

Official Opening of New Editorial Base



Opening of the Cochrane Oral Health Group Editorial Base by Professor Maggie Pearson and Professor Bill Shaw

A permanent editorial base for the Cochrane Oral Health Review Group, at the University of Manchester, was officially opened by Professor Maggie Pearson, Director of Research & Development, NHS Executive North West at a ceremony on February 4th. It was attended by the Chief Dental Officer for England and Wales, Mr Robin Wild; the Director of the UK Cochrane Centre in Oxford, Dr Iain Chalmers, other guests and colleagues. The ceremony consisted of a number of short presentations that outlined the work and progress of the Oral Health Group to date.

Bill Shaw welcomed the guests to the event and introduced the first of the speakers, Dr Iain Chalmers from the UK Cochrane Centre. Iain spoke about the link between the Oral Health Group and The Cochrane Collaboration and their subsequent development.

Helen Worthington, deputy co-ordinating editor of the Cochrane Oral Health Group, emphasised the progress that has been made by the group over the last 12 months.

Jan Clarkson, a reviewer with the Oral Health Group, talked about her experiences whilst preparing her protocol on oral care for patients treated with chemotherapy.

The final speaker was Maggie Pearson who emphasised the importance of the work of the Cochrane Collaboration for the future of the NHS and the Government's increasing support for evidence based practice.

A large number attended the event and Greater Manchester Radio was present to record the event and interview Bill Shaw, Iain Chalmers and Maggie Pearson. Information about the ceremony was also made available to the local and dental press.

The event was a huge success and emphasised the hard work that has been put in by members of the Oral Health Group over the last 12 months. Well Done everybody!!

The Cochrane Oral Health Group

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Co-ordinating Editors: Professor W C Shaw
Dr Helen Worthington

Group Co-ordinator: Ms Emma Tavender

Progress of the Oral Health Group

The Oral Health Group has made substantial progress over the last 12 months. At the beginning of the year there were some intensive months establishing and developing the group.

Funding

After securing a 3-year funding package in July from the NHS Executive North West we were able to move into our new editorial base.

New Editorial Staff

Within the same time period Emma Tavender was appointed full time Co-ordinator and Sylvia Bickley as part time Trials Search Co-ordinator. These add to the editorial team of three UK Editors (Bill Shaw, Helen Worthington and Jayne Harrison) and three USA Editors (Alexia Antczak-Bouckoms, Susan Reisine and Kity Tulloch).

Specialised Register of Trials

In January a highly sensitive search strategy for the Group was identified under the guidance of Carol Lefebvre, Information Specialist at the UK Cochrane Centre. A Specialist Register of trials has now been set up from the results of these searches. The register contains 4229 records and will be continually updated and become an important resource to reviewers via the Co-ordinator.

It is hoped that this will in turn improve the quality of searches and increase the yield of references.

Handsearching Programme

Interested in handsearching a journal?

Anyone interested in helping out with handsearching should contact the editorial base to receive a handsearching manual.

The Oral Health Group's Handsearching Manual provides vital information to potential hand searchers and includes information on the handsearching test. The purpose of this test is to ensure all searchers apply standard eligibility criteria and classify reports in the same manner. Copies of the Manual are available from the editorial base.

Status of Protocols/ Titles

Currently we have 12 reviews registered, 4 of which are at the protocol stage and 1 is out to referees. A full list of titles /protocols registered has been placed on the last page of this newsletter.

Visitors to the new Editorial Base

On 17th November 1997, three Oral Health Group reviewers visited the new editorial base – Dr Edwin Chan (Head of Meta-analysis Division, Singapore General Hospital), Dr Miny Samuel (Singapore General Hospital) and Dr Joanna Zakrzewska (Senior Lecturer/ Hon.Consultant at Royal London Hospital).

The visitors met with members of the editorial team and were shown the facilities available. The visitors attended a meeting in the afternoon with Professor Martin Thornhill to discuss the development of their review on Oral Lichen Planus.

New Consumer Representative



The Oral Health Group would like to welcome Nik Barstow, Chief Officer of the Central Manchester Health Watch, who has agreed to become the Group's consumer representative.

The role of the consumer representative involves ensuring that consumer interest, expectations and needs are met within the group.

5th International Cochrane Colloquium 8-12th October 1997

The 5th Annual Colloquium of the Cochrane Collaboration was held in Amsterdam from 8-12th October. The focus of the colloquium was to look at the dissemination and implementation of evidence and the evaluation of evidence in practice. It was held in conjunction with the 2nd International Conference on the Scientific Basis of Health Care (5-8th October) with a joint day on the 8th.

