



Minutes  
US Contributors' Meeting  
XIII Cochrane Colloquium, Melbourne  
Wednesday, October 26, 7:30 – 9:30 a.m.

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**1. Welcome and introductions**

Kay Dickersin, US Cochrane Center Director, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Reports were given as follows:

Laurie Anderson

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

- USCC relocation from Brown University to Johns Hopkins University, Bloomberg School of Public Health, Center for Clinical Trials.
- San Francisco branch; some loss of funding; Editor of Anesthesia group just moved to UCSF from Canada – reported by Lisa Bero
- No report from Boston branch
- Neonatal group coordinating base relocated to Vermont – reported by Roger Soll
- Healthcare of Older People Field is being newly re-formed, and will be convened by Gil Ramirez, formerly of San Antonio Cochrane Center. The group is in the process of submitting a module – reported by Gil Ramirez
- Behavioral Medicine Field; close to being registered (who??)
- Consumers United for Evidence-based Healthcare (CUE); A consumer network – funded by AHRQ to involve consumer groups in evidence-based medicine; involves learning about Cochrane with one aim to lobby congress to provide access to the Cochrane Library in the US. Liaises with the Consumer network in the plain language summaries. – reported by Kay Dickersin and Barbara Warren

**2. Steering Group reports from Lorne Becker and Lisa Bero:**

- New elected members are Donna Gillies, Adrian Grant, Narelle Willis, and Hans van der Wouden, Thanks to outgoing members Jim Neilson and Davina Ghersi;
- Cochrane Foundation– newly created from commercial funds and donations to the Cochrane Collaboration and are available for research efforts with applicability to entire Cochrane network;
- Cochrane reviews now in ISI and will be given Impact Factors. An updated review will be considered a new publication;
- Wiley is providing derivative products for free for 2 years;
- Information Management Service (IMS) is being revamped to help everyone;
- CENTRAL no longer a responsibility of the USCC; a committee is being formed to evaluate the future of CENTRAL
- CCSG will review its own membership – committee headed up by Allesandro Liberati

3. North American training opportunities:

- Training Workshops on performing systematic reviews will become available as soon as possible following USCC move to Johns Hopkins.
- Online workshops available for handsearching
- An online workshop for peer review is being developed, as well as one on evidence-based healthcare for consumers.
- Suggestion to set up “speakers list” so that requests for information can be via local speakers – via online registration
- Suggestion to have repository of training material available –via online materials link.

4. US Contributors’ Meeting 2006

- The US Contributors’ Meeting is planned for spring 2006 to be held in the Baltimore/Washington DC area, but may be delayed due to recent move – request to meeting participants to provide the USCC with information about what topics are of most interest to the group- reported by Kay Dickersin

Discussion was held on the following topics:

1. Outreach: Suggestions to increase the dissemination of Cochrane in the US, including increasing the understanding of and use of *The Cochrane Library*, were:

- Good Behavior, news releases (Jessie Grunman)
- Access to Cochrane Library via:
  - Marketing
  - Medical Library Association
  - Academic detailing
  - Free CDs to poor pockets in US, policy meetings
- Joint Campbell-Cochrane workshops to alert policymakers
- Newletters to health professionals (Carol Sakala)

2. Developing Cochrane Collaboration interaction in the US and beyond (Lisa Bero)

- Input into continuing medical education (CME) courses, e.g., American Academic Family Medicine CME courses now must be “evidence-based”
- Presentation at professional societies with annual meetings and at their websites
- University based websites
- Develop a US Contributors’ Listserv
- Evidence AID and opportunities for umbrella reviews as applied to US (e.g. Hurricane Katrina)
- “Cochrane Corner” – in journals
- Potential for involvement as satellites of established CRGs
- Web applications in conjunction with other Cochrane entities:
  - New Cochrane website format being developed by the German Cochrane Center
  - Direct pull from ARCHIE to the website

### 3. Funding:

- Wealthy patients
  - Get all funders together table – maybe at US Contributors' meeting
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