

Minutes
US Contributors' Meeting
20th Cochrane Colloquium, Auckland
Tuesday, October 2, 2012, 7:30 – 8:55 am
Regatta D room

Attending: (see Attachment 1)

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:

- Cochrane Steering Group (CCSG) - Lorne Becker (LB) reported that the Training Working Group has developed training modules available at www.cochrane.org. Cochrane Innovations, with Co-Chair Karen New and Program Officer Juliane Ried, is working on the question, “What do you do beyond your review?” They are working on three areas: 1. Dr. Cochrane (a Continuing Medical Education program), 2. Cochrane Clinical Answers (80 in progress), and 3. Decision Support (150 scripts are linked to Cochrane Reviews). LB described ongoing discussions concerning Rapid Reviews in response to groups willing to pay for the service. Three types of Rapid Reviews are being considered: Full Reviews, Rapid Reviews (with a limited search) taking eight weeks to complete, and Cochrane Search (Cochrane conducting the search and the client completing the review). The Cochrane Collaboration aims to translate Plain Language Summaries into all the languages of the World Health Organization (WHO). It will be challenging to keep the updates current in all of the languages. The French Cochrane Center has been very active in this, translating several hundred summaries per month.

Centers

- United States Cochrane Center (USCC)
 - North American training opportunities - Kristina Lindsley (KL) reported on the suite of online courses plus two additional modules hosted by the USCC:
Understanding Evidence-based Healthcare: A Foundation for Action;
Understanding Evidence-based Healthcare: A Foundation for Action - Course for Physicians; Translating Critical Appraisal of a Manuscript into Meaningful Peer Review; Handsearching: Identifying and Classifying Controlled Trial Reports and the modules, The FDA and the Regulation of Healthcare Interventions - A Spotlight Session, and Consumer Involvement in Guideline Development.

- KD encouraged US Contributors to approach the USCC if they would like to establish a review group Satellite. She reported that the USCC hosted Nadia Bennett from Jamaica to support the formation of a Branch at the University of West Indies. She described queries the USCC receives from the media concerning Cochrane reviews, the growth of the USCC website, and requests from people wanting to become involved in The Cochrane Collaboration.
- USCC San Francisco Branch - Lisa Bero (LB) described the partnership she has formed with the *Archives of Internal Medicine* concerning their “Less is More” section. She sends them pre-publication Cochrane reviews. *Archives* then writes a column about the review so it will be published at the time that the Cochrane Review is published. LB also teaches a nine-week tutorial on *The Cochrane Handbook* at the University of California San Francisco (UCSF). LB received funding from The Cochrane Collaboration to survey how Cochrane and non-Cochrane authors identify unpublished data concerning drugs. The resulting information will be used to update the related section in *The Cochrane Handbook*. LB reported that a new Center for value-based healthcare (part of CTSI - Clinical and Translational Science Institute) is incorporating Cochrane reviews. LB invited US contributors to attend a WHO collaborative relationship symposium to be held at the Auckland Colloquium to identify reviews that WHO can use in their guidelines and their essential medicines list.
- Possible new USCC Branch in the West Indies - Chisa Cumberbatch reported that their goal is to open a West Indies Branch at the University of West Indies. Their business plan is due October 30, 2012 and they hope to open on January 1, 2013. The goal of the future branch is to build capacity in the West Indies which they hope to do by developing systematic review courses at the University. Dr. Nadia Bennett visited the USCC for four months and participated in the Johns Hopkins systematic review course KD and Tianjing Li oversee.

Cochrane Review Groups

- HIV/AIDS Review Group - report sent by Tara Horvath - As of Issue 10 this year, they have 92 published reviews. As some authors have done several reviews, there are 78 contact authors of published reviews. Forty-one of 78 (53%) contact authors are originally from low-and middle-income countries; 29 of the 41 (71%) are from sub-Saharan Africa. Since the Colloquium in Madrid, they have published 13 new reviews as well as one updated review. They have re-assigned five reviews in need of updating, primarily to authors in sub-Saharan Africa, and those updates are now in progress. The World Health Organization (WHO) has commissioned them to prepare, within a short time-frame, numerous systematic reviews and GRADE profiles to inform three different WHO guidelines. These guidelines will be on HIV health services delivery and service integration; on optimizing care for adolescents with HIV; and on antiretroviral therapy, which will include early treatment as prevention.

