

# THE CANADIAN COCHRANE NETWORK AND CENTRE



**1999 ANNUAL REPORT**

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## Acknowledgements

The Canadian Cochrane Network and Centre (CCN/C) gratefully acknowledges the continuing financial support of the Conference of Deputy Ministers of Health and the Medical Research Council of Canada.

The Director, Co-Director and staff of The Canadian Cochrane Centre (CCC) sincerely appreciate the many volunteers who have contributed precious time and energy to the accomplishments of the CCN/C over the past year. Without your commitment and perseverance, the achievements documented in this report would not have been possible.

## Message from the Director

At the threshold of a new millennium, it is my pleasure to provide you with this detailed annual report of the activities of The Canadian Cochrane Network and Centre (CCN/C). For the first time, we have also produced an abbreviated "summary report" aimed at larger number of organizations and governments representing our target audiences of health practitioners, researchers, policy makers and the public. The "summary report" is published in both French and English, as a starting point for the CCN/C to become an organization that will operate in both official languages.

There are currently 15 Cochrane Centres in the world and the CCN/C ranks among the top three with regard to the production and timely update of high quality systematic reviews of randomized controlled trials of health care interventions – the main goal of the Collaboration. The contribution of individuals, associated with the Cochrane Collaboration in Canada, is remarkable. Within the Cochrane Collaboration, the CCN/C is unique in having Sites located in each of the 16 Health Sciences Centres across the country. The Site Representatives volunteer to spend hours of work on producing reviews, conducting workshops, promoting the dissemination of Cochrane reviews, and participating in CCN/C committees. I value and appreciate the contribution of the Site Representatives and the Representatives of the Affiliate Organizations who link the CCN/C to a large number of national professional and consumer associations.

Dr. Alex Jadad, Co-Director, has actively participated in the organization and presentation of our reviewer training workshops. I am especially thankful to Dr. Kathie Clark, the Coordinator of the CCN/C. Dr. Clark's organizational and interpersonal skills are a great asset to the organization. In 1999, Ms. Shari Beal and Mr. Tom Oliver left the CCN/C to pursue their careers in other areas at McMaster University. I want to acknowledge their significant contributions to the CCN/C. They will be missed. Ms. Diane Gauthier and Ms. Laurie Kendry have joined the CCN/C staff this year and have already proven their expertise as Administrative Assistant and Communications Specialist respectively.

Highlights of the year include the submission of our 1999-2002 Business Plan to the Advisory Committee of Health Services (ACHS), Health Canada, and the Conference of Deputy Ministers of Health. As a result our funding was extended for another three years and we developed an excellent working relationship with the Chair of ACHS, Ms. Anne McFarlane. The first Canadian Cochrane Symposium held at McMaster University in Hamilton in November, was a success, and will be organized again in 2001. The Child Health Field with Dr. Terry Klassen in Edmonton as the Co-ordinator was approved as a new entity within the Collaboration. The Collaborative Review Groups (CRGs) located in Canada (Musculoskeletal, Neonatal, Back and Inflammatory Bowel Disease) continue to produce high quality systematic reviews. The Neonatal CRG ranks number two for the number of completed reviews and protocols in the Cochrane Library. The Musculoskeletal CRG has been especially successful in involving consumers. Cochrane Site Groups are being formed across the country and the Cochrane Library is being incorporated in the curricula of health science faculties.

At the end of my first full year as Director of the CCN/C, I have a better understanding of the resources available and the challenges that we face. As a team we have had the opportunity to meet with and promote the Cochrane Collaboration to reviewers, undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate students, deans, health care professionals, policy makers, members of parliament, journalists, consumers, and representatives of professional and consumer organizations across Canada. The major challenge for the future is to secure stable, sufficient funding so that we can continue to foster evidence-based health care in Canada.

Sincerely,



Dr. Arne Ohlsson  
Director

## Contributors to The Canadian Cochrane Network and Centre

### Centre Staff

Director  
Co-Director  
Coordinator  
Administrative Assistant  
Communications Specialist

Arne Ohlsson  
Alex Jadad  
Kathie Clark  
Diane Gauthier  
Laurie Kendry

### Network Site Representatives

University of British Columbia, Vancouver BC	Dr. Arminée Kazanjian
University of Calgary, Calgary AB	Dr. Lloyd Sutherland and Dr. Rollin Brant
University of Alberta, Edmonton AB	Dr. Duncan Saunders
University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon SA	Dr. Paul Peloso
University of Manitoba, Winnipeg MA	Dr. Michael Moffatt
University of Western Ontario, London ON	Dr. J.W.D. McDonald
McMaster University, Hamilton ON	Dr. Koon K. Teo
University of Toronto, Toronto ON	Dr. Arne Ohlsson
Queen's University, Kingston ON	Dr. Tanveer Towheed
University of Ottawa, Ottawa ON	Dr. Peter Tugwell and Dr. George Wells
McGill University, Montréal QC	Dr. Michael Kramer
Université de Montréal, Montréal QC	Dr. Jacques Lacroix
Université de Sherbrooke, Sherbrooke QC	Dr. Jean-Pierre Tétrault
Université Laval, Québec QC	Dr. France Légaré
Dalhousie University, Halifax NS	Dr. Robin Whyte
Memorial University, St. John's NF	Dr. Roger Thomas

### Leaders/Coordinators for Review Groups and Fields

Back Review Group	Dr. Claire Bombardier, Dr. Alf Nachemson, Dr. Andrea Furlan
Inflammatory Bowel Disease Review Group	Dr. John McDonald, Mr. Wayne Tucker
Musculoskeletal Review Group	Dr. Peter Tugwell, Ms. Bev Shea, Ms. Vivian Welch
Neonatal Review Group	Dr. John Sinclair, Ms. Diane Houghton, Ms. Sandra Costa
Child Health Field	Dr. Terry Klassen, Ms. Elaine Belseck, Ms. Megan Clark
Health Promotion/Public Health Field	Dr. Alba DiCenso, Ms. Sheila McNair

### Affiliates

Advisory Committee on Health Services	Dr. Ron Dyck
Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists	Ms. Nancy Pollock
Canadian Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists	Dr. J.B. Orange
Canadian Coordinating Office for Health Technology Assessment	Dr. Jill Sanders
Canadian Health Libraries Association	Ms. Davida Glazer
Canadian Institute for Health Information	Mr. Serge Taillon
Canadian Nurses' Association	Ms. Sarah Hayward
Canadian Pharmacists' Association	Ms. Carol Repchinsky
Canadian Physiotherapy Association	Ms. Dianne Parker-Taillon
Canadian Task Force on Preventive Health Care	Dr. John Feightner
Consumers' Association of Canada	Ms. Jean Jones
Technology Assessment Groups	Dr. Arminée Kazanjian

# Summary Report

## Introduction

The Canadian Cochrane Network and Centre (CCN/C) is making changes in its annual reporting process. We will continue to produce this detailed report for distribution within the Network with its 16 Sites in Health Sciences Centres across Canada, and as an accountability document to our funders. The detailed activity reports of the Site Representatives, Affiliate Representatives and the Review Groups and Fields based in Canada record the work and accomplishments over the past twelve months.

A shorter, bilingual annual report is being prepared for a wider distribution as a communication and marketing tool to increase the awareness of the Cochrane Collaboration and the Cochrane Library in Canada.

This year we developed a Business Plan (1999-2002). The following three goals have guided and directed our work since September 1999.

1. Increase the quality, quantity and timely update of Cochrane systematic reviews.
2. Promote the dissemination and uptake of the evidence from Cochrane reviews among potential users of the reviews.
3. Make education and training opportunities for the creation and dissemination of high quality systematic reviews more readily available throughout Canada.

The format of the annual report will shift from the strategic planning issue format of last year to the goal-oriented format for next year.

## Supporting the Production of Systematic Reviews

The primary role of Cochrane Centres is the provision of support for the production of systematic reviews. The CCN/C has fulfilled its mandate this year in several ways. The Centre has been working in collaboration with the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada (HSFC) and the Canadian Cardiovascular Society (CCS) to identify, recruit and train reviewers for the Cochrane Heart Group. The CCS included a CCN/C survey in a mailing to its membership to identify priority reviews needed in Canada and cardiologists interested in becoming reviewers. The CCN/C sponsored an introductory workshop on conducting systematic reviews at the CCS conference in Quebec City in October. The next step in this endeavour will be to organize a training session for reviewers of the Heart Group in Canada.

For the past two years, the CCN/C has been working to develop a schedule of reviewer training workshops across the Network. Different Sites have offered training sessions for reviewers and the Centre has tested a protocol preparation workshop, which is now ready to be packaged and distributed to the Sites. A review completion workshop is the next step in the plan for reviewer training.

Completing a systematic review is a major commitment. The Centre and the Sites provide support to reviewers in the form of RevMan orientation and consultation. Sites have provided some financial support to individual reviewers.

In Issue 4, 1999 of the Cochrane Library there were 129 systematic reviews and 83 protocols prepared by reviewers in Canada.

## Dissemination and Impact

At the Annual General Meeting in November, a significant decision was made to begin the process of translating several of our key documents into French. This will encourage the awareness of the Cochrane Collaboration and the CCN/C in Quebec and among other francophones in Canada. It will also promote

the dissemination and use of Cochrane systematic reviews among French speaking people internationally. We hope to be able to collaborate with the Centre Cochrane Français on this project.

Each year the Cochrane Library becomes increasingly accessible. Several of the academic health sciences centres now have it networked so that faculty, students and staff can search the Library from their office and home computers. Sites report the expansion of Library subscriptions in hospitals and clinics.

The abstracts of all Cochrane reviews are available free on the Internet at the Cochrane Collaboration web site (<http://hiru.mcmaster.ca/cochrane/>). In 2000, consumer-oriented synopses (1-2 paragraph summaries of reviews) will be added to the web. The CCN/C has its own web site (<http://hiru.mcmaster.ca/cochrane/centres/canadian/>). There is an average of 557 visitors per day to the CCN/C web site. The number of hits total over 203,000 a year.

We also provide web space for:

The Neonatal Review Group (<http://hiru.mcmaster.ca/cochrane/centres/canadian/neonatal/>)

The Inflammatory Bowel Disease Review Group  
(<http://hiru.mcmaster.ca/cochrane/centres/canadian/ibd/ibd.htm>)

The Health Promotion/Public Health Field (<http://hiru.mcmaster.ca/cochrane/centres/canadian/hpph/>)

The Child Health Field has its own web site (<http://www.cheori.org/childhealth/index.htm>) as does the Back Review Group (<http://www.iwh.on.ca/Pages/Cochrane/index.htm>). The consumer summaries prepared by the Musculoskeletal Review Group are posted on The Arthritis Society web site (<http://www.arthritis.ca/>). Just this fall, a Cochrane related French language web site was established (<http://www.crsfa.ulaval.ca/>). It presents structured evidence-based abstracts of effective care in Family Medicine.

In the Business Plan (1999-2002), 25 examples of the impact of Cochrane systematic reviews on clinical practice, health policy, health research and education were documented. Since then we have been informed that the Cochrane Library is a source of evidence used by the British Columbia Office of Health Technology Assessment, the Canadian Coordinating Office for Health Technology Assessment, and the Conseil d' Évaluation des Technologies de la Santé du Québec. They use Cochrane reviews in their preparation of health technology assessment reports.

Further evidence of the impact of Cochrane systematic reviews is the use of the Cochrane Library by the Therapeutics Initiative at the University of British Columbia. This organization provides physicians and pharmacists with up-to-date, evidence-based, practical information on drug therapy. The Cochrane Library is part of the standard literature search protocol used by the Therapeutics Initiative in the preparation of their reports. In addition, the Library is a primary literature source for the preparation and updating of Cancer Care Ontario Clinical Practice Guidelines.

### **Education and Training**

In 1999, the CCN/C presented a total of 31 workshops, 86 presentations and 28 seminars, lectures and courses. These educational programmes included training for reviewers, consumers, policy makers and different groups of health practitioners.

One group of Cochrane users that received particular attention this year was health librarians. It is recognized that librarians are generally the front-line contact people with the Cochrane Library. It is crucial that they are familiar with and enthusiastic about Cochrane systematic reviews as a source of quality evidence. Dr. Robin Whyte was a keynote speaker at the Canadian Health Libraries Association Conference in Halifax in June. CCN/C staff provided an exhibit at the Conference to promote the linkage of health librarians from across Canada with the Network Sites and representatives in their region.

Another educational initiative at the Maritime Site was the creation of the Cochrane Symposium Fellowship by Dr. Robin Whyte in collaboration with Dr. Lynn MacIntyre, Dean of the Faculty of Health Professions at Dalhousie University. Dr. Neil Hanlon was awarded the Fellowship to attend the first

Canadian Symposium and the Reviewer Training Workshop on the preparation of a Cochrane systematic review protocol. Dr. Hanlon will be reviewing the use of information technology in primary care settings.

The CCN/C Director, Arne Ohlsson, has developed a course "System Reviews of Randomized Controlled Trials – Cochrane Reviews" for the Masters of Science Programme in Clinical Epidemiology at the University of Toronto. The course ran over 12 weeks and 13 students completed the programme.

### **Funding**

Fundraising for the CCN/C was a major Centre activity this year. In the spring, a 3-year Business Plan (1999-2002) was prepared and submitted to the Advisory Committee on Health Services for the Conference of Deputy Ministers of Health. At their June meeting, the Deputy Ministers of Health agreed to extend their financial support of the CCN/C for another three years at a level of \$240,000 per year.

In anticipation of the completion of the Medical Research Council of Canada (MRC) grant in September 2000, the late fall was spent preparing an MRC special project grant application due March 1, 2000. These fundraising activities are crucial but very time consuming and divert limited staff resources from other Cochrane activities.

An important precedent was set this year when Dr. Alba DiCenso, the McMaster Site Representative, was successful in obtaining a matching grant from the Hamilton-Wentworth Department of Public Health to augment the CCN/C financial support. The hiring of a part-time assistant (one day per week) allowed for the implementation of a project to promote the integration of evidence-based health care and the use of Cochrane systematic reviews in the health sciences curricula.

Two Sites (University of Alberta and University of Toronto) reported obtaining funds to support the preparation of meta-analyses. More funding for the production of systematic reviews is needed in the future.

### **Recruitment and Succession**

Over the past 12 months, there has been considerable change in the personnel of the Centre and the Network. To maintain continuity and ensure a seamless transition from person to person, there has been a major commitment this year to recruitment, orientation and support. Four new Site Representatives were identified and orientated to their roles and responsibilities.

Two additional Affiliate Organizations were recruited – the Canadian Pharmacists' Association and the Canadian Task Force on Preventive Health Care. Three new coordinators with Review Groups and a Field in Canada were assisted by the Centre, and two Centre staff were recruited and trained to fill vacant positions.

At the 16 Network Sites there is a continuous effort to promote the use of the Cochrane Library and recruit faculty and students interested in supporting the work of the Collaboration. One example of this initiative was the fall 1999 mailing to the members of the McGill Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics and members of all the hospital-based clinical epidemiology units. The five identified faculty and students were then linked to the review groups and fields of their interest.

### **Networking and Linkages**

The Cochrane Collaboration and The Canadian Cochrane Network and Centre continue to be essentially volunteer organizations. The production and dissemination of reviews is largely accomplished through the efforts of various networks of committed individuals, groups and organizations. In Canada, the CCN/C is working to expand its relationships and partnerships with its diverse target audiences of policy makers, health practitioners, researchers and the public.

This year, the Director met with members of the Advisory Committee of Health Services. He also visited with staff of the Information, Analysis and Connectivity Branch of Health Canada. There have been



meetings with both the Canadian Coordinating Office of Health Technology Assessment (CCOHTA) and the Canadian Task Force on Preventive Health Care (CTFPHC).

The project to recruit and train heart reviewers in Canada is the work of a partnership among the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada (HSF), the Canadian Cardiovascular Society (CCS), the Cardio-Cerebrovascular Research Advisory Council (C-CRAC) and The Canadian Cochrane Centre (CCC). It is clear that such relationships are the mechanisms by which Cochrane systematic reviews will become known and used. As financial and human resources permit, these relationships will be expanded in the future.

### **Future Directions**

The Business Plan (1999-2002) clearly outlines the future goals and objectives of the CCN/C. With sufficient support, we intend to initiate three major projects in the coming year: a nation-wide communications and marketing strategy; an education and training project that will deliver educational programmes across Canada by distance learning methods; and, the development of a system for making changes in health care based on new knowledge and then measuring the results and benefits of those changes.

# Activities of The Canadian Cochrane Centre

## Introduction

The activities of the Director, Co-Director and staff of The Canadian Cochrane Centre have been reported in the same categories as the Network Sites, Affiliate Organizations and Canadian-based Collaborative Review Groups and Fields. Where there is overlapping reporting, reference is made to other reports for detail.

This format is similar to that used in the 1998 Annual Report which was framed around the strategic planning issues. Next year the report will be re-oriented to the goals and objectives of our Business Plan (1999-2002).