Sylvia Bickley, Jayne Harrison and Emma Tavender attended the event for the first time. It was a great opportunity to meet members of The Cochrane Collaboration face to face and make contacts.

Various training workshops, meetings and social events were arranged throughout the week. We all came back from the event feeling it had been a very rewarding and valuable experience.

Developments of the Cochrane Collaboration in a year

- 7 new Cochrane Review Groups, with another 12 probable groups – bringing the total to 46.
- 15 Cochrane centres providing support throughout the world

The Cochrane Library Issue 4, 1997

- Over 250 new systematic reviews and approximately the same number of protocols.
- CCTR contains just under 120,000 confirmed trials.

Launch of Comments/Criticism facility

The option for individuals to comment /criticise completed reviews on The Cochrane Library has now been launched. This facility allows users to give their opinions on reviews that will be read and answered by the reviewer.

Each Cochrane Review Group will have an allocated Criticism Editor whose specific task will be to pass these comments on to the author for comments and any necessary changes to be made.

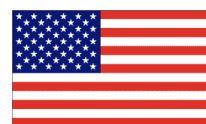


The technology to aid this process is under development and is expected to be available in 1999.

6th International Cochrane Colloquium

22-27th October 1998 Baltimore

The first day of the colloquium will be a half-day introduction to the collaboration for newcomers. Subsequent days will be dedicated to scientific sessions, small group meetings and workshops.



The colloquium will be organised around methods and strategies for developing, maintaining and promoting access to Cochrane reviews.

The first call for abstracts has been sent out and the deadline for submissions is 30 April 1998. Details on how to send an abstract can be obtained from the editorial base.

Further details can be obtained from the Baltimore Cochrane Centre web page (<http://www.cochrane.org>) or contact :

Courtesy Associates
2000 L.Street N.W.
Suite 710
Washington, DC 20036

USA
Tel: +1 202 973 8685
Fax: +1 202 331 0111
Email: kgillesp@courtesyassoc.com

- The 7th Annual Cochrane Colloquium will be held in Italy in 1999.
- The 8th Annual Cochrane Colloquium will be held in South Africa in 2000.

Possible ENT Group

An exploratory meeting to consider establishing a Cochrane Ear, Nose and Throat Disorders Group has been arranged for the 5th/6th April 1998. The meeting is being led by Martin Burton; an otorhinolaryngological surgeon.

There is a possible overlap in scope between this group and the Oral Health Group with regard to head and neck cancer. A member of the editorial team will be attending this meeting and emphasise the need for close collaboration between the two groups.

Those wishing to attend are warmly invited but will have to cover their own travel and accommodation costs. For further information, please contact:

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C/o UK Cochrane Centre
NHS R & D Programme
Summertown Pavillion
Middle Way
Oxford OX2 7LG
Fax: +44 1865 224 544
E-mail: martin.burton@surgery.ox.ac.uk

Collaboration on the WWW

The main Collaboration home page on the world wide web is available on the:

- Canadian web site: <http://hiru.mcmaster.ca/cochrane/>
- Australian web site: <http://www.cochrane.org.au>
- German web site: <http://sun21.imbi.uni-freiburg.de/cochrane/oldindex.html>

These sites provide information on the Collaboration, announcements and news, Cochrane Centres and Review Groups

Cochrane Handbook

The Cochrane Handbook has now been put on the web by Synapse Publishing and can be found at: <http://www.medlib.com/cochranehandbook>

You can also link to the online version through the Collaboration web site at: <http://hiru.mcmaster.ca/cochrane/>

RevMan Update

The next substantial release of RevMan (version 4) will be the 1st June 1999 that will also include CritMan. In the meantime RevMan (version 3.1) will be released on 1st March 1998 which fixes a list of problems. It is not mandatory to update, but highly recommended.

The update is in the form of a single file which must be placed in the directory where Revman is installed, replacing the old file with the same name.

After installation, run the program & check that the version number on the title bar of the window has changed. The plain text file called 'whatsnew.txt' contains the list bug fixes. In your web browser (eg Netscape) use the following addresses:

UK <ftp://ftp.cochrane.co.uk/pub>

Canadian <ftp://cochrane:archie@hiru.mcmaster.ca/internet/ftp/>

Australasian <ftp://cochrane:australia@healthinfo.fmc.flinders.edu.au/c:/ftp/cochrane>

The update is in the revman/windows/rm31Beta/ directory. The files to download are:

Disk 1: setup.exe; setup.arv; setupmn.arv

Disk 2: setup.a02

Disk 3: setup.a03; instal.txt; readme.txt

New Cochrane Centre



The Spanish Cochrane Centre opened in Barcelona early December. The address of their WWW site is: <http://www.cochrane.es>

The contact details are:

Centro Cochrane Español
Parc Taulí s/n 08208
Sabadell (Barcelona)
Spain
Tel: +34 3 723 4094
Fax: +34 3 723 3804

E-mail: cepss@siberia.chpt.es

COCHRANE TRAINING WORKSHOPS 1998

Training workshops are periodically organised by a number of Cochrane Centres. These are usually concerned with two main topics: assisting



new reviewers in developing a Cochrane Protocol and guiding and instructing reviewers on how to enter and edit their reviews in RevMan, the Cochrane review manager software.

