

Training and Events

Volume 2, Issue 1

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Welcome to a New Year of Cochrane Training!

It's a new year, and now that we can sleep soundly without the threat of the apocalypse looming over our heads, why not focus on the future? For the Canadian Cochrane Centre, the future means a greater awareness of Cochrane Reviews and an increased capability

conduct them. The key to achieving these goals is Cochrane training.

The Canadian Cochrane Centre has planned many training initiatives throughout 2013 to reach both the English and French-speaking populations in Canada. 2013 is an important year for Cochrane Canada, as we have been granted the privilege of hosting The Cochrane Collaboration's 21st Colloquium and 20th anniversary celebration. The Colloquium will take place in Québec City, and the Canadian Cochrane Centre has planned

several French training opportunities leading up to the big event. Included in our 2013 Webinar Series on Using Evidence is the session. "Supporting Evidence formed Policymaking: the Role of Health Systems Evidence,

of Canadians to use and "Great format and medium for interact- training, as there are ing with colleagues around the world." -Webinar participant

> Stakeholder Dialogues and Other Initiatives," which is offered in both English and French. In May 2013, we will host a four-part webinar series, called "Les mercredi en mai," which is an introductory Cochrane; it will parallel our "Thursdays in June" (ccc.cochrane.org/ cochrane-canada-live-webinararchive) series, except it will be aimed at the French-speaking population in Canada.

Along with online training, we will host face-to-face Cochrane Standard Author Training Workshops in Vancouver, British Columbia, St. John's, Newfoundland and Hamilton, Ontario. Newfoundland has proven to have

an incredibly high interest in Cochrane currently 90 participants on the waiting list. Last year we trained nearly 400 people in face-to-face workshops alone, and we plan on seeing that number increase exponentially by the end of

Thank you to all of our Cochrane trainers for helping plan and run these training events. We greatly value your time and expertise!

2013.

Sincerely. Canadian Cochrane Centre





Training Initiatives

Cochrane Training News— An Update from the Training Working Group

By Steve McDonald, Caroline Struthers and Marialena Trivella

In September 2012, the Cochrane Training Working Group welcomed Caroline Struthers and Marialena Trivella as maternity leave replacements for Miranda Cumpston, the Cochrane Training Co-ordinator. Both were able to spend a few days in Melbourne with Steve McDonald, Convenor of Cochrane Training, en route to the Auckland Colloquium, to map out the key tasks for the year ahead.

The Colloquium provided a good opportunity for Marialena and Caroline to introduce themselves to the Collaboration (although both are already wellknown to many through their existing Cochrane roles) and meet with key people with whom they will be working until Miranda's return in August 2013. It was also a great opportunity for them to hear more about the ongoing training activities of the various Cochrane groups around the world, including, of course, the highly regarded efforts of the education team at the Canadian Cochrane Centre.

Online Learning Modules (OLMs)

One of Cochrane Training's main focuses over the last couple of years has been the development of new and updated online

learning modules. The modules provide an introduction to the core skills and methods required for new authors of Cochrane Systematic Reviews, and complement other learning opportunities such as workshops and webinars, and the guidance provided in the Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interven-(handbook.cochrane.org). The OLMs will be particularly valuable for those living in countries where there are limited opportunities for face-to-face training.

The final edits are being made to the modules over the next few weeks. They are expected to be launched Collaboration-wide in February and, initially, will only be available to registered Cochrane authors. For updates, please visit training.cochrane.org/authors/olm.

Standard Author Training Materials (SATMs)

SATMs, which are available to members of the Cochrane Trainers' Network, have also been updated in recent months (versions 1.1) to reflect the new MECIR standards (editorial-unit.cochrane.org/mecir) for conducting and reporting Cochrane Reviews and the recent changes to *The Cochrane Library* interface.

Slidecast versions of these materials are freely available to all Cochrane contributors via the Authors tab of the Cochrane Training website (training-cochrane.org). There are plans to add expert voice-overs to these slide presentations in the near future.

In November, several presentations on GRADE criteria and Summary of Findings Tables were added to the Training website. These have been produced by the Cochrane Applicability and Recommendations Methods Group and can be viewed as slidecasts with audio.

Continued on page 3 . . .



TRAINING.COCHRANE.ORG

New online training modules are available at training.cochrane.org! Access the materials used in Cochrane Standard Author Training workshops and learn at your own pace and convenience.

- Systematic reviews an introduction
- Writing a Cochrane Protocol
- Searching for studies for a Cochrane intervention review
- Collecting data for a review
- Meta-analysis an introduction
- Heterogeneity an introduction

Note: To access the modules you must be a registered Cochrane author with a Cochrane Review Group, and you need your Archie username and password to log in.