## Dissemination and Impact

- Dissemination and Impact Strategic Planning Team:
  - Team Leader: Mike Moffatt
  - Members: Alba DiCenso, Davida Glazer, Jean Jones, Nancy Pollock, Brian Rowe, Jean-Pierre Tétrault, Robin Whyte, Kathie Clark (Staff)
  - Meetings: January 18, May 25, September 15, November 20
- The initial Canadian Cochrane Symposium was offered on November 19: 130 people attended from across Canada; the programme included plenary sessions, workshops, papers and posters related to the theme of "The Impact of the Cochrane Collaboration in Canada: Past, Present and Future"
  - Symposium Programme and Evaluation Advisory Committee members: Davida Glazer, Phil Hahn, Jean Jones, Brian Rowe, Bev Shea, Kathie Clark (Staff).
  - Papers and Posters Selection Committee members: Alba DiCenso, Ann McKibbon, Nancy Pollock, Tom Oliver (Staff)
- Dissemination via the Internet:
  - The Canadian Cochrane Centre has a web site with an average of 557 visitors per day (<http://hiru.mcmaster.ca/cochrane/centres/canadian/>).
  - It provides a mirror web site for the Cochrane Collaboration web site.
  - It also provides space for the Neonatal Review Group (<http://hiru.mcmaster.ca/cochrane/centres/canadian/neonatal/>), the Inflammatory Bowel Disease Review Group (<http://hiru.mcmaster.ca/cochrane/centres/canadian/ibd/ibd.htm>), and the Health Promotion/Public Health Field (<http://hiru.mcmaster.ca/cochrane/centres/canadian/hpph/>).
- Development of a proposal for a Communications and Marketing Project
- Development of a proposal for a Dissemination and Impact Project
- CCN/C Information Kits were distributed to:
  - Joan Bottorff, School of Nursing, University of British Columbia, Vancouver BC (65), February
  - Marion Arbusman, American Occupational Therapy Association, Faculty at the State University of New York in Buffalo (1), February
  - Workshop. 30<sup>th</sup> Professional Practice Conference. The Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists. Toronto Harbour Castle Westin (30), February 3 and 4
  - Symposium. The International Cochrane Collaboration. International association for dental research. 77<sup>th</sup> General Session and Exhibition of the IADR. Vancouver Trade & Convention Centre, March
  - University of Calgary Site Visit (25), March
  - HEALNet Conference, Calgary, Alberta (100), March
  - MSc course in systematic reviews, Toronto (17), April
  - Maureen Heaman, Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses Conference in Winnipeg, Manitoba (100), May
  - CHEPA Conference, Sheraton Hotel, Hamilton, Ontario (40), May
  - Ann McKibbon for Canadian Health Libraries Conference Workshop in Halifax (40), May

- Nursing Research Conference, School of Nursing, Dalhousie University (150), May
- Dalhousie University Site Visit, Halifax, Nova Scotia (100), May
- Sharon Batt, Nancy's Chair In Women's Studies, Mount Saint Vincent University (1), June
- Family Medicine Meeting, Quebec City (60), June
- Memorial University Site Visit, St. John's, Newfoundland (35), June
- Workshop at Université Laval (40), September
- Canadian Cardiovascular Society Conference, Quebec City (15), October
- Network Site Visits
  - Arne Ohlsson visited the University of British Columbia Site in March (See the UBC Site Report for details).
  - Tom Oliver visited the University Of Calgary Site in March (See the University of Calgary Site Report for details).
  - Tom Oliver and Kathie Clark visited Dalhousie University Site in May (See the Dalhousie University Site Report for details).
  - Arne Ohlsson and Kathie Clark visited Memorial University in June (See the Memorial University Site Report for details).
  - The full Centre staff visited with John McDonald and Wayne Tucker at the University of Western Ontario and the Inflammatory Bowel Disease Group in June.
- Conference participation and exhibits:
  - HEALNet Conference in Calgary in March.
  - Centre for Health Economics and Policy Analysis Conference in May.
  - Canadian Health Libraries Association Conference in Halifax in May.
  - Nursing Research Conference in Halifax in May.
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on the Scientific Basis of Health Services in Toronto in October.
  - University of Calgary New Cochrane Abstracts Project (See the University of Calgary Report for details). The Centre supports this project by distributing paper copies of the new and updated Cochrane Library Abstracts of Systematic Reviews to all 16 Network Sites; the abstracts are categorized by clinical area to maximize the relevance to academic health sciences department heads.
- Poster presentation at the Cochrane Colloquium in Rome on " Promoting Evidence-Based Health Care in Canada ".
- The Centre staff developed an electronic newsletter for people in Canada interested in Cochrane (Canadian Update).

### **Education and Training**

- Education and Training Strategic Planning Team
  - Team Leader: Phil Hahn
  - Members: Rollin Brant, Sarah Hayward, Arminée Kazanjian, John McDonald, Duncan Saunders, Roger Thomas, George Wells, Kathie Clark (Staff)
  - Meetings: March 10, July 6, October 27, November 20
  - Survey of Network Sites on Activities to Promote the Integration of Cochrane in the Health Sciences Curricula
- Centre staff supported the initiation of the McMaster Site project to integrate Cochrane into the health sciences curricula (See the McMaster Site Report for details).
- Centre staff provided a Workshop on the Cochrane Library to Physiotherapy Faculty and Tutors on behalf of the McMaster Site.
- Reviewer Training Workshop on Protocol Preparation at McMaster University on November 18.
- Meetings to plan workshop for health librarians.

### **Recruitment and Succession**

- The Recruitment and Succession Strategic Planning Team merged with the Education and Training Team as decided at the 1998 Annual General Meeting.

- Orientation of new Site Representatives: Roger Thomas, Jacques Lacroix, Tanveer Towheed, and Alba DiCenso.
- Recruitment of the Canadian Pharmacists' Association as an Affiliate Organization and the orientation of Carol Repchinsky as the Affiliate Representative.
- Recruitment of the Canadian Task Force on Preventive Health Care as an Affiliate Organization with John Feightner as the Affiliate Representative.
- Recruitment of Dr. France Légaré as the new Site Representative for Université Laval.
- Recruitment of Dr. Koon K. Teo as the new Site Representative for McMaster University.
- Orientation of new Collaborative Review Group Coordinators: Wayne Tucker (IBD Group) and Andrea Furlan (Back Group).
- Orientation of Laura McAuley, Coordinator, with the Child Health Field.
- Recruitment and orientation of Diane Gauthier, Administrative Assistant with the Centre.
- Recruitment and orientation of Laurie Kendry, Communications Specialist with the Centre.

### **Funding**

- Funding Strategic Planning Team
  - Team Leaders: Arne Ohlsson and Paul Peloso
  - Members: William Fraser, Jacques Lacroix, Peter Tugwell, Kathie Clark (Staff)
  - Meetings: March 3, June 29, October 27, November 20
- Preparation and revisions of a 3-year Business Plan (1999-2002) for the Advisory Committee on Health Services (ACHS).
- Presentation to the ACHS in Ottawa on May 18.
- CCN/C-CTFPHC- CCOHTA Application to the Canadian Institutes for Health Research in July.
- Submission to the Canadian Health Services Research Foundation.
- Consultation with the new Chair of the Advisory Committee on Health Services, Ms Anne McFarlane on December 14.
- Development of a special project grant application to the Medical Research Council of Canada.
- Revision of the policies and procedures concerning the funding of the Network Sites.

### **Cochrane Related Research Activities**

- Limited amount of handsearching

### **Other Cochrane Activities**

- Communications is the unique contribution of the CCN/C to the Cochrane Collaboration; we produced (30) issues of the Cochrane electronic newsletter (ccinfo); we have also accepted responsibility for the production and dissemination of the Cochrane News.
- Meeting with Carolyn Bennett, MP, January 21.
- Meetings were held with staff of Glaxo Wellcome to explore opportunities for collaboration, January 12 and February 23.
- Meetings with representatives from the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada to explore opportunities for collaboration, especially reviewer recruitment and training, February 2.
- Meeting with Jill Sanders, Canadian Council of Health Technology Assessment, to explore opportunities for collaboration, March 30.
- Meeting with John Feightner and staff from the Canadian Task Force on Preventive Health Care to explore the opportunities for collaboration, June 23.
- Visit from Iain Chalmers, UK Cochrane Centre, April 15.
- Development of a collaborative working group within the Health Research Information Unit (The No Name Group).
- Meeting with Health Canada staff (Cliff Halliwell) to explore opportunities for collaboration and funding, May 19.
- Meeting with the Coordinators and Trials Search Coordinators from the Canadian based entities, June 18.

- Meeting with the members of the Cardio-Cerebrovascular Research Advisory Council (C-CRAC) in Ottawa on June 21.
- Meeting with Sandra MacDonald-Renz from the Canadian Nurses' Association to explore the opportunities for collaboration, May 19.
- Meeting with Gale Murray, President and CEO, The Change Foundation to explore the opportunities for collaboration, June 30.
- At the Rome Colloquium in October, the Centre was represented by Arne Ohlsson, Alex Jadad, Jean Jones and Kathie Clark.
- The CCN/C hosted a meeting at the Cochrane Colloquium in Rome for all people from Canada attending the Colloquium to provide an update on the activities of the CCN/C and discuss issues related to the production and dissemination of Cochrane systematic reviews in Canada
- The CCN/C Annual General Meeting was held on November 20.

## Reports from the Network Sites

**UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA AND  
BRITISH COLUMBIA OFFICE OF HEALTH  
TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT (BCOHTA)**

**DR. ARMINÉE KAZANJIAN**

### **Dissemination and Impact**

- Cochrane Library searches are an integral and standard part of the BCOHTA fugitive search protocol. Searches are done on a regular basis to support various BCOHTA projects.
- Individual demonstrations are provided to librarians, and post-doctoral students, nursing and other students affiliated with the BCOHTA.
- BCOHTA librarians provide information about the Cochrane Library and systematic reviews by answering questions regarding the Cochrane Library on a regular basis as well as providing information about the literature on systematic reviews.
- BCOHTA has produced a comprehensive bibliography on the topic of systematic reviews. This bibliography is distributed to new researchers and visitors who are interested in learning about systematic reviews. The bibliography is also available full text on the BCOHTA web site.  
<http://www.chspr.ubc.ca>
- Updates on the Cochrane Library are being distributed via a listserve to over 30 subscribers including the members of UBC departments of pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, dentistry, and pharmacy. The update is also available from the BCOHTA web site.

### **Education and Training**

- BCOHTA continues its teaching efforts through presentations of the Cochrane Collaboration and the Cochrane Library.
- Centre for Health Services and Policy Research, 12th Annual Health Policy Conference, UBC (November 1999). This one-day event drew 125 health care policy makers, administrators and researchers with the topic 'Competing Interests, Competing Evidence: The Uses and Barriers to Use of Research Evidence'. Presentations included evidence from systematic reviews conducted by BCOHTA on lipid lowering drugs and bone densitometry testing and related experience in presenting the research evidence to policy makers.
- Worker's Compensation Board of British Columbia (August 1999). BCOHTA presented a seminar on "Conducting and using systematic reviews in the rehabilitation setting." Fourteen designated leaders from the Rehabilitation Research and Evaluation Committee participated and received a demonstration of the Cochrane Library.
- Centre for Health Services and Policy Research, UBC (March 1999). Dr. Arne Ohlsson was invited to present a seminar to approximately 40 clinicians, and researchers. He spoke on the history of Archie Cochrane and the development of the Cochrane Collaboration. A demonstration of the Cochrane Library followed.
- Department of Health Care and Epidemiology, UBC (March 1999). Dr. Arne Ohlsson presented 'The art of meta-analysis' at the HCE Rounds to departmental and other UBC faculty, students, community medicine residents and research staff.

### **Funding**

- The University of British Columbia Site received financial support from The Canadian Cochrane Centre.

## Cochrane Related Research Activities

A complete listing of all reviews and protocols by individuals in Canada published in the Cochrane Library, Issue 4, 1999 can be found in the section of this document entitled "Contributions to the Cochrane Library by Individuals in Canada".

- Full text versions of many BCOHTA health technology reports can be found on the web site. <http://www.chspr.ubc.ca>
- Publications:
  - Bassett K, Green CJ, Wright J. Famciclovir and postherpetic neuralgia. [Letter] *Ann Intern Med* 1999;131:712.
  - Helmer D, Wright M, Savoie I, Green C. Bibliography on systematic reviews: Locating, understanding and using the evidence. Working Reference N<sup>o</sup> 1.
  - Kazanjian A, Green CJ, Bassett K, Brunger F. Bone mineral density testing in social context. *Intern J Technol Assess Health Care* 1999;15:679-85.
  - Savoie I, Brunger F, Kazanjian A. Women, the media and heart disease: For better or for worse? *Intern J Technol Assess Health Care* 1999;15:729-77.
- Presentations:
  - Green C, Martin C, Bassett K, Kazanjian A. A systematic review of craniosacral therapy: Biological plausibility, assessment reliability and clinical effectiveness. Presentation ISTAHC 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, Edinburgh, June 20-23 1999.
  - Green CJ, Martin C, Bassett K, Kazanjian A. Systematically reviewing non-randomised controlled trial evidence on complementary medicine: A health technology assessment perspective. Presentation 1999 Canadian Cochrane Symposium, Hamilton ON, Canada, November 19, 1999.
  - Helmer D, Savoie I, Green C. How do various fugitive literature searching methods impact the comprehensiveness of literature uncovered for systematic review? Presentation 4th International Conference on Grey Literature, Washington DC, October 4-5 1999.
  - Savoie I, Helmer D, Green C, Kazanjian A. Fugitive literature: Evaluating the ability of various search methods to reduce publication bias. Presentation, 1999 Canadian Cochrane Symposium, Hamilton ON, Canada, November 19, 1999.
  - Savoie I, Kazanjian A. Systematic review of newborn hearing screening guidelines: The starting point for a provincial and national research agenda? Presentation, 1999 Cochrane Colloquium, Rome, Italy, October 6-9, 1999.

## Other Cochrane Activities

- Carolyn Green, who was representing UBC Site Representative, attended the Canadian Cochrane Symposium on November 19 and the CCN/C Annual General Meeting on November 20, 1999.
- Dr. Arminée Kazanjian is a member of the Education and Training Strategic Planning Team.

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**UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY**

**DR. LLOYD SUTHERLAND AND  
DR. ROLLIN BRANT**

## Dissemination and Impact

- The Cochrane Library has been made widely available in Calgary and throughout the province via the Alberta Health Knowledge Network, which is accessible to faculty and health workers in Alberta.
- A program of regular mail-outs to clinical department heads in Calgary of summaries of recent updates and additions to the Cochrane Database was established last year. This year we began sending the materials to the Cochrane Centre, who are implementing a nation-wide distribution of new abstracts.

### **Education and Training**

- Tom Oliver visited the University of Calgary in the spring and delivered a presentation to the graduate students in Community Health Sciences providing an overview of the Cochrane Collaboration. He also delivered a short session on the use of RevMan to a smaller group.
- Dr. Sutherland has overseen the creation of a new course entitled Research Methods and Evidence Based Practice, which unifies the previously somewhat fragmented coverage of these areas in the year 1 and 2 of the undergraduate curriculum.

### **Recruitment and Succession**

- Further interest in the Cochrane collaboration on the part of the University of Calgary faculty across a breadth of disciplines was evidenced by the attendance of Dr. W. Thurston (Health Promotion), Dr. R. Sauve (Child Health), and Dr. C. Donaldson (Health Economics) at the recent Colloquium in Rome.

### **Funding**

- The University of Calgary Site received financial support from The Canadian Cochrane Centre.

### **Cochrane Related Research Activities**

A complete listing of all reviews and protocols by individuals in Canada published in the Cochrane Library, Issue 4, 1999 can be found in the section of this document entitled "Contributions to the Cochrane Library by Individuals in Canada".

### **Other Cochrane Activities**

- Dr. Margaret Russell, who was representing the University of Calgary Site Representative, attended the Canadian Cochrane Symposium on November 19 and the CCN/C Annual General Meeting on November 20, 1999.
- Dr. Rollin Brant is a member of the Education and Training Strategic Planning Team.

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**UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA**

**DR. DUNCAN SAUNDERS**

### **Dissemination and Impact**

- Archie Cochrane's birthday was celebrated with a birthday cake and a presentation by Brian Rowe "From Cochrane Collaboration to Clinical Trial" at the Department of Public Health Grand Rounds, January 14, 1999.
- Other presentations:
  - Rowe BH. Systematic Reviews, Evidence-Based Medicine Workshop, Society for Academic Emergency Medicine Meeting, Boston, USA, May 23, 1999.
  - Gibbs M, Camargo CA Jr, Rowe BH, Silverman R. State of the Art Lecture, Acute Asthma, Society for Academic Emergency Medicine Meeting, Boston, USA., May 20, 1999.
  - Rowe BH, Travers A. Cochrane Collaboration and Evidence-Based Medicine, Annual Rural Update in Emergency Medicine, Jasper, AB., September 17, 1999.
  - Magee K. Low molecular weight heparin in acute coronary syndromes: using the Cochrane approach in emergency medicine. Kingsway Emergency Physicians, Edmonton, AB., November 4, 1999.
- The Cochrane Library is actively promoted by John Scott and the Health Sciences Library staff.



## Education and Training

- The Cochrane Collaboration and Cochrane Library are included in the following programmes:
  - Undergraduate Medical Curriculum
  - Department of Public Health Sciences Graduate Programs
  - Resident Training in Internal Medicine and Emergency Medicine

## Funding

- Negotiations with Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research (AHFMR) for funding were postponed until AHFMR has prioritized its evidence synthesis and dissemination activities.
- Meta-analysis of low molecular heparin for treatment of acute coronary syndromes, Kirk Magee, Brian Rowe. Hoffmann-La Roche Research Grants Competition, Canadian Association of Emergency Physicians (CAEP), October 26, 1999, (\$4,700).

## Cochrane Related Research Activities

A complete listing of all reviews and protocols by individuals in Canada published in the Cochrane Library, Issue 4, 1999 can be found in the section of this document entitled "Contributions to the Cochrane Library by Individuals in Canada".