The Dutch Cochrane Centre is responsible for training for people living in The Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany, Austria and the German speaking part of Switzerland. Information on workshops for members in North America can be obtained from one of the four US Cochrane Centers (San Antonio, Baltimore, San Francisco or New England).

Members wishing to sign up to attend a workshop should in the first instance contact:-

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<u>Developing a Cochrane Protocol for a review</u>		
Organising Body	Date	Location
UK Cochrane Centre	February 9	Oxford UK
UK Cochrane Centre	March 16	London UK
UK Cochrane Centre	May 11	Oxford UK
UK Cochrane Centre	June 8	Aberdeen UK
UK Cochrane Centre	June 22	Oxford UK
UK Cochrane Centre	September 14	Oxford UK
UK Cochrane Centre	November 16	Liverpool UK

Nordic Cochrane Centre	March 16	Oslo Norway
Nordic Cochrane Centre	September 24	Helsinki Finland
<u>Handsearching Literature</u>		
Nordic Cochrane Centre	September 23	Helsinki Finland
<u>Getting a Review into RevMan</u>		
UK Cochrane Centre	February 10	Oxford UK
UK Cochrane Centre	May 12	Oxford UK
UK Cochrane Centre	June 9	Aberdeen UK
UK Cochrane Centre	June 23	Oxford UK
UK Cochrane Centre	September 15	Oxford UK
UK Cochrane Centre	November 17	Liverpool UK
New England CC	June 13/14	Boston, USA
New England CC	November 14/15	Boston, USA
Nordic Cochrane Centre	March 17	Oslo Norway
Nordic Cochrane Centre	September 25	Helsinki Finland

<u>Systematic Review Training(Child Health)</u>		
Cochrane Child Health Group	May 6-8	Melbourne AU
<u>Evidence Based Child Healthcare</u>		
Cochrane Child Health Centre	May 27-29	London UK
Australasian Cochrane Centre	Nov 19-20	Melbourne AU

Steering Group Elections

The results of the recent Steering Group elections are as follows:

- Gill Gyte, of the National Childbirth Trust, replaces Jean Jones as one of the two Consumer Network representatives.
- Paul Jones, Co-ordinating Editor of the Airways Group, replaces Cindy Farquhar as one of the four representatives of Collaborative Review Groups.
- Mark Lodge, Trials Register Co-ordinator for the Cochrane Cancer Network replaces Edward Dickinson as the Fields representative (elected unopposed).

The Cochrane Library

The Cochrane Library is the most comprehensive source of evidence for those with an interest in health care. It comprises a number of important databases including The Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews, The Cochrane Controlled Trials Register, and the Database of Abstracts of

Reviews of Effectiveness compiled by the NHS Centre for Reviews and Dissemination. The Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews is an electronic journal developed to ensure that the work of the reviewers can be widely disseminated. Reviewers contribute their reviews to the Database on the understanding that no one will have exclusive copyright in the reviews. The library is constantly updated and further developed with obvious advantages. The Cochrane Library is distributed quarterly on disk, the Internet and on CD-ROM.

New Issue: Issue 1-1998

Issue 1 1998 of The Cochrane Library is now available. For more information on how to obtain a copy contact:

Update Software Ltd

Summertown Pavilion
Middle Way
Summertown
Oxford OX2 7LG
England
Tel: +44 (0)1865 513 902
Fax: +44 (0)1865 516 918
E-mail: info@update.co.uk
WWW: <http://www.cochrane.co.uk>

Or

Update Software Inc.
936 La Rueda
Vista
CA 92084
USA
Tel: +1 760 727 6792
Fax: +1 760 734 4351

On Issue 1 1998 of The Cochrane Library there are:

- 668 Reviews
- 1554 Reviews on DARE
- 158065 entries on CCTR (CENTRAL)
- Handbook & Glossary
- Users Guide

Using the Cochrane Library: Self-training guide package

A comprehensive information and self training guide and notes package on using the Cochrane Library is available through the Anglia & Oxford Research & Development Directorate and can be downloaded free of charge for the following web site:

<http://wwwlib.jr2.ox.ac.uk/nhserdd/aordd/evidence/clibtrng.htm>

Alternatively copies can be obtained from the Oral Health Group's Editorial Office on payment of a small charge to cover postage and packing.

