



Canadian Cochrane Centre

Training and Events

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Cochrane Takes Québec City!



In just a few short weeks, the Canadian Cochrane Centre will travel to Québec City for the 21st Cochrane Colloquium. We could not be more excited to see the friendly faces of those who have been involved in Cochrane training from around the world.

We are proud that this event is taking place in Québec City, as the French language has become a large part of our training program in Canada. In the past year, we have hosted five French webinars, which have allowed us to connect with a new audience in Canada and better pro-

mote the use of evidence-based medicine amongst the Francophone population.

This year, we received a record number of abstracts for the Colloquium: over 800 submissions. This has given us the fortune to put together an amazing program with lots of variety, including strings of consumer and diagnostic test accuracy sessions that weave throughout the conference.

Directly following the Colloquium, Université Laval will host a Cochrane Standard Author Training Workshop in Québec City from 24-25 September 2013. This is the

perfect chance to take what you will have learned from the Colloquium and apply it to conducting your own systematic review. Cochrane Canada hosts a Cochrane Standard Author Training Workshop roughly once a month, and a list of future workshop dates can be found on page seven.

The Canadian Cochrane Centre would like to thank all those involved with online and in-person Cochrane training. You are a tremendous asset to Cochrane Canada, and we thank you for all of your time and dedication.

Colloquium Reminder!



The 21st Cochrane Colloquium is fast approaching with only a couple weeks left to register! Take advantage of this unique opportunity to attend this international colloquium being hosted in Québec City, Canada. Join 1200 other delegates as you hear from world renowned speakers, such as author David Bornstein, and have the opportunity to take hands-on methods workshops and much more. With over 70 workshops, nearly 200 oral presentations, and almost 350 posters, there is something for everyone. But hurry, as [registration](#) closes 6 September 2013!



Training Initiatives

Training plans afoot for Cochrane consumer contributors

By Steve McDonald, Caroline Struthers and Catherine McIlwain

The consumer pages of the Cochrane Training website (training.cochrane.org/consumers) have recently been revamped and now include a series of short animated online modules, which cover much of what any newcomer to the world of Cochrane needs to be familiar with: study design, randomized trials, blinding, bias and statistics. They assume little previous knowledge and are a fun way to get up to speed with the essentials (training.cochrane.org/consumers/making-sense-research).

These resources were originally developed by Caroline Struthers to support a consumer engagement project (funded by the UK National Health Service) for the Cochrane Dementia and Cognitive Improvement Group (alois.cochrane.org). However, the vital role of contributing constructive comments on titles, protocols, reviews and updates is not yet covered by formal training materials. There is also a need for materials covering the skills needed to write, edit, or provide comments on Plain Language Summaries.

Catherine McIlwain, Consumer Coordinator, and Caroline Struthers, Training Coordinator, are currently working to fill this gap by developing two interac-



Caroline Struthers, Training Coordinator, and Catherine McIlwain, Consumer Coordinator, taking in the essential sights before the first ever meeting of Egyptian contributors to the Cochrane Consumer Network in Cairo 5 December 2012.

tive learning modules to help consumer referees contribute effectively. We have recently sent out a survey for existing consumer referees (training.cochrane.org/training-survey-consumer-referees) and for Managing Editors and Assistant Managing Editors (training.cochrane.org/consumer-referee-survey-mes). *Please note: a role dependent Archie login is required for both of these surveys.*

Don't be as silent as the Sphinx! If you haven't had the chance to fill the survey in yet, we would really value your views and your experience to help inform the development of these modules.

For more Cochrane Training News, see the latest edition of the Cochrane Training News-

letter: training.cochrane.org/about/newsletters/issue-1-may-2013. Here's a sneak peek:

Learning about the essentials...

A series of short, animated modules for potential newcomers on the essentials of Cochrane - trials, research design, bias and blinding. [\[read more\]](#)

Resources for DTA reviews

Video slidecasts from the two-day workshop on DTA reviews hosted by the Dutch Cochrane Centre are now available. [\[read more\]](#)

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Resources available at TheCochraneLibrary.com

- Special Collections
- Editorials
- Cochrane Journal Club
- Podcasts from *The Cochrane Library*
- Interactive Access and Usage Map

The Highlights

Why ‘Google’ your health questions when you can ‘Cochrane’ them? *Health information in the age of the Internet*

By Lori Tarbett

5 March 2013 — The Canadian Cochrane Centre, with the support of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), hosted a Café Scientifique on 5 March 2013, titled, “Health information in the age of the Internet. Why Google your health questions when you can Cochrane them?” The event was a success on all accounts with seventy-three individuals attending.

The Café was moderated by Anne McFarlane, Vice President, Western Canada and Development Initiatives, Canadian Institute for Health Information. Panelists included Dr Jeremy Grimshaw, Director of the Canadian Cochrane Centre and a Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in Health Knowledge Transfer and Uptake; Dr Sam Shortt, Director of Quality Initiatives, Canadian Medical Association; and Marilyn Walsh, a Cochrane Consumer Advocate.