- Publications:
  - Rowe BH, Alderson P. The Cochrane Collaboration and Evidence-Based Emergency Medicine. *Ann Emerg Med* 1999;34:86-90.
  - Rowe BH, Travers AH, Holroyd BR, Kelly KD, Bota GW. Nebulized ipratropium bromide in acute pediatric asthma: Does it reduce hospital admissions among children presenting to the emergency department? *Ann Emerg Med* 1999;34:75-85.
- RevMan 4.0 Conversions:
  - A total of five reviews were converted to RevMan version 4.0.
- Review Submissions:
  - Kelly KD, Spooner CA, Rowe BH. Systematic review of nedocromil sodium versus sodium chromoglycate in exercise induced bronchoconstriction (Cochrane Review). Cochrane Library, Oxford: Update Software.
  - Edmonds ML, Pollock CV, Camargo CA, Rowe BH. Inhaled corticosteroids in acute management of asthma (Cochrane Review). Cochrane Library, Oxford: Update Software.
  - Rowe BH, Bretzlaff JA, Spooner CH, Ducharme FM, Bota GW. Effectiveness of corticosteroids in the treatment of acute asthma: a meta-analysis of their effect on admissions (Cochrane Review). Cochrane Library, Oxford: Update Software.
- Published Abstracts:
  - Magee K, Rowe BH. Low molecular weight heparin in the treatment of unstable angina: a systematic review. *Ann Emerg Med* 1999;34 (Part 2):S48.
  - Rowe BH, Michaud J, Bourdon C, Bota GW, Camargo CA Jr. Intravenous magnesium sulfate in the treatment of severe asthma: a systematic review of the evidence. *Ann Emerg Med* 1999;34 (Part 2):S85.
  - Edmonds ML, Camargo CA Jr, Pollack CA Jr, Rowe BH. Inhaled corticosteroids in acute asthma: A systematic review of the literature. *Ann Emerg Med* 1999;34 (Part 2):S84.
  - Travers A, Jones AP, Barker S, Camargo CA Jr., Rowe BH. Intravenous beta-agonists in acute asthma: A systematic review of the literature. *Ann Emerg Med* 1999;34 (Part 2):S87.

## Other Cochrane Activities

- Dr. Duncan Saunders, Mustafa Soomro, Jeanette Buckingham, Gro Jamvedt, and Parminder Raina presented "Methodological Quality of Non-Randomized Intervention Studies" at the 7<sup>th</sup> International Cochrane Colloquium, Rome, October 1999.
- Dr. Duncan Saunders is a member of the Education and Training Strategic Planning Team.

Dr. Duncan Saunders has been invited to be a member of the 8th International Cochrane Colloquium-Scientific Committee.

- Dr. Duncan Saunders attended the CCN/C Annual General Meeting on November 20, 1999.

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## UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

DR. PAUL PELOSO

### Dissemination and Impact

- The Saskatchewan Site was active on several fronts. Efforts were focused on dissemination of the Cochrane Library, and recruiting new reviewers.
- Health Services Utilization and Research Commission (HSURC) - HSURC is a provincially funded agency that awards grants for the province's researchers in the area of SocioHealth and Biomedical research. They also perform Utilization work, often at the direction of the Minister of Health, and the Saskatchewan Health Services Branch of the Government of Saskatchewan. They are keenly aware of the Cochrane Library and the goals of the Cochrane Collaboration. There has been a presentation of the CD to the organization, and a request for help in the dissemination of systematic reviews. HSURC is interested in all Cochrane work, so long as it has an impact on the people of Saskatchewan. They have an informal network of individuals who share information, and some Cochrane reviews are shared in this manner. HSURC is also a major sponsor of SPHERU, the Saskatchewan Population Health Research Unit. It has been supported by HSURC, the Government of Saskatchewan, and the Medical Research Council. The Director, Ron Labonte, PhD., may be a future ally in dissemination and perhaps implementation of systematic reviews within the province.

### Education and Training

- A local workshop was not held, but several individuals were supported to attend other workshops outside Saskatchewan.
- The report that follows details local activities at undergraduate, and graduate levels, in several Colleges.
- Undergraduate:
  - Community Health and Epidemiology Undergraduate Level Courses – Dr. Peloso helps teach in the undergraduate medical curriculum, in the sections on Preventative Health and Epidemiology. This section of the undergraduate curriculum is managed by the Department of Community Health and Epidemiology. In particular Dr. Peloso lectures on randomized clinical trials and meta-analysis. During these 3 hour sessions, the issues of randomized trial quality and design are discussed. The issues of random allocation and concealment were a prominent portion. The Controlled Trials Register database in the Cochrane Library was demonstrated as part of the course discussion. A second lecture on meta-analysis also prominently featured the Cochrane Library on CD. The Library was demonstrated via laptop and LCD panel to the medical students. A follow up assignment on grading randomized trials reinforced several of the key concepts. Plans are underway to use a systemic review from the Cochrane Library for the next years' classes.
  - The Medical Library, in the College of Medicine building, has a copy of the Internet version of the Cochrane Library. It is accessible via the Internet to registered users of the Medical Library (ie. those with a valid medical library card). It is also accessible within the Medical Library at a dedicated terminal. The Head Librarian, Wilma Sweeney PhD., is very familiar with the Cochrane Library, and will give 'special tours' of the CD upon request.
- Postgraduate:
  - Community Health and Epidemiology Master's Level Courses - There is a second year, Masters level course on study designs and analysis offered in the Department of Community Health and Epidemiology. It is open to Masters students in Epidemiology, Nutrition, and Veterinary sciences.

Dr. Peloso teaches the section on randomized controlled trials and meta-analysis, and has done so for the last three years. There were 10 graduate students involved in the more than 12 hours of lectures and small group formats related to randomized trials and meta-analysis. The Cochrane Library is a prominent component of the instruction in the course, with demonstrations of the Library on CD. In addition, the CONSORT statements, and the Cochrane ideals about trial design and appraisal (particularly related to allocation concealment) are prominent features.

- Internal Medicine - Dr. Peloso teaches 12 - 16 hours annually to the internal medical residents around issues of critical appraisal as well as attending resident lead sessions as part of their 'journal club'. As part of this instruction, randomized trials and meta-analysis are prominent sections. The residents have had several opportunities to review the Cochrane Library on CD, including the Controlled Trials Register and the systematic reviews themselves. The internal medicine residents do own the Cochrane Library on CD, as a gift from the CCN/C, and have done so for the last 3 years. We are starting to see Cochrane reviews appearing in patients' charts more commonly. The listing of the Cochrane reviews on MEDLINE is a welcomed addition, as our residents regularly access MEDLINE from the wards.
- Orthopedic Residents, Rehabilitation Residents and Rheumatology Fellows - All of these residents have rotations through rheumatology. Several residents in orthopedics and rehabilitation have been exposed to the Cochrane Library on CD. The orthopedics residents have lobbied staff orthopedists for special instruction on the Cochrane Library. It is clear that the orthopedic people are accessing the Cochrane Library in the Medical Library. The rheumatology fellows are routinely incorporating the Cochrane systematic reviews into their rounds and presentations to the weekly rheumatology conference series.
- Family Physicians - Dr. Peloso held a Continuing Medical Education session focused on the Cochrane Library. There were 22 family doctors present for the 2 hour programme. The Cochrane Library on CD was demonstrated, including the Controlled Trials Register and the systematic reviews. All participants took order forms for the Cochrane Library. It is known that 3 have purchased the library for their offices.

### **Recruitment and Succession**

- Several interested and knowledgeable individuals exist within the College of Medicine, School of Physical Therapy, and College of Nursing that might be collaborators and disseminators in the future.
- College of Medicine, Dean's Office - Annually, the Dean's Office is appraised of the work of the Cochrane Collaboration, following the CCN/C Annual General Meeting. In addition, Colloquia brochures are routinely passed to the Dean's office, as well as to the Department Heads of Medicine, Pediatrics, Obstetrics and Gynecology, and Surgery. The Dean's office does recognize the importance of the Cochrane Collaboration.
- Department of Internal Medicine - Dr. Jay Biem is the Head of the Division of General Internal Medicine. He was instrumental in obtaining a dedicated resident's room on the Medical wards with a computer. This allowed the computer to be near patient care areas. The computer provides access to the Internet and PubMed, and also has a copy of the Cochrane Library on CD. Dr. Biem provides instruction on critical appraisal for the Internal Medicine residency program, and has a Masters degree in Clinical Epidemiology. He is a strong supporter of the Cochrane Collaboration, a potential reviewer, and a possible successor as the University of Saskatchewan Site Representative of the CCN/C.
- Centre for Agricultural Medicine - Headed by Dr. James Dosman, MD, this centre has dedicated support from the University of Saskatchewan, Province of Saskatchewan and several major industrial sponsors. They are regular creators of new knowledge and are an active research group, with MRC and other peer reviewed funding. Dr. Debra Morgan, PhD., is in charge of Rounds, and has asked for and received a presentation on the Cochrane Library and the Cochrane Collaboration. They have several graduate students, and are a potential source of new reviewers.
- Department of Pediatrics - Dr. Garth Bruce, a pediatric gastroenterologist, is keen on evidence-based medicine and has recently completed a sabbatical on EBM. Several offers have been made to present the Cochrane Library and Collaboration to a pediatric forum, but none yet have been fruitful. Future attempts perhaps need to be directed through Dr. Bruce.
- Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation - The current department head, Dr. Nigel Ashworth, MD, has worked with others from Ottawa on a Cochrane review in the area of Carpal

Tunnel. Dr. Ashworth is very familiar with the Cochrane Library and the 4 rehabilitation residents are likewise familiar with it. Dr. Ashworth attended the Colloquium in Rome, where he represented the University of Saskatchewan. He is also a potential CCN/C Site Representative for the University of Saskatchewan.

- The Institute for Health and Outcomes Research - IHOR is a research entity within the Department of Rehabilitation. One project that is currently ongoing is a Best Evidence Synthesis (BES) of Mild Brain Injury (MBI). This BES is sponsored by the World Health Organization and supported by monies from several national and international insurance firms. The methods of BES are similar to the Cochrane approach to reviews, and include a comprehensive search of multiple data sources for studies, as well as a critical appraisal of the studies found. Qualitative and quantitative summaries are performed, where the data allows this. There have been several presentations of the Cochrane Library to the group at IHOR. There is also ongoing discussion of a collaboration between the Injuries Group within Cochrane (Ian Roberts, UK.) and the WHO MBI BES group, lead by Dr. David Cassidy PhD. One of the data managers, Chantelle Garrity, is highly skilled in 'Cochrane style' data management and is planning closer contacts with the CCN/C over the upcoming years of the MBI BES.
- School of Physical Therapy - Currently two instructors/professors in the School of Physical Therapy are conducting reviews in the Cochrane format. Professors Candice Schachter, PhD, and Angela Busch, MS are active in the area of exercise and fibromyalgia. They also 'recycle' the Department of Medicine copies of the Cochrane Library on CD, by obtaining versions that are 3 months out of date for use within the School of Physical Therapy.
- Other Colleges - Several individuals within other colleges have skills and interests in the Cochrane Collaboration. Future Site Representative activities should focus on engaging these individuals and groups in the Cochrane Collaboration as well as the CCN/C:
  - Dr. Phil Chilibec, PhD, College of Kinesiology
  - Dr. Mary MacDonald, PhD, College of Nursing
  - Dr. Yvonne Shewchuk, PharmD, College of Pharmacy and Nutrition
  - Dr. Dean Kolbinson, DDS, College of Dentistry

### **Funding**

- The University of Saskatchewan Site received financial support from The Canadian Cochrane Centre.

### **Cochrane Related Research Activities**

A complete listing of all reviews and protocols by individuals in Canada published in the Cochrane Library, Issue 4, 1999 can be found in the section of this document entitled "Contributions to the Cochrane Library by Individuals in Canada".

### **Other Cochrane Activities**

- Further efforts will be needed to interest individuals outside of the College of Medicine in the use, and dissemination of the Cochrane Library. No major conferences around Cochrane have taken place in Saskatchewan as yet, and plans are beginning for a demonstration of Cochrane strategies and the Cochrane Library as part of the Canadian Pharmacists' Association Conference in June 2000, in Saskatoon.
- Several interested and capable individuals have been identified as supporters and future site representatives for the University of Saskatchewan. These relationships need to be fostered.
- Professor Angela Busch attended the CCN/C Annual General Meeting and the Canadian Symposium on behalf of the University of Saskatchewan.
- Dr. Paul Peloso is the Co-Chair of the Funding Strategic Planning Team.

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**Dissemination and Impact**

- Dissemination and uptake of the Cochrane Library continued to move forward in Manitoba. I distributed printed copies of the new reviews on one occasion to department heads and got a very positive response.
- The Neil John MacLean Library continues to make the Cochrane Library available on their network and they regularly give training sessions on how to access and search it.
- A major effort in the past year was the development and funding of the "Centres for Health Evidence Project" with Rob Hayward and Infoward. Essentially, this is a project to bring clinical evidence to the bedside where decisions are made about patients. The project will put computers in all the clinical areas in the Children's Hospital. The interface will be the CLINT system. The Cochrane Library will be one of the mainstays of the information that will be accessible to Pediatric Residents and faculty. This exciting project got underway in October 1999 and will be reported upon next year. Our role is to develop the Pediatric content of this evidence-based resource.

**Education and Training**

- Unfortunately, no workshops were given this year and there has not been an increase in review production in Manitoba. I still maintain an interest group and frequently circulate information about Cochrane to about 40 people. We had no face-to-face meetings this year, but these will get underway again and will be open to anyone. I have enlisted the assistance of Dr. Shayne Tayback to help organize and promote Cochrane next year. I also have Dr. Kent Stobart assisting in promoting Cochrane usage among residents through the critical appraisal course. Much of the activity around Cochrane is centered in the Department of Pediatrics and we must make efforts to get other Departments more involved.

**Funding**

- The University of Manitoba Site received financial support from The Canadian Cochrane Centre.

**Cochrane Related Research Activities**

A complete listing of all reviews and protocols by individuals in Canada published in the Cochrane Library, Issue 4, 1999 can be found in the section of this document entitled "Contributions to the Cochrane Library by Individuals in Canada".

**Other Cochrane Related Activities**

- The past year was less active than previous ones, due to my taking on the Headship in Pediatrics. I attended a meeting of the Child Health Field in San Francisco and continue to talk with and collaborate with Dr. Terry Klassen in the development of this field.
- Dr. Moffatt served as Chair of the Dissemination and Impact Strategic Planning Team and am a member of the Executive Committee.
- Dr. Moffatt attended the Canadian Symposium on November 19, 1999 and the CCN/C Annual General Meeting on Saturday, November 20, 1999.

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**Dissemination and Impact**

- Lectures on the need for systematic review and demonstrations of the Cochrane Library were made to the first year medical class in the context of Introduction to Clinical Epidemiology and to the fourth year medical class course in Clinical Epidemiology.
- We achieved placement of the Cochrane Library on London Health Sciences Centre network so that it is now available on every computer, rather than by use in the Library.

**Education and Training**

- No workshops were organized for 1999 at the UWO site. The UWO site is planning an introductory workshop for the spring 2000.

**Recruitment and Succession**

- It is anticipated that a Site Group will be established in the spring of 2000. The Dean of Health Sciences (disciplines other than Medicine and Dentistry) has been approached with a view to arranging for appropriate representation on the Site Group.

**Funding**

- The University of Western Ontario Site received funding from The Canadian Cochrane Centre.

**Cochrane Related Research Activities**

A complete listing of all reviews and protocols by individuals in Canada published in the Cochrane Library, Issue 4, 1999 can be found in the section of this document entitled "Contributions to the Cochrane Library by Individuals in Canada".

- See report of IBD Review Group.

**Other Cochrane Activities**

- Dr. John McDonald and Wayne Tucker attended the Canadian Cochrane Symposium on November 19 and the CCN/C Annual General Meeting on November 20, 1999.
- Dr. McDonald is a member of the Education and Training Strategic Planning Team.

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**Dissemination and Impact**

- Archie Cochrane's Birthday celebration with displays and demonstrations of evidence-based resources and birthday cake in the main foyer of the building. Approximately 200 students, faculty, and staff dropped by.
- Initial meeting with Associate Dean of Education, Dr. Susan Denburg, led to invitations to present to Health Sciences Education Committee about evidence-based resources, and meetings with nine education program chairs about integrating Cochrane and other evidence-based resources into the various program curricula.

- Meetings with four curriculum committees: OT, PT, Nursing, Medical Education.
- Mailing to all regional program directors in the McMaster University community describing Cochrane and appending program-specific Cochrane abstracts as examples.
- Meetings with two clinical chairs (Psychiatry and Laboratory) led to a presentation at Regional Psychiatric Rounds and a submission to Laboratory e-Newsletter about evidence-based resources.

### **Education and Training**

- Faculty training workshops for Nursing, Midwifery, Physiotherapy (Dec 1999).
- Student workshops for Level 4 Nursing, Level 1 Midwifery, Level 1 Physiotherapy (Jan 2000).
- Cochrane Presentation for staff during Nurses' Week.
- Cochrane Collaboration and Library Presentation at Graduate Program Research Day.
- Cochrane Collaboration and Library Presentation at McMaster Nursing Research Day.
- Training on Cochrane Library at request of Level 3 Nursing Students.

### **Funding**

- The McMaster University Site received financial support from The Canadian Cochrane Centre.
- Fifty percent (50%) of the Assistant McMaster Site Representative's salary support was provided by the Region of Hamilton-Wentworth Social and Public Health Service PHRED Program - A Teaching Health Unit Affiliated with McMaster University and the University of Guelph.

### **Cochrane Related Research Activities**

A complete listing of all reviews and protocols by individuals in Canada published in the Cochrane Library, Issue 4, 1999 can be found in the section of this document entitled "Contributions to the Cochrane Library by Individuals in Canada".