Translators needed

The Italian Cochrane Centre is creating a database of people who are able to assist with translation for the Collaboration. Please contact the Oral Health Group Coordinator if you can help.

Stages involved in preparing and maintaining a Cochrane Systematic Review

1. Choose & agree a topic with the Review Group Editorial Team
2. Register the title
3. Attend a Cochrane protocol development workshop.
4. Write a protocol
5. Editorial & external review of protocol
6. Amendments by reviewer if necessary
7. Enter protocol on RevMan, Review Manager software
8. Send above for inclusion in list of registered protocols in Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews
9. Identify trials
10. Complete systematic review
11. Enter review into RevMan software
12. Peer review of the systematic review
13. Enter systematic review into ModMan, Module manager software
14. Send above for entry/updating in Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews in Cochrane Library.

15. New trials published and/or comments received from users
16. Amendments by reviewer entered into RevMan software.
17. repeat stages 10 - 12

Cochrane Centres World-Wide

Cochrane Centres are established in the following Countries:

Australia; USA - San Antonio – Boston – San Francisco; France; United Kingdom; Canada; The Netherlands; Italy; Denmark; Brazil; Germany; South Africa; Spain; China

Cochrane Oral Health Group Details

Co-ordinating Editor:	Professor William C.Shaw (UK)
Editorial Team:	Dr Helen Worthington (UK)
	Ms Jayne Harrison (UK)
	Dr Jan Clarkson (UK)
	Dr Camilla (Kitty) Tulloch (USA)
	Dr Alexia Antczak-Bouckoms (USA)
Criticism Editor:	Dr Susan Reisine (USA)
Group Co-ordinator:	Ms Emma Tavender (UK)
Trials Search Co-ordinator:	Mrs Sylvia Bickley (UK)

SCOPE The Cochrane Oral Health Group will include all Randomised and Controlled Clinical Trials of oral health broadly conceived to include the prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation of oral, dental, and craniofacial diseases and disorders.

Registered Protocols

- Guided tissue regeneration in periodontal treatment. – Matthews D, Needleman I, Giedrys-Leeper E.
- Orthodontic treatments for posterior crossbites. - Harrison J, Ashby D.
- Oral care for patients with cancer treated with chemotherapy (excluding head & neck cancer) – Clarkson J, Worthington HV, Eden O, Sloan P
- Topical fluoride therapy versus placebo in the prevention of dental caries in children and adolescents – Marinho V, Sheiham A

Registered Protocols out with referees

- Placebo-controlled treatment trials of oral lichen planus (OLP) - Chan E, Thornhill M, Zakrzewska J

Registered Titles

- The effectiveness of topical fluoride therapy in the prevention of dental caries in children and adolescents. -Marinho v, Sheiham A.
- Adjunctive chlorhexidine use in the prevention of caries – Niederman R
- Adjunctive chlorhexidine use in the treatment of periodontitis – Niederman R
- Adjunctive chlorhexidine use in the treatment of oral ulceration – Niederman R
- Effectiveness of electric toothbrushes – Walmsley D, Niederman R, Shaw WC
- Effectiveness of potassium nitrate-containing toothpaste in treatment of dentin hypersensitivity – Hovgaard O, Poulsen S
- Pain control following third molar surgery in the day-care and out patient setting – Joshi A, Rood P

Review subjects currently under discussion

- The effectiveness of early orthodontic treatment – Harrison JE, O’Brien K, Worthington HV, Lennon MA, Williamson P
- Lingual nerve damage during removal of lower third molars: comparison of surgical methods. – Joshi A, Couthard P

- Retinoid therapy for oral cancer lesions. – Thornhill M
- Facial growth outcome following surgical repair of cleft lip and palate. – Shaw WC
- The effectiveness and acceptability of different types of gloves and glove material in dental practice – Field EA, Burke T
- Longevity of dental restorations. – Burke T
- Attitudes, knowledge and behaviour of dental practitioners to infection control guidelines – Burke T, Bagg J, Grimshaw J

And finally.....A message from the Co-ordinating Editor

All you wanted to know about the Cochrane Collaboration and didn't like to ask?

Frankly, we in the Cochrane Oral Health Group are still on a steep learning curve and we are deriving tremendous assistance from other Groups that are more advanced than ourselves. If you would like to know more about the Collaboration and get some ideas about how you might contribute please call any member of the editorial team.

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