

Minutes  
**US Contributors' Meeting**  
22nd Cochrane Colloquium, Hyderabad  
Wednesday, September 24, 2014  
7:30 – 8:45 am  
Room MR G 02

**1. Welcome and introductions (29 Contributors present: See attendance list on page 8)**

Mark Helfand was introduced by Kay Dickersin as the new director of “Cochrane-USCC West. With Lisa’s Bero’s move to Australia, Mark has assumed the directorship of the West Coast Branch of the USCC. Cochrane-USCC West will have two Associate Directors. The first is Dorie Apollonio, an associate professor at the University of California at San Francisco in the School of Pharmacy’s Health Services and Policy Research Pathway. Her research focuses on health policy and tobacco control, and her recent work considers the ways that clinical research is used in developing policy interventions and public knowledge.

Jeanne-Marie Guise, a professor of obstetrics and gynecology in OHSU School of Medicine, will also serve as an associate director of the West Coast branch. Among other things, Dr. Guise served as Director for Quality and Safety for Women and Children’s services for the Oregon Health & Science University Hospital from 2008-2012, developing evidence-based inter-professional clinical policies and education for maternity and pediatric services.

Mark Helfand described his own background, which includes that he:

- Stepped down from directing an Evidence Based Practice Center and now works for the Evidence Research Center, which runs peer review and develops resources to make it easier for EPCs to develop reviews.
- Conducts rapid reviews, assign others to systematic review groups (ie. VAs in Minneapolis, North Carolina, Durham, Portland and Southern California)
- Is involved with the GRADE group

**2. What’s happening in the US (All)**

**2.1 Cochrane Steering Group (Kay Dickersin)**

- Minutes and papers are open and can be accessed online
- There is a re-branding of Cochrane, including a new logo and a shortening of the organization name to “Cochrane”
- The strategic plan (Cochrane 2020) should be read by all as reports and key performance indicators will be based on it
- The 2015 Colloquium will be in Vienna, Austria. We have been told that early registration is a good idea, as space is limited
- There are 3 contenders for US for 2018 Colloquium (see item 4.)
- Author support tool due in late 2014

## 2.2 United States Cochrane Center (USCC)

### 2.2.1 North American training opportunities (Kristina Lindsley)

- There are several online course available free of charge through [www.us.cochrane.org/](http://www.us.cochrane.org/). One is an overview of evidence-based healthcare (6 hours); one is on being a journal peer reviewer (provides considerations for review by types of study (e.g. prognostic), or inferences drawn (e.g., statistics, causality).
- Two times each year, face-to-face Cochrane workshops (2.5 days) are offered in Baltimore. The course is a hands-on approach, incorporating both lectures (based on the Cochrane training slides) and exercises. The participant receives one-on-one time with methodologist who guides students through conducting a Cochrane systematic review
- Cochrane authors are required to receive training in doing a systematic review and this is recorded for each individual in ARCHIE
- Eric Manheimer suggests also that Cochrane authors can use the Cochrane Training slides developed by Miranda Cumpston.
- Mark Helfand said that in November, Cochrane West will call a meeting for people in Northwest who are in ARCHIE and interested in Cochrane and offer training for doing a systematic review, at a time preferably not overlapping with existing East coast workshops in January and June/July.
- Damian Francis suggested that offering a training workshop in the middle of the year is good.

### 2.2.2 Cochrane West – New Branch of the USCC (Mark Helfand)

- Local response to their press release was warm. Looking forward to the coming year.

### 2.2.3 Caribbean Branch of the USCC (Damian Francis)

- Focus is on capacity and training at the moment.
- Every year run Cochrane review workshop. Workshops in the Caribbean are offered on each island sequentially.
- Module in September was very beneficial and borrowed material from Hopkins and used hands on approach.
- Recently wrote a JCE article on challenges and opportunities of systematic reviews in low and middle income countries.
- Working with Nepal who reached out to them through the Canadian partners
- Interested in forums with different stakeholders (eg, policy makers with ministry of health in Jamaica) and planning to initiate with 9 other Caribbean islands.
- Main challenges at the moment is to retain an individual after the receive training.

## 2.3. Review Groups

### 2.3.1 HIV/AIDS Review Group (Kay Dickersin)

- Kay reported that George Rutherford and Tara Horvarth did an admirable job leading the HIV/AIDS group, but difficulty finding funding and therefore the group is in the process of transferring the editorial base to the University of the Witerwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa
- Because funding has been discouraging, not many review group editorial bases are currently in the US.

