

## Editorial

We have made enormous progress in expanding the contribution made by the Oral Health Group to the Cochrane Library. We now have 3 completed reviews, 14 protocols and 3 further protocols currently out with referees. What is very pleasing to report is that the range of topics of our reviews covers both primary and secondary care.

Such progress reflects the time and dedication that our reviewers and referees have given (freely) to the work of the Cochrane Collaboration. I would also like to remind reviewers that once they undertake a Cochrane review it is their responsibility to update the review annually and we are currently developing central procedures to make this easier.

We are also pleased to announce the appointment of Edwin Chan to the editorial team. Edwin works for the National Medical Research Council in Singapore and not only does his joining increase the international representation and skill base of the OHG but it addresses the gender imbalance of the editorial team!

The creation of the OHG Web site is vital to the rapid progress of the Oral Health Group. It is intended that it will provide members with up to date information about the work of the group, the Cochrane Collaboration and links to other useful websites. We hope that the web site will encourage further interest leading to new members, handsearchers and reviewers.

Finally we have embarked on a new venture to increase the awareness in and participation of dentists in evidence based practice. We have developed a 5-day course designed for specialist registrars in training. For further details please see below.

## The Cochrane Oral Health Group

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Group Co-ordinator: Ms Emma Tavender

## Progress of the Group

With the release of Issue 3, July 2000, the Oral Health Group will have 3 reviews and 14 protocols published on The Cochrane Library. A full list of reviews/protocols has been placed in this newsletter.

## New Website! [www.cochrane-oral.man.ac.uk](http://www.cochrane-oral.man.ac.uk)

The Oral Health Group went online with its own website this month. The webpage contains useful resources for potential reviewers and contains up to date information on the work of the group. Sites of interest include:

- Information on the editorial members, editorial process, scope of the Group and its publications
- Guidelines/manuals/software for reviewers and handsearchers
- Newsletters

Members will be contacted soon to identify those who would rather receive the newsletter electronically, via the web, rather than in paper format.

## Deadline Dates for publication on The Cochrane Library

Issue	Review/Protocol sent to referees		Final version to Editorial base	Editorial base submit Module	Cochrane Library Publication Date
2000	Protocol	Review			
Issue 4	21 <sup>st</sup> July	14 <sup>th</sup> July	18 <sup>th</sup> August	30 <sup>th</sup> August	October 2000
2001	Protocol	Review			
Issue 1	20 <sup>th</sup> October	13 <sup>th</sup> October	17 <sup>th</sup> November	29 <sup>th</sup> November	January 2001

## A few words from our new Editor - Edwin Shih-Yen Chan

My initial awareness of the Cochrane Collaboration and involvement in my first systematic review with the Oral Health Group grew out of a lateral shift in profession. My basic training was in veterinary medicine and for ten years till mid-1997 I had been working at the University in the field of molecular epidemiology & evolution of cancer-causing human papillomaviruses (HPV). My one and only involvement in Oral Medicine was a PCR-based prevalence study on HPV in over 90 oral squamous cell carcinomas of betel quid chewers from Kerala, India. When I joined the Clinical Trials & Epidemiology Research Unit as a meta-analyst and head of the EBM Division, the Unit was planning a 200 patient 3-arm multi-centre RCT for oral lichen planus (cyclosporine, triamcinolone, placebo). Prof David Machin (formerly Chief statistician, UK MRC Cancer Trials Office) who was then our unit director encouraged me to liaise with the OHG and take on a systematic review on treatments for OLP. I shall always remember with gratitude the support of diverse groups and people especially the financial backing of our National Medical Research Council, the generosity and enthusiasm of Cochranites, the ever present help and hospitality of the OHG editorial staff and my fellow reviewers Joanna Zakrzewska, Martin Thornhill and Steve Challacombe.