### **Other Cochrane Activities**

- Development and administration of an evaluation questionnaire that was administered to attendees before and after educational sessions and workshops to evaluate the impact of dissemination about evidence-based resources.
- Dr. Alba DiCenso attended the Canadian Cochrane Symposium on November 19 and the CCN/C Annual General Meeting on Saturday, November 20, 1999.
- Dr. Dicenso served on the Dissemination and Impact Strategic Planning Team and the Symposium Papers and Posters Selection Committee.

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**UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO**

**DR. ARNE OHLSSON**

### **Dissemination and Impact**

- Presentations:
  - The Life of Archie Cochrane, the Cochrane Collaboration and the Cochrane Library. Clinical Epidemiology Rounds, The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, January 11, 1999.
  - Control of hypertension in pregnancy and perinatal outcomes (with Laura Magee). Grand Rounds Department of Medicine, Mount Sinai Hospital, Jan 21, 1999.
  - The art of meta-analysis. Department of Health Care and Epidemiology, James Mather Building, The University of British Columbia, March 12, 1999.
  - Archie Cochrane, Cochrane Collaboration and the Cochrane Library. BCOHTA Seminar. Centre for Health Services and Policy Research, The University of British Columbia, March 12, 1999.

- Symposium: How to conduct evidence-based dentistry. The International Cochrane Collaboration. International association for dental research. 77<sup>th</sup> General Session and Exhibition of the IADR. Vancouver Trade & Convention Centre, March 12, 1999.
- Workshop. Management of neonatal pain. The Workshop on Perinatal Practice. American Academy of Paediatrics. Marriott's Mountain Shadows Resort, Scottsdale, Arizona, April 23, 1999.
- Canadian Neonatology – Lessons from the North. The Workshop on Perinatal Practice. American Academy of Paediatric. Marriott's Mountain Shadows Resort, Scottsdale, Arizona, April 25, 1999.
- Pain in the Neonate. Neonatal Rounds, Division of Neonatology, Department of Paediatrics, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, May 14, 1999.
- Update on Clinical Perinatal/Neonatal Research in Canada. 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Neonatal Perinatal Research Day, Mount Sinai Hospital, Toronto, Ontario, May 20, 1999.
- The Cochrane Collaboration, The Canadian Cochrane Network and Centre and the Cochrane Library. Cardio-Cerebrovascular Research Advisory Council Meeting, Heart and Stroke Foundation, Ottawa, June 21, 1999.
- Antenatal corticosteroids. What's new. August 9, 1999. Developmental and Perinatal Physiology "99". Training Course organized by the Departments of Physiology, Paediatrics, Obstetrics & Gynecology, University of Toronto, Toronto and the Department of Women and Child Health, Karolinska Institute, Stockholm.
- Prevention and management of neonatal pain. AAP/CPS statement. The Neonatal Pain Consensus Group -Workshop on neonatal pain. Astra-Zeneca. Baden bei Wein, Austria, August 21, 1999.
- Breast-feeding - building blocks for health. Mount Sinai Hospital, Toronto, Ontario, September 23, 1999.
- Evidence-based health care; creating the framework and the opportunities – the Canadian experience. Satellite Symposium to the VII Cochrane Colloquium - Promoting evidence based health care. Rome, Italy, October 5, 1999.
- Preterm Birth: The Scope of the Problem. Preterm Birth – Perspectives for the Millenium. The Maryland Perinatal Association, Sinai Hospital of Baltimore, René Descartes University, October 11-12, 1999.
- Update on Steroids and Surfactant. Preterm Birth – Perspectives for the Millenium. The Maryland Perinatal Association, Sinai Hospital of Baltimore, René Descartes University, October 11,12, 1999.
- The Cochrane Collaboration and Evidenced Based Paediatric Medicine. Grand Rounds, the Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, December 1, 1999.
- Newborn individualized developmental care and assessment program: A systematic review and meta-analyses. Hot topics '99 in Neonatology. Ross Special Conference. Hyatt Regency, Washington on Capitol Hill, Washington, DC, Dec 5-7, 1999.

### **Education and Training**

- Developed the course “Systematic Reviews of Randomized Controlled Trials – Cochrane Reviews” for the Masters of Science Programme in Clinical Epidemiology at the University of Toronto. The course ran over 12 weeks starting April 20<sup>th</sup>, 1999 and ended July 6<sup>th</sup>, 1999. Thirteen students completed the course. The course will become a regular course in the Clinical Epidemiology Program from year 2000.
- Cochrane is part of the training in the Neonatal/Perinatal and the Maternal/Fetal Fellowship programs at University of Toronto.
- Workshop: The Cochrane Collaboration. 30<sup>th</sup> Professional Practice Conference. The Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists. Toronto Harbour Castle Westin, February 3 and repeated February 4, 1999.
- Overview of the Cochrane Collaboration, the CCN/C and Systematic Reviews. Cochrane Collaboration Conference: Evidence Based Medicine for Health Administrators. Memorial University, St. John's, Newfoundland, June 10, 1999.
- The Cochrane Collaboration and the Cochrane Library. Teaching Rounds, Division of Neurology, Department of Paediatrics, the Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, October 20, 1999.



## Recruitment and Succession

- I made a major effort to find a replacement for myself as a Site Representative. Several highly qualified individuals were identified and contacted but they declined becoming the Site Rep., mainly because of their current workload.
- To date, I have recruited the following individuals who have agreed to be members of a University of Toronto Cochrane Site Group. We plan to meet 4 times per year to meet the CCN/C goals and objectives within the University of Toronto Community. It is anticipated that one member of this group will take over as Site Rep. in the future.
  - Corrine Berinstein (College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario, Policy Maker)
  - Joseph Beyene (Statistician, Program of Evidenced Based Neonatal Care and Outcomes Research, Division of Neonatology, Department of Paediatrics, UofT)
  - Gwen Burrows (Hospital for Sick Children Foundation, Consumer)
  - Andrea Furlan (Co-ordinator, Back CRG, Cochrane Reviewer)
  - Rick Glazier (Family Practice Medicine, Cochrane Reviewer)
  - Ellen Hodnett (Nursing, Cochrane Reviewer, Editor Pregnancy and Childbirth CRG)
  - Janet Lacy (Physiotherapy, Research in Women's Health, Cochrane Reviewer)
  - Laura MaGee (Internal Medicine, Cochrane Reviewer)
  - Arne Ohlsson (Director CCN/C, University of Toronto Cochrane Site Rep., Cochrane Reviewer, Cochrane Internal Reviewer for the Pregnancy and Childbirth CRG, Professional Society Representative – Chair Fetus and Newborn Committee, Canadian Paediatric Society)
  - Patricia Parkin (Paediatrics, Cochrane Reviewer)
  - Vibhuti Shah (Research Fellow, Cochrane Reviewer)
  - Bonnie Stevens (Nursing, Cochrane Reviewer)
  - Anna Taddio (Pharmacy, Cochrane Reviewer)
  - Elizabeth Uleryk (Director, Hospital Library, Hospital for Sick Children)
  - Sunita Vohra (Pediatrics, Cochrane Reviewer)

## Funding

- The University of Toronto Site received financial support from The Canadian Cochrane Centre.
  - Financial support was obtained for the following review:
  - Meta-analyses of massage therapy in preterm infants. Foundation for the Brain Injured Infant (UK) 1998-99: £1,000.00 (Principal investigator Vickers A, co-investigators, Ohlsson A, Horsley A, Lacy JB)

## Cochrane Related Research Activities

A complete listing of all reviews and protocols by individuals in Canada published in the Cochrane Library, Issue 4, 1999 can be found in the section of this document entitled "Contributions to the Cochrane Library by Individuals in Canada".

- Publications:
  - Gyetvai K, Hannah ME, Hodnett ED, Ohlsson A. Tocolytics for preterm labor: A systematic review. *Obstet Gynecol* 1999;94:869-77.
  - Infectious Diseases – Immunization Committee (Tan B, principal author, Delage G, Chair, members) Fetus and Newborn Committee, Canadian Paediatric Society (McMillan D, Chair, Ohlsson A, Co-Chair, members). Palivizumab and respiratory syncytial virus immune globulin intravenous for respiratory syncytial virus infection in high-risk infants. *Paediatrics Child Health* 1999;4:474-80.
  - Wang EEL, Kellner JD, Ohlsson A, Gadomski AM. Updated bronchodilator therapy. *Arch Pediatr Adolesc Med* 1999;153:430.
  - Halpern S, Ohlsson A. Epidural vs. parenteral opioid analgesia on the progress of labor – A meta-analysis. *JAMA* 1999;281:2086.

- Book Chapter:
  - Shah V, Ohlsson A. Problems of the Newborn. In Feldman W. (ed). Evidence based Paediatrics. B.C. Decker Inc. Hamilton, ON, Canada, 1999. p.1-15.
- Published Abstracts:
  - Shah V, Jacobs S, Naglie G, Ohlsson A. Prevention of chronic lung disease (CLD) with dexamethasone (dex); A decision analysis approach. Canadian Paediatric Society 1999 Annual Meeting, Winnipeg, Manitoba, June 23-27, 1999.
  - Shah V, Jacobs S, Naglie G, Ohlsson A. Prevention of chronic lung disease (CLD) with dexamethasone (dex); A decision analysis approach. The Mid Atlantic Perinatal Research Conference. Hershey, Pennsylvania, US, October 3-5, 1999.
  - Ohlsson A, Walia R. Differences between information provided in abstracts of randomized controlled trials in neonates submitted to the Annual Meeting of the American Pediatric Society and the Society for Pediatric Research (APS/SPR) and Final Publications – Implications for meta-analyses. VII Cochrane Colloquium. The Best Evidence for Health Care: The Role of the Cochrane Collaboration. Rome, Italy, October 6-9, 1999.
  - Clark K, Ohlsson A, Jadad A, Oliver T, Beal S. Promoting evidence-based health care in Canada: The Canadian Cochrane Network and Centre. VII Cochrane Colloquium. The Best Evidence for Health Care: The Role of the Cochrane Collaboration. Rome, Italy, October 6-9, 1999.
  - Wang E, Tang, Ohlsson A. Subunit vaccine efficacy: Results of a meta-analysis. Accepted for presentation. 37<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Infectious Diseases Society of America. Philadelphia, PA, November 18-21, 1999.
  - Ohlsson A, Walia R. Differences between information provided in abstracts of randomized controlled trials in neonates submitted to the Annual Meeting of the American Pediatric Society and the Society for Pediatric Research (APS/SPR) and Final Publications – Implications for meta-analyses. Cochrane Symposium. Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, November 19, 1999

#### **Other Cochrane Activities**

- Internal Reviewer, Cochrane Pregnancy and Childbirth Group, The Cochrane Collaboration, 1998 – present.
- Dr. Arne Ohlsson attended the Canadian Cochrane Symposium on Friday, November 19, and the CCN/C Annual General Meeting on November 20, 1999.
- Dr. Arne Ohlsson served as Chair of the CCN/C Executive Committee and the Co-Chair of the CCN/C Funding Strategic Planning Team.
- Dr. Arne Ohlsson attended the Cochrane Collaboration Colloquium in Rome, Italy in October 1999.

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**QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY**

**DR. TANVEER TOWHEED**

#### **Dissemination and Impact**

- Evidence-Based Medicine Reviews (EBMR) Collection installed in the spring 1999 on the Queen's University Ovid Network. Includes: Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (CDSR), ACP Journal Club and Evidence-based Medicine. Students, faculty and staff can now search these databases from any computer on campus or from home.
- Queen's Dept. of Family Medicine is involved in a multiyear CIDA-funded program to help four universities in Bosnia develop Family Medicine residency teaching programs. They have minimal and outdated resources in terms of texts or journals, but in setting up some reference material for them to use, the Cochrane Library has been installed in the teaching/clinical centres there. (Reported by: Dr. Ian Casson)
- Cochrane Library (CD-ROM) available at three sites:
  - Kingston General Hospital

- Child Development Centre, Hotel Dieu Hospital
- Multimedia Learning Centre for Undergraduate Medical Students
- Journal EBM is available at two libraries:
  - Queen's Health Sciences Library
  - Kingston General Hospital Library

### **Education and Training**

- Presentations:
  - Introduction to the Cochrane Collaboration and demonstration of the Cochrane Library (CD-ROM) (January 15, 1999) (Phil Hahn). Forum: Graduate Teaching Session for Residents in Ophthalmology.
  - Critical appraisal, biostatistics, and the Cochrane Collaboration (Spring 1999) (Tanveer Towheed). Forum: Graduate Teaching Session for Residents in Internal Medicine.
  - Where to Find the Cochrane Database? Online version (SOGC Homepage), OVID EBMR (Health Sciences Library) and CD-ROM versions (May 7, 1999) (Phil Hahn). Forum: Dept of Obstetrics & Gynaecology Annual Research Day.
  - Introduction to the Cochrane Collaboration and demonstration of the Cochrane Library (CD-ROM and Online OVID EBMR). (June 22, 1998) (Phil Hahn). Forum: Introduction to Research Course for Queen's Residents.
  - Knowledge Finder Cochrane Library (cochrane.kfinder.com) (June 25, 1999) (Phil Hahn). Forum: Society of Obstetrics & Gynaecologists of Canada (SOGC) Annual Clinical Meeting, Part of Workshop: Medical Informatics and the Internet. Location: Ottawa. Ontario Participants: 18 SOGC members.
  - Workshop: Introduction to the Cochrane Collaboration and the Cochrane Library. (November 19, 1999) (Phil Hahn). Forum: Canadian Cochrane Symposium. Location: McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario.
  - Evidence Based Medicine: Where to Find It. (Demonstration of the Cochrane Library CD-ROM and Online Knowledge Finder Cochrane Library) (December 5, 1999) (Phil Hahn). Forum: Introduction to Research Course for Canadian Residents in OBGYN under the auspices of the Association of Professors of Obstetrics and Gynaecology. Location: The Joseph L. Rotman Centre, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario. Participants: 26 OBGYN Residents from across Canada.
  - The Cochrane Collaboration and the Cochrane Library (Tanveer Towheed and Phil Hahn) (December 9, 1999). Forum: Grand Rounds, Dept of Medicine.
- Training:
  - Cochrane Library CD-ROM (1999) (Margaret Darling, Manager, Kingston General Hospital Library). For hospital staff: 30 Nurses, 20 Residents and Faculty.
  - OVID EBMR – Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (CDSR). (1999) (Lucinda Walls, Librarian, Queen's Health Sciences Library). Introduced 4<sup>th</sup> year medical students to the Cochrane Collaboration and demonstrated OVID EBMR CDSR, alone or in combination with MEDLINE.

### **Funding**

- The Queen's University Site received financial support from The Canadian Cochrane Centre.

### **Cochrane Related Research Activities**

A complete listing of all reviews and protocols by individuals in Canada published in the Cochrane Library, Issue 4, 1999 can be found in the section of this document entitled "Contributions to the Cochrane Library by Individuals in Canada".

- Cochrane Protocol: Glucosamine sulfate in OA entered into Cochrane Library (September 1998) (Tanveer Towheed). Cochrane Review in preparation currently.
- Paper presented at the American College of Rheumatology meeting, San Diego, (November 1998) (Tanveer Towheed). Glucosamine sulfate in OA. A meta-analysis of all randomized controlled trials.

- Publications:
  - Towheed T. Glucosamine sulfate in OA. A meta-analysis of all randomized controlled trials. [Abstract] Arthritis and Rheumatism (September 1998) supplemental issue.
  - Reid RL, Van Vugt DA, Hahn PM. Development of a national research methodology for Canadian Residents in Obstetrics & Gynaecology. *Obstetr Gynecol* 1999;93:308-311.
  - Sharma S, Dept Ophthalmology, Queen's University (Chief Editor) Evidence-Based Eye Care. Quarterly publication premiering March 1999.

### Other Cochrane Activities

- Phil Hahn is the Chair of the Education and Training Strategic Planning Team which met on March 10, July 6, and October 27, 1999.
- Phil Hahn and Lucinda Walls (Queen's Health Sciences Library) attended the Canadian Cochrane Symposium (November 19, 1999). McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario.
- Dr. Tanveer Towheed and Phil Hahn attended the Canadian Cochrane Symposium on November 19, 1999 and the CCN/C Annual General Meeting on November 20, 1999.
- Phil Hahn (Education & Training Strategic Team) presented the results from a survey on Cochrane content in the Health Sciences curriculum across the sixteen Network Sites and gave an update on providing the internet version of Cochrane Library to national organizations (i.e. SOGC).