The Cochrane Journal Club

Does exercise improve quality of life for cancer survivors?

Can Omega 3 fatty acids prevent dementia?

Join the discussion by signing up for the Cochrane Journal Club

The Cochrane Journal Club is a free monthly publication that introduces a new Cochrane Review and includes relevant background information, a podcast explaining the key points of the review, discussion questions to help you explore the review methods and findings

in more detail, and downloadable PowerPoint slides containing key figures and tables.

Each publication is specifically selected from the hundreds of new and updated reviews uploaded to *The Cochrane Library* each month representing diverse

clinical topics. The Cochrane Journal Club gives you an opportunity to discuss the review findings with fellow trainers, researchers, clinicians, and even the review authors themselves.

To sign up for the Cochrane Journal Club, visit: **cochranejournalclub.com**



Continued from page 2...

(See <u>training.cochrane.org/</u> <u>authors/presentations</u>).

Work on translating the SATMs continues, with Spanish and Farsi versions expected during 2013.

Cochrane Training Website

Caroline Struthers is working with the Web Team to apply the taxonomy that has been developed for training resources. The site will be redesigned to include a search tool that will allow users to find training resources by top-

ic, audience, type of review, language, format and date.

Another initiative we are trying out is the recording and posting of key Cochrane workshops and courses on YouTube. This would supplement the excellent range of webinar recordings that are now available from the Canadian and Australasian Cochrane Centres.

Editors and Consumers

Looking ahead, the Cochrane Training team is about to begin developing resources specifically for editors, including a library of videos, good practice examples and short presentations to help spot and correct common errors in reviews. This initiative is being led by Marialena, whose statistical knowledge, training experience and editorial roles with several groups will be invaluable.

Another Cochrane Training initiative due to start in the New Year is the development of learning materials specifically for consumers and newcomers to The Cochrane Collaboration. These materials will provide guidance in the usual consumer con-

tributor tasks, such as writing plain language summaries and providing comments from the consumer perspective on draft protocols and reviews.

Contact information:

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Co-Convenor
Training Working Group





Resources available at TheCochraneLibrary.com

- Cochrane Methods
- Podcasts from The Cochrane Library
- Interactive Access and Usage Map



The Highlights

Partner Update

By Eileen Vilis

The Canadian Cochrane Centre (CCC) Partners Forum was held on 19 November 2012 in Ottawa. This face-toface meeting was intended to strengthen the relationship with our partner organizations and discuss how we can work together to have an even greater impact on evidencedecision-making in based Canada. Eighteen of our 25 partner organizations' representatives attended; included were health care professionals. researchers. policy decision-makers and consumers from across Canada.

Our partners' representatives were updated on new and expanded resources in The Cochrane Library and the training opportunities offered by the CCC. Examples of collaborative activities and projects in training knowledge translation were highlighted by partner representatives and CCC staff. The brainstorming and discussion session provided a platform for our partners to address their organizations' needs, including training needs, and how to match them with the many Cochrane resources available. The CCC also gathered feedback on how to continue to improve these resources. We discussed

"The breadth of the information provided showed me what CCC has to offer (more than I realized)." -Partner representative

strengthening our partnerships through:

- formalizing partnerships;
- scheduling annual webinars or teleconferences to update and share partner information;
- considering linkages and activities between relevant partner organizations;
- continuing to post partner relevant news / announcements on the CCC website;
- supporting a national license to The Cochrane Library;

- highlighting Cochrane Reviews pertinent to both our partners and Canada;
 and
- showcasing examples of training and tools on the Canadian Cochrane Centre's website.

Participants of the forum gave positive feedback and indicated that they found the experience to be an "excellent opportunity for brainstorming" and a "great opportunity to network and share ideas".



Attendees at the Canadian Cochrane Centre Partners Forum, 19 November 2012, Ottawa, ON.