- Neonatal Review Group (CNRG) - report sent by Roger Soll
 - Impact Factor: The 2012 Cochrane Neonatal Review Group Impact Factor is 4.650 (*The Cochrane Library* Impact Factor: 5.912). The median Impact Factor for journals in the “Pediatric” category is 1.475, while the 2010 impact factor for Pediatrics is 5.391 and for the Journal of Pediatrics: 4.115.
 - The Cochrane Library*: Issue 10, 2012 of *The Cochrane Library* contains 292 reviews and 73 protocols from the Neonatal Group. Contract deliverables of the group include 10-15 new reviews and 30 review updates. Submissions include 16 new reviews and 48 review updates.
 - Registered titles: 24 new titles were registered during 2012.
 - Review prioritization: Using reviews prioritized by editors last year, in combination with most cited reviews in the CNRG impact factor list, all authors of prioritized reviews will be contacted for completion of review within a specified time. If unable to do this review will be reassigned or have a new author added to the team who can complete the update in the assigned time frame.
 - Timeliness of editorial processing of protocols, new reviews, updates and central update: Response time to authors for new reviews and protocols has improved over past year with assigning primary and secondary editors to new protocols and reviews.
- Prostatic Diseases and Urological Cancers Review Group - report sent by Tim Wilt - The Prostate Diseases and Urological Cancers review group continues relations with the *British Journal of Urology International* to publish summaries of recently conducted or updated Cochrane reviews. In 2012, they published several high impact reviews and have many protocols and titles ongoing. Funding continues through a variety of streams directed to the main Editorial Office at the Minneapolis VA Center for Chronic Disease Outcomes Research and the satellite office in Cardiff, Wales. Transitions have included the retirement of Mike Shelley, Cardiff Wales, our Cochrane Review Group Coordinator for Urological Cancers. Mike’s excellent and productive work will be missed. James Tacklind, RGC in Minneapolis has moved onto another position and Indy Rutks, Cochrane Trials Search Coordinator is temporarily assuming his duties. Dr. Philipp Dahm, a urologist and evidence-based medicine expert from the University of Florida-Gainesville, has assumed the role of Associate Coordinating Editor. Dr. Dahm is internationally known for his work in evidence-based medicine and in particular conducting systematic reviews in urological diseases. He has completed Cochrane systematic review training in Baltimore and is collaborating on several Cochrane reviews. He has previously attended several Cochrane Colloquia. We also welcome Molly Neuberger, who will serve as an incoming CRG coordinator and assist Dr. Dahm. Both Dr. Dahm and Dr. Wilt will work collaboratively to maintain the quality and enhance the productivity of our CRG.

Fields

- Complementary Medicine (CAM) Field - report sent by Eric Manheimer (EM) - The CAM Field was successful in its application to the US NIH National Center of Complementary and Alternative Medicine for a renewal of grant funding of CAM Field activities for an additional 5 years.
 - ▶ The CAM Field continued to expand the CAM Field specialized register (44,380 records as of March 2012) with additional Chinese and Korean trial records in traditional medicine that have been translated into English and submitted over the past year. With the implementation of the Cochrane Register of Studies (CRS) this year, Susan Wieland (SW) is coordinating the planning for the specialized register to go live in CRS before the end of 2012, which will result in updating the CAM Field specialized register in CENTRAL.
 - ▶ SW has led the continued refinement and maintenance of the CAM Field topics list, the online classification system for CAM-related Cochrane reviews which is publically available on the Cochrane summaries webpage. The CAM Field topics list on this website allows viewing of all CAM-related Cochrane reviews in alphabetical order, by review stage (protocol or completed review), and by CAM topic category (e.g., acupuncture, massage etc.). Each review title listed is linked to a Cochrane review abstract and a plain language summary of the review. The CAM Field topics list can also be accessed through NIH NCCAM's "Research", "Research Results", and "Resources for healthcare providers" web pages. To further promote its availability, the International Society for Complementary and Alternative Medicine and the Consortium of Academic Health Centers for Integrative Medicine have both recently agreed to post links to the CAM Field topics list on their websites.
 - ▶ Finally, during the past year, EM and SW provided a training workshop in Cochrane systematic reviews at the 2012 research conference of the International Society for Complementary Medicine Research in Portland, and have been invited to provide a similar training workshop in Cochrane reviews at the 2013 International Society for Complementary Medicine Research conference in London. The CAM field reminds US Contributors that the CAM Field has an annual bursary designed to support two Cochrane reviews in the area of CAM that require funding to complete the final stages of review production. The bursary is \$5000 per review and the deadline for applications is December 3, 2012.
- Justice Health Field - No report was received by the Justice Health Field.