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**UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA**

**DR. PETER TUGWELL AND  
DR. GEORGE WELLS**

### Dissemination and Impact

- The Cochrane Library (CD-ROM) is now available in two of the three hospital site libraries, which are affiliated with the University of Ottawa.
- The Cochrane Library (CD-ROM) is also available in the Clinical Epidemiology Unit of the Ottawa Hospital and anyone wishing to learn to use the Library can receive a teaching session upon request.
- Presentations and Conferences given by members of the Ottawa Site:
  - Dr. Peter Tugwell has given general introduction talks about the Cochrane Collaboration, throughout the year and always includes a few general Cochrane slides in talks he gives on other subjects.
  - Dr. George Wells gave an evening session on the statistics being used in Meta-analysis and Cochrane Reviews at the American College of Rheumatology, San Diego 1999. He has also given similar invited talks at statistical conferences, as well as several Cochrane workshops.
- The following abstracts on Cochrane material have been presented:
  - Coyle D, Cranney A, Lee KM, Welch V, Tugwell P. Cost-Effectiveness of Nasal Calcitonin in Postmenopausal Women. Using Cochrane Collaboration Methods in Economic Evaluation. Published in Abstract, Canadian Cochrane Symposium Book of Abstracts, Pg. 6. Presented to the Canadian Cochrane Symposium, Hamilton, November 1999.
  - O'Connor A, Rostom A, Tetroe J, Fiset V, Entwistle V, Llewellyn-Thomas H, Holmes-Rovner M, Barry M, Jones J. Effectiveness of Decision Aids for People Facing Health Treatment or Screening Decisions. Published in Abstract, Canadian Cochrane Symposium Book of Abstracts, Pg. 10. Presented to the Canadian Cochrane Symposium, Hamilton, November 1999.
  - Shea B, Dube C, Moher D. Assessing the Quality of Reports of Systematic Reviews and Meta-analyses: A Systematic Review of Checklists and Scales. Published in Abstract, Canadian Cochrane Symposium Book of Abstracts, Pg. 13. Presented to the Canadian Cochrane Symposium, Hamilton, November 1999.
  - Harrison MB, Lorimer K, Graham I, Friedberg E, Threinen J, Nicholson D, Coke S. Assessing Leg Ulcer Prevalence Studies: Conceptual, Methodological and Practical Issues. Published in

Abstract, Canadian Cochrane Symposium Book of Abstracts, Pg. 29. Presented to the Canadian Cochrane Symposium, Hamilton, November 1999.

- Salinas A, Cranney A, Welch V, Shea B, McGowan J, Tugwell P, Wells G. Fluoride for the treatment of Corticosteroid-Induced Osteoporosis. Published in Abstract, Canadian Cochrane Symposium Book of Abstracts, Pg. 38. Presented to the Canadian Cochrane Symposium, Hamilton, November 1999.
- Shea B, Moher D, Pham B, Tugwell P. Assessing the Quality of Reporting Meta-analyses of Randomized Controlled Trials. Published in Abstract, Canadian Cochrane Symposium Book of Abstracts, Pg. 40. Presented to the Canadian Cochrane Symposium, Hamilton, November 1999.
- Shea B, Rio P, Ghersi D, Kennedy G. Consumer Involvement in the Interpretation, Dissemination and Implementation of the Results of Systematic Reviews: 4 Collaborative Review Group Perspectives. Published in Abstract, 7<sup>th</sup> International Cochrane Colloquium Book of Abstracts, Pg. 7. Presented to the 7<sup>th</sup> International Cochrane Colloquium, Rome, October 1999.
- Pham B, Moher D, Platt R, McAuley L, Jones A, Klassen TP, Thomas C. Chalmers Centre for Systematic Reviews. Detecting and Adjusting for Publication Bias in Meta-Analysis: A Systematic Review. Published in Abstract, 7<sup>th</sup> International Cochrane Colloquium Book of Abstracts, Pg. 16. Presented to the 7<sup>th</sup> International Cochrane Colloquium, Rome, October 1999.
- McAuley L, Moher D, Pham B, Tugwell P. Evaluation of the Impact of Grey Literature on Meta-Analysis. Published in Abstract, 7<sup>th</sup> International Cochrane Colloquium Book of Abstracts, Pg. 17. Presented to the 7<sup>th</sup> International Cochrane Colloquium, Rome, October 1999.
- Shea B, Moher D, Pham B, Tugwell P. Assessing the Quality of Reporting Meta-analyses of Randomized Controlled Trials. Published in Abstract, 7<sup>th</sup> International Cochrane Colloquium Book of Abstracts, Pg. 44. Presented to the 7<sup>th</sup> International Cochrane Colloquium, Rome, October 1999.
- Shea B, Dube C, Moher D. Assessing the Quality of Reports of Systematic Reviews and Meta-analyses: A Systematic Review of Checklists and Scales. Published in Abstract, 7<sup>th</sup> International Cochrane Colloquium Book of Abstracts, Pg. 44. Presented to the 7<sup>th</sup> International Cochrane Colloquium, Rome, October 1999.
- Cranney A, Homik J, Shea B, Welch V, Adachi J, Wells G, Tugwell P. Meta-analysis of Calcitonin for Corticosteroid-Induced Osteoporosis. Published in Abstract, 7<sup>th</sup> International Cochrane Colloquium Book of Abstracts, Pg. 51. Presented to the 7<sup>th</sup> International Cochrane Colloquium, Rome, October 1999.
- Bonaiuti D, Shea B, Lovine R, Cranney A, Welch V, Cagnana A, Tugwell P, Castagna M, Wells G, Kemper HCG, Negrini S. Exercise Therapy for Osteoporosis in Postmenopausal Women. Published in Abstract, 7<sup>th</sup> International Cochrane Colloquium Book of Abstract, Pg. 51. Presented to the 7<sup>th</sup> International Cochrane Colloquium, Rome, October 1999.
- Coyle D, Cranney A, Lee KM, Welch V, Tugwell P. Cost-Effectiveness of Nasal Calcitonin in Postmenopausal Women. Using Cochrane Collaboration Methods in Economic Evaluation. Published in Abstract, 7<sup>th</sup> International Cochrane Colloquium Book of Abstracts, Pg. 53. Presented to the 7<sup>th</sup> International Cochrane Colloquium, Rome, October 1999.
- O'Connor A, Rostom A, Tetroe J, Fiset V, Entwistle V, Llewellyn-Thomas H, Holmes-Rover M, Barry M, Jones J. Effectiveness of Decision Aids for People Facing Health Treatment or Screening Decisions. Published in Abstract, 7<sup>th</sup> International Cochrane Colloquium Book of Abstracts, Pg. 79. Presented to the 7<sup>th</sup> International Cochrane Colloquium, Rome, October 1999.
- Harrison MB, Lorimer K, Graham I, Friedberg E, Threinen J, Nicholson D, Coke S. Assessing Leg Ulcer Prevalence Studies: Conceptual, Methodological and Practical Issues. Published in Abstract, 7<sup>th</sup> International Cochrane Colloquium Book of Abstracts, Pg. 80. Presented to the 7<sup>th</sup> International Cochrane Colloquium, Rome, October 1999.
- Moher D, Pham B, Klassen TP. Assessing the quality of reports of randomized trials included in systematic reviews: attitudes, practice, evidence and guides. Published in Abstract (Workshop), 7<sup>th</sup> International Cochrane Colloquium Book of Abstracts, Pg. 81. Presented to the 7<sup>th</sup> International Cochrane Colloquium, Rome, October 1999.
- Cates C, Gotzsche P, Grimshaw J, Mowatt G, Neilson J, Rio P, Silagy C, Tugwell P. Lumping and Splitting in Cochrane Reviews. Published in Abstract (Workshop), 7<sup>th</sup> International Cochrane Colloquium Book of Abstracts, Pg. 92. Presented to the 7<sup>th</sup> International Cochrane Colloquium, Rome, October 1999.

- Ghersi D, Kennedy G, Rio P, Shea B. Consumers Setting Priorities for Cochrane Review Groups. Published in Abstract, 7<sup>th</sup> International Cochrane Colloquium Book of Abstracts, Pg. 111. Presented to the 7<sup>th</sup> International Cochrane Colloquium, Rome, October 1999.
- Haguenaer D, Mirmiran S, Welch V, Adachi JD, Tugwell P, Wells GA, Shea B. Fluoride Therapy to Prevent Postmenopausal Osteoporosis. Submitted to the 15th Annual Meeting of the International Society of Technology Assessment in Health Care, Edinburgh, U.K., June 1999.
- Cranney A, Welch V, Coyle D, Adachi JD, Tugwell P, Wells GA, Otten N, Shea B, Berthelot JM, Wolfson M, Flanagan B. Alendronate for Prevention and Treatment of Postmenopausal Osteoporosis. Submitted to the 15th Annual Meeting of the International Society of Technology Assessment in Health Care, Edinburgh, U.K., June 1999.
- Coyle D, Cranney A, Lee KM, Welch V, Tugwell P. Cost-effectiveness of nasal calcitonin in postmenopausal women. Using Cochrane Collaboration methods in economic evaluation. Annual Meeting of the International Society of Technology Assessment in Health Care. 1999;15:58.
- Cranney A, Welch V, Coyle D, Adachi JD, Tugwell P, Wells GA. Alendronate for prevention and treatment of postmenopausal osteoporosis. Annual Meeting of the International Society of Technology Assessment in Health Care. 1999;15:115.
- Shea B. Introduction to the Cochrane Collaboration and the Cochrane Library. National Rehabilitation Conference, June 1999.
- Jessie McGowan, Director of the Ottawa Hospital Library is very active in assisting with Literature searching for reviewers.
- Cathy McAuley and Lucie Brosseau have been very successful in promoting the Cochrane Collaboration amongst the Rehabilitation and Physiotherapy community.

### **Education and Training**

- The University of Ottawa Site held two reviewer workshops in the past year, in which a total of 120 participated. One of the workshops was held in collaboration with the Department of Rehabilitation. Topics included an introduction to the Cochrane Collaboration, and library assistance such as searching, basic statistics, as well as on the Internet specifically to the Cochrane Collaboration. Demonstration and practice on the use of Review Manager software was also given (RevMan 4.0).
- A workshop was held on the quality of reporting meta-analysis led by David Moher, Terry Klassen, and Ba Pham, who are all members of various Methods Groups.
- Visiting fellows from developing countries:
  - Dr. Ariel Salinas, who is a visiting fellow from Peru, spent a total of one year at the University of Ottawa. His main activities included conducting Cochrane Systematic Reviews. He attended courses in the Epidemiology program, which included a meta-analysis course given by David Moher, Terry Klassen, Jessie McGowan and Ba Pham, and all University of Ottawa Site members. Ariel is working on three reviews and all three protocols can be found on the Cochrane Library: Fish oil for rheumatoid arthritis; Ipriflavone for osteoporosis; Fluoride for corticosteroid-induced osteoporosis.

### **Funding**

- The University of Ottawa Site received financial support from The Canadian Cochrane Centre.
- In addition to the funds received from the Centre, support is provided for the ongoing activities from the University of Ottawa, the Loeb Research Institute, the Thomas Chalmers Centre for Systematic Reviews, and the Ottawa Hospital.

### **Cochrane Related Research Activities**

A complete listing of all reviews and protocols by individuals in Canada published in the Cochrane Library, Issue 4, 1999 can be found in the section of this document entitled "Contributions to the Cochrane Library by Individuals in Canada".

## Other Cochrane Activities

- Dr. Peter Tugwell, George Wells, and Bev Shea attended the Canadian Cochrane Symposium on November 19, 1999 and the CCN/C Annual General Meeting at McMaster University on Saturday, November 20, 1999.
- Dr. Peter Tugwell served on the Funding Strategic Planning Team.
- Dr. George Wells served on the Education and Training Strategic Planning Team.
- Ms. Bev Shea served on the Symposium Programme and Evaluation Advisory Committee.
- Ms. Vivian Welch served as a resource person for the Reviewer Training Workshop on November 18. She provided the RevMan demonstration and training.

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## MCGILL UNIVERSITY

## DR. MICHAEL KRAMER

### Dissemination and Impact

- This activity has been greatly aided since the summer of 1999 by the participation of Ms. Ritz Kakuma, a MSc candidate in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics. Ms. Kakuma came to McGill from McMaster, where she worked with The Canadian Cochrane Centre and became familiar with the Cochrane Library and other aspects of the Cochrane Collaboration. Since the summer, she has been distributing abstracts of new reviews published in the CDSR to clinical departments, and particularly to residency training directors, around McGill. These will eventually be sent to all clinical departments and residency programs and some specialty fellowship training programs at all McGill-affiliated hospitals.

### Education and Training

- Dr. Kramer has lectured on systematic reviews, meta-analysis, the Cochrane Collaboration, and the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews in two graduate courses in the McGill Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics: course 503-606L, Introductory Epidemiology, in the McGill Summer Program in Epidemiology and Biostatistics; and 503-610A, the Occurrence of Health Events in Populations. Ms. Kakuma also participated in the latter course, providing training in the on-line (Internet) version of the Cochrane Library and its databases. Dr. Kramer and Ms. Kakuma met with the coordinators of a new second-year medical school course in evidence-based medicine. Two full days in the winter and spring of 2000 will be devoted to teaching on systematic reviews, meta-analysis, the Cochrane Collaboration, and hands-on training in use of the Cochrane Library and particularly the CDSR.

### Recruitment and Succession

- Members of the McGill Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics and members of all of the hospital-based clinical epidemiology units were contacted in the early fall 1999. Unlike two previous similar mailings, this attempt has been far more successful, and so far, at least 5 faculty and students have indicated interest in establishing the links with Cochrane Collaboration review groups and/or fields. Ms. Kakuma has helped make the links with responsible persons in these review groups and fields and will continue to foster communications. We are optimistic that several of these links will result in ongoing participation in the Collaboration.

### Funding

- The McGill University Site received funding from The Canadian Cochrane Centre.

## **Cochrane Related Research Activities**

A complete listing of all reviews and protocols by individuals in Canada published in the Cochrane Library, Issue 4, 1999 can be found in the section of this document entitled "Contributions to the Cochrane Library by Individuals in Canada".

- Dr. Kramer updated and revised all nine of his completed reviews in the CDSR, including a re-writing of all abstracts in the new format. In addition, Dr. Kramer has used other completed reviews (particularly those by Professor Mary Renfrew and her colleagues on breastfeeding promotion interventions) in several papers and presentations about PROBIT, a cluster-randomized trial of the WHO/UNICEF Baby-Friendly-Hospital-Initiative.

## **Other Cochrane Activities**

- Ritz Kakuma, representing the McGill Site Representative, attended the Canadian Cochrane Symposium on November 19 and the CCN/C Annual General Meeting on November 20, 1999.

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**UNIVERSITÉ DE MONTRÉAL**

**DR. JACQUES LACROIX**

### **Dissemination and Impact**

- The Cochrane Library is now available at the following sites:
  - Central library of the Faculté de Médecine de l'Université de Montréal;
  - Library of Sainte-Justine Hospital;
  - Pediatric Intensive Care Unit of Sainte-Justine Hospital.
- Organization of a Symposium that will be presented at the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Congress on Pediatric Intensive Care by Dr. A. Ohlsson. This will present the Cochrane Library to about 1500 registrants from at least 70 different countries.

### **Education and Training**

- The Site will continue to offer education in the context of the Graduate Course MSO 6027, on how to interpret and to do systematic reviews, on what is the Cochrane Collaboration, and on how to use the Cochrane Library and RevMan 4. This means that all these topics will be an integral part of the curriculum of all students registered to get a Master Degree (M.Sc.) in Clinical Epidemiology at the Université de Montréal.
- Presentation in May of a lecture on systematic reviews and meta-analysis to members of the Research Center of Sainte-Justine Hospital.
- A workshop on the Cochrane Library was held on May 11, 1999; it was presented to 8 people, including students from France, Belgium, Mali and Canada.
- A workshop on RevMan 4.04 was given to 7 students with the help of Francine Ducharme from McGill University; it was held at Sainte-Justine Hospital, on October 25, 1999.

### **Recruitment and Succession**

- Dr. Jacques Lacroix was recruited as the new site representative of the Université de Montréal (December 1998).
- Dr. Anne-Claude Bernard-Bonnin already joined the team; she went to the Canadian Cochrane Symposium held in Hamilton on November 19, 1999.
- Dr. James Brophy (Notre-Dame Hospital), Dr. François Madore (Sacré-Cœur Hospital), Dr. Anne-Claude Bernard-Bonnin (Sainte-Justine Hospital), Dr. France Gauvin (Sainte-Justine Hospital) and



Mr. Louis-Luc Lecompte (librarian, Hôpital Sainte-Justine) agreed to participate on a committee that will be devoted to the dissemination of the Cochrane Library and to improve the knowledge about the activities of the Cochrane Collaboration within all hospitals affiliated to the Faculté de Médecine de l'Université de Montréal.

### **Cochrane Related Research Activities**

A complete listing of all reviews and protocols by individuals in Canada published in the Cochrane Library, Issue 4, 1999 can be found in the section of this document entitled "Contributions to the Cochrane Library by Individuals in Canada".

- De Jaeger A, Litalien C, Lacroix J, Guertin MC, Infante-Rivard C. A meta-analysis evaluating the diagnostic accuracy of protected specimen brush and of broncho-alveolar lavage to diagnose bacterial nosocomial pneumonia. Crit Care Med 1999;27:2548-60.

### **Other Cochrane Activities**

- Dr. Jacques Lacroix is a member of the Funding Strategic Planning Team.
- He also attended the Canadian Cochrane Symposium on November 19 and the CCN/C Annual General Meeting on Nov. 20, 1999.

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## **UNIVERSITÉ DE SHERBROOKE**

## **DR. JEAN-PIERRE TÉTRAULT**

### **Dissemination and Impact**

- Nineteen terminals of the hospital network have been upgraded to PC-based stations in 1998 and are linked since May 1999 to the Ovid database and the Library. It took some time to implement the link with the Université de Sherbrooke medical library (first letter sent on April 14, 1998), but it now works. These PCs are located at the physicians' stations located on every ward and easily accessible for rounds work. There was no cost involved, and also no need for a site license.