It was an honour to be asked to join the OHG editorial team, especially as I consider myself an outsider ("far outlier" is the statistical term that springs to mind!) to the field. I accepted because it offered me a chance to deepen my involvement with the Collaboration, to contribute in additional ways to the excellent work of the OHG and to continue learning about EBM as applied to a specific field of health. My chief interest is in methodology and as a group we are very fortunate to have the skills of Helen "on tap", for I foresee tricky methodological challenges ahead because of the special designs of dental/oral health trials. My main concern is inappropriate decisions to pool data, even more so when it is in a Cochrane Review. If systematic reviews are to be more credible we are going to have to do better in this area, so one of my aims will be to help keep our OHG reviews on the "straight and narrow" in this regard.

My experience with Cochrane widened when I also became involved in a review on adjuvant therapy for resectable liver cancer (Hepato-biliary Group). The review team was entirely based in Singapore and was a significant milestone in that it raised the profile of systematic reviews, the Collaboration and EBM locally. One of my local roles is to facilitate EBM education and research, and I hope to use our unit's close ties with our National Dental Centre and its fledgling research programme to further promote the aims of the Collaboration and to elicit more participation from local clinicians. Once again, I'm grateful for the opportunity to serve in such a magnificent enterprise, Archie Cochrane would surely be proud to see how his vision has grown into more than simply "ONE Man's Medicine".

(Edwin SY Chan, Singapore)

8th International Cochrane Colloquium Cape Town, South Africa

The 8<sup>th</sup> International Cochrane Colloquium will take place at the Good Hope Centre, Capetown, South Africa, from 25-29<sup>th</sup> October 2000. The theme of the Colloquium will be "Evidence for action: Challenges for the Cochrane Collaboration in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century" and is designed to highlight key issues that need to be addressed by the Collaboration in the short to medium term in order to further its goals.

Topics covered will reflect a range of methodological, logistical and social challenges of a rapidly developing organisation operating within a diverse and changing health care environment. This will be the first Colloquium to be held in a developing country and it therefore also presents an ideal opportunity for The Cochrane Collaboration to evaluate the relevance of its activities to people living in resource-poor countries.

### Important Dates

- Full registration deadline 1/Aug/00
- Hotel registration deadline 1/Aug/00
- Cancellation deadline 25/Sep/00

## Update on progress with the OHG's Specialised Register

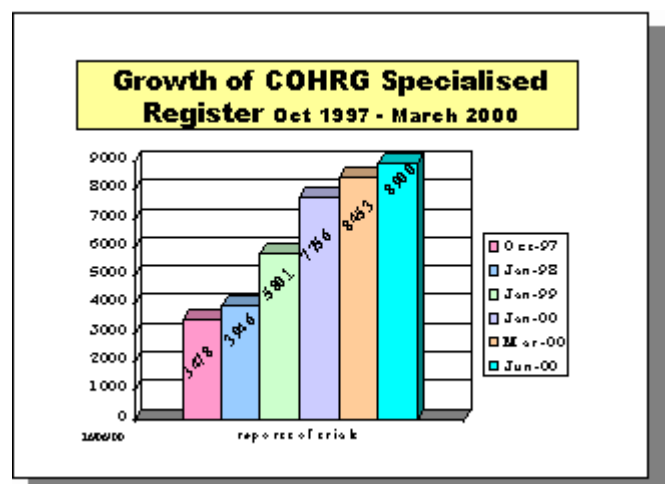
A most valuable resource for reviewers

In the last year the Oral Health Group's Specialised Register has grown from 6709 to 8900 records. The Register, a database of Randomised Controlled Trials (RCTs), Controlled Clinical Trials (CCTs) and associated material such as published correspondence; conference proceedings; research abstracts relating to CCTs and RCTs is continually being expanded as new material is being identified.

### Contribution of handsearchers

By meticulously searching journals from cover to cover our small team of handsearchers ensure that all trials, that do not get picked up by electronic searches are identified

Since the handsearch programme commenced two years ago the handsearch team have searched no less than 430 journal years involving several thousands of issues. Earlier this year our records showed that one of our volunteer handsearchers, Donald Macfarlane, had personally searched over 100 journal years involving over 1,000 issues. These searches alone identified almost 1,000 RCTs or CCTs, 50% of which had not been picked up by the electronic searches. Donald's valued contribution was marked with a small presentation at the UK Cochrane Contributors meeting in Oxford in April.