Dr Shortt spoke about his time as a physician and how difficult it is to access health evidence. Dr Shortt represents the 78,000 practitioners who are members of the Canadian Medical Association. He presented the “problem” many physicians

face: there are 76,000 new clinical trials released daily along with 11 new systematic reviews – how does one keep up? Dr Grimshaw offered a “solution” to the problem identified by Dr Shortt in the way of The Cochrane Collaboration and its production of Cochrane Systematic Reviews. Dr Grimshaw explained what the Collaboration is and does, and how evidence found in Cochrane Reviews can aid physicians, and patients, in making health treatment decisions. Miss Walsh gave a tremendous presentation which captivated the whole audience. She offered a consumer/patient perspective that helped the audience relate to their own health issues as well as their quest to find the most reliable health evidence.

The audience was very pleased with their Café Scientifique experience which was evident in the event evaluation. As one participant wrote, “Well done. Thoughtful and thought-provoking presentation and discussion of how to use health care evidence in making decisions about treatment/care. Excellent choice and balance in



From left to right: Anne McFarlane, moderator, and panelists Sam Shortt, Jeremy Grimshaw and Marilyn Walsh at the Café Scientifique, Ottawa, 5 March 2013.

panel presenters and facilitator.” Another offered, “Fabulous speakers and great questions from the audience!” And yet another wrote, “Excellent - one of your best,” referring to various Cafés run through the Café Scientifique program funded by CIHR. The audience was pleased with the speakers’ knowledge and the stories they shared. There was also a high level of audience participation as attendees shared their own stories and inquired about Cochrane Reviews and evidence-based medicine in general.

Furthermore, the Canadian Cochrane Centre website (ccc.cochrane.org) received a

significant increase in visitors after the Café with 186 visits on 5 March 2013, 619 visits the day after the Café (6 March), returning to the norm with 174 visits the following day. Additionally, there were 2036 page views on 6 March, up from the regular 500+. *The Cochrane Library* saw an increased number of Canadian visitors after the Café Scientifique: 4 March, 611; 5 March, 1662; 6 March, 3169; 7 March 1186; and 8 March 729.

Many participants asked when we would be holding our next event.

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Cochrane Canada Symposium



Cochrane Canada

24-25 April 2014
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
Ottawa Marriott Hotel

Visit ccc.cochrane.org
in early 2014 for more
information.





Adapting Novel Teaching of a Systematic Reviews Graduate Course for Training Medical Students at Dalhousie

By Nova Scotia Cochrane Resource Centre

Dr. Jill Hayden, head of the Nova Scotia Cochrane Resource Centre, a regional arm of the Canadian Cochrane Centre, is adapting materials from a graduate course in systematic reviews (CHE6049, Dept. of Community Health & Epidemiology, Dalhousie University) for guiding medical students to conduct a systematic review research project. The material will be integrated into a new faculty mentor-based program to give clinical trainees experience in conducting clinical research. The four-year Research in Medicine (RIM) Program will be implemented in the Undergraduate Medical Education program in September 2013 for all medical students enrolled in the Dalhousie Medicine Class of 2017.

The novel RIM program came about because the university recognized the need to introduce scholarship and research into their undergraduate medical curriculum. The goal of the RIM program is to create a culture of inquiry and research use in academic clinical practice. With the growing need to train and educate physicians who can contribute to health and health care beyond clinical medicine, it is hoped that through RIM, students can develop an appreciation for the ability to pursue a

career that can integrate clinical and research interests; it will also help include scholarship as an essential component of medical training.

In 2012-2013, Jill worked with Dalhousie’s Centre for Learning and Teaching to convert the graduate course, An Introduction to Systematic Review & Meta-Analysis in Health Care, from a traditional in-class format to a seven-week blended model (delivered half online, half in-person). This format was well-received by graduate students: “This course has been great. It is a very inclusive way of learning and teaching and definitely increases interaction between classmates and professors.”

Jill thinks that a version of this ‘blended’ format will be a nice fit within the new RIM program, as it will provide the busy stu-



Jill Hayden, head of the Nova Scotia Cochrane Resource Centre.

dents and their faculty mentors, who are interested in developing a systematic review research project, with flexible support, and materials that they can access and work through at their convenience throughout the program. Furthermore, providing training and support to medical trainees and faculty mentors to conduct a systematic review project will help build local capacity to con-

duct high quality systematic reviews. Program evaluation and outcome measurement is planned.

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Cochrane20 Video Series



2013 marks the 20th anniversary of The Cochrane Collaboration. As part of a series of events to mark this anniversary, twenty-four videos have been created focusing on the ideas, achievements and people that have contributed to its growth since 1993.

The 11th video in the Cochrane20 Video Series explores training initiatives across The Cochrane Collaboration and the world to build capacity and engage contributors in developing, producing, and using Cochrane Reviews.

To watch the video, “Cochrane Training”, as well as other videos in the series, visit The Cochrane Collaboration’s [YouTube channel](#) or anniversary.cochrane.org.



A Recap . . .