Canadian Cochrane Centre Partner Organizations

- Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health
- Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists
- Canadian Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists
- Canadian Cancer Society
- Canadian Chiropractic Association
- Canadian Dental Association
- Canadian Dental Hygienists Association
- Canadian Health Libraries Association
- Canadian Institute for Health Information
- Canadian Institute for the Relief of Pain and Disability
- Canadian Medical Association
- Canadian Nurses Association
- Canadian Partnership Against Cancer
- Canadian Pharmacists Association
- Canadian Physiotherapy Association
- Dietitians of Canada
- Institut national d'excellence en santé et en services sociaux (INESSS)
- Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences (ICES)
- Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)
- Seniors Health Research Transfer Network
- The Arthritis Society
- The Canadian Task Force on Preventive Health Care
- The College of Family Physicians of Canada
- The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada
- WorkSafeBC



Nova Scotia Cochrane Resource Centre



By Lara Killian

New Cochrane Review

Halifax-The Nova Scotia Cochrane Resource Centre (NSCRC) is celebrating the recent publication of a new Cochrane Review by local authors with their first Review for The Cochrane Library. Pictured here from left to right are: Harriet Davies, an advisor to the Review team; lead authors Anne Marie Whelan and Tannis Jurgens from the Dalhousie University College of Pharmacy; Jill Hayden, NSCRC lead and methodology advisor to the Review team; and Lara Killian, author and research assistant on this Review. This Review was supported by a grant from the Nova Scotia Health Research Foundation, and the full citation is:

Jurgens TM, Whelan AM, Killian L, Doucette S, Kirk S, Foy E. Green tea for weight loss and weight maintenance in overweight or obese adults. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2012, Issue 12. Art. No.: CD008650. DOI:

10.1002/14651858.CD008650 .pub2.



Job Posting

The Department of Community Health and Epidemiology (che.medicine.dal.ca) and the Nova Scotia Cochrane Resource Centre (cochrane.che.dal.ca) at Dalhousie University are seeking a Postdoctoral Fellowship candidate to work within an evidence synthesis research program. Read the full position description here: bit.ly/NSCRCjobad.

Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

Contact information:

Lara Killian

Lara.Killian@cdha.nshealth.ca

Research & Communications

Manager

NSCRC

Now Available for Download: The Cochrane Library iPad Edition

The Cochrane Library iPad Edition is now available for download in the iTunes App Store. Issues feature Cochrane Systematic Reviews selected by the Editor in Chief and specifically abridged to provide the best possible iPad reading experience. The reviews are enriched with the addition of multimedia content, including podcasts, videos and slide decks.

In this app, you can easily access abstracts, read selected reviews, and view full-page summary of findings tables. With access to a range of topics each month, you can create a reading list tailored to your own interests. All content in the app is free, and new issues will be downloaded regularly to your Newsstand. The Cochrane Library iPad Edition is simple and easy to navigate and presents an optimized reading experience from your iPad.

Download the app from iTunes: itunes.apple.com/app/id573181475#

Coming up...

Série de webinaires: Les mercredi en mai Cochrane 101

<u>Session One</u> - Who and what is The Cochrane Collaboration? What are systematic reviews?

<u>Session Two</u> - Learn & search *The Cochrane Library*

<u>Session Three</u> - A 'snapshot' of the steps of conducting a Cochrane Review (Part 1)

<u>Session Four</u> - A 'snapshot' of the steps of conducting a Cochrane Review (Part 2)

More information coming soon!



Upcoming Events

Cochrane Canada Live! Join us for our 2013 Series on Using Evidence

Thank you to the

Pan American
Health
Organization /
World Health
Organization

for providing **Blackboard Collaborate**™ to conduct
these webinars.



Supporting Evidence-Informed Policymaking: the Role of Health Systems Evidence, Stakeholder Dialogues and Other Initiatives

Wednesday, 23 January 2013, 12p.m. EST (Toronto), one hour (conducted in English)

Four challenges confront those seeking to support evidenceinformed policymaking: 1) research competes with many other factors in the policymaking process; 2) research isn't valued; 3) research isn't relevant; and 4) research isn't easy to use. A number of initiatives have been developed over the past five years to address these challenges, both in Canada and internationally. Two examples will be described in detail - Health Systems Evidence and stakeholder dialogues informed by evidence briefs - both of which draw on Cochrane Systematic Reviews. Select other examples will also be described.

John Lavis. Director, McMaster Health Forum; Co-Director, WHO Collaborating Center for Evidence -Informed Policy; Associate Director, Centre for Health Economics and Policy Analysis; Professor, Dept. Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics and Associate Member, Dept. Political Science, McMaster University; Adjunct Professor, Dept. Global Health and Population, Harvard School of Public Health.

Evidence-Based Health Reporting

Wednesday, 30 January 2013, 12p.m. EST (Toronto), one hour (conducted in English)

Right now, there's a gap between what is known in health research and how it's implemented in practice and health policy, and used by patients. The media often fill that gap and communicate health research—but they often get it wrong. This presentation will focus on how to bridge the gap between reporting and research, highlighting examples from around the world of better evidence-informed health reporting

Julia Belluz. Associate Editor, The Medical Post; Contributing Writer, Maclean's; McMaster Health Forum Journalism Fellow.