We extend our appreciation to all our handsearchers who "beaver away" in libraries at locations remote from our base and whose efforts make a huge contribution to the Oral Health Group and to the Collaboration's Worldwide Handsearch Programme.

The OHG's specialised register, which is maintained and managed by the Trials Search Co-ordinator, Sylvia Bickley, at the Editorial base, provides a valuable resource and Sylvia is able to support reviewers by searching the database and working with reviewers to build sensitive search strategies. If you would like to have a search run on the Specialised Register, or need assistance with a search strategy please contact Sylvia on [Sylvia.r.bickley@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:Sylvia.r.bickley@manchester.ac.uk).

We're here to help

### List of Journals currently being handsearched

- Acta Odontologica Scandinavica
- Am Dental Assoc Jnl (JADA)
- Am J Orthod & Dentofac Orthoped
- Angle Orthodontics
- ASCD Jnl of Dentistry for Children
- British Dental Journal
- British Journal of Orthodontics
- Caries Research
- Clinical Oral Implants Research
- Community Dental Health
- Comm Dent & Oral Epidemiol
- European Journal of Orthodontics
- Implant Dentistry
- Implantologist
- Int J Oral & Maxillofacial Implants
- Int J Oral Implantology
- Implant Dentistry
- Int J Prosthodontics
- Jnl Clinical Periodontology
- Jnl of Periodontology
- Jnl of Dental Research
- Jnl Oral Implantology
- Jnl Periodontal Research
- Oral Implantology
- Oral Surg, Oral Med, Oral Path, Oral
- Radiology & Endodontics
- Paediatric Dentistry
- Primary Dental Care

## Collaboration News!!

Release of RevMan 4.1

If all goes to plan, RevMan 4.1 and MetaView 4.1 will be released in the latter half of August. The software has undergone several iterations of testing and the Software Development Team is confident that it will be a very good product.

There will be no need to convert reviews in RevMan 4.0 to RevMan 4.1 as the review structure remains the same. The installation procedure will not overwrite current reviews. RevMan 4.1 is not mandatory because there are no changes to the review format. However reviewers are strongly advised to update to the new software for four important reasons: 1) MetaView 4.1 will replace MetaView 3.1 on The Cochrane Library before Issue 1 2001, 2) the new software fixes minor bugs in RevMan 4.0.4, 3) ability to specify default statistical settings, 4) Windows 2000 compatibility.

How will RevMan 4.1 be distributed?

All contact reviewers with a review/protocol planned to be published in the Cochrane Library issue 3, 2000 will receive on copy on CD-ROM in the mail. Co-reviewers and new reviewers can order a copy at this website: [www.cochrane.dk/revman/cdromform.htm](http://www.cochrane.dk/revman/cdromform.htm) . It will also be available to download from the Internet a few weeks prior to the CD-ROM shipment.

If you have any questions regarding this new software please contact Emma at the editorial base who will be happy to help you.

### Consumer Synopses

A new section has been added to the RevMan software, the inclusion of a consumer synopsis at the start of the review. This does not replace the abstract but it is a brief summary of the results of the review, in a language for non-specialists and consumers. The reviewers themselves can draft the synopsis or the Consumer Network Group based in Australia can write them.

It is recommended that reviewers who write their own synopses seek guidance from the Consumer Newwebsite. Synopses and abstracts of Cochrane reviews can be accessed at the following website:

<http://www.cochrane.org/cochrane/whatcdsr.htm>

### **New Cochrane Centre**

The Chinese Cochrane Centre was officially registered with the Collaboration in March 1999. The Contact Details are:

Chinese Cochrane Centre

Professor Youping Li, Director, Chinese Cochrane Centre

The First University Hospital, West China University of Medical Sciences

Chengdu, Sichuan 610041, People's Republic of China

Tel: +86 28 5422078, or +86 28 5422079 Fax: +86 28 5582944

E-mail: [cochrane@public.sc.cninfo.net](mailto:cochrane@public.sc.cninfo.net) Web: <http://www.cd120.com/cochrane>