### **Education and Training**

- I finally could meet the curriculum sub-committee chaired by the vice-dean for residency programs (Denis Lepage) on Sept. 27th, and have now full support for the inclusion of systematic reviews in the course work and the dissemination of the Cochrane component of evidence-based medicine at the residency programs level.
- I was invited to give a lecture on Oct. 14th about systematic reviews and their access on the hospital network to residents in pediatrics; 17 residents attended.
- Post doctoral programs in anesthesiology, pediatrics and surgery hold an annual two-day symposium on "Introduction to research and critical appraisal" for junior residents. Day 2 is devoted to hands-on searching of databases in the computer rooms of the medical school library. My part will be systematic reviews (short introduction), the Cochrane Library and access to reviews via Medline (hands on). Expected attendance: 25 residents, December 1999.
- Graduate students of the M.Sc. and Ph.D program in clinical sciences attending the compulsory course on designs (SCL 722) are given a 6 hour lecture on systematic reviews by Gina Bravo (Ph.D., associate professor in community health, and former Cochrane Site Representative). She invited me to introduce the students to the Library (hands-on). Other residency programs should be included in the future.

## Funding

- The Université de Sherbrooke Site received funding from The Canadian Cochrane Centre.

## Cochrane Related Research Activities

A complete listing of all reviews and protocols by individuals in Canada published in the Cochrane Library, Issue 4, 1999 can be found in the section of this document entitled "Contributions to the Cochrane Library by Individuals in Canada".

## Other Cochrane Activities

- Dr. Tétrault attended the Canadian Cochrane Symposium on November 19 and the CCN/C Annual General Meeting on November 20, 1999.
- Dr. Tétrault is a member of the Dissemination and Impact Strategic Planning Team.

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## UNIVERSITÉ LAVAL

## DR. FRANCE LÉGARÉ

### Dissemination and Impact

- Support to investigators at Université Laval with Evidence-Based Medicine.
- Support to gynecologists of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology in their preparation of courses on Evidence-Based Medicine to residents and doctors of the hospital.
- Final preparation of a French language web site of structured evidence-based abstracts of effective care in Family Medicine <http://www.crsfa.ulaval.ca>.
- Information sessions on the Cochrane Library and Revman to graduate students in Pharmacy:  
April 99: 6 students  
August 99: 25 students
- Information booth at the Annual Meeting of Family Physicians of Université Laval at Le Manoir Montmorency, June 4<sup>th</sup> 1999, with 60 participants.
- Preparation of a meeting "Pratique médicale, preuves à l'appui" to take place at the Hotel Lews-Le Concorde on May 11 and 12, 2000.
- Dr. France Légaré has participated in writing a letter to the College of Family Physicians of Canada.

### Education and Training

- Presentation on the methodology of meta-analysis by Dr. William Fraser at the Hôtel-Dieu de Québec, June 1999.
- Workshop held on September 24<sup>th</sup>, 1999 on the Cochrane Library and Revman for Université Laval professors, students or personnel, with an attendance of 30 participants.
- Personal training of gynecologists or residents of Université Laval on the utilisation of the Cochrane Library.

### Recruitment and Succession

- Dr. France Légaré has replaced Dr. William Fraser as the Site Representative of Université Laval.

## Funding

- The Université Laval received funding from The Canadian Cochrane Centre.

## **Cochrane Related Research Activities**

A complete listing of all reviews and protocols by individuals in Canada published in the Cochrane Library, Issue 4, 1999 can be found in the section of this document entitled "Contributions to the Cochrane Library by Individuals in Canada".

- **Reviews:**
  - Update of the Review "Amniotomy to shorten spontaneous labor" by William Fraser, Lucile Turcot, Isabelle Kraus and Gisèle Brisson-Carroll, sent in June 1999. This review has also been included in the WHO Reproductive Health Library, Issue # 2, 1999 .
- **Protocols:**
  - New protocol "Effect of early augmentation of labour with amniotomy and oxytocin in nulliparous women: a meta-analysis", by William Fraser, Chantal Roy, Françoise Venditelli and Gérard Bréart, sent in August 1999.
- **Others:**
  - Oral presentation was presented at the Hamilton Cochrane Symposium: "A Francophone Web Site Devoted to Accessing the Best Evidence-Based-Medicine Web Sites", by France Légaré, Michel Labrecque, Lucie Baillargeon, Pierre Frémont et Lucie Misson.
- **Posters were presented at the Hamilton Cochrane Symposium:**
  - "First Francophone Conference on Evidence-Based-Medicine for Physicians and Pharmaceutical Representatives", by Michel Cauchon, France Légaré, Michel Labrecque, Pierre Frémont et Johanne Blais.
  - "Effect of early augmentation of labour with amniotomy and oxytocin in nulliparous women: a meta-analysis", by William Fraser, Chantal Roy, Françoise Venditelli and Gérard Bréart.

## **Other Cochrane Activities**

- Dr. William Fraser is a member of the editorial board of the new journal: "Evidence-based Obstetrics & Gynecology".
- Commentary by William Fraser and Pierre-Claver Bigirimana on Stewart et al: "Delivery at night or during summer was associated with an increased risk for infant death related to an intrapartum event", BMJ 1998; 316:657-60, accepted for publication in "Evidence-based Obstetrics & Gynecology".
- Commentary by Marie Hatem-Asmar and William Fraser on Sikorski et al: "Support for breastfeeding", accepted for publication in "Evidence-based Obstetrics & Gynecology".
- Dr. France Légaré and Dr. William Fraser attended the Canadian Cochrane Symposium on November 19 and the CCN/C Annual General Meeting on Saturday, November 20, 1999.
- Dr. Fraser is a member of the Funding Strategic Planning Team and the Executive Committee.

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**DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY**

**DR. ROBIN WHYTE**

## **Dissemination and Impact**

- Local Clinical Cochrane Dissemination - Ongoing resident teaching was continued, using the theme of systematic review and meta-analysis. Particular interest was directed towards the review of the use of Albumin in Critical Care which was published in the summer of 1998 by the Cochrane Injuries Group. This provided an interesting model of issues surrounding interpretation and dissemination of the findings of review, particularly as it was accompanied by fierce controversy in the literature and a cryptic commentary in Evidence Based Medicine.
- The Cochrane Library has been made available on the Internet through our Site funds, and in response the hospital library of the IWK Grace Health Centre has bought a licence permitting universal access to the Library from within the IWK Grace Health Centre building. A similar

arrangement has been made by the Kellogg Medical Library, which is our central library in the Tupper Medical Centre. A subscription was bought to Evidence Based Medicine and ACP Journal Club. Evidence Based Medicine in particular was useful in providing topics for teaching our new undergraduate curriculum in Epidemiology and Biostatistics. An attempt by Dr. Whyte to arrange for all medical students to receive copies of Evidence Based Medicine was not successful: despite the assistance of the site in Philadelphia, who offered reduced rates, we were unable to reduce these enough to make the proposal worthwhile (realistically, the students would have to have free copies to get this started).

### **Education and Training**

- Undergraduate education - In undergraduate education there was a major remodelling of the community epidemiology and biostatistics section, in which many of the paper problems were dropped, including our Cochrane example. It was, however, reintroduced as a lecture topic, and a compulsory examination question on meta-analysis was included for the student year. This was part of a generally unsatisfactory development in this program, and following a series of urgent meetings the chairmanship has been replaced and a whole new series of topics rewritten for the 1999/2000 year. We have again been invited to submit a paper problem based on systematic review and meta-analysis and this is again being undertaken.
- Workshops - We did not feel we could sustain an annual workshop in 1999 following the 1998 workshop, which was adequately supported but would not have sustained an immediate second year. The meeting of the Canadian Health Libraries Association in May 1999 was clearly an alternative opportunity for a local presentation, and full advantage was taken of this. The reactivation of the Newfoundland Center provided an opportunity for a joint meeting of Site Representatives and Dr. Whyte spoke on two days of the Newfoundland workshop in June 1999.
- Canadian Health Libraries Association 1999 - The Canadian Health Libraries Association held its annual meeting in Halifax and Dr. Whyte was invited to be the keynote speaker on the topic of "Review on Systematic Reviews: The Place of the Cochrane Collaboration". Kathie Clark and Tom Oliver visited from The Canadian Cochrane Centre and set up a booth, which provided considerable exposure. Kathie combined this with a site visit during which she had a number of constructive visits at the Dalhousie Campus. We had two days of very stimulating discussion and there will be another opportunity for exhibiting the Cochrane at the Vancouver meeting in the year 2000.

### **Recruitment and Succession**

- Dr. Whyte circulated all heads of department with notices of the Cochrane Colloquium and Canadian meetings with an accompanying letter announcing a search for reviewers with an offer of funding support for reviews or related activities. This was followed up with a meeting with the Dean of Medicine, the Associate Dean for Continuing Medical Education, and the Associate Dean of Undergraduate Medical Education. As a result of the letters, Dr. Whyte was invited to make a presentation to the Academic Research Committee of the Department of Pediatrics, but there was little response from other departments. One of the local site problems seems to be that the Faculty of Medicine has been involved for some time in writing narrative reviews and is particularly active in circulating a series of directive broad sheets for community physician instruction. These are very popular but not systematic in structure (and in fact have limited bibliographies). It was felt that Cochrane Reviews lack the immediacy, availability, and directiveness of these broad sheets. The Collaboration will be addressing this in its Dissemination and Impact review. A new Dean has been appointed and we hope to achieve some new direction with this change.
- Dr. Whyte will meet with Dr. Noni MacDonald, Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences, and will be recruiting an assistant to help with the Cochrane Office on a one day per week basis for 1999/2000. This Site needs a more persistent Cochrane presence, and this can be expedited by having new reviews circulated to department heads with each new edition, as was described by The Canadian Cochrane Centre last year. Our librarians remain major supporters of the Cochrane Collaboration. We intend to have a workshop in May or June of the year 2000.

## Funding

- The Dalhousie Site received funding from The Canadian Cochrane Centre.

## Cochrane Related Research Activities

A complete listing of all reviews and protocols by individuals in Canada published in the Cochrane Library, Issue 4, 1999 can be found in the section of this document entitled "Contributions to the Cochrane Library by Individuals in Canada".

- Dr. R.K.Whyte has completed a Systematic Review of Blood Transfusion in Newborn Infants.
- Vimal Scott Kapoor, a medical undergraduate, was recruited in 1999 as a summer student to prepare a systematic review on the prevention of gonococcal ophthalmia in the newborn. Mr. Kapoor has a Masters Degree in Epidemiology and was supported by funds from the Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation, the IWK Grace Research Foundation, and our own Cochrane Site Funds. He went to the Institute of Child Health in London to a Cochrane Workshop and met with the editor of the Cochrane Eye and Vision Review Group. He has made considerable progress and submitted his protocol at the end of July. He is collaborating with Dr. R.Whyte (Neonatology) and R. LaRoche (Pediatric Ophthalmology) in completing the review which is now at the stage of article selection. The Medical School has been very supportive of this activity. The local awarding bodies acknowledged this activity as research, and Mr. Kapoor has been allowed to substitute this activity for the writing of his student review, which is a requirement for all students at this stage. Mr. Kapoor has a special interest in systematic reviews and I believe will pursue a career track in this area.
- Dr. Neil Hanlon has been awarded the Cochrane Symposium Fellowship for the Maritime Site. The Fellowship was devised following a meeting with Dr. Lynn MacIntyre, Dean of the Faculty of Health Professions, who was very receptive to the goals of the Cochrane Collaboration. Dr. MacIntyre organized a competition in her faculty for proposals for systematic reviews, for which the winner would attend the 1999 Canadian Cochrane Symposium and Workshop. Dr. Hanlon's proposal is to review the implementation in the use of information technology in primary care settings, which will be a component of the effects of practice and organization of care group. We were very pleased to be able to support his visit.
- Informatics Health Outcome Project - Maria Migas was a summer student supported by Cochrane site funds on the application of Mrs. Grace Patterson, Medical Informatics, Faculty of Medicine. She joined Chris Davison, Jeff Gesner, Emie Alias, David Zitner, Michael Shepherd, and Marco Imperatore. The project was completed in the summer and submitted to the Canadian Cochrane Symposium entitled "*Design of a System to Catalogue Generic and Condition Specific Health Outcome Measures Used in the Cochrane Library*" and was accepted for oral presentation.
- NHRDP Letter of Intent - Dr. Whyte submitted a letter of intent entitled "The Development and Evaluation of a Process for Determining the Relevance of Cochrane Systematic Reviews in Canada". The proposal is to study the perceptions of students (and later consumers) of the quantitative expressions of Cochrane Reviews (Odds Ratios, Event Rate Ratios and Absolute Rate Differences). He has been invited to submit a full proposal to the NHRDP by December 13<sup>th</sup> and will be seeking the collaboration of the Department of Medical Education.

## Other Cochrane Activities

- Dr. Robin Whyte attended the Canadian Cochrane Symposium on November 19 and the CCN/C Annual General Meeting on November 20, 1999.
- He also attended the Cochrane Colloquium in Rome, October 1999.
- Dr. Whyte is a member of the Dissemination and Impact Strategic Planning Team.

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### Education and Training

- Presentations:
  - Dr. Roger Thomas, "Cochrane Collaboration systematic review of RCT's to prevent smoking by children and adolescents: a methodological critique of the literature." Department of Epidemiology Colloquium, Memorial University, Newfoundland, 22 February 1999.
  - Dr. Roger Thomas, "How to search MEDLINE and the Cochrane Collaboration." Faculty of Family Medicine Workshop, Memorial University, Newfoundland, 13 April 1999.
  - Dr. Arne Ohlsson. Presentation to the CEO's and Chief Medical Officers of the Seven Health Regions of Newfoundland and Labrador about the Purpose and Achievements of the Cochrane Collaboration, 9 June 1999.
  - Dr. Kathie Clark. Presentation to the CEO's and Chief Medical Officers of the Seven Health Regions of Newfoundland and Labrador about the Purpose and Achievements of the Cochrane Collaboration, 9 June 1999.
  - Dr. Robin Whyte. Presentation to the CEO's and Chief Medical Officers of the Seven Health Regions of Newfoundland and Labrador about the Purpose and Achievements of the Cochrane Collaboration, 9 June 1999.
- Workshops:
  - Dr. Kathie Clark. Presentation to the medical and nursing faculty at Memorial University about incorporating the Cochrane Collaboration in teaching residents and nursing students, 10 June 1999.
  - Dr. Kathie Clark. "Workshop for the Medical Librarians at Memorial University: Advanced Searching Techniques", 10 June 1999.
  - Dr. Roger Thomas. "Workshop for Memorial University Family Medicine Residents: Finding Answers to your Clinical Questions about your Patients in the Cochrane Collaboration Library and MEDLINE", 24 June 1999.
  - Dr. Roger Thomas. "Workshop for Memorial University Family Medicine Residents: Searching the Cochrane Collaboration and Evaluating the Quality of Reviews", 13 July 1999.
  - Dr. Roger Thomas. "Workshop for Memorial University Family Medicine Residents: Applying Cochrane Collaboration Systematic Reviews in the Care of Individual Patients", 20 July 1999.
  - Dr. Roger Thomas. Multidisciplinary Workshop (Physicians, Nurses, Dieticians, Administrators, Quality Control Officers). "Searching for and Evaluating Systematic Reviews and Meta-analyses in the Cochrane Collaboration Library to Improve the Care of your Patients", St. Anthony, Newfoundland, 5-6 October 1999.
- Tutorials:
  - Weekly, January – December 1999. Dr. Roger Thomas. Individual Cochrane Collaboration tutorials with Family Medicine residents on line to find and discuss systematic reviews and meta-analyses to help them with the care of individual patients.
  - Weekly, January – December 1999. Dr. Roger Thomas. Individual Cochrane Collaboration tutorials with Family Medicine residents on line to help them with literature searches to form the basis for their resident research project.

### Funding

- The Memorial University Site received funding from The Canadian Cochrane Centre.

### Cochrane Related Research Activities

A complete listing of all reviews and protocols by individuals in Canada published in the Cochrane Library, Issue 4, 1999 can be found in the section of this document entitled "Contributions to the Cochrane Library by Individuals in Canada".

- Dr. Roger Thomas. "Systematic Review of the diagnostic effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of remote assessment of diabetic retinopathy by telemedicine." Systematic review in preparation.
- Drs. Roger Thomas, Carl Robbins, Sean O'Leary and Arch McNamara. "A randomised controlled trial of the diagnostic effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of remote assessment of diabetic retinopathy by telemedicine." Grant proposal in preparation.
- Dr. Roger Thomas, Dr. Keith Busby. "A Systematic Review of randomised controlled trials to prevent children and adolescents begin smoking." (Final draft of review written and awaiting approval by the Tobacco Review Group in Oxford)."

#### **Other Cochrane Activities**

- Participation in CASP Conference, (London, July 5-9 1999), to learn how to teach patients and members of the public how to use the Cochrane Collaboration Library in their own care.
- Dr. Thomas is a member of the Education and Training Strategic Planning Team.
- Dr. Roger Thomas attended the Canadian Cochrane Symposium on November 19 and the CCN/C Annual General Meeting on November 20, 1999.

## Reports from the Affiliate Organizations

### CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS (CAOT)

MS. NANCY POLLOCK

#### Dissemination and Impact

- Published an article in the CAOT newsletter describing the use of Cochrane reviews in evidence-based practice.
- National teleconference presentation on Cochrane Collaboration.
- Proposed regular feature for CAOT newsletter alerting readers as new reviews become available.

#### Education and Training

- Assisting in preparation of package for Occupational Therapy University Programmes to include contact persons at each Site and relevant reviews as per discussion at the CCN/C Annual General Meeting.

#### Recruitment and Succession

- Revising terms of reference for affiliates to clarify roles and responsibilities.

#### Cochrane Related Research Activities

- Have initiated contact with Rehabilitation and Related Therapies Field regarding recently completed reviews for Occupational Therapy Foundation project.

#### Other Cochrane Activities

- Ms. Nancy Pollock attended the CCN/C Canadian Cochrane Symposium on November 19 and the CCN/C Annual General Meeting on November 20, 1999.
- Ms. Nancy Pollock is a member of the Dissemination and Impact Strategic Planning Team.