"I appreciate having the space for dialogue when the topic is hot and having the resulting educational materials made available. Great job and done with great standards!"

-Training participant

Register today!

ccc.cochrane.org/
Cochrane-Canadalive-webinars

Soutenir l'élaboration de politiques publiques informées par des données probantes: Le rôle de Health Systems Evidence, des dialogues avec les parties prenantes et autres initiatives

Wednesday, 6 February 2013, 12p.m. EST (Toronto), one hour (conducted In French)

Les personnes qui cherchent à soutenir l'élaboration de politiques informées par les données probantes font souvent face à quatre défis : 1) la recherche est en concurrence avec de nombreux autres facteurs dans le processus d'élaboration de politiques; 2) la recherche n'est pas valorisée; 3) la recherche n'est pas pertinente; et 4) la recherche n'est pas facile à utiliser. Certaines initiatives ont été mises en œuvre au cours des cina dernières années afin de faire face à ces défis, tant au Canada qu'ailleurs dans le monde. Deux initiatives qui tirent profit des revues systématiques Cochrane seront décrites en détail - Health Systems Evidence et les dialogues avec les parties prenantes qui sont éclairés par des synthèses de données probantes. D'autres initiatives seront également abordées.

François-Pierre Gauvin.

Responsable, Synthèse des données probantes et relations avec les partenaires francophones.





Upcoming Events

30 January—1 February 2013

Cochrane Standard Author **Training**

(Vancouver, British Columbia)

18-19 March 2013

2013 Cochrane Methods Training Event: Statistical considerations in indirect comparisons and network meta-analysis (Oxford, United Kingdom)

1-3 May 2013

Cochrane Standard Author **Training** (St. John's, Newfoundland)

5-7 May 2013

CADTH Symposium (St. John's, Newfoundland)

August 2013 (Dates to be determined) Cochrane Standard Author **Training** (Hamilton, Ontario)

19—23 September 2013

21st Cochrane Colloquium (Québec City, Québec)

To learn more about these events, contact Erin Ueffing, **Education Coordinator at** eueffing@ohri.ca.

Rendezvous in Québec City!

Planning for the 2013 Cochrane Colloquium is well underway, and you can expect this event to be one for the books. Don't miss your chance to be a part of it! Whether you are a health care practitioner, researcher, consumer or student, all are welcome to attend and participate!

The call for abstracts is opening soon, so if you are interested in presenting a poster, an oral session or a workshop, keep your eyes open for the announcement.



2013 CADTH Symposium— St. John's, NL, 5—7 May 2013

By Dale Calder

Join Canadian and International experts in the production and use of evidence-based information on • GRADE for systematic reviews, health technologies, at the Delta St. John's, for three days of • Uncertainty education and networking.

On 5 May, CADTH is offering full- or half-day workshops with introductory to advanced topics. • Some workshop topics include:

- Critical Appraisal 101: Evidence Appraisal for Non-Researchers, Part 1 and 2
- Knowledge Practice

A practical tool to enhance presentation of evidence

- HTA and guideline developers
- in Economic Evaluations: Interpretation and **Implications** for Decision Makers
- Eat Dessert First: Summary of Findings Tables for Presenting Evidence from Systematic Reviews
- Methods and Merits of a Top 10 List of New and Emerging Technologies - A Canadian

Network for Environmental Scanning Health Initiative

The concurrent panel and oral sessions, with approximately 35 different sessions to choose from, will run throughout 6-7 May. You can also enjoy a truly unique St. John's experience during the "Rally in the Alley" event on the evening of Monday, May 6th.

Registration is now open.

Visit cadth.ca/en/events/cadth-2013-sympos for more information!

Upcoming webinar by Health Evidence

Health Evidence will be hosting a 90-minute webinar, funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (KTB-112487), on

community interventions for increasing physical activity



Wednesday, 30 January 2013 at 1:00p.m. EST.

This webinar will focus on interpreting the evidence and presenting the key messages and implications for public health

practice from the following review:

Baker, P., Francis, D., Soares, J., Weightman, A., Foster, C. Community wide interventions activity. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews, 2011(4): Art. No.: CD008366.

Maureen Dobbins, Scientific Director of Health Evidence, will lead the webinar, which will include interactive discussion with Philip Baker, the first author of this review.

Registration for this webinar

at bit.ly/HEwebinar



A Recap . . .

Cochrane Standard Author Training, Toronto

By Erin Ueffing



From left to right: Prakesh Shah, Nancy Santesso and Amir Azarpazhooh; Cochrane Trainers at the Standard Author Training workshop, 3—5 December 2012.