Methods Groups

- Comparing Multiple Interventions Methods Group - Tianjing Li - no report

Satellites

- Eyes and Vision Review Group Satellite (KD)
- Heart Satellite (proposed) - report sent by Mark Huffman (MH) - Over the past 12 months, they have explored funding strategies to develop the capacity for a Cochrane Heart Group satellite in the Department of Preventive Medicine at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. The impetus was at the suggestion of the Cochrane Heart Group editor-in-chief, Shah Ebrahim, during the 2011 Cochrane Colloquium in Madrid and was motivated by the role of MH on the editorial board of the Cochrane Heart Group. KD has been another critical advocate.
 - ▶ They have approached the American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association (ACC/AHA) Task Force on Guidelines about their interest in supporting the activities of a satellite to provide systematic review-related services to the ACC/AHA during their clinical practice guideline development process. Our initial avenue was through the AHA, where Don Lloyd-Jones (DLJ) and MH volunteer as members on several technical and strategic committees, including the Statistics Committee. MH was able to incorporate systematic review methods for his chapters for the 2013 AHA Statistical Update as a demonstration project. Based on this work, DLJ and MH met with senior AHA leadership in person in spring 2012 and have had 3 subsequent conference calls with a wider audience and more specific proposals outlined at each stage. The AHA and ACC Task Force on Guidelines continue to consider several proposals, ranging from a fee-for-service model to a fixed annual funding tied to target output and have asked about our willingness to serve as potential consultants as they develop ideas about incorporating systematic review methodology into clinical practice guidelines.
 - ▶ DLJ has also approached Dean Eric Nielson from the Feinberg School of Medicine for intramural funds to support the development of a satellite, which could serve as a resource for the department as well as the medical school. The dean has provided resources that will help kick-start the development of the satellite.
 - ▶ They appreciate the full support and patience of the Cochrane Heart Group as well as the US Cochrane Center. The credibility of the Cochrane Collaboration and the recent Institute of Medicine report recommending the use of systematic reviews to inform clinical practice guidelines have been incredibly helpful. The primary challenges have included: long lead time for seeking funds (not unlike other grants, however); lack of methodologist already in-house; competing time demands; building credibility. The last point has been addressed by MH's inclusion into two systematic reviews over the past year (one completed; one in progress) by the Cochrane Heart Group senior leadership, including Shah Ebrahim and Fiona Taylor and inclusion of the methodology into the Statistical Update.
- Musculoskeletal (proposed) - Jordi Pardo - No report was given.

Other US Cochrane-related activities

- Consumers United for Evidence-based Healthcare (CUE) - Nancy Fitton (NF) - NF reported that CUE now has 37 member organizations. The CUE Facebook Group, with 120 members, is a very active resource and urged all US Contributors to join the Facebook Group and contribute to it. NF explained that, possibly influenced by the Affordable Care Act and the Institute of Medicine report, *Guidelines We Can Trust*, requests to CUE have increased for consumers to participate in advisory boards and guidelines panels. This clearinghouse function for CUE is growing and CUE is continuing to develop a responsive system to deal with the request for prepared consumer advocates.
- Cochrane GI annual presentations at Digestive Disease Week - Ron Koretz (RK) - RK reported that the American Gastroenterological Association (AGA) has held a Cochrane Symposium for the last eight years during Digestive Disease Week. RK and his colleagues have also requested to present the Symposium at the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases but have been unable to acquire a spot on the meeting program to date.
- G-I-N North America - Rich Rosenfeld (RR) - RR reported that there is an increased interaction between systematic reviewers and guidelines developers. There are currently 700 people on the G-I-N NA mailing list. G-I-N NA is hosting monthly webinars with 100-150 people in attendance. Gladys Tom of Kaiser Permanente facilitates the webinars. The next webinar will be by Corinna Schaefer of G-I-N Public on the *How to Engage Consumers* Toolkit. The inaugural meeting of G-I-N NA (Evidence-based Guidelines Affecting Policy, Practice and Stakeholders - E-GAPPS) will take place in New York City on December 10-11, 2012. This E-GAPPS conference will be very interactive with four breakout sessions emphasizing skills acquisition. They are offering a deeply discounted registration fee for consumers.

Funding: Successes, challenges & future plans

- Federal funding (NIH, CDC, AHRQ, PCORI)
 - The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) offered funding for systematic reviews of interventions related to obesity and diabetes. Cochrane is an obvious potential applicant, but timing was such that application was not possible.
 - The Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) has grant opportunities available, where Cochrane groups might be appropriate.
 - The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is funding CEVG US Satellite, CAM, Neonatal, and others.
 - KD suggested that supergroups, which would be a mix of review groups, could be developed that align better with NIH institutes (eg Skin and Rheumatology groups together).

- Foundations, charities
KD reported on negotiations with the funder Good Ventures / GiveWell for possible funding of the US Cochrane Center for the possible formation of hubs to support review production.
- Working with professional societies
KD and Tianjing Li reported that the CEVG US Satellite is collaborating with the American Academy of Ophthalmology in their Evidence Gap project.
RR reported that the American Academy of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery Foundation (AAO-HNSF) is partnering with the University of Utrecht. The medical students at the University are doing Rapid Reviews and Evidence-based Case Reports. The AAO-HNSF gave the Sinusitis Guideline to them.
Bob Dellavalle (BD) reported that the Academy of Dermatology asked him to make a presentation about Cochrane at their annual meeting. RR assisted and BD collaborated with all of the Skin Group authors to make the presentation.
Although the session was filled, the presentation was not renewed for next year.

Other business

- Gladys Tom announced that the Guidelines International Network Annual Meeting will be held in San Francisco, August 18-21, 2013. Deadline for abstracts is in November, 2012.
- Paula Marchionda put forth the idea that medical school training should include a course on how to conduct a systematic review.
- Herck van der Heijden at the Julius Center at the University of Utrecht supports the education of medical students in the production of systematic reviews.