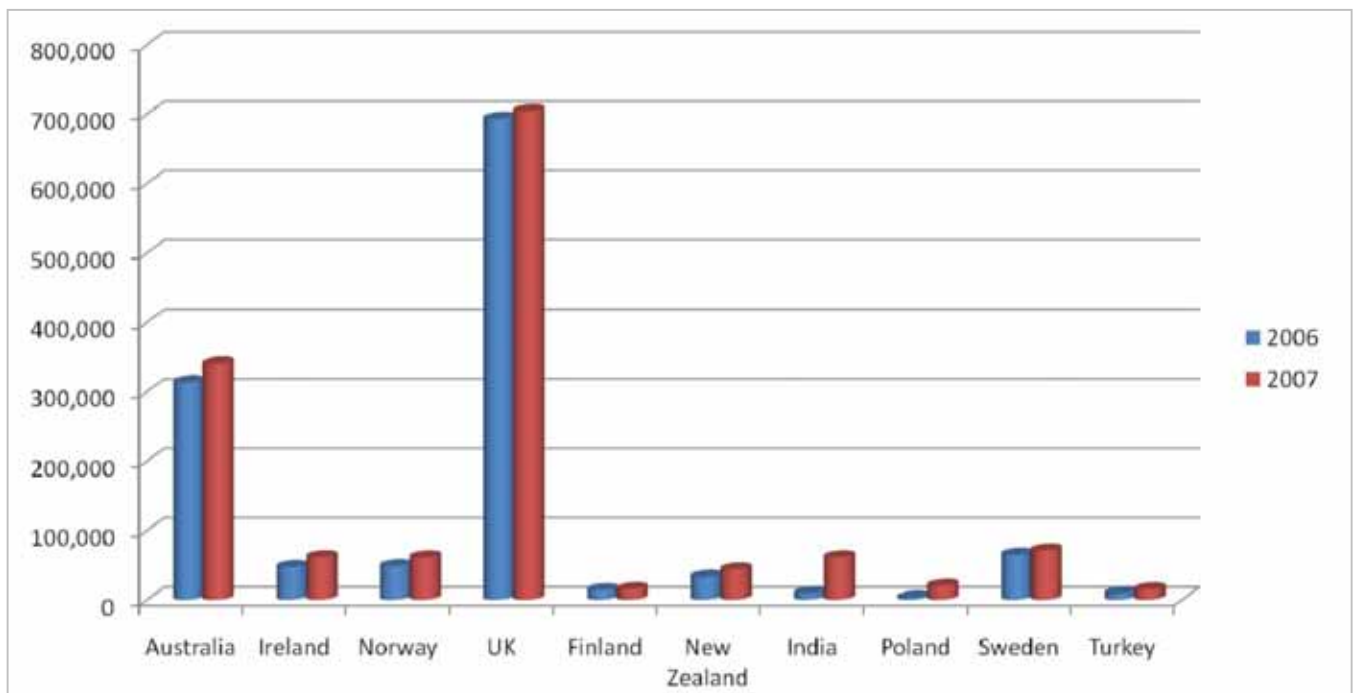
Did you know?

- ◆ You can visit www.cochrane.org/news/workshops.html to get a full listing of Cochrane events.
- ◆ A full listing of important dates can be found at www.cochrane.org/news/calendar.shtml
- ◆ Oral and poster abstracts of many past Colloquia are available at www.cochrane.org/colloquia/abstracts/
- ◆ The news column of The Cochrane Collaboration is available as an RSS feed. Visit www.cochrane.org/news/index.shtml to set up the feed today.

Usage of *The Cochrane Library*



Use of *The Cochrane Library* is still growing – the number of reviews being downloaded peaks around Issue 3 of each year and the Cochrane Colloquium.



The number of downloads of Cochrane reviews from *The Cochrane Library* by different countries.

Which Cochrane reviews have been most accessed over the past 3 years?