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### CANADIAN COORDINATING OFFICE FOR HEALTH TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT (CCOHTA)

DR. JILL SANDERS

#### Dissemination and Impact

- Cochrane Library searches are standard for each assessment we undertake.

#### Funding

- CCOHTA is funded by the provincial, territorial and federal governments.



### **Cochrane Related Research Activities**

- When appropriate, CCOHTA undertakes systematic reviews as part of our assessment process.

### **Other Cochrane Activities**

- The staff of the CCN/C and CCOHTA have met to explore opportunities for future collaboration.
- Ms. Cheryl Arratoon attended the CCN/C Symposium on November 18, 1999 and the Annual General Meeting on November 20, 1999.

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## **CANADIAN HEALTH LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION (CHLA)**

**MS. DAVIDA GLAZER**

### **Dissemination and Impact**

- Provide members of the Dissemination and Impact Team with monthly updates from MEDLINE of articles relating to research utilizing the Cochrane Library; list of websites with guidelines.
- Publicized the Cochrane Library to librarians in Canada via the listserv; promoted Cochrane courses (specifically Phil Hahn's course) as part of librarian continuing education.
- Publicized the Symposium through the listserv and personal communication.

### **Other Cochrane Activities**

- Ms. Davida Glazer attended the CCN/C Symposium on November 18, 1999 and the Annual General Meeting on November 20, 1999.
- She is a member of the Symposium Programme and Evaluation Advisory Committee.

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## **CANADIAN NURSES' ASSOCIATION (CNA)**

**MS. SARAH HAYWARD**

### **Education and Training**

- Workshops presented on evidence-based practice, including systematic reviews and the Cochrane Collaboration, to the following groups:
  - Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research, S.E.A.R.C.H. Program (Swift Efficient Application of Research to Community Health), Module V: "Evidence-based Policy and Management".
  - On behalf of Alberta Consultative Health Research Network: "Introduction to Evidence-based Practice: core tools and techniques".
    - Aspen Regional Health Authority (Morinville, Alberta)
    - Crossroads Regional Health Authority (Morinville, Alberta)
    - Chinook Regional Health Authority (Lethbridge, Alberta)
    - Northwestern Regional Health Authority (Grand Prairie, Alberta)
  - For the Health Service Methods Spring Course of the Department of Community Health Sciences, University of Calgary: "Evidence-based Practice in a multi-disciplinary setting".

- To the Canadian Public Health Association Annual Conference : "Evidence-based informatics in public health - an introduction" with Richard Thornley MLIS.
- To the University of Alberta, Faculty of Nursing, Public Health Nursing Graduate Seminar: "Systematic Reviews in Public Health", and "Evidence-Based Practice in Public Health Nursing: Barriers and Facilitators".

**Other Cochrane Activities**

- Met with Sandra MacDonald-Renz, Director of Policy and Research for the Canadian Nurses' Association, to discuss collaborative opportunities related to the CNA's Nursing Knowledge Network. Facilitated follow up meeting with Arne Ohlsson and Kathie Clark which resulted in a commitment to ongoing discussions and working together in the area of dissemination of Cochrane reviews relevant to nursing practice.
- Member of the University of Alberta Multi-disciplinary Network Site Group.
- Committee member for systematic review "Effectiveness of Anti-infective Home Parenteral Therapy", lead author Kathy Berr, MNSc Candidate, University of Alberta.
- External reviewer for the EPOC Cochrane Review Group.
- Prepared reports for the Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research, Dissemination Program on Systematic Reviews: rationale, quality assessment and training opportunities (1998). (available through Judy Birdsell, Director of Dissemination).
- Ms. Sarah Hayward attended the Canadian Cochrane Symposium on November 19 and the CCN/C Annual General Meeting on November 20, 1999.
- Member of the Education and Training Strategic Planning Team.

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**CANADIAN PHARMACISTS' ASSOCIATION (CPHA)**

**MS. CAROL REPCHINSKY**

**Dissemination and Impact**

- The Canadian Pharmacists' Association has just purchased the Cochrane Library on CD-ROM for internal use.
- We are planning an Introduction to Cochrane plenary session during CPhA's Annual General Meeting in Saskatoon (June 2000).

**Education and Training**

- A Cochrane Workshop during the 2000 AGM in Saskatoon is being planned by Kathie Clark and Paul Peloso.

**Other Cochrane Activities**

- Ms. Carol Repchinsky attended the Canadian Cochrane Symposium on November 19 and the CCN/C Annual General Meeting on November 20, 1999.

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**Dissemination and Impact**

- Distribution of information relevant to the Cochrane Collaboration to academic and clinical researchers across Canada via e-mail postings.



**Dissemination and Impact**

- The Cochrane Library and The Canadian Cochrane Network and Centre is part of all evidence-based practice presentations given by CPA.
- Proposed link to the CCN/C from CPA web site with an explanation of the Cochrane Collaboration.
- Clinicians made aware of the Cochrane Library when asking for information on evidence-based practice.
- Work in progress to have the Cochrane Library available for the CPA research division members.
- Presentations:
  - February 1999. Assisted in a presentation to rehabilitation sciences university staff at the University of Ottawa.
  - May 11, 1999. Presentation at the 67<sup>th</sup> ACFAS Congress, Ottawa regarding evidence-based practice and the Cochrane Collaboration.
  - June 17, 1999. Presentation at the pre-congress "course and workshop on the Cochrane Collaboration for rehabilitation health care professionals". Ottawa. Co-sponsored by the CPA research division.

**Education and Training**

- All office members have been trained to use the Cochrane Library.

**Cochrane Related Research Activities**

- Ms. Parker-Taillon (Director of Education, Practice and Research) continues to be part of the Advisory Board of the Rehabilitation and Related Therapies Field.

**Other Cochrane Activities**

- Ms. Ellen Melis attended the Canadian Cochrane Symposium on November 19 and the CCN/C Annual General Meeting on November 20, 1999.

## Reports from The Fields

### CHILD HEALTH FIELD

DR. TERRY KLASSEN,  
MS. ELAINE BELSECK, AND  
MS. MEGAN CLARK

#### Dissemination and Impact

- The Child Health Field staff were notified on February 7, 2000, that the Field has been registered with the Collaboration.
- Field Advisory board members have presented information about the field and the collaboration in general at various venues.
- Our first newsletter was printed in September. Several hundred copies were distributed and it is available on our web site <http://www.cheori.org/childhealth/index.htm>.

#### Education and Training

- To date, the Field has not held any educational sessions. One is planned for the spring 2000 through the efforts of the Vancouver site of the field.
- Funding is being sought to implement and maintain a program for training and education of health care providers, users and policy makers. This initiative is underway in collaboration with the Thomas C. Chalmers Centre in Ottawa.

#### Recruitment and Succession

- A database of field members is being assembled. Once complete, information will be available about new members.
- Currently our 'join us' page on the Internet typically has one or two responses every other week.

#### Funding

- The field is currently funded by three sources:
  - The Packard Foundation funds our bursary scheme, and a grant writer.
  - The Children's Health Foundation of Northern Alberta funds a full time administrator position.
  - The Children's and Women's Health Centre of British Columbia funds a half-time administrator position.

#### Cochrane Related Research Activities

- We are currently undertaking a review of Issue 3, 1999 of the Cochrane Library. In this review we are collecting data on systematic reviews which have relevance to child health. This is being done to get an idea of the current coverage of child health issues as well as to facilitate the identification of areas where coverage needs to be expanded. We expect to have the review completed early in the new year.

#### Other Cochrane Activities

- Ms. Megan Clark attended the Canadian Cochrane Symposium on November 19 and the CCN/C Annual General Meeting on November 20, 1999.

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### **Dissemination and Impact**

- Talks and demonstrations given to promote the Cochrane Collaboration and/or the Cochrane Health Promotion/Public Health Field:
  - Evidence-Based Nursing Workshop in Japan, November 1998. Cochrane Collaboration discussed as source for evidence.
  - Health Education Authority Meeting in London, UK. Collaboration and Communication for Effectiveness in Health Promotion, March 19, 1999. International meeting to discuss collaboration with other health promotion groups on web-based information.
  - 4<sup>th</sup> European International Union for Health Promotion and Education Conference - "Effectiveness and Quality of Health Promotion" - Helsinki, Finland, May 16-19, 1999. Workshop on the Cochrane HP/PH Field and a presentation on 'Health Promotion and the Cochrane Collaboration: Systematic reviews of health promotion interventions'.
- Ongoing collaboration with groups/projects:
  - Tobacco Reduction Program, Ottawa, July 1999.
  - Effective Public Health Practice Project (EPHPP) - producing systematic reviews of public health interventions to help guide policy and practice in Ontario. Several reviews were submitted to Cochrane CRGs for consideration. Two currently being revised for inclusion in the Cochrane Library.
- Newsletters:
  - Health Promotion Field Newsletter was published in the fall 1999. Five hundred copies were disseminated via mail to field members and Cochrane entities, and to other interested parties internationally. A web version was posted November 1999.
- Grant submitted to NHRDP "Development and Evaluation of Effective Strategies to disseminate the Findings of Systematic Reviews in Public Health and Health Promotion to Practitioners, Health Policy Makers, and Consumers". Revisions requested Sept 1999 are currently under review.

### **Education and Training**

- Demonstration of Cochrane Library to participants in Evidence Based Practice Workshop at McMaster, June 1999.

### **Recruitment and Succession**

- Potential reviewers located via dissemination activities, through field membership and collaborative projects.
- Health Promotion/Public Health Field members have been recruited via newsletters, presentations, email and the Internet.

### **Funding**

- The Cochrane Health Promotion/Public Health Field has funding for one half-time administrative position through the Hamilton-Wentworth Public Health Department/Teaching Health Unit through Dec 1999.
- We are pursuing contacts at Health Canada regarding funding opportunities.
- In January 1999, the field was restructured around 5 task groups: Reviews, Registry, Handsearching, Dissemination and Publicity. Field members have volunteered to take on leadership and active roles in each of these area. Committee leaders have met by teleconference in May and September 1999, and at the Cochrane Colloquium in October. This will make the field less reliant on a single source of funding, and will enable field members in different jurisdictions to seek funding from local agencies for various projects.

### **Other Cochrane Activities**

- The Cochrane Collaboration Steering Group officially approved expansion of the Cochrane Health Promotion Field to include all age groups and public health (May 1999).
- Dr. Alba DiCenso attended the Canadian Cochrane Symposium on November 19 and the CCN/C Annual General Meeting on November 20, 1999.
- Dr. DiCenso was a member of the Dissemination and Impact Strategic Planning Team and the Symposium Papers and Posters Selection Committee.

## Reports from The Review Groups

### THE COCHRANE BACK REVIEW GROUP

DR. CLAIRE BOMBARDIER,  
DR. ALF NACHEMSON AND  
DR. ANDREA FURLAN

#### Dissemination and Impact

- The Cochrane Library Issue 4, 1999 (October, 1999) contains 8 Reviews and 13 Protocols prepared and maintained by the Back Group.
- The Group maintains a web site: <http://www.iwh.on.ca/cochrane/cochrane.htm>.

#### Education and Training

- Presentations:
  - Date: Jan 16, 1999  
Place: Grand Rounds - Instituto de Ortopedia e Traumatologia, Brasil  
Title: The Cochrane Collaboration.  
Presenter: A. Furlan
  - Date: Jan 16, 1999  
Place: The Pain Clinic - Hospital das Clinicas da Faculdade de Medicina da USP. Brasil  
Title: How to prepare a systematic review of the literature using the Cochrane Collaboration methodology.  
Presenter: A. Furlan
  - Date: Oct 14, 1999  
Place: XIV Brazilian Congress of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Sao Paulo, Brasil  
Title: Workshop: The Cochrane Back Review Group.  
Presenter: A. Furlan

#### Recruitment and Succession

- Recruitment is a continuous process through the web site.
- The Cochrane Back Review Group has a policy to notify reviewers that they may lose their submitted Cochrane titles, if a time of one year or more has passed since submitting a title. The same process occurs with protocols, if a time of two years or more has passed since submitting a protocol.
- Consumer involvement: The Back Group recruited two consumers representatives: Mr. Mark Schoene (USA) and John Steinberg (Sweden).

#### Funding

- The Back Group is supported by the Institute for Work & Health.
- The Swedish Council on Technology Assessment in Health Care funded the web site.

#### Cochrane Related Research Activities

- Poster presentations:
  - Date: June 21-25, 1999  
Place: International Society for the Study of the Lumbar Spine, Hawaii.  
Title: The Cochrane Collaboration Back Review Group for Spinal Disorders: An International Initiative to coordinate systematic reviews on the effectiveness of treatments for back and neck pain.  
Authors: Bombardier C, Nachemson A, Furlan A.

- Publications: (The Back Group has a special agreement with the journal "Spine" to automatically publish the group's reviews).
- The effectiveness of acupuncture in the management of acute and chronic low back pain. A systematic review within the framework of the Cochrane Collaboration Back Review Group. Spine 1999;24:1113-23.
- The Cochrane review of surgery for lumbar disc prolapse and degenerative lumbar spondylosis. Spine 1999;24:1820-32.
- Multidisciplinary rehabilitation for acute or subacute low back pain, neck pain, shoulder pain, multilocational musculoskeletal pain, repetitive strain injuries, osteoarthritis and fibromyalgia among working age adults. A systematic Cochrane review. Book of Abstracts of the 3rd International Scientific Conference on Prevention of Work-related Musculoskeletal disorders; 1998 Sept 21-25; Helsinki. Helsinki: Finnish Institute of Occupational Health; 1998:A25.

#### **Other Cochrane Activities**

- Dr. Claire Bombardier and Dr. Andrea Furlan attended the Cochrane Colloquium in Rome.
- Dr. Andrea Furlan attended the Canadian Cochrane Symposium on November 19 and the CCN/C Annual General Meeting on November 20, 1999.

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### **THE COCHRANE INFLAMMATORY BOWEL DISEASE REVIEW GROUP**

**DR. JOHN MCDONALD AND MR. WAYNE TUCKER**

#### **Dissemination and Impact**

- A web site was designed for the IBD group in January 1999 <http://hiru.mcmaster.ca/cochrane/centres/canadian/ibd/IBD.htm>.
- The web site is used to publish information on workshops, newsletters, membership, protocols/reviews, handsearching activities, IBD randomized controlled trials and links to information on the Cochrane Collaboration.

#### **Education and Training**

- No workshops and no meetings were organized for 1999 for this review group.

#### **Recruitment and Succession**

- Recruitment is a continuous process that is aided with the use of our web site.
- One new reviewer was recruited.

#### **Funding**

- We received funding from the London Health Sciences Centre and the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation for a randomized survey comparing a Cochrane review and a traditional review.
- Funding from a private donor has continued.

#### **Cochrane Related Research Activities**

- A study funded by the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of Canada and the London Health Sciences Centre was completed and the data were analyzed. Canadian gastroenterologists were provided with a brief clinical scenario and randomized to receive a Cochrane review of azathioprine for induction of remission in Crohn's disease or a traditional narrative review of therapy for IBD (New Eng J Med).



The group receiving the Cochrane review evaluated it significantly more highly as a guide to therapeutic decision making. This work has been presented (poster presentation) at the VII Cochrane Colloquium (Rome, October 1999) and was also presented at the Canadian Cochrane Symposium, (Hamilton, November 1999). A manuscript has been submitted for publication. Dr. John McDonald attended the Cochrane Colloquium in Rome, October 1999. A poster was presented entitled "A Randomized Trial of the Preference of Gastroenterologists for a Cochrane Review versus a Traditional Review." For the benefit of those unable to attend the Cochrane Colloquium in Rome the IBD group gave an oral presentation at the 1999 Canadian Cochrane Symposium at McMaster University in November, 1999.

- Reviews = 7
  - Anti-tuberculous therapy for maintaining remission of Crohn's disease (New)
- Protocols = 10
  - The IBD group has initiated the data extraction for two protocols.
  - New Protocol (under review)
    - What is the Role of Stimulant Laxatives in the Management of Childhood Constipation and Soiling?

#### **Other Cochrane Activities**

- Dr. John McDonald and Wayne Tucker attended the Canadian Cochrane Symposium on November 19 and the CCN/C Annual General Meeting on November 20, 1999.
- Dr. McDonald is a member of the Education and Training Strategic Planning Team.

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#### **THE COCHRANE MUSCULOSKELETAL REVIEW GROUP (CMSG)**

**DR. PETER TUGWELL,  
MS. BEV SHEA AND  
MS. VIVIAN WELCH**

#### **Dissemination and Impact**

- The CMSG maintains a web site in collaboration with The Arthritis Society and is located at [www.arthritis.ca](http://www.arthritis.ca)
- The CMSG continues to provide ongoing support to the consumer members. One of the most successful accomplishments has been the development of "lay structured abstracts" for all completed reviews. These structured abstracts are available on The Arthritis Society web site for viewing and a feedback process has been set up. Another key role established for the CMSG consumer members is priority setting of review topics.
- Presentations (See University of Ottawa Site Report)

#### **Education and Training**

- Workshops:
  - A consumer workshop was held in Ottawa, October 1999. Consumers from all entities were invited to the workshop. Ten participants (including non-consumer members) attended. Five of whom were from the Musculoskeletal Group. The morning session included an Introduction to the Cochrane Collaboration, establishing roles for consumers, display and practice with the Internet, including an introduction to The Canadian Cochrane Network and Centre and the other various sites within the collaboration. The afternoon session included an explanation of the peer review process and a demonstration of a checklist developed by the CMSG consumers. The final session included a practice session to have consumers peer review a protocol and review.