Cochrane Canada Live webinars, en français, winter/spring 2013

Online—As a lead-up to the Colloquium in Québec City this September, we held a series of webinars delivered in French over the past six months. François Rousseau, Sophie Desroches, Ginette Mbourou Azizah, and François-Pierre Gauvin delivered webinars on The Cochrane Collaboration, the steps of a Cochrane Review, developing a research question, and supporting evidence-informed policy-making respectively—thank you to them for giving their time and expertise! Thank you also to our moderators, Karine Toupin-April and Madzouka Kokolo, for running

things smoothly. Finally, a special thank-you to Nadine Tremblay and François-Pierre Gauvin for their support in planning the sessions, translating materials and connecting us with Franco-phone stakeholders—your support made the series a success!

Canadian Conference on Continuing Medical Education, April 2013

Québec City—CCC staff members Kusala Pussegoda and Erin Ueffing attended the CCME and presented on Cochrane Canada work: Kusala gave an oral presentation on Dr Cochrane, a continuing medical education initiative, and Erin gave a workshop on webinars.

Cochrane Standard Author Training, 1-3 May 2013

St. John's—This May, the Canadian Cochrane Centre and Memorial University, Newfoundland (MUN) collaborated to present a Cochrane Standard Author Training workshop; this was the first time that Cochrane training had been provided on 'The Rock'. Participants ranged from research coordinators to librarians, students to professors. Thank you very much to Stephen Bornstein and Amanda Kinsella from MUN for their support and energy in coordinating the course! Thank you also to Nancy Santesso and Joseph Beyene for sharing their knowledge as trainers.

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“Excellent structure of content. Very good lecture.”

“Effective teaching and efficient use of time.”

“Presenters were knowledgeable and personable.”

- Comments from webinar participants



Participants and trainers in St. John's, Newfoundland



Upcoming Events

Cochrane Canada Live! Join us for our 2013-2014 Different Evidence, Different Syntheses Series

Qualitative evidence synthesis and Cochrane Reviews

Thursday, 28 November 2013, 12-1PM EST (Toronto); conducted in English

This webinar will explore: a) when to consider undertaking a synthesis of qualitative evidence; b) some frequently used methods and examples of developing methods for synthesising qualitative evidence; and c) approaches for integrating qualitative and quantitative findings. Join Jane Noyes of the Cochrane Qualitative and Implementation Methods Group for the discussion.



Thank you to the **Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization** for providing **Blackboard Collaborate™** to conduct these webinars.



Overviews of reviews - what they are, what they aren't, and how and when to do one

Thursday, 5 December 2013, 12-1PM EST (Toronto); conducted in English

The Cochrane Child Health Field has conducted about 30 overviews of reviews - syntheses of data from two or more Cochrane Reviews on interventions for a particular condition - according to the guidance laid out in the *Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions*. In this webinar, Dr Lisa Hartling and Denise Thomson from the Child Health Field will cover the process for conducting an overview: defining a viable topic, assembling the author team, managing the scope, etc. We will also discuss the strengths of overviews, and the differences in time, methods and scope between overviews, systematic reviews and network meta-analyses.

Introduction to concepts in network meta-analysis

Thursday, 16 January 2014, 12-1PM EST (Toronto); conducted in English

This webinar will provide attendees with an overview of network meta-analysis and will discuss advantages that it can offer over the traditional pairwise approach to meta-analysis. In this session, examples from the literature will be used to familiarize researchers with situations where network meta-analysis can be helpful, to introduce terminology and methodologic concepts which are involved with this approach to evidence synthesis, and to suggest helpful resources which can guide systematic reviewers with regard to both transparent reporting and critical appraisal of network meta-analyses. Join Dr Brian Hutton from the Ottawa Hospital Research Institute and Dr David Moher's Network Meta-Analysis research team for the discussion.

Upcoming Events

19-23 September 2013
21st Cochrane Colloquium (Québec City, Québec)

24 September 2013
Cochrane Methods Symposium (Québec City, Québec)

24-25 September 2013
Cochrane Standard Author Training (Québec City, Québec; conducted in French)

18-20 October 2013
Cochrane Standard Author Training (London, Ontario)

3-6 November 2013
2013 Canadian Cancer Research Conference (Toronto, Ontario)

2-4 December 2013
Cochrane Standard Author Training (Toronto, Ontario)

6-8 April 2014
CADTH Symposium (National Capital Region, Ontario)

24-26 April 2014
Cochrane Canada Symposium (Ottawa, Ontario)

Register today!
[ccc.cochrane.org/
Cochrane-Canada-live-webinars](http://ccc.cochrane.org/Cochrane-Canada-live-webinars)



Scrapbook



Consumer participants at the Café Scientifique, 5 March 2013.



Researcher participants at the Café Scientifique, which took place at the Heart & Crown Irish Pub in downtown Ottawa.



Marilyn Walsh, Cochrane Consumer and panelist of the Café Scientifique, "Why Google your health questions when you can Cochrane them? Health information in the age of the internet."



Cochrane Street in St. John's, Newfoundland (Standard Author Training, 1-3 May 2013).



Lori Tarbett, Communications Specialist, CCC, speaking with an attendee at the Canadian Public Health Association Conference, 10-11 June 2013, in Ottawa.

Do you have a story to share?

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

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