## CCInfo

CCInfo is the main email list for the Cochrane Collaboration. It enables members to keep informed about the activities and policies of the Collaboration. The volume is low and all items are checked before being sent to subscribers

To subscribe, send an email (no subject) to: [Lisproc@fhs.mcmaster.ca](mailto:Lisproc@fhs.mcmaster.ca)

In the body of the email type: `Subscribe ccinfo <firstname><lastname>`

Subscription is free and you will receive confirmation that you have joined the list.

## Child Health Field registered

The Child Health Field was officially registered with the Collaboration on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2000. Dr Terry Klassen is the Co-ordinator of this Field, and its administrators are Elaine Belseck and Megan Clark. Contact details are:



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## Cochrane Training Workshops 2000-2001

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.

If you are interested in attending any of these workshops please contact Emma at the editorial base

## Training Course: Evidence Based Practice in the Dental Specialities

A five-day course is to be held at the editorial base of the Cochrane Oral Health Group.

The aim of the course is to provide the skills to develop, implement and disseminate an evidence based care approach to effective clinical practice.

The course will be complemented by distance learning, self directed study and mentored support.

Dates for the diary:

- 25 & 26 September 2000
- 1 November 2000
- 11 & 12 January 2001

For further information and an application form visit the web address: [www.cochrane-oral.man.ac.uk](http://www.cochrane-oral.man.ac.uk) or contact Lee Hooper on +44 161 275 7819, email [lee.hooper@man.ac.uk](mailto:lee.hooper@man.ac.uk)

<b>Australasian Cochrane Centre</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Workshop</b>
26-27 July 2000	Wellington, NZ	Preparing a protocol Using RevMan
7-8 Sep 2000	Adelaide, Australia	Preparing a protocol Using RevMan
<b>Brazilian Cochrane Centre</b>		
31 August 2000	Brazilian Cochrane Centre	Developing a protocol Getting a review into RevMan
28 Sep 2000	Brazilian Cochrane Centre	Developing a protocol Getting a review into RevMan
26 Oct 2000	Brazilian Cochrane Centre	Developing a protocol Getting a review into RevMan
30 Nov 2000	Brazilian Cochrane Centre	Developing a protocol Getting a review into RevMan
<b>Dutch Cochrane Centre</b>		
3 Oct 2000	Dutch Cochrane Centre	Developing a systematic review
30 Nov 2000	Dutch Cochrane Centre	Developing a systematic review
15-17 Jan 2001	Dutch Cochrane Centre	Evidence Based Medicine course
<b>Nordic Cochrane Centre</b>		



11 Sep 2000	Copenhagen	Handsearching workshop
12 Sep 2000	Copenhagen	Protocol workshop
13 Sep 2000	Copenhagen	RevMan workshop

### UK Cochrane Centre

10 July 2000	London	Developing a protocol for a review
11 July 2000	London	Getting a review into RevMan
11 Sep 2000	Oxford	Developing a protocol for a review
12 Sep 2000	Oxford	Getting a review into RevMan
13 Nov 2000	Edinburgh	Developing a protocol for a review
14 Nov 2000	Edinburgh	Getting a review into RevMan
4 Dec 2000	Liverpool	Developing a protocol for a review
5 Dec 2000	Liverpool	Getting a review into RevMan
14 Dec 2000	London	Developing a protocol for a review
15 Dec 2000	London	Getting a review into RevMan

Centre for Statistics in Medicine Contact Rochelle Seifas: [r.seifas@icrf.icnet.uk](mailto:r.seifas@icrf.icnet.uk)

Further information at <http://www.ihs.ox.ac.uk/csm/>

Aug – Oct 2000

Oxford UK

Systematic Review Training  
7.5 day intensive course over 3 months

## Cochrane Oral Health Group Details

<b>Co-ordinating Editors:</b>	William C. Shaw (UK)
	Helen Worthington (UK)
<b>Editorial Team:</b>	Jayne Harrison (UK)
	Jan Clarkson (UK)
	Edwin Chan (Singapore)
	Camilla (Kitty) Tulloch (USA)
	Alexia Antczak-Bouckoms (USA)
<b>Criticism Editor:</b>	Susan Reisine (USA)
<b>Group Co-ordinator:</b>	Emma Tavender (UK)
<b>Trials Search Co-ordinator:</b>	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.