Toronto—This December, the University of Toronto Faculty of Dentistry hosted a Cochrane Standard Author Training workshop. Organized in collaboration with the Canadian Cochrane Centre and Mount Sinai Hospital, the workshop brought twenty-four participants together for three days of learning the basic steps for conducting Cochrane Reviews. The participants came from southwestern Ontario, Montreal, Minneapolis and Winnipeg.

Thank you very much to our trainers - Amir Azarpazhooh, Joseph Beyene, Rachel Couban, Nancy Santesso, Prakesh Shah, and Jo Watson - who shared their time and expertise through lectures, group discussions, exercises, and hands-on work with Review Manager, the Collaboration's review software. Thank you also to the Faculty for their generous support in providing space, equipment, and administrative resources.

Given the high level of interest in Cochrane training in southwestern Ontario, we are planning to offer this workshop in Toronto on an annual basis. For more information or to join our waiting list, please contact Erin Ueffing at eueffing@ohri.ca or visit cc.cochrane.org/training-and-events.



Doug Brothwell and Dan Otchere at the Toronto Standard Author Training Workshop.

"Thank you again for an excellent workshop last week. I came back energized (my colleagues can tell you!) and have already had chances to apply the learning and tools into a number of ongoing projects."

- Workshop participant



Amir Azarpazhooh, Cochrane Trainer, working with workshop participants.









20th Cochrane Colloquium, Auckland, New Zealand

In September 2012, the Canadian Cochrane Centre travelled to Auckland, New Zealand for The Cochrane Collaboration's 20th Colloquium.

Below are summaries of relevant training events held at the 2012 Cochrane Colloquium:

Oral presentations

Erin Ueffing, CCC Education
Coordinator, gave an oral
presentation describing the Dr
Cochrane continuing education project; the project launch
is anticipated in the spring of
2013. She also presented on
the Cochrane Canada Live
webinar program, and outlined the program's development, highlighting upcoming
initiatives such as webinars
delivered in French.

Meetings

• The Training Working Group and the Trainers' Network held meetings at the Colloquium, at which Marialena Trivella and Caroline Struthers were introduced as the Training Coordinators covering Miranda Cumpston's maternity leave. Trainers had the opportunity to share their experiences and different models of training; as is often the case with Collaboration colleagues, there was a great willingness to share resources and tools to avoid duplication. We also learned more about the Online Learning Modules (discussed on page 2) and how these may be incorporated into resource kits and training programs.

Workshops

- Amy Drahota and Marialena
 Trivella gave a workshop on
 the Online Learning Modules
 project; workshop participants discussed ideas for addressing current challenges
 (e.g. access and copyright)
 and how to position these
 modules going forward.
- Erin Ueffing led a workshop on using Blackboard Collaborate for Cochrane webinars. She shared tips and tricks for facilitating sessions, and demonstrated key features of the Blackboard software.

To view the posters from the 2012 Cochrane Colloquium, visit 2012.colloquium.cochrane.org/posters.

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Bev Shea, Cochrane Non-Randomised Studies Methods Group (NRSMG); Jeremy Grimshaw, CCC; and Barney Reeves, NRSMG.



Erin Ueffing, Education Coordinator, CCC and Lori Tarbett, Communications Specialist, CCC.



François Rousseau, Clinical Researcher at Université Laval and Co-Chair of the 21st Cochrane Colloquium in Québec City.



Lisa McGovern, Office Coordinator, CCC and Eileen Vilis, Knowledge Broker, CCC.



Scrapbook



Eileen Vilis, Knowledge Broker, CCC, at the Family Medicine Forum, Toronto, ON, 15—17 November 2012.



Partner representatives at the Canadian Cochrane Centre Partners Forum, 19 November 2012. The Partners Forum took place at the Southway Inn, Ottawa, ON. Eighteen out of 25 partner organizations participated in the Forum (page 4).



Catherine McNair, Communications Associate, CCC, and Eileen Vilis, Knowledge Broker, CCC, at the Canadian Cochrane Centre Partners Forum.



Erin Ueffing, Education Coordinator, CCC, Dan Otchere at the Toronto Standard Author Training Workshop (page 8).



Priscilla Flynn and Ally Murji, participants at the Toronto Standard Author Training Workshop.

Do you have a story to share?

We'd love to feature you in our next issue! Please contact Erin Ueffing at eueffing@ohri.ca.

Training and Events

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Please contact us if you would like information about our activities, to join our listserv or to become involved in our projects. We welcome your participation!

If you would like to receive this newsletter in French, please email Erin Ueffing at eueffing@ohri.ca.

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