### **2.3.2 Neonatal Review Group** (Kay Dickersin)

- The Neonatal group was one of the very first Cochrane review groups, and the editorial base was originally in Canada. Roger Soll has been involved since the beginning and is the current Coordinating Editor; the Editorial Base is located in Vermont.
- The neonatal group has partnered with the neonatology fellowship program to allow systematic reviews to fulfill the requirement for research. Difficulty is that SRs need to be updated.
- Neonatal had one of the first review group satellites (in Australia). I
- In Chicago: Teaching medical students about Cochrane where they can take on each update. Get a small group to update reviews and can finish in 10 weeks.

### **2.3.3 Prostatic Diseases and Urological Cancers Review Group** (Philipp Dahm)

- Philipp took over from Tim Wilt as coordinating editor 1.5 years ago.
- Have a network of TSCs (main in Jacksonville, as well as Cardiff)
- Had longstanding satellite in Cardiff which is closing now. Are hoping to build another satellite. Germany has some interest
- Philip has been a member of GRADE for a few years.
- Hosting first workshop in October (29<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>) in Orlando for GRADE (20 people signed up so far but still space)
- A GRADE workshop will be held in 2015 in Portland, Oregon. (Kay Dickersin suggested that this information should also be added to the USCC website.)

## **2.4 Review Group Satellites**

### **2.4.1 Eyes and Vision Review Group (CEVG@US) Satellite** (Kristina Lindsley).

- There are 10 or so CEVG@US faculty, students and staff. Xuan Hui and Andrew Law are the newest additions. CEVG@US is hiring a third methodologist to assist clinician authors with their SRs.
- Editorial base is at London School of Hygiene.
- Latest CEVG review, safety of the anti-VEGFs for age-related macular degeneration, was picked up by the Wall Street Journal, among others.
- CEVG@US designates "Centers for Evidence Based Medicine" to institutions that have 5 published CEVG reviews or 3 first authors from that institution and then keep the reviews up to date. The Wilmer Eye Institute is the first Center for EBM that CEVG@US has named and there seems to be a lot of additional interest out there. US groups should consider expanding this program beyond eye and vision reviews.

### **2.4.2. Heart Satellite** (Mark Huffman. Not present, no report).

- The Heart Satellite was launched last year, and the opening was attended by Tianjing Li, one of the two Associate Directors of the USCC. Tianjing has been in touch with Mark Huffman, who heads up the satellite. They have been encouraging clinicians to get involved with the Heart review group and to start producing reviews.

### **2.4.3. Musculoskeletal Satellite** (Jas Singh- not present, no report).

- Has some support and a coordinator but will need to continuing financial support. Specialty is network meta-analysis.

## 2.5 Fields

### 2.5.1 Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAMS) Field (Eric Manheimer)

- Their 3 million dollar grant from NIH covers all the field's activities until 2017.
- They presented a SR workshop at the main CAM conference in Miami in May 2014 Focused on preparing a Cochrane review.
- Developed new workshop on evaluating and interpreting a Cochrane review
- Will be hosting the Ayurveda group workshop Thursday AM with top 20 leading authorities through Ayurveda from India. More systematic reviews are needed, with only 6 Cochrane reviews currently.

### 2.5.2 Justice Health (Catherine Gallagher-not present, no report)

- Catherine is on the Field executive. Via Susan Wieland, she was hoping she could come but had other plans.
- There is good funding and many ongoing activities..

## 2.6. Methods groups

### 2.6.1 Comparing Multiple Interventions Methods (CMIM) Group (Tianjing Li).

- The CMIM meeting is tomorrow morning. This is a network meta-analysis. There is more training and are active with this. Cochrane is getting more and more involved
- Question of how many titles have been registered.

## Other Cochrane-partner activities

### 3.1 Consumers United for Evidence-based Healthcare (CUE) (Kay Dickersin)

- See website. Started Facebook page and Twitter Account. Use of Q to populate guidelines.
- Wikipedia: If you look there is a US Cochrane Center Wikipedia page and under Cochrane collaboration will add each group and field. People can talk to Kay about getting their information on.
- Through Niyas, they have Wikipedia entries for each systematic review. Need to insert these.

### 3.2 Cochrane GI groups (Rick Nelson).

- Cochrane presence has become quite popular.

### 3.3 G-I-N (Guideline International Network) North America (G-I-N NA) (Rich Rosenfeld. Not present, no report).

- Mark Helfand's group is busy doing peer review of guidelines. G-I-N 2016 will be in Philadelphia and GIN North America will be in New York.
- When Cochrane contributors write papers, include your non-Cochrane title (eg, Director of Department XX) as well as your Cochrane affiliation (eg, Director of Cochrane prostate group).