## Funding

- The Musculoskeletal Group is supported by the Loeb Research Institute at the Ottawa Hospital, the University of Ottawa, and The Arthritis Society, Unrestricted educational grants have been received from Connectics Corporation, Berlex Canada, and Biomatrix and Wyeth-Ayerst.

## Cochrane Related Research Activities

- Reviews and Protocols:
  - The CMSG currently has a total of 26 reviews and 33 protocols submitted to the Cochrane library.

## Other Cochrane Activities

- Ms. Bev Shea attended the Canadian Cochrane Symposium on November 19 and the CCN/C Annual General Meeting on November 20, 1999.
- Dr. Tugwell is a member of the Funding Strategic Planning Team and the Executive Committee.
- Ms. Shea is a member of Symposium Programme and Evaluation Advisory Committee.
- Dr. Peter Tugwell attended the CCN/C Annual General Meeting on November 20, 1999.

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## THE COCHRANE NEONATAL REVIEW GROUP

DR. JOHN SINCLAIR,  
MS. DIANE HAUGHTON AND  
MS. SANDRA COSTA

## Dissemination and Impact

- All reviews produced for the Cochrane Neonatal Review Group are posted on the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) website <http://www.nichd.nih.gov/cochraneneonatal/>.
- The Neonatal Review Group Newsletter is produced twice annually.
- Web page for the Neonatal Review Group <http://www.hiru.mcmaster.ca/cochrane/centres/canadian/neonatal/>

## Education and Training

- Dr. John Sinclair was actively involved in the planning of reviewer training workshops and also participating as a resource person at the workshops hosted by The Canadian Cochrane Centre at McMaster University. There was a positive response from Canadian and US neonatal reviewers at the November, 1999 Canadian Cochrane Symposium and reviewer training workshop.

## Recruitment and Succession

- In total, 182 review titles have been assigned to reviewers from around the world. Of these 182 titles, 84 have completed reviews, 25 have completed protocols and 73 are in progress but have not, as yet, submitted a completed protocol or review.
- Recruitment is ongoing. Follow-up contact is made with unproductive reviewers and the title is released if commitment cannot be kept to produce a review.

## **Funding**

- The current funding contract with National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) finishes February 29, 2000. Contract renewal application has been submitted for continuation of contract funding beginning March 1, 2000.

## **Cochrane Related Research Activities**

- 84 reviews as at Disk Issue 1, 2000.
- 25 protocols as at Disk Issue 1, 2000.
- 39 review updates have been submitted as at Disk Issue 1, 2000.

## **Other Cochrane Activities**

- Dr. J. Sinclair, M. Bracken, D. Haughton, S. Costa attended Cochrane Colloquium in Rome.
- Dr. J. Sinclair, Speaker, Canadian Cochrane Symposium Plenary Session November 19, 1999.
- Ms. D. Haughton new member of CENTRAL/CCTR Advisory Committee.
- Dr. J. Sinclair, presentation regarding the Cochrane Neonatal Review Group at Vermont-Oxford Network Annual Meeting in Washington, December 1999.

## Contributions to The Cochrane Library by Individuals in Canada

### COCHRANE DATABASE OF SYSTEMATIC REVIEWS (CDSR)

The following is a list of complete systematic reviews for 1999 as well as all submitted protocols. The citations were taken from the Cochrane Library 1999 Issue 4. If you would like to see reviews and protocols by Canadian authors from previous years, please refer to past issues of our Annual Report or visit our web site at <http://hiru.mcmaster.ca/cochrane/centres/canadian/reports.htm>.

#### ACUTE RESPIRATORY INFECTIONS REVIEW GROUP

##### Reviews

- **Wang EEL, Tang NK.** Immunoglobulin for preventing respiratory syncytial virus infection.

##### Protocols

- Smucny J, Becker L, **Glazier R, Mclsaac W.** Beta-agonists for acute bronchitis.
- **Ausejo M, Saenz A, Pham B, Kellner JD,** Johnson DW, **Moher D, Klassen T.** Glucocorticoids for treating croup.
- **Tan D, Wang E, Ohlsson A.** Immunoglobulin for treating respiratory syncytial virus infection.
- Kozyrskyj AL, Hildes-Ripstein GE, Longstaffe SEA, Wincott JL, Sitar DS, **Klassen TP, Moffatt MEK.** Short course antibiotics for acute otitis media.
- Coole L, **Law B,** McIntyre P. Vaccines for preventing varicella in children and adults.

#### AIRWAYS REVIEW GROUP

##### Reviews

- Jones A, **Rowe B,** Peters J, Camargo C, Hammarquist C. Inhaled beta-agonists for asthma in mechanically ventilated patients.
- **Rowe BH, Bretzlaff JA, Bourdon C, Bota GW,** Camargo CA Jr. Magnesium sulfate for treating exacerbations of acute asthma in the emergency department.

##### Protocols

- **Ducharme F.** Anti-leukotriene agents and inhaled corticosteroids versus corticosteroids alone for recurrent and/or chronic asthma.
- Hicks G, **Ducharme FM.** Anti-leukotriene agents versus inhaled corticosteroids for recurrent and/or chronic asthma.
- Camargo C, **Rowe B,** Jones A, **Travers A,** Hammarquist C. Continuous versus intermittent beta-agonists for acute asthma in the emergency department.
- **Rowe BH, Bretzlaff J.** Early glucocorticoid use for preventing exacerbations of asthma.
- **Edmonds ML,** Camargo Jr CA, **Saunders LD,** Brenner BE, **Rowe BH.** Inhaled corticosteroids for acute asthma following emergency department discharge.
- **Edmonds ML,** Camargo C, Pollack CV, **Rowe BH.** Inhaled corticosteroids for acute asthma in the emergency department.
- **Greenstone IR, Ducharme FM.** Inhaled long-acting beta2-agonists and inhaled corticosteroids versus inhaled corticosteroids alone for chronic asthma in children and adults.
- **Parameswaran K, Belda J, Rowe B.** Intravenous aminophylline for acute asthma in adults.
- **Ferreira IM, Brooks D, Lacasse Y, Goldstein RS.** Nutritional support for people with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.
- **Rowe B, Spooner C, Ducharme F.** Oral steroids for the initial management of acute asthmatic exacerbations.

- Cendon S, **Lacasse Y**, Castro AA, Jardim JR, Atallah AN, **Goldstein R**, Jones PW. Oral theophylline for stable chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.
- **Travers AH, Rowe B**, Camargo C, Hammarquist C. Parenteral adrenergic beta2-agonists for exacerbations of asthma in the emergency setting.
- **Lacasse Y, Goldstein R, Wong E, Guyatt G**, King D, **Cook D**. Respiratory rehabilitation for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

### BACK REVIEW GROUP

#### Reviews

- Tulder MW van, **Esmail R, Bombardier C**, Koes BW. Back schools for non-specific low back pain.

#### Protocols

- **Peloso P, Gross AR, Aker P, Goldsmith CH**. Drug therapy for mechanical neck disorders.
- Tulder MW van, Malmivaara A, **Esmail R**, Koes BW. Exercise therapy for low back pain.
- **Gross AR**, Hondras MA, **Aker PD, Peloso P, Goldsmith CH**. Manual therapy for mechanical neck disorders.
- **Guzman J, Esmail R**, Malmivaara A, Karjalainen K, Irvin E, **Bombardier C**. Multidisciplinary team approaches for chronic low back pain.

### CONSUMERS AND COMMUNICATION REVIEW GROUP

#### Reviews

- **Haynes RB, Montague P, Oliver T, McKibbin KA, Brouwers MC**, Kanani R. Interventions for helping patients follow prescriptions for medications.

#### Protocols

- **O'Connor A**, Fiset V, Rostom A, **Tetroe J**, Entwistle V, **Llewellyn-Thomas H**, Holmes-Rovner M, Barry M, Jones J. Decision aids for people facing health treatment or screening decisions.

### DEPRESSION ANXIETY AND NEUROSIS REVIEW GROUP

#### Protocols

- Furukawa T, **Streiner DL**, Young LT. Antidepressant and benzodiazepine for major depression.

### EFFECTIVE PRACTICE AND ORGANISATION OF CARE REVIEW GROUP

#### Protocols

- **Thomson-O'Brien MA**, Freemantle N, Wolf F, **Davis DA**, Oxman AD. Educational meetings, workshops and preceptorships: effects on professional practice and health care outcomes.

### EYES AND VISION REVIEW GROUP

#### Protocols

- Kapoor VS, **Whyte RK**, LaRoche GL. Interventions for preventing ophthalmia neonatorum.

### GYNAECOLOGICAL CANCER REVIEW GROUP

#### Protocols

- **Grafton C**, Williams C. Short versus long duration infusions of paclitaxel for any advanced adenocarcinoma.

## HEART REVIEW GROUP

### Protocols

- Hood WB, McMurray J, Dans A, **Guyatt GH, Jaeschke R**. Digitalis for treatment of congestive heart failure in patients in sinus rhythm.

## HIV/AIDS REVIEW GROUP

### Protocols

- **Nixon S**, O'Brien K, **Glazier RH, Wilkins AL**. Aerobic exercise interventions for people with HIV/AIDS.
- **Steele L, Glazier RH**, Bayoumi A, Grossman D, Robinson G, **Wilkins A**. Highly active antiretroviral therapy for HIV/AIDS.
- **Haddad M**, Inch C, **Glazier RH, Nixon S**, Rouleau K, **Wilkins A**, Urbshott GB. Patient support and education for promoting adherence to highly active antiretroviral therapy for HIV/AIDS.

## HYPERTENSION REVIEW GROUP

### Protocols

- **Wright JM**, Musini VM, Lee CH, **Chambers GK**. First line treatment for hypertension.

## INCONTINENCE REVIEW GROUP

### Reviews

- **Moore KN**, Cody DJ, Glazener CMA. Conservative management of post prostatectomy incontinence.

## INFLAMMATORY BOWEL DISEASE REVIEW GROUP

### Reviews

- Borgaonkar M, **Macintosh D, Fardy J, Simms L**. Anti-tuberculous therapy for maintaining remission of Crohn's disease.

### Protocols

- **Feagan BG**, Modigliani R, Prantera C, **Steinhart HA**, Thomson ABR, Rask-Madsen J. 5-aminosalicylate for maintaining remission of Crohn's disease.
- **Steinhart AH**, Hawkey CJ, Modigliani R. 6-mercaptopurine and azathioprine for maintaining remission in ulcerative colitis.
- **Fardy J**, Cortot AJA, **Macintosh D, Fedorak R**. Antibiotics for inducing remission of Crohn's disease.
- Modigliani R, **Steinhart AH**, Ewe K, Thomsen O, Thomson A. Budesonide for inducing remission of Crohn's disease.
- **Steinhart AH, Simms L**, Ewe K, Modigliani R, Thomsen OO, Thomson ABR, **Feagan BG**. Budesonide for maintaining remission of Crohn's disease.
- **McDonald JWD, Feagan BG**, Jewell D, Brynskov J, Stange EF. Cyclosporine for inducing remission of Crohn's disease.
- Brynskov J, **Feagan BG**, Jewell D, **McDonald JWD**, Stange EF. Cyclosporine for maintaining remission of Crohn's disease.
- **Griffiths AM**, Koretz RL, **Sutherland L**. Enteral nutritional therapy for inducing remission of Crohn's disease.
- Watson A, Robinson A, Lashner B, **Irvine E**, Katchatourian M. Strategies for detecting colon cancer and/or dysplasia in patients with inflammatory bowel disease.

- Thomsen OO, Ewe K, **Steinhart AH**, Robinson A, **Irvine EJ**. Topical corticosteroids for inducing remission in distal ulcerative colitis.

## MENSTRUAL DISORDERS AND SUBFERTILITY REVIEW GROUP

### Protocols

- Cohlen BJ, **Hughes E**, te Velde ER. Intra-uterine insemination for unexplained subfertility.

## MUSCULOSKELETAL INJURIES REVIEW GROUP

### Protocols

- Kerkhoffs GMMJ, **Rowe BH**, Assendelft WJJ, **Kelly K**, Struijs PAA, van Dijk CN. Immobilisation for acute lateral ankle ligament injuries in adults.
- Handoll H, Parker P, Armour K, Craig M, de Bie R, Guly H, Hill P, Quinn K, Ross J, **Rowe B**. Surgical interventions for treating acute and chronic injuries of the lateral ligament complex of the ankle in adults.

## MUSCULOSKELETAL REVIEW GROUP

### Reviews

- **Suarez-Almazor ME, Spooner C, Belseck E**. Azathioprine for rheumatoid arthritis.
- Ortiz Z, **Shea B, Suarez-Almazor M, Moher D, Wells G, Tugwell P**. Folic acid and folinic acid for reducing side effects in patients receiving methotrexate for rheumatoid arthritis.
- Green S, Buchbinder R, **Glazier R**, Forbes A. Interventions for shoulder pain.
- Bridgman SA, **Dunn KM**, McBride DJ, Richards PJ. Interventions for treating calcaneal fractures.
- **Suarez-Almazor ME, Spooner C, Belseck E**. Penicillamine for rheumatoid arthritis.

### Protocols

- **Cranney A, Welch V, Tugwell P, Wells G, Adachi JD, Guyatt G, Shea B**. Alendronate for osteoporosis in postmenopausal women.
- Gonzalez-Lopez L, **Suarez-Almazor ME**, Gamez-Nava JI, Ortiz Z. Antimicrobial therapy for rheumatoid arthritis.
- **Cranney A, Shea B, Wells G**, Reginster JY, **Adachi R, Tugwell P**. Calcitonin for osteoporosis in postmenopausal women.
- **Cranney A, Homik J, Welch V, Shea B, Adachi JD, Wells G, Tugwell P, Suarez-Almazor M**. Calcitonin for steroid-induced osteoporosis.
- **Pope J, Fenlon D**, Thompson A, Furst D, Silman A. Calcium channel blockers for Raynaud's Phenomenon in patients with scleroderma.
- **Shea B, Cranney A, Tugwell P, Welch V**, Ortiz Z, **Adachi R, Peterson J, Wells G**. Calcium for osteoporosis in postmenopausal women.
- Gamez-Nava JI, **Suarez-Almazor M**, Gonzalez-Lopez L, Ortiz Z. Erythropoietin for anemia in rheumatoid arthritis.
- **Cranney A, Welch V, Tugwell P, Wells G, Adachi JD, Guyatt G, McGowan J, Shea B**. Etidronate for osteoporosis in postmenopausal women.
- Bonaiuti D, **Shea B**, Iovine R, Negrini S, **Cranney A, Welch V**, Kemper H, **Tugwell P, Wells G**. Exercise for osteoporosis in postmenopausal women.
- Salinas A, **Cranney A, Welch V, Wells G, Tugwell P, Shea B**. Fluoride for corticosteroid-induced osteoporosis.
- Haguenaer D, Mirmiran S, **Welch V, Adachi JD, Shea B, Wells G, Tugwell P**. Fluoride therapy for osteoporosis.
- **Towheed TE**, Anastassiades TP, Houpt J, Hochberg MC, **Wells G, Shea B**. Glucosamine sulfate for osteoarthritis.
- **Tugwell P, Wells G, Shea B, Peterson J, Cranney A**, Henry D, O'Connell D, Robertson J, Gillespie WG. Hormone replacement therapy for osteoporosis in postmenopausal women.

- **Bellamy N, Campbell J, Wells G**, Bourne R. Intra-articular corticosteroids for osteoarthritis of the knee.
- **Brosseau L**, deBie R, **Welch V**, Morin M, **Shea B, Wells G, Tugwell P**. Low level laser for osteoarthritis.
- **Brosseau L**, deBie R, **Welch V**, Morin M, **Shea B, Wells G, Tugwell P**. Low level laser for rheumatoid arthritis.
- **Bellamy N, Campbell J, Wells G**, Bourne R. Viscosupplementation for osteoarthritis of the knee.
- Papadimitropoulos E, **Shea B, Wells G, Tugwell P, Cranney A**, Gillespie W, Josse R, Coyte P, **Greenwood**. Vitamin D with or without calcium for osteoporosis in postmenopausal women.

## NEONATAL REVIEW GROUP

### Reviews

- **Taddio A, Ohlsson K, Ohlsson A**. Lidocaine-prilocaine cream for analgesia during circumcision in newborn boys.
- **Shah V, Ohlsson A**. Venepuncture versus heel lance for blood sampling in term neonates.

### Protocols

- **Whyte RK, Bifano EM**. Allogeneic erythrocyte transfusion for preventing morbidity and mortality in critically ill newborn infants.
- **da Silva O, Ohlsson A**. Bronchodilators for bronchopulmonary dysplasia in newborn infants.
- **Cairns PA**, Wilson DC. Carnitine supplementation for improving weight gain in parenterally fed neonates.
- Premji S, **Chessell L**. Continuous nasogastric milk feeding versus intermittent bolus milk feeding for premature infants less than 1500 grams.
- **Symington A, Pinelli, J**. Developmental care for preventing morbidity in preterm infants.
- **Shah V, Ohlsson A**, Halliday H, **Dunn MS**. Early inhaled corticosteroids for preventing chronic lung disease in ventilated preterm neonates.
- **Ng E, Shah V**. Erythromycin for feeding intolerance in preterm infants.
- **Whyte RK, Bifano EM**. Source, storage and handling of erythrocytes for transfusion to newborn infants.

## PERIPHERAL VASCULAR DISEASES REVIEW GROUP

### Protocols

- **Saenz A, Ausejo M**, Hood S, **Barber G, Pham B, Moher D**. Anti-platelet agents for intermittent claudication.
- **Ausejo M, Saenz A**, Hood S, **Barber G, Pham B