

The Cochrane Effective Practice and Organisation of Care Group



E P O C Newsletter — Edition 17

Edition 17
June 2009

“There are so many opinions and competing interests on the Internet claiming they have the best answers about people’s health care. Having access to *The Cochrane Library* will allow individuals to learn what the research says about what they need for better health. This is truly ground-breaking.”

- Dr. Jeremy Grimshaw

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National pilot provides Canadian wide access to the health information in *The Cochrane Library*

The Canadian Cochrane Network and Centre announced on April 15 that everyone in Canada with access to the Internet will be able to view the full content of *The Cochrane Library*.

The Cochrane Library is now available to all Canadians for a nine-month trial period ending December 31, 2009.

This pilot is a joint initiative of the Canadian Cochrane Network and Centre and Canadian Health Libraries Association (CHLA)/Association des bibliothèques de la santé du Canada (ABSC) and was made possible by building on the leadership of the existing subscribers from provinces, territories and institutions across Canada.

The license provides a subscription for every Canadian; in essence, everybody will be one click away from the best available evidence on the effectiveness of treatment procedures including which ones may be harmful.

-CCNC (www.ccnc.cochrane.org)

Visit www.thecochranelibrary.com today!

2008 Impact Factor for the Cochrane Database for Systematic Reviews

The impact factor is a tool for ranking, evaluating, and comparing journals. It is a measure of the frequency with which the ‘average article’ in a journal has been cited in a particular year. A higher number of citations indicates that the article and, ultimately, the journal in which it is published, are perceived as high-quality and reliable.

The 2008 impact factors have now been published by Thomson ISI. The Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews has an **IMPACT FACTOR OF 5.182** and is ranked **12th out of 107** in the **ISI category Medicine, General & Internal**.

Please stay tuned for more information by visiting: http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/homepages/106568753/IF_FAQs_0608.pdf

“At **5.182**, the **CDSR** ranks **12th** out of **107** journals...”

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New and Updated Reviews and Protocols and Register Update: Issue 4, 2008 to Issue 3, 2009

Issue 4, 2008

New Protocols

Effectiveness of knowledge translation interventions to improve cancer pain management. Cummings GG, Hagen NA, Fainsinger R, Armijo Olivo S, Stiles C, Biondo P.

Professional interventions for general practitioners on the management of musculoskeletal conditions. Tzortziou V, Morrissey D, Underwood M.

Pharmaceutical policies: effects of cap and co-payment on rational drug use. Austvoll-Dahlgren A, Aaserud M, Vist G, Ramsay C, Oxman AD, Sturm H, Kösters JP, Vernby, Å.

New Reviews

Organising health care services for persons with an intellectual disability. Balogh R, Ouellette-Kuntz H, Bourne L, Lunsby Y, Colantonio A.

Admission avoidance hospital at home. Shepperd S, Doll H, Angus RM, Clarke MJ, Iliffe S, Kalra L, Ricauda NA, Wilson AD.

Smart home technologies for health and social care support. Martin S, Kelly G, Kernohan GW, McCreight B, Nugent C.

Updated Reviews

Care home versus hospital and own home environments for rehabilitation of older people. Ward D, Drahota A, Gal D, Severs M, Dean TP.

Medical day hospital care for the elderly versus alternative forms of care. Forster A, Young J, Lambley R, Langhorne P.

Issue 1, 2009

New Protocols

Interventions to improve continuity of care in the follow-up of patients with cancer. Aubin M, Giguère A, Verreault R, Fitch MI, Kazanjian A.

Interventions for controlling emigration of health professionals from low and middle-income countries. Peñaloza B, Rada G, Pantoja T, Bastías G, Herrera C.

New Reviews

Interventions for promoting information and communication technologies adoption in health-care professionals. Gagnon M-P, Légaré F, Labrecque M, Frémont P, Pluye P, Gagnon J, Car J, Pagliari C, Desmartis M, Turcot L, Gravel K.

Interventions for increasing the proportion of health professionals practising in rural and other underserved areas. Grobler L, Marais BJ, Mabunda S, Marindi P, Reuter H, Volmink J.

The effect of social franchising on access to and quality of health services in low- and middle-income countries. Koehlmoos TP, Gazi R, Hossain SS, Zaman K.

Updated Reviews

On-site mental health workers delivering psychological therapy and psychosocial interventions to patients in primary care: effects on the professional practice of primary care providers. Harkness EF, Bower PJ.

Early discharge hospital at home. Shepperd S, Doll H, Broad J, Gladman J, Iliffe S, Langhorne P, Richards S.

Nursing record systems: effects on nursing practice and health care outcomes. Urquhart C, Currell R, Grant MJ., Hardiker NR.

Issue 2, 2009

New Protocols

Hayes S, Mann MK, Sander LV, Morgan F, Carter B, Kitcher H, Weightman AL. Collaboration between local health and local government agencies for health improvement.

New Reviews

Effects of changes in the pre-licensure education of health workers on health worker supply. Pariyo GW, Kiwanuka SN, Rutebemberwa E, Okui O, Ssengooba F.

Alternatives to inpatient mental health care for children and young people. Shepperd S, Doll H, Gowers S, James A, Fazel M, Fitzpatrick R, Pollock J.

Updated Reviews

Forsetlund L, Bjørndal A, Rashidian A, Jamtvedt G, O'Brien MA, Wolf F, Davis D, Odgaard-Jensen J, Oxman AD. Continuing education meetings and workshops: effects on professional practice and health care outcomes.

Issue 3, 2009

New Protocols

Chronic disease management programs for adults with asthma. Peytremann-Bridevaux I, Gex, G, Bridevaux PO, Burnand B.

New Reviews

The effects of on-screen, point of care computer reminders on processes and outcomes of care. Shojania K, Jennings A, Mayhew A, Ramsay C, Eccles M, Grimshaw J.

Electronic retrieval of health information by healthcare providers to improve practice and patient care. McGowan J, Grad R, Pluye P, Hannes K, Deane K, Labrecque M, Welch V, Tugwell P.

Updated Reviews

Interprofessional collaboration: effects of practice-based interventions on professional practice and healthcare outcomes. Zwarenstein M, Goldman J, Reeves S.

The register now has approximately 6291 studies, including:

- 4364 Randomized Controlled Trials (RCTs)
- 421 Controlled Clinical Trials (CCTs)
- 886 Controlled Before-After Studies (CBAs), and
- 620 Interrupted Time Series Studies (ITs)



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Editorial Base Report - Al Mayhew

First of all, it has been awhile since we published our last newsletter. Our apologies for that, and we hope to increase our frequency of publication in the future.

We have had some staffing changes in our Ottawa base. Jessie McGowan stepped down as the EPOC TSC in 2006. Jessie was instrumental in getting EPOC established in Ottawa and continues to stay involved with mentoring staff, authoring and peer reviewing EPOC reviews.

Doug Salzwedel worked as the EPOC TSC for over 2 years, contributing significantly to our website and search strategies, but has since relocated to western Canada. We have hired a new TSC, Michelle Flander. We are excited to have Michelle on board and look forward to working with her. (Our other staff changes are listed elsewhere in this newsletter.)

A few highlights that we would like to draw your attention to:

1) Our editorial base remains in Ottawa, Canada,

and we have three satellites; one in Melbourne, Australia; one in Oslo, Norway and one in Newcastle in the UK.

2) Our editorial team has grown. The team now includes 1 Coordinating editor, 9 editors and 6 specialist editors.

3) We have converted all of our protocols and reviews to Revman5, and all authors are now using Revman5 and Archie to write their reviews.

“ ...we are meeting our publication goals! ”

4) We have modified our quality assessment tools, following the new Cochrane Risk of Bias tools. The EPOC risk of bias guideline will replace sections 6.4-6.41 of the data collection checklist

5) We have just had a 2 day editorial meeting in Oslo. We had a chance to perform a self audit of our processes and begin to revise some of our forms.

6) We are registering titles, and publishing protocols and reviews from all of our sites and we are meeting our publication goals.

7) We are continuing to be involved in training of authors writing EPOC reviews at various meetings, workshops and conferences

8) In addition to training, we have also maintained our profile through abstracts, oral and poster presentations and publications

We would like to thank all of you who have contributed as authors, editors, peer reviewers and support staff to the success of EPOC and Cochrane by making the publication of reviews and protocols possible. We look forward to continuing to work with you as we move ahead.

For all up to date EPOC and Cochrane resources including risk of bias and the Cochrane handbook please visit:

[http://
www.epoc.cochrane.org/
en/handsearchers.html](http://www.epoc.cochrane.org/en/handsearchers.html)

Editors' Profiles

Tomás Pantoja

Tomás Pantoja is a family physician working as Assistant Professor within the Family Medicine Department at the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, in Santiago. In addition to his medical qualifications, Tomas holds a Master of Science in Health Management from Imperial College, London and a Postgraduate Diploma in Evidence-Based Health Care from the University of Oxford. His research interests, which lie primarily within the field of primary health care, include the evaluation and improvement of quality of care, development and implementation of clinical practice guidelines and economic evaluation. In the last two years he has been involved in research projects related to the use of evidence in practice and policy environments. He is an author within the Cochrane EPOC and Breast Cancer Groups and a member of both the Campbell & Cochrane Economics Methods Group and the Cochrane Health Equity Field. He is a happy father of Nicolás (3 ½ yo) and Sofía (10 months old) working hard with his wife Gladys (also a Cochrane reviewer) to keep things organized at home. Finally, it is worthwhile to point out that in his 40s Tomás recently ran a 10k in 39'55".



Sasha Shepperd

After a first degree in psychology Sasha graduated from the Harvard School of Public Health with a M.Sc., then completed research for a DPhil at the Department of Public Health, University of Oxford. She is currently funded by an NIHR Evidence Synthesis Award which is supporting research on synthesizing and translating evidence of complex interventions, is a co-convenor with Professor Martin Eccles (University of Newcastle) for a new UK EPOC satellite group and co-applicant on an NHS Cochrane Collaboration Programme Grant: Effective Practice and Organisation of Care in the NHS <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/ihs/research/project/2604> Current research includes an individual patient data meta-analysis of the different types of hospital at home schemes, systematic reviews of other service interventions and methods for improving the synthesis of evidence of complex interventions. Other research interests include developing methods for improving the quality of health information used by the public; this has resulted in the DISCERN guidelines for producing and appraising health information for the public www.discern.org.uk and www.discern-genetics.org.uk



Back Row (Left):

Russell Gruen - Editor (Melbourne); Emma Tavender - Satellite Co-ordinator (Melbourne); Marit Johansen - Trials Search Coordinator (Oslo); Alain Mayhew - Review Group Coordinator (Ottawa); Martin Eccles - Editor (Newcastle Satellite); Sasha Shepperd - Editor (Oxford); Thomás Pantoja - Editor (Santiago); Craig Ramsey - Statistical Editor (Aberdeen)

Front Row (Left):

Jeremy Grimshaw - Coordinating Editor (Ottawa); Espen Movik - Economics Editor (Oslo); Lisa Bero - Editor (San Francisco); Andy Oxman - Editor (Oslo); Elizabeth Paulsen - Satellite Coordinator (Oslo)

Editors and Staff of the Cochrane Effective Practice and Organisation of Care Group



Introducing the New EPOC Trials Search Coordinator

Michelle Fiander has worked as an Information Specialist/Librarian for over 12 years. Her initial training in information services began at the Kellogg Health Science Library at Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS and continued, more recently, in evidence-based medicine at CADTH (Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health), in Ottawa. During the interim she worked in university libraries and technology firms in Canada and the US. She has also acted as editor in volunteer and professional capacities. In addition to an MLIS, Michelle holds an MA in English Literature. Michelle is excited to join EPOC and looks forward to working with us.

Staff Changes at EPOC

EPOC is committed to mentoring and giving meaningful work experience to University students and new graduates. This summer 3 staff have joined the team and are settling into their new roles with EPOC.

Kathleen McGovern is going into her second year of Nursing at the University of Ottawa in the fall and is excited for the opportunity to work in a health related position. She is happy to have the opportunity to learn more about EPOC and the review writing process.

Amber White is going into her third year of Nursing at the University of Ottawa after transferring from the Health Sciences program. She is hoping to gain new knowledge about the health field during her work here and is happy to be involved in the Rx for Change database update.

Andrea Silver has recently graduated with a dual degree in Biology and Psychology from McMaster University and is excited to be involved with the EPOC group and contribute to the rxforchange database. She is confident that this opportunity will provide her with a better understanding of the research process and issues in public health.

We must also say goodbye to five students this summer. Michelle Foote, Connie Lee, Lev Bubis, Kate Smith and Michelle Weir are leaving to start new chapters in their lives and we wish them the best of luck in their new studies and careers and sincerely thank them for their hard work and commitment at EPOC.

The Cochrane Collaboration's Strategic Review 2008-2009

The Strategic Review was a comprehensive examination of the purpose, structures, processes and governance of The Cochrane Collaboration as a whole. This assessment was intended to provide recommendations that would assist in taking the organisation wisely forward and ensure that the Collaboration remains relevant over the next 10 years.

In order to accomplish its goals, the Strategic Review team conducted a series of “dialogues” based on input and feedback with internal and external stakeholders.

Examples of stakeholders include current and potential authors, supporters, or users of reviews. The team also regularly consulted with members of the Collaboration.

The Strategic Review team was led by Jeremy Grimshaw, who is currently the Coordinating Editor of the Effective Practice and Organisation of Care Review Group and the Director of the Canadian Cochrane Network and Centre. His supporting staff include Mary Ellen Schaafsma, Lisa McGovern, and Lucie Jones.

An Advisory and Feedback Group that consists of Rachel Churchill, Sally Green, Jordi Pardo, and Prathap Tharyan also assisted in this project.

Finally, Nick Royle, CEO of The Cochrane Collaboration acted in a support and feedback capacity in addition to Philippa Hardman and Chris Nichols, consultants from Ashridge Consulting.

www.ashridge.org

-CCNC
(www.ccnc.cochrane.org)

The final report is available at : www.cochrane.org/ccsg/review

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Presenting Dr. David Tovey: The Cochrane Library's First Editor-in-Chief

What is my background before coming to the Collaboration?



"...I recognise the fantastic achievements of the Collaboration so far, and the unique energy and expertise you collectively bring to developing *The Cochrane Library* further."

-David Tovey

As many of you will know, I am based in South London, and indeed have lived here since shortly after leaving medical school in 1983. My post-graduate experience included vocational training in General Practice and posts in General and Neonatal Paediatrics, before I entered a family practice in Herne Hill in 1989. Over the next decade, I was a full time GP in this urban practice, and also became involved in postgraduate education. I became very interested in systemic approaches to practice, and successfully studied for a Diploma in Applied Systemic Theory at the Tavistock Centre, North London. I became involved in the developing primary care organisations that flourished under the UK "New Labour" government after 1997 (which those of you who are familiar with UK politics will understand seems a long way off today since as I write the government appear to be in

collapse!), and indeed was responsible for "clinical governance" in my neighbourhood Primary Care Organisation.

In 2003, I applied for a post as Deputy Editor of Clinical Evidence (CE) at the BMJ Group, and was lucky enough to be appointed under Fiona Godlee, who was then Editor. This was the start of an extraordinary adventure, and has provided me with opportunities that I could not have imagined, not least the chance to meet and learn from many people from within the Cochrane Collaboration. When Fi moved on to the BMJ itself, I became Editor of Clinical Evidence, and then Editorial Director of the "Knowledge" department overseeing not only CE, but also its patient translation, Best Treatments, and an enlarging portfolio of new products and services. I remain very grateful to the BMJ, for the fantastic opportunities working there provided me with, and many firm friendships.

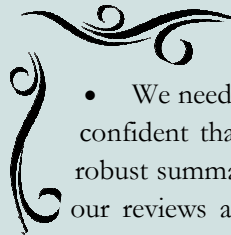
What are my main aims and objectives in this role?

Many people have asked me how the roles at the BMJ differ from the one I have just taken on as your Editor in Chief? There are some similarities and many differences, but I think that one thing I have brought from the BMJ is a desire to ensure that *The Cochrane Library* becomes a resource that reaches out to customers and users more effectively, and is more responsive to the needs of these key stakeholders.

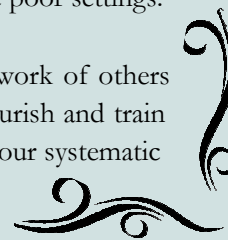
The Strategic Review of the Collaboration has been immensely useful to me in helping me to understand the ethos, perspectives and aspirations of the organisation. The Collaboration has been central to the development of Evidence Based Health Care, both in terms of the growth of the Database of Systematic Reviews and also the contributions to methodological development, and training of people in EBHC principles.

We have a substantial legacy on which to build, and I am very aware of the responsibilities invested in me in the role of Editor in Chief.

My principle aims are to contribute to the ever expanding reach of *The Cochrane Library*, and to increase the influence we are able to bring to improving healthcare decision making. In order to achieve this, I have identified, through conversations with many of you, the following objectives:



- We need to ensure that our quality assurance is sufficient that we can be confident that every review in The Cochrane Library provides a valid and robust summary of the best current evidence on that topic. This implies that our reviews are relevant, timely and up to date, and these are all areas to which we need to give specific attention.
- We need to improve accessibility such that users, who include health professionals, consumers, service managers and policy makers, are encouraged to consider Cochrane their first point of reference. This means encouraging comprehensive availability, road coverage, optimal web function, and clear presentation of our findings.
- In addition to addressing the issues above, improving the impact of The Cochrane Library also entails us being more responsive to customers and working alongside other organisations and agencies, where they share our ideals and ethos. In particular there is a shared desire across the Collaboration to do more to support healthcare decision making in resource poor settings.
- Finally it is important that the Editorial Unit supports the work of others within the Collaboration responsible for ensuring that we nourish and train those responsible, as review authors and editors, for creating our systematic reviews.



I am very excited to be your first Editor in Chief and am very confident about facing the challenges ahead. From all my conversations so far, I recognise the fantastic achievements of the Collaboration so far, and the unique energy and expertise you collectively bring to developing *The Cochrane Library* further. A crucial part of my role is to ensure that you have the maximum opportunity to flourish. To do this, I hope you will continue to provide me with robust and assertive feedback, and positive ideas for moving forward. Setting up and maintaining communication channels in our virtual organisation is both an important challenge and a key determinant of our future success.

DT



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“The staff of the Canadian entities had the opportunity to meet with David Tovey in Halifax in March 2009. David was very engaging and interested in our perspectives; he shared with us his visions for The Cochrane Library. We are very excited about working with him to continue to increase the quality of Cochrane reviews and the profile of The Cochrane Library”

-Alain Mayhew



Using RevMan 5

Review Manager (RevMan) is the software used to prepare and maintain Cochrane protocols and reviews. As we have now completed the process of phasing out RevMan 4, we would like to take the opportunity to introduce the new features of RevMan 5.

In comparison with the older version, RevMan 5 allows users to perform more functions, such as writing diagnostic test accuracy reviews, methodology reviews, and overviews of reviews. Using RevMan 5 is simpler and more user-friendly than the previous version.

The new *text editor* allows more formatting in more sections, including subheadings, tables embedded in the text, and nested lists. *Track changes* functionality and a new *note system* simplify the task of multiple authors working on a review.

Real time *spell checking* and *validation* of reviews help prevent errors and is designed to interact fluidly with Archie for

document storage and exchange. This means Authors and editors will always be able to access the right version of the review.

To download RevMan 5, please visit: <http://www.cc-ims.net/RevMan>

For review authors, access to Archie is required to make any changes or updates to a review. As each review can only be checked out by one person at a time, we would like to remind you to check the reviews back in when you are not working on them. This process prevents authors from making simultaneous changes that might be difficult to integrate later on.

If you have any questions about checking reviews in and out of Archie, or if you require an Archie user account to be created, please don't hesitate to contact Al or Kathleen at:

al.mayhew@uottawa.ca or
kmcgoover@uottawa.ca

Rx for Change

EPOC Centre staff is currently conducting an update of the Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health (CADTH) *Rx for Change* online database; www.rxforchange.ca. The *Rx for Change* database summarizes current research evidence about the effects of strategies to improve drug prescribing practices and drug use. This database houses summaries of key findings from systematic reviews that evaluate the effects of strategies targeting professionals, the organisation of health care, and consumers.

EPOC's contribution to this project involves the identification, analysis, and critical appraisal of pertinent systematic reviews. EPOC staff selects reviews, performs quality assessments, summarizes key characteristics, and then adds the reviews to the CADTH database, along with the accompanying EPOC-produced quality assessments and summaries of key characteristics.

Through its involvement in the *Rx for Change* project, the EPOC Group works to facilitate evidence-based decision making in the fields of drug prescribing and drug use.

The database was last updated in April 2009 and will be updated again in October 2009.



2009 Cochrane Colloquium - Singapore

The 17th Annual Cochrane Colloquium will be hosted by The Singapore Branch of the Australasian Cochrane Centre from the 11th – 14th of October 2009 in Singapore. More information about this event can be found at: http://www.cochrane.org.au/colloquium2009/images/singapore_brochure.pdf. Further details will be soon available at: www.colloquium.info/2009



The EPOC Meeting will be held from 7:30-9:00am on Wednesday October 14th. We will be hosting an open meeting covering: annual reporting and description of EPOC activities, reviews and plans for the future. Several EPOC authors and editors will be giving presentations during the colloquium as well.

The 2008 Cochrane Colloquium was recently held in Freiburg, Germany from October 3rd - 7th. To access multimedia from the plenaries at this event, please visit: http://www.cochrane.org/multimedia/colloquium_2008/index.html#open

Upcoming Workshops Offered by Cochrane Centres

July 2009:

- *Developing a Protocol for a Review*: Jul 21, Oxford, UK
- *Introduction to Analysis*: Jul 22, Oxford, UK
- *Completing a Cochrane Systematic Review Workshop*: Jul 22-24, Baltimore, USA

September 2009:

- *Developing a Protocol for a Review*: Sept 3, Cardiff, Wales
- *Developing a Protocol for a Review*: Sept 22, York, UK
- *Introduction to Analysis*: Sept 23, York, UK

November 2009:

- *Developing a Protocol for a Review*: Nov 3, Belfast, Ireland
- *Introduction to Analysis*: Nov 5, Belfast, Ireland

For more information about these and other workshops, please visit: <http://www.cochrane.org/news/workshops.htm>

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The EPOC team wishes you well from Ottawa!

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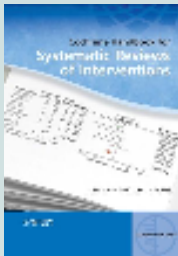


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Special Thanks to everyone who contributed material to this newsletter and those EPOC staff that worked hard to put it together. Canadian Institutes of Health Research is a partner in EPOC through the Canadian Cochrane Network and Centre.