### 3.4 American Academy of Ophthalmology (Kay Dickersin for Tianjing Li)

- Tianjing Li is editor for systematic reviews section. Her goal is to build the journal's reputation for publishing high quality SRs.

**3.5 Diabetic Retinopathy Clinical Research Network** (Susie Hutfless)

- Susie is working with the Network to involve researchers, providers and patients in research prioritization process for diabetic retinopathy.
- She is deriving clinical questions from the American Academy of Ophthalmology's clinical practice guideline recommendations, and then asking Network members to rank the questions most important to them, and will use this ranking to prioritize Cochrane reviews.

**3.6 American College of Physicians (ACP)** (Mark Helfand)

- Mark is starting to talk to them about using Cochrane reviews in their guideline process. Have been using many reviews that the Agency for Healthcare Quality and research (AHRQ) funds and some funded by Veteran's Administration (VA) program.
- The ACP is interested in looking at Cochrane as a source of partnership. They have a lot of access to what's going on.

**3.7. JAMA Ophthalmology** (Kay Dickersin)

- *JAMA Ophthalmology* has a Cochrane Corner, though we still have to produce our first article.

**3.8 Evidence-based toxicology** (Ellen Silbergeld)

- Cochrane has an animal studies methods group just starting up
- Pre-clinical and toxicology systematic reviews.
- Trying to start a group linked to Cochrane on evidence-based toxicology (non-human studies). The group is just starting to do SRs in this discipline. Would like to collaborate with Cochrane.
- An open meeting will be taking place at 5:30 PM on Friday. Important to bring community of practitioners.
- This may be an important benefit to the 2018 Colloquium being held in the US. This topic is concerned with regulatory risk assessment.

**3.9 CCNet** (Nancy Fitton)

- CCNet is mentoring and training new consumers who come into the fold and bring them up to speed.
- To get access can contact [consumers.cochrane.org](http://consumers.cochrane.org) or Nancy Fitton.
- Should try to find out number of consumers registered for the 2014 Colloquium.

**4. Other business**

- Haluk Soydan, one of the founding members of the Campbell Collaboration, has applied to host 2018 Colloquium in LA (application has already been submitted). This will be the venue with a number of convention alternatives in downtown area.
- Host is USC, a private university, School of Social work.
  - Haluk served as first co-chair of Campbell Collaboration. School has invested a lot in Campbell. Haluk also works with Cochrane and the Chinese Cochrane Center.
  - There is a unit within the research center for which he's a director for where they have events and units with this type of conference with each year.
  - Kay Dickersin said that the group within Cochrane that decides on where Colloquium will be held views it as important that Haluk has the support of US people. The whole

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- idea of the Colloquium is to help the country in which it is held to highlight Cochrane and all people involved.
- Think about how it will help us, how to involve clinicians and consumers.

**5. Closing remarks/announcements** (Kay Dickersin)

- Anne Anderson Award fundraiser will be held tomorrow at 7:00 PM. This is a street fair and the funds raised support an award every year to a woman for her participation in Cochrane. She in turn designates a woman in a resource poor country to receive a cash gift to help her attend a Colloquium or get her research off the ground. Need to raise \$3500 USD each a year.

**US Contributor's Meeting Attendance:**

**Present**

Ahmet Gudeloglu  
Ambuj Kumar  
Andrew Law  
Baran Aksut  
Brian Alper  
Chante Karimkhani  
Claire Twose  
Damian Francis  
Daniele Mandroli  
Eric Manheimer  
Ellen Silbergeld  
Gillian Gresham  
Haluk Soydan  
Joel Bamford  
Kay Dickersin  
Kristina Lindsley  
Lorne Becker  
Marilyn Bamford  
Ian Saldanha  
Mark Helfand  
Nancy Fitton  
Nicole Fusco  
Philipp Dahm  
Richard Nelson  
Robert Dellavalle  
Susan Hutfless  
Susan Wieland  
Yuri Jadotte

**Apologies**

Adam Zanation  
Tianjing Li  
Brian Berman  
Carol Mario  
Catherine Gallagher  
Dorie Apollonio  
Jasvinder Singh  
Jeff Harris  
Mark Berendsen  
Mark Huffman  
Maryann Napoli  
Michael Borenstein  
Molly Neuberger  
Richard Kirubakaran  
Roger Soll  
Ron Koretz  
Stephanie Jones  
Tara Horvath  
Mehta Vikes  
Yolanda Brosseau