



Canadian Cochrane Centre

# Training and Events

Volume 3, Issue 1 January 2014

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## 20/20 Vision: Cochrane in next decade



The Canadian Cochrane Centre (CCC) is reinstating the annual Cochrane Canada Symposium after the event was on temporary hiatus due to the Cochrane Colloquium taking place in Québec City in 2013.

Cochrane Canada has grown a lot since its last Symposium (Winnipeg, May 2012), with nearly 300 new members added to the Cochrane database. The CCC looks forward to seeing both new and familiar faces at the Symposium and learning from each others' important work.

The Cochrane Canada Symposium, themed *20/20 Vision: Cochrane in the next decade*, will take place at the Ottawa Marriott Hotel from 24-25 April 2014. Registration is now open, and we invite all those interested in evidence-based decision-making to attend, whether you are a Cochrane member or not. This includes researchers, healthcare practitioners, policy-makers, students, professors, caregivers and healthcare consumers.

While the Symposium pro-

vides an opportunity to present your latest work and learn from the experience of others, it is also a venue for networking and creating exciting new opportunities to move your work forward. The Symposium is such an important event, because it brings together some of our countries greatest minds in evidence-based research. We look forward to discussing the impact Cochrane has had on Canada's healthcare system, and the position it will hold moving forward.

### Introductory Systematic Review Workshop

The Nova Scotia Cochrane Resource Centre is hosting an Introductory Systematic Review Workshop. This two-day author training workshop (with two optional

follow-up sessions) will provide introductory skills in conducting a systematic review. Topics include:

- Asking a good review question
- Study selection
- Literature searching

- Assessing risk of bias
- Synthesis methods
- Introduction to Review Manager software
- Formulating conclusions

Click [here](#) for more information.



# News from the CCC

## Staffing Changes at the Canadian Cochrane Centre

The Canadian Cochrane Centre is excited to share that Erin Ueffing, Education Coordinator, is expecting her first child and will be on maternity leave until 2015. Erin organizes the Canadian Cochrane Centre's training program, which includes webinars on a variety of topics related to systematic reviews, as well as Cochrane Standard Author Training workshops held all over the

country. Erin has enabled the Centre to reach a higher number of training participants than ever before, and we are very excited to continue her work. We wish Erin all the best with motherhood, and we look forward to her return.

Adele Pontone has joined the Canadian Cochrane Centre as the Assistant Education Coordinator to cover Erin's maternity leave.

Adele is currently completing a Master's degree in health promotion and epidemiology at Queen's University. She is an experienced project coordinator who has worked at the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario and the Ottawa Hospital Research Institute on randomized controlled trials.

Please send any emails about Cochrane training to Adele at

[apontone@ohri.ca](mailto:apontone@ohri.ca). She can also be reached by phone at 1-613-737-8899 ext. 73836.

### Do you have a story to share?

We'd love to feature you in our next issue! Please contact Adele Pontone at [apontone@ohri.ca](mailto:apontone@ohri.ca).

## Cochrane Canada receives CIHR Knowledge Translation Award

Monday, 2 December 2013 was a monumental occasion for Cochrane Canada as Dr Jeremy Grimshaw, Director of the Canadian Cochrane Centre and Co-Chair of The Cochrane Collaboration, was presented with the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Knowledge Translation Award. This was one of four awards presented during the Canadian Health Research Awards, which was hosted by His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada, at Rideau Hall.

In attendance was the Honourable Rona Ambrose, Minister of Health, and Dr Alain Beaudet, President of CIHR. Fellow award winners include Dr Christian S Hendershot for The Peter Lougheed/CIHR New Investigator Salary Award, Dr Bonnie Leadbeater for the CIHR

Partnership Award and Dr Gordon H Guyatt for Canada's Health Researcher of the Year. Dr Guyatt is also involved in Cochrane as a Co-Convenor of the Patient-Reported Outcomes Methods Group.