### Published Reviews

- Orthodontic treatments for posterior crossbites – Harrison J, Ashby D
- Interventions for treating oral lichen planus – Chan ES-Y, Thornhill M, Zakrzewska J
- Interventions for preventing oral mucositis or oral candidiasis for patients with cancer receiving chemotherapy (excluding head and neck cancer) – Clarkson JE, Worthington HV, Eden OB

### Published Protocols

- Guided tissue regeneration for periodontal infra-bony defects – Needleman I, Giedrys-Leeper E, Tucker R
- Fluoride gels for preventing dental caries in children and adolescents – Marinho VCC, Higgins JPT, Sheiham A, Logan S
- Fluoride toothpastes for preventing dental caries in children and adolescents – Marinho VCC, Higgins JPT, Sheiham A, Logan S
- Fluoride rinses for preventing dental caries in children and adolescents – Marinho VCC, Higgins JPT, Sheiham A, Logan S
- Fluoride varnishes for preventing dental caries in children and adolescents – Marinho VCC, Higgins JPT, Sheiham A, Logan S

- Potassium nitrate toothpaste for dentin hypersensitivity – Hovgaard O, Poulsen S, Errboe M
- Pit and fissure sealants for preventing dental decay in the permanent teeth of children and adolescents – Ahuruo-Saloranta A, Hiiri A, Nordblad A, Mákelá H, Murtomaa H
- Glues for fixing dental braces onto teeth – Mandall NA, Mattick CR, Millett DT, Harrison JE, Davies K, Hickman J, Worthington HV
- Implants (osseointegrated) for tooth replacement – Esposito M, Coulthard P, Worthington HV, Thomsen P
- Interventions for treating oral candidiasis for patients receiving chemotherapy and or radiotherapy – Clarkson JE, Worthington HV, Eden OB
- Interventions for treating oral mucositis or its associated pain for patients receiving chemotherapy and or radiotherapy – Worthington HV, Clarkson JE, Eden OB
- Interventions for treating oral leukoplakia – Lodi G, Sardella A, Bez C, Demarosi F, Carrassi A
- Retention procedures for stabilising tooth position after treatment with orthodontic braces – Littlewood SJ, Millett DT, Doubleday B, Bearn DR
- Manual versus powered toothbrushing for oral health – Shaw WC, Walmsley AD, Deery C

#### Protocols in the refereeing process

- F-Varnishes versus sealants for caries prevention - Ahuruo-Saloranta A, Hiiri A, Nordblad A, Mákelá H, Murtomaa H
- Medication for treatment of fear/anxiety in patients undergoing routine dental procedures – McGoldrick P, Bannister J, deJongh A, Durham R, Levitt J
- Stabilisation splint therapy for the management of pain dysfunction syndrome – Al-Ani Z, Gray R, Sloan P, Davies SJ

#### Titles registered

- Therapeutic trials for recurrent(aphthous)oral ulcers- Chan ES-Y
- Resin-bonded bridges for tooth replacement- Swift B
- Scale and polish for chronic periodontitis- Elley K
- Management of orbital blow-out fractures- Courtney D
- Hyaluronate for treating organic disorders of the TMJ- Zongdao S
- Feeding interventions for infants with cleft lip, cleft palate or cleft lip and palate- Glenn AM
- Treatment of asymptomatic lower wisdom teeth in adults- van der Sanden W
- Fluoride therapy for the treatment of dental caries- Ferreira de Oliveria M

## Registration

If you wish to become an Oral Health Group member, [please click here for a registration form](#)