2005	Article Title	2006	Article Title	2007	Article Title
1	Vaccines for measles mumps and rubella in children	1	Interventions for preventing falls in elderly people	1	Interventions for preventing falls in elderly people
2	Interventions for preventing obesity in children	2	Interventions for preventing obesity in children	2	Interventions for preventing obesity in children
3	Interventions for preventing falls in elderly people	3	Amantadine and rimantadine for preventing and treating influenza A in adults	3	Beta-blockers for hypertension
4	Glucosamine therapy for treating osteoarthritis	4	Glucosamine therapy for treating osteoarthritis	4	Low glycaemic index or low glycaemic load diets for overweight and obesity
5	Action plans for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease	5	Vaccines for measles mumps and rubella in children	5	Nicotine receptor partial agonists for smoking cessation
6	Acupuncture for low-back pain	6	Interventions for helping patients to follow prescriptions for medications	6	Support surfaces for pressure ulcer prevention
7	Interventions for helping patients to follow prescriptions for medications	7	Acupuncture for low-back pain	7	Interventions to improve hand hygiene compliance in patient care
8	Exercise therapy for low-back pain	8	Action plans for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease	8	Vitamin C for preventing and treating the common cold
9	Epidural versus non-epidural analgesia for pain relief in labour	9	Vitamin C for preventing and treating the common cold	9	Rosiglitazone for type 2 diabetes mellitus
10	Vitamin C for preventing and treating the common cold	10	Antibiotics for acute otitis media in children	10	Exercise therapy for treatment of non-specific low back pain
11	Continuous support for women during childbirth	11	Exercise therapy for low-back pain	11	Interventions for enhancing medication adherence
12	Interventions for treating obesity in children	12	Preoperative fasting for adults to prevent perioperative complications	12	Physiotherapy treatment approaches for the recovery of postural control and lower limb function following stroke
13	Exercises for mechanical neck disorders	13	Support surfaces for pressure ulcer prevention	13	Physiotherapy interventions for shoulder pain
14	Cognitive behaviour therapy for schizophrenia	14	Continuous support for women during childbirth	14	Exercise for overweight or obesity
15	Exercise for treating isolated anterior cruciate ligament injuries in adults	15	Water for wound cleansing	15	Screening for breast cancer with mammography
16	Physiotherapy interventions for shoulder pain	16	Audit and feedback: effects on professional practice and health care outcomes	16	Nicotine replacement therapy for smoking cessation
17	Physiotherapy treatment approaches for the recovery of postural control and lower limb function following stroke	17	Cranberries for preventing urinary tract infections	17	Early skin-to-skin contact for mothers and their healthy newborn infants
18	Support surfaces for pressure ulcer prevention	18	Echinacea for preventing and treating the common cold	18	Continuous support for women during childbirth
19	Anticonvulsant drugs for acute and chronic pain	19	Nicotine replacement therapy for smoking cessation	19	Glucosamine therapy for treating osteoarthritis
20	Antibiotics for acute otitis media in children	20	Decision aids for people facing health treatment or screening decisions	20	Pulmonary rehabilitation for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

**Joining, moving, leaving?
Keep our mail list updated by sending an email to cochrane@uottawa.ca**



What user training is available for *The Cochrane Library*?

E-learning

Did you know an e-learning service is available from Wiley InterScience? Training and information briefings can be delivered directly to your desktop 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The service is modular in format, consists of pre-recorded training sessions, and includes:

- *The Cochrane Library* - an introduction
- Tips on Advanced and MESH searching
- Saving searches and setting up E-alerts
- *The Cochrane Library* - Version Française, Deutsche, Türkçe, Español, Português, Italiano

Each module lasts between 3 and 10 minutes, is simple to navigate and you can fast-forward, pause or rewind at any time. The service is available free to anyone using Wiley InterScience. For access, go to: www.interscience.wiley.com/tutorials

Virtual Webinars

These are online instructor-led webinars where users can view the schedule and participate, comment and observe right from their desktop! Visit: <https://wiley.webex.com>.

Upcoming

Look out for changes in *The Cochrane Library* Issue 2, 2008 (16 April) to reflect the upgrade to RevMan5, such as enhanced review status, alerting options and additional tables and sections in New Cochrane Reviews.

Fabienne Reynolds,
John Wiley and Sons, Inc.

Key dates for *The Cochrane Library*

<i>The Cochrane Library</i>	Copy edit support deadlines	Module submission deadlines	Publication dates
Issue 3, 2008	23 April 2008	15 May 2008	9 July 2008
Issue 4, 2008	23 July 2008	14 August 2008	8 October 2008
Issue 1, 2009	22 October 2008	13 November 2008	21 January 2009

Note: Submission deadlines are for Cochrane Review Groups (CRGs) and other Cochrane entities. Individual authors should contact their CRGs for editorial deadlines.

16th Cochrane Colloquium in Freiburg - Update

The 16th Cochrane Colloquium will take place in six months in Freiburg, Germany. The conference website, at www.cochrane.de/colloquium, features daily updates and information. Many of you have already taken the opportunity to register and create your own 'colloquium space' within the website. With the abstract submission deadline passed, we have now made an important step towards finalising the scientific programme.

Please be sure to take the opportunity to register for one of our guided tours, presenting you with the charms and beauty of Freiburg and surroundings. Freiburg is a cosy city where almost everything can be reached by walking. It is situated in the middle of a wine-growing area within a half-hour drive from Switzerland and France, and only a few hours from the highest peaks of the Alps. Bring your family along and add some time for a holiday, and enjoy food, wine, landscape and culture.

To find out more and to register or create your 'colloquium space', please visit the Colloquium website at www.cochrane.de/colloquium.

We look forward to seeing you in Freiburg in October.

Bärbel Schätzle
Colloquium Local Organising Team
XVI Cochrane Colloquium



Key dates for Freiburg

21 April	Notification of Abstract Acceptance
28 April	Consumer Stipends Application Deadline
28 April	Developing Country Stipends Application Deadline
26 May	Notification of Stipends Acceptance
30 June	Early Registration Deadline
14 July	Meeting Room Request Deadline
3 September	Cancellation Deadline
4 September	Hotel Registration Deadline

Did you know?

Help promote the Collaboration! The Cochrane Collaboration offers five introductory leaflets on different aspects of its work and products that can be downloaded, printed and distributed at workshops and other events.

They are available in English, Arabic and now French, thanks to Hana Nassif of Lebanon for the translation and Myriam Rege of Switzerland for adaptation.

Visit www.cochrane.org/resources/leaflet.htm to download these leaflets.

Events and Workshops

Symposium for Australasian Review Authors

22-23 May 2008

Hobart, Tasmania

For details: http://www.cochrane.org.au/symposium/symposium_.php

Evidence/Bioethics VII Annual Meeting of the Iberoamerican Cochrane Network, V Annual Meeting of the Iberoamerican Clinical Guidelines Network, and I Annual Meeting of the Centroamerican CITI Program (www.citiprogram.org)

25-27 June 2008

Heredia, Costa Rica

Host: IHCAI Foundation/Cochrane Central American Branch of the Iberoamerican Cochrane Network

This meeting is crucial for developing the future plans for the Centre in the coming year and will serve as a forum for researchers to share current knowledge in the field, including ways of implementing evidence-based medicine (EBM). The scientific program will provide the opportunity for individuals to update, explore new areas, and expand their current understanding in the following thematic areas:

1. Research with Human Subjects
2. Distribution of Health Care Resources and Evidence-Based Health Policy
3. Clinical Practice and Cochrane Systematic reviews (*The Cochrane Library*)
4. RevMan 5 and Risk of Bias
5. GRADEpro

For more information contact info@ihcai.org.

Priority Setting for Systematic Reviews Conference

10-11 July 2008

Baltimore-Washington metropolitan area

Hosted by The US Cochrane Center

Is there an ideal system for prioritizing which systematic reviews get done? What do we know about ways to incorporate the perspective of healthcare providers, consumers, policy makers, and funders in setting these priorities? What does the research show?

Potential topics include:

- Existing methods *used* to prioritize evidence syntheses;
- Methods *proposed* to prioritize evidence syntheses;
- Methods to implement priorities;
- Choosing among competing priorities;
- Deciding when existing reviews are sufficient to address a need and when new reviews are needed;
- Developing an organizational framework and cross-group collaboration.

For more information contact:

Janie Gordon, ScM., Community Outreach Advisor, US Cochrane Center

jlgordon@jhsph.edu

Completing a Cochrane Systematic Review Workshop

July 16-18, 2008

Baltimore, Maryland, USA

For more information contact Ann Ervin (uscevg@jhsph.edu) or go to the website

<http://www.cochraneeyes.org/workshops/systematicreview.htm>.

COCHRANE NEWS**News and Announcements**

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New Trials Search Co-ordinator

The Dementia and Cognitive Improvement Group has a new Trials Search Co-ordinator, Anna Noel-Storr, who started in January 2008. We are very pleased to welcome her to the team. Anna has a background in Information Management and most recently worked for Voluntary Services Overseas.

Trials Search Co-ordinator User Guide

A User Guide for Managing Specialized Registers & Handsearch Records has been developed to help Trials Search Co-ordinators develop, maintain and submit their entity's Specialized Register to the Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials (CENTRAL).

The document offers comprehensive guidance on the fields that should be used in each Specialized Register and handsearch file and describes the content of those fields. It replaces the CENTRAL Management Plan. All TSCs have access to the guide through the CENTRAL forum folder on Archie. It is also available on the TSC and handsearching resources page - see address below.

For more information: <http://cochrane.org/resources/hsearch.htm>.
 Contact: Ruth Foxlee, rf518@york.ac.uk

Consumer video

A 6-minute video featuring members of the Consumers United for Evidence-based Health Care (CUE), highlights the role of consumers in promoting evidence-based health care. Available from <http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=6933195048050878202>; <http://youtube.com/watch?v=Vug62ASCjcl>

Hold the date!

14th Annual Meeting of UK and Ireland-based Contributors to The Cochrane Collaboration
 18 - 19 March 2009
 Edinburgh, Scotland
 Further details will be available at www.cochrane.co.uk later in the year.

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