Cochrane Canada was granted with the CIHR Knowledge Translation Award based on its significant contributions to global health knowledge through the production of systematic reviews and plain language summaries. Cochrane Canada makes great efforts to disseminate review findings to Canadians and offers an extensive training program for those interested in evidence-based health care. In the future, Cochrane Canada will continue to strive towards an evidence-based healthcare system in Canada and provide high-quality, up-to-date information

to consumers to help them make informed decisions about their health care.

Thank you to everyone involved in the work of Cochrane Canada. The honour of this award is shared with all of you.



Back row (left to right): Catherine McNair, Communications Associate, Canadian Cochrane Centre (CCC); Kusala Pussegoda, Dr Cochrane Project Coordinator, CCC; Mary Ellen Schaafsma, Executive Director, CCC; Eileen Vilis, Knowledge Broker, CCC; Dr Jim Wright, Co-ordinating Editor, Cochrane Hypertension Review Group; Erin Ueffing, Education Coordinator, CCC; Lori Tarbett, Communications Specialist, CCC; Lisa McGovern, Office Coordinator, CCC; Dr Andrea Furlan, Co-ordinating Editor, Cochrane Back Review Group

Front row (left to right): Dr Peter Tugwell, Co-ordinating Editor, Cochrane Musculoskeletal Review Group; Dr Alain Beaudet, President, Canadian Institutes of Health Research; Dr Jeremy Grimshaw, Director, CCC; His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada; The Honourable Rona Ambrose, Minister of Health; Dr David Moher, Convenor, Cochrane Bias Methods Group; Stuart Macleod, Advisory Board member, CCC



# Training Initiatives

## Introducing the Québec Branch of the Canadian Cochrane Centre

By Nadine Tremblay, [Nadine.Tremblay@crsfa.ulaval.ca](mailto:Nadine.Tremblay@crsfa.ulaval.ca); [brancheqc.cochrane.org](http://brancheqc.cochrane.org)

The Québec Branch of the Canadian Cochrane Centre (CCC) was founded in September 2013 at Le Centre Hospitalier Universitaire de Québec (CHUQ) and is one of 21 branches worldwide. The Branch will work closely with the Cochrane Canada entities and contribute to the promotion of The Cochrane Collaboration in French within Canada.

The Branch's commitment to the Collaboration is based upon three guiding principles: access to training services in French, providing support for an increased production of Cochrane Reviews and expanding the dissemination of evidence syntheses. It is also important to innovate and enhance the development and promotion of methodologies required for the production of high-level knowledge syntheses that ultimately reflect the excellence of our research community. Finally, the Branch will help position CHUQ as a reference centre for knowledge syntheses, thus contributing to CHUQ's reputation as the largest francophone centre for health research in North America.

The Branch is pleased to combine its efforts with international donors to imple-

ment services and resources to support researchers, clinicians, professionals and managers to reach and educate the general public, the news media and experts in developing health policy.

### The Team

The direction of the Québec Branch of the CCC will be provided by Drs Légaré and Fortin. Coordination and development of activities will be provided by Nadine Tremblay, assisted by William Witteman, information specialist.

### Dr France Légaré, Scientific Director

A family physician working in Québec City since 1990, Dr Légaré is a professor in the Department of Family Medicine and Emergency Medicine at l'Université Laval. Since June 2006, Dr Légaré has held the title of Canada Research Chair in Implementation of Shared Decision Making in Primary Care. Her research aims to provide healthcare professionals and patients with the tools necessary to optimize decision-making in the primary care setting. To date, she has published 166 peer-reviewed articles.

Over the past 14 years, Dr Légaré has been the representative of the Canadian

Cochrane Centre's Regional Site at l'Université Laval, advocating for health care, evidence-based medical practice and academic research communities in Québec.

### Dr Paul R Fortin, Co-Director

Dr Paul Fortin is a Professor with the Faculty of Medicine at l'Université Laval and holds a Master's in Public Health and a Diploma in Clinical Epidemiology from Harvard University. As Canada Research Chair in systemic autoimmune rheumatic diseases and Deputy Director of Clinical Research at CHUQ, Dr Fortin is determined to support the activities of the Branch. His work in systemic rheumatic diseases is patient-centered and aims to improve clinical outcomes as well as practice. Dr Fortin has 181 peer-reviewed publications.

### Nadine Tremblay, Coordinator

Nadine Tremblay has assisted in the implementation of training activities since her appointment at CHUQ in January 2009. The work of Ms Tremblay has included:

- Supporting author teams and participating in the conduct of systematic reviews
- Organizing, conducting and evaluating training activities
- Developing and disseminating training material

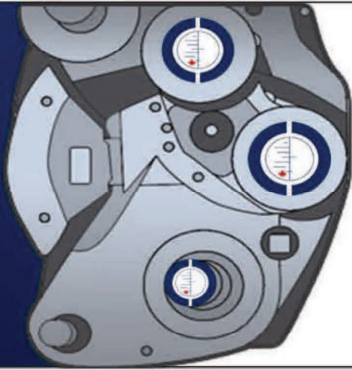
Ms Tremblay will now act as the Cochrane Knowledge Synthesis Coordinator for the Branch and work to consolidate and develop activities for increased visibility.

### William Witteman, Information Specialist

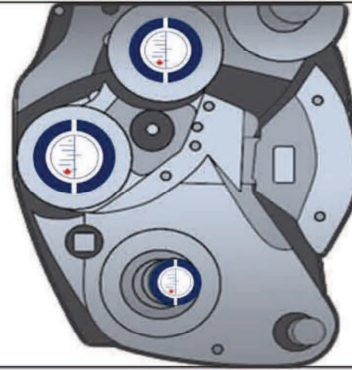
William Witteman is an information specialist with extensive experience in systematic reviews. He has particular expertise in the development of research syntheses strategies ranging from systematic reviews, rapid reviews, scoping reviews and environmental analyses. He is also an active member of the Cochrane Methodology Group on Information Retrieval.

Programmer and database designer, William developed a number of tools to support Cochrane Review author teams. He also taught medical literature search strategies and how to use the Cochrane Review program, RevMan, to review author teams.

Cochrane  
Canada  
Symposium  
2014



**20/20  
VISION**  
COCHRANE  
IN THE NEXT  
DECADE



## **Cochrane Canada Symposium 2014** *20/20 Vision: Cochrane in the next decade*

**24—25 April 2014**  
Ottawa Marriott Hotel  
100 Kent Street

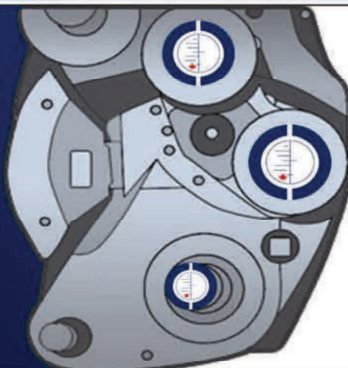
The Symposium is open to policy-makers, health practitioners, researchers, students, patients/health consumers and carers, and anyone who has an interest in health.

**Themes include:**

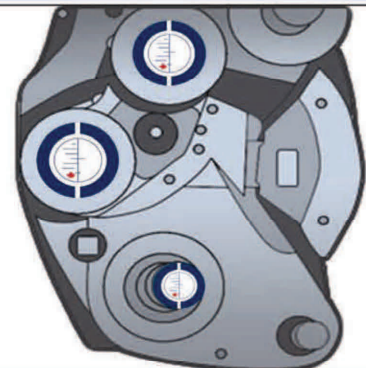
- Integrated Knowledge Translation: including knowledge users in knowledge creation
- Moving methodology forward
- Global Health and Health Systems: strategies for implementing best evidence
- Cochrane into adulthood—what's next

[ccc-symposium.cochrane.org](http://ccc-symposium.cochrane.org)

Cochrane  
Canada  
Symposium  
2014



**20/20  
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COCHRANE  
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# Training Initiatives

## The Nova Scotia Cochrane Resource Centre’s involvement in new Cochrane Review types: Prognosis Systematic Reviews

By Shilo McBurney, [Shilo.McBurney@cdha.nshealth.ca](mailto:Shilo.McBurney@cdha.nshealth.ca)

Prognosis research can inform the course of a condition, the relationship between a prognostic factor and outcome, clinical diagnosis and healthcare decision making. The Cochrane Collaboration Steering Group has approved the registration of three Prognosis ‘Exemplar’ Reviews to assess the feasibility and provide examples of these innovative types of systematic reviews. The prognostic factor exemplar review, “Individual recovery expectations and prognosis of low back pain: Prognostic factor exemplar review”, and related methodological work is being conducted by an international team including three members from the Nova Scotia Cochrane Resource Centre: Jill Hayden, Michelle Tougas and Robin Parker. This project is described in the box below.

*Hayden JA, Tougas M, Iles R, Riley RD, Pincus T, Saunders R, Parker RM. Individual recovery expectations and prognosis of low back pain: Synthesis and implementation of prognostic factor evidence. Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Knowledge Synthesis Competition, 2013-2014.*

Prognostic research is important for identification of factors associated with outcome for patients with low back pain. This exemplar review will systematically investigate the available evidence about the association of one prognostic factor—individual recovery expectations—with the outcome of low back pain. Individual recovery expectations are what a patient ‘expects to occur’ with respect to their health condition over time.

This project is funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. In addition to the Cochrane exemplar review, the team will explore methodological approaches of prognosis systematic reviews for literature searching and risk of bias assessment. The title of the prognostic factor exemplar review has been registered with the Cochrane Back Review Group, and the protocol was submitted to Cochrane for review in July. We are currently completing the recommended protocol revisions. The timeline for the project is 12-18 months – stay tuned to hear about its progress!

## Cochrane Training & Professional Development Strategy

By the Cochrane Training Working Group—[twg.cochrane.org](http://twg.cochrane.org)

Cochrane Training is in the process of developing a comprehensive Cochrane Training and Professional Development Strategy to be delivered to The Cochrane Collaboration Steering Group in September 2014.

The Strategy will encompass:

- Training and support of contributors (‘training’): primarily aimed at authors and editors, enabling the production of high-quality reviews (corresponds to Goal one of the Cochrane Strategy to 2020).
  - Professional and leadership development: primarily aimed at a more ‘internal’ group comprising staff of Cochrane groups, trainers, leaders such as Co-ordinating Editors (and their potential successors), and centrally funded staff. These groups are essential to the long term sustainability of the organization (corresponds to Goal 4 of the Cochrane Strategy to 2020).
- The Strategy development process will be overseen by a Project Board, chaired by David Tovey, Editor in Chief of *The Cochrane Library*. Two Working Groups comprised of a range of stakeholders in training activities will lead the consultation and drafting work. We will consult widely within the Collaboration and with key advisors to develop the Strategy. For further information on our plans, please see the Roadmap paper put to the Steering Group in Québec, and contact the Senior Training Co-ordinator, Miranda Cumpston, at [mcumpston@cochrane.org](mailto:mcumpston@cochrane.org).



# A Recap . . .

## Education and Training 2012-2013

### An excerpt from the 2013 Cochrane Canada Annual Report

#### Workshops

In the past year, the Canadian Cochrane Centre (CCC) has expanded the number and geographic spread of its face-to-face training sessions, adding sessions in St. John's, NL and Saskatoon, SK for the first time. Demand for Cochrane Standard Author Training Workshops continues to outpace the CCC's ability to deliver sessions. Looking forward, the CCC will work with the new Québec Branch of the Canadian Cochrane Centre to build both training and systematic review capacity amongst Canadian Francophones

#### Webinars

In the past year, CCC webinars have focused on a wide range of topics that are relevant

to people with beginner or advanced knowledge of The Cochrane Collaboration, Cochrane Reviews and *The Cochrane Library*. In the 2012-2013 period, the CCC emphasized francophone outreach by presenting webinars in French. Though the French webinars were not as popular as the English webinars, it's expected that francophone participation will increase in the coming years through collaboration with the new Québec Branch of the Canadian Cochrane Centre. The CCC continues to significantly exceed its webinar targets overall and has increased its participation substantially in the last year. The Nova Scotia Cochrane Resource Centre has developed a value-added com-

ponent to the *Cochrane Canada Live!* webinar program: each webinar is broadcast live to a group of engaged stakeholders and students who follow the webinar with a face-to-face discussion moderated by Dr Jill Hayden, an experienced Cochrane methodologist and Resource Centre lead. This past year, three such sessions were held at Dalhousie University in Nova Scotia. Cochrane Canada thanks the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization for providing the Blackboard Collaborate™ platform to make these webinars possible.

[Click here](#) to read the full Cochrane Canada Annual Report 2013.



#### The Canadian Cochrane Centre

##### Jeremy Grimshaw

Director  
[jgrimshaw@ohri.ca](mailto:jgrimshaw@ohri.ca)

##### Mary Ellen Schaafsma

Executive Director  
[mschaafsma@ohri.ca](mailto:mschaafsma@ohri.ca)

##### Lisa McGovern

Office Coordinator  
[lmcgovern@ohri.ca](mailto:lmcgovern@ohri.ca)

##### Catherine McNair

Communications Associate  
[cmcnair@ohri.ca](mailto:cmcnair@ohri.ca)

##### Kusala Pussegoda

Dr Cochrane Project Coordinator  
[kpussegoda@ohri.ca](mailto:kpussegoda@ohri.ca)

##### Lori Tarbett

Communications Specialist  
[ltarbett@ohri.ca](mailto:ltarbett@ohri.ca)

##### Adele Pontone

Assistant Education Coordinator  
[apontone@ohri.ca](mailto:apontone@ohri.ca)

##### Eileen Vilis

Knowledge Broker  
[evilis@ohri.ca](mailto:evilis@ohri.ca)

#### Canadian Cochrane Centre

The Ottawa Hospital—  
General Campus  
Centre for Practice-  
Changing Research  
501 Smyth Road, Box 711  
Ottawa, ON K1H 8L6

[ccc.cochrane.org](http://ccc.cochrane.org)





# Upcoming Events

## Cochrane Canada Live! Join us for our 2014 Cochrane 101 Series

### Cochrane 101: An Introduction to The Cochrane Collaboration

Thursday, 20 March 2014, 12-1 p.m. EST (Toronto)

Who is Cochrane? What is the Collaboration? And what are systematic reviews? Come learn about an international network that helps healthcare providers, policy-makers, patients, their advocates, and care-givers make well-informed decisions about health and health care. Hear how nearly over contributors work together to prepare, update, and disseminate Cochrane Reviews – and learn how you can join us!

### The Steps of a Cochrane Review: an Overview

Thursday, 27 March 2014, 12-1 p.m. EST (Toronto)

What makes Cochrane Reviews different from other systematic reviews? Who and what is involved in the process? We will introduce you to the steps of a Cochrane Review and give you some practical tips for getting a review underway.

Let's Start at the Very Beginning:

### Getting the Question Right for your Cochrane Review

Thursday, 3 April 2014, 12-1 p.m. EST (Toronto)

A strong, clear question gives your Cochrane Review the foundation it needs: it informs your search strategy, narrows your focus, and provides the framework for your team's work. Join us to learn what sort of questions are answered in Cochrane Reviews. We'll cover the key components of a good research question and we'll work through sample questions: you're invited to share your research topic as an example!

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

## Consumer webinar series: Finding, understanding and using high-quality healthcare evidence

### Navigating the healthcare information jungle: Locating and understanding quality healthcare information to inform healthcare decisions

Wednesday, 29 January 2014, 12-1 p.m. EST (Toronto); conducted in English

### Using Cochrane Reviews in real life

Thursday, 6 February 2014, 12-1 p.m. EST (Toronto); conducted in English

### Consumer-led knowledge translation: leveraging patient experience and networks to disseminate Cochrane Reviews

Wednesday, 12 February 2014, 12-1 p.m. EST (Toronto); conducted in English



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

### Upcoming Events/ Key Dates

- 13 February 2014**  
Cochrane Canada Symposium abstract decisions sent out (Ottawa, ON)
- 3 March 2014**  
Registration opens for the 2014 Cochrane Colloquium (Hyderabad, India)
- 6 March 2014**  
Cochrane Canada Symposium abstract acceptances due (Ottawa, ON)
- 10 April 2014**  
Cochrane Canada Symposium registration closes (Ottawa, ON)
- 6-8 April 2014**  
CADTH Symposium (Ottawa, Ontario)
- 24-25 April 2014**  
Cochrane Canada Symposium (Ottawa, Ontario)
- 26-29 April 2014**  
Canadian Conference on Medical Education (Ottawa, Ontario)
- 21-25 September 2014**  
Cochrane Colloquium (Hyderabad, India)



# Training Initiatives Cont'd

## Training needs assessment for Managing Editors: results of the online survey

By Miranda Cumpston, [mcumpston@cochrane.org](mailto:mcumpston@cochrane.org)



In February 2013, the Cochrane Training Working Group contacted all Cochrane Managing Editors (MEs) and Assistant Managing Editors (AMEs) to encourage them to complete an online training needs assessment survey to identify those areas where training opportunities were desired to meet their training needs.

There was a good response rate, with responses from MEs or AMEs in 48 (90.6 per cent) out of 53 Cochrane Review Groups (CRGs). The survey looked at priority training areas across all

CRGs and in different geographical areas, and by the years of experience as a Cochrane ME or AME. When combined, the top three priority areas are: (1) Methodological Expectations of Cochrane Intervention Reviews (MECIR); (2) Plain language summaries; and (3) Summary of findings tables/GRADEpro.

A report can be found at [training.cochrane.org/entity-staff/mes](http://training.cochrane.org/entity-staff/mes) and includes the full set of results and describes the next steps. As noted in the report, the Training Working Group is working on a website

that will house all the ongoing, planned, and recorded training activities in the priority training areas, and use this to identify gaps and then make plans to develop and deliver training in these areas. An early version of the website can also be found at [training.cochrane.org/entity-staff/mes](http://training.cochrane.org/entity-staff/mes).

The Training Working Group would like to hear from any Centres or Branches interested in organizing events or resources for MEs, and hopes it can harness any local efforts to build broader support for MEs internationally.

### Get Involved

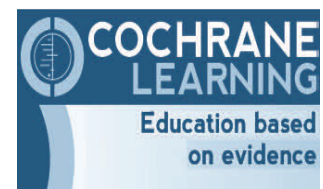
New to Cochrane?  
Find out more and get involved...

- [Introduction to Cochrane Reviews](#)
- [How to become a Cochrane author](#)
- [How to get involved in other ways](#)
- [Find your nearest Cochrane Centre](#)
- [Find the Cochrane Review Group for you](#)
- [The Annual Cochrane Colloquium - the biggest Cochrane Training event!](#)
- [The Cochrane Library](#)



Resources available at [TheCochraneLibrary.com](http://TheCochraneLibrary.com)

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







# Scrapbook



Guests at the 2013 Cochrane Colloquium Welcome Reception at the Musée de la Civilisation in Québec City on 19 September 2013.



Dr Lisa Bero speaking at the 2013 Cochrane Colloquium's Annual General Meeting. Dr Bero has taken over the Co-Chair position of The Cochrane Collaboration Steering Group from Jonathan Craig.



Organizers of the 2014 Cochrane Colloquium in Hyderabad, India at the 2013 Cochrane Colloquium Gala in Québec City, 19-23 September 2013.



Participants at the Cochrane Standard Author Training Course in London, ON, 18-20 October 2013.



Participants of the Cochrane Standard Author Training Workshop in Toronto, ON, 3-5 December 2013.

## Training and Events

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### Contact Information

**Adele Pontone**  
Assistant Education Coordinator  
Phone: 1-613-737-8899 ext. 73836  
Email: [apontone@ohri.ca](mailto:apontone@ohri.ca)



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

**Canadian Cochrane Centre**  
Centre for Practice-  
Changing Research  
The Ottawa Hospital—  
General Campus  
501 Smyth Road, Box 711  
Ottawa, Ontario K1H 8L6  
[ccc.cochrane.org](http://ccc.cochrane.org)

