



Minutes  
US Contributors' Meeting  
XIX Cochrane Colloquium, Madrid  
Tuesday, October 20, 2011, 7:30 - 8:55 am  
Africa Room, Palacio de Congressos

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**Attending:** (see Attachment 1)

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**1. Welcome and introductions:**

Kay Dickersin (KD), US Cochrane Center (USCC) Director, welcomed everyone to the meeting. The attendees introduced themselves and briefly described ongoing activities.

**2. What's happening in the US:**

- USCC - KD reported that formal funding for the USCC ended in December, 2010. She plans to re-submit a funding request. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) does not fund infrastructure, which is what the USCC needs.
- North American training opportunities - Roberta Scherer (RS), Assistant Director of the USCC, and Kristina Lindsley (Cochrane Eyes and Vision US Satellite) reported on North American training opportunities (see [us.cochrane.org](http://us.cochrane.org)). Fliers were available announcing two *Cochrane Systematic Review Workshops* to be offered in Baltimore in January and July, 2012. Fliers were also distributed at the Madrid Colloquium promoting several free, online courses offered by the USCC: *Understanding Evidence-based Healthcare: A Foundation for Action*; *Understanding Evidence-based Healthcare: A Foundation for Action - Course for Physicians* (launched in September, 2011); *Translating Critical Appraisal of a Manuscript into Meaningful Peer Review* (launched in July, 2011); *Handsearching: Identifying and Classifying Controlled Trial Reports* (reformatted and re-launched in September, 2011); and *Understanding Evidence-based Healthcare: A Foundation for Action (for consumers)*.
- USCC, San Francisco Branch (USCC-SF) - KD reported that Lisa Bero (LB) (Co-Director USCC-SF) could not attend the 2011 colloquium because of other responsibilities. The USCC-SF Branch's responsibility is to assist people west of the Rocky Mountains. LB has also been spearheading the Cochrane/World Health Organization Alliance. Currently the USCC-SF Branch does not have funding support.
- Eyes and Vision Review Group, US Satellite (CEVG@US) - RS reported that CEVG@US is in the second year of grant funding from the National Eye Institute. CEVG@US has expanded its partnerships and author base, and US authors have

- completed or are working on 74 reviews. The CEVG@US has strong graduate student support on the reviews as well as several research projects, including development of a prioritization framework across eyes and vision.
- HIV/AIDS Review Group - George Rutherford, Co-ordinating Editor, reported that since the group's establishment in 1997, it has published 60-70 systematic reviews. They are currently funded by PEPFAR, and have had recent difficulty obtaining funding for infrastructure from NIH and AHRQ. WHO is currently their primary funding source and they have been involved in many HIV-related WHO guidelines. The HIV/AIDS Group does most of their training through the South African Cochrane Center in Capetown.
  - Neonatal Review Group - Roger Soll, Coordinating Editor, reported that the Neonatal Group has had a successful partnership with the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) since the group's inception in 1994. Neonatal reviews are available on the NICHD website. The contract was renewed in 2011. The NICHD is interested in further dissemination of Cochrane Neonatal reviews beyond their website.
  - Prostatic Diseases and Urological Cancers Review Group - (apologies from Tim Wilt) KD reported that Minnesota is the editorial base, and a satellite has been established in Cardiff. The Editorial base had initial funding through the Veteran's Administration, and has been looking elsewhere for additional funding.
  - Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM) Field - Susan Wieland sent her apologies and a written report. She reported that they have one more year of funding from a 5-year grant and are preparing a response to an RFA and will request an additional 5 years of funding (Brian Berman, PI). Dr. Wieland reported that the CAM field has an annual bursary (\$5,000) designed to fund two Cochrane reviews of CAM that require funding to complete the final stages of review production.
  - Screening and Diagnostic Tests Methods (DTA) Group - KD reported that Constantine Gatsonis is no longer a co-convenor of the DTA Methods Group.
  - Justice Health Field - Catherine Gallagher sent her apologies and Adam Dobrin reported that the group has been involved in a number of endeavors including briefings for the US Congress, a new relationship with the University of Massachusetts School of Medicine; and meeting with WHO concerning Health and Prison Leadership. They received a Pew grant on the Cost Effectiveness of Juvenile Treatment, along with an AHRQ grant for meeting with several international groups at the 2011 APHA conference. The Cochrane Collaboration College for Policy (CCCP - started September 8, 2011) has been established at the George Mason University under Dr. Gallagher's leadership, with the goal of urging use of Cochrane-generated evidence to inform US policy.

- Consumers United for Evidence-based Healthcare (CUE) - Nancy Fitton, Coordinator, reported that CUE, sponsored by the USCC, began in 2003 and now has 33 consumer advocacy organizations interested in understanding evidence and applying evidence to their work. The group has attracted increasing attention and is positioned to contribute to groups wanting to partner with consumer advocates (eg, American Academy of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery guidelines group). Eighty-eight people attended the Summit for Consumer Advocates (which was open to the public) in Keystone in 2010 and over 4,700 people have completed the online course on Evidence-based Healthcare. A CUE Facebook Group page has been created. This is the final year of the AHRQ large conference grant and the USCC has submitted a new grant application for support of CUE in 2013 - 2015.
- Cochrane Steering Group (CCSG) - Roger Soll is stepping down from CCSG and there is currently no US-based person serving on The Committee. All US-based Cochranites are urged to read CCSG meeting minutes, which are available on the website. He reported that clear methodological expectations for systematic review production will enhance Cochrane's value to the rest of the world. The John Wiley and Sons' contract to publish *The Cochrane Library* will end soon and will be up for bid.
- Gastrointestinal diseases - Ron Koretz (CRK) reported that his annual presentation at the Liver Meetings this year will be in a noontime slot compared to a less popular evening time slot in past years. For Digestive Diseases Week, he has convinced the organizers to allow him to host an Annual Cochrane Symposium. RK believes the Symposium has led to increased recognition of Cochrane activities.
- G-I-N North America (G-I-N NA) - Richard Rosenfeld reported that there are currently 90 organizational members and 100 individuals networking for guideline development. In the US, clinical practice guidelines are published by most professional societies, and systematic reviews are needed to inform them. The G-I-N NA meeting in December, 2012, will focus on building skills related to guidelines production.
- Skin Group - Robert Dellavalle (RD) reported that he continues to work towards a US Satellite, success depending on the availability of funding. He will present on evidence-based reviews for guidelines at the March, 2012, American Academy of Dermatology meeting.
- PubMed Health - Hilda Bastian noted that there is improved coverage and access to systematic reviews through the National Library of Medicine via PubMed Health. People searching Google on an intervention question will be directed to PubMed Health. It is a one-stop shop for systematic reviews and includes reviews from Cochrane (plain language summaries), DARE, and HTA groups. Roger Soll noted

that it is important to keep Cochrane reviews up-to-date, which will make a big difference in their usage. Hilda is working with CEVG to improve the plain language summaries.

### **3. Funding: Successes, challenges & future plans (All)**

- Funding is a constant challenge for US groups, but small success stories show that it is beneficial to find the right contact person who values Cochrane, within a funding institution.
- The Collaboration is promoting satellites as an opportunity to increase the number of reviews and the funding opportunities.
- Diagnostic Test Accuracy (DTA) reviews are a potential avenue for obtaining US funding, but we are in the early stages of learning how to conduct these reviews and few individuals are in a good position to apply.
- The USCC hosted a DTA workshop, June 14-15, 2011 in Baltimore, MD.
- Host universities have been supportive of our work. For example, Adam Dobrin said that the CCCP was started with three years internal support from George Mason University.
- KD suggested that groups should pursue funding for specific projects, and use this funding to help with infrastructure.

### **5. Outreach/Issues/Announcements**

- Rich Rosenfeld announced that the ENT Group/American Academy of Otolaryngology needs a part-time information specialist.
- KD encouraged US contributors to be interviewed on video for the Cochrane 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary (2013) and to encourage their respective journals to host an article in 2013 about Cochrane. Articles would be written by individual US contributors, with assistance from the Secretariat on US-specific data.
- The USCC will post the PCORI meetings schedule on the USCC website (<http://us.cochrane.org>) .

**Attachment 1 - Attendance List  
US Contributors Meeting  
Madrid, Spain  
October 20, 2011  
7:30 am, Africa Room, Palacio de Congresos**

45 attendees

<u>Last name</u>	<u>First name</u>	<u>Email</u>	<u>Organizational Affiliation</u>	<u>Cochrane Affiliation</u>
Bamford	Joel TM	duluderm@yahoo.com	Essentia Health System, Duluth, Minnesota	Skin Group
Bamford	Marilyn	mariasmominmn@frontier.com	Consumer	Musculoskeletal Group
Bastian	Hilda	hilda.bastian@nih.gov	NCBI/NLM/NIH	Complementary Medicine Field
Borenstein	Michael	Biostat100@GMail.com	Prospective Meta-Analysis Methods Group	Prospective Meta-Analysis Methods Group
Chandrasekhar	Sujana	sujana1@gmail.com	American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery	
Ching	Karen	karen.i.ching@kp.org	Hawaii Permanente Medical Group	Renal Group
Cohen	Seth	seth.cohen@duke.edu	Duke University Medical Center	
Dellavalle	Robert	robert.dellavalle@ucdenver.edu	Denver VA Medical Center and U. Colorado	Skin Group
Dickersin	Kay	kdickers@jhsp.edu	Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health	USCC, Director
Dobrin	Adam	adobrin@gmu.edu	CCCP/CJHF	Justice Health Field
Fitton	Nancy	nfitton@jhsp.edu	Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health	USCC
Ford	Peg	pegford2@hotmail.com		Consumer Advocate/CUE
Gray	Becky	becky@ims.cochrane.org	Duke Clinical Research Institute	IMS Support; Pain, Palliative and Supportive Care Review Group
Haas	David	dahaas@iupui.edu	Pregnancy and Childbirth Group	Indiana University
Haughton	Diane	haughton@mcmaster.ca	McMaster University	Managing Editor, Neonatal Review Group
Horvath	Tara	thorvath@psg.ucsf.edu	University of California, San Francisco	Cochrane HIV/AIDS Group (University of California, San Francisco)
Huffman	Mark	m-huffman@northwestern.edu	Center for Chronic Disease Control	Cochrane Heart Group
Hwang	Peter	phwang@ohns.stanford.edu	Stanford University	
Huynh	Lynn	lhuynh@jhsp.edu	Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health	Eyes and Vision Group
Jones	Stephanie	sljones@entnet.org	American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery Foundation	Ear, Nose and Throat Disorders Group
Koretz	Ronald	rkoretz@msn.com	UCLA Medica Center?	Hepato-Biliary Group
Koster	Marguerite	marguerite.a.koster@kp.org	Kaiser Permanente Southern California	Eyes and Vision Group
Li	Tianjing	tli@jhsp.edu	Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health	Eyes and Vision Group
Lindsley	Kristina	klindsle@jhsp.edu	Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health	Eyes and Vision Group
Manion	Carol	cmanion@fhi360.org	Fertility Regulation Group	Eyes and Vision Group
Marchionda	Paula	pjmarch@gmail.com	University of Colorado Denver	US Cochrane
Marrone	Michael	mmarrone@jhsp.edu	Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health	Eyes and Vision Group
Moorthy	Denish	dmoorthy@tuftsmedicalcenter.org	Tufts Medical Center	
Napoli	Maryann	mnapoli2@ix.netcom.com	Center for Medical Consumers	Cochrane Consumer Network/CUE
Pynnonen	Melissa	pynnonen@umich.edu	University of Michigan	
Regidor	Deborah	deborah.l.regidor@kp.org	Kaiser Permanente	
Robbins	Craig	craig.w.robbins@kp.org	Kaiser Permanente	Applicability and Recommendations Methods
Robertson	Peter	probertson@entnet.org	American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery Foundation	Renal Group

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Rosenfeld	Richard	richrosenfeld@msn.com	American Academy of Otolaryngology Head & Neck Surgery	Ear, Nose and Throat Disorders Group
Rutherford	George	grutherford@psg.ucsf.edu	University of California, San Francisco	HIV/AIDS Group
Scherer	Roberta	rscherer@jhspsh.edu	Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health	US Cochrane Center
Schwartz	Seth	seth.schwartz@vmmc.org	Virginia Mason Medical Center/ American Academy of Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery	
Shepard	Lindsay	lindsayshepard@gmail.com	University of Utah	
Soll	Roger	roger.soll@vtmednet.org	University of Vermont	Neonatal Group
Steele	Scott	harkersteele@gmail.com		Colorectal Cancer Group
Tom	Gladys	gladys.i.tom@kp.org	Kaiser Permanente	
Vedula	Satyanarayana	svedula@jhspsh.edu	Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health	Eyes and Vision Group
Walsh	Sandra	sawalsh@prodigy.net	California Breast Cancer Organizations / Y-ME and NBCC	
Yaffe	Joanne	joanne.yaffe@utah.edu	University of Utah	Developmental, Psychosocial and Learning
Yu	Tsung	tsyu@jhspsh.edu	Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health	Eyes and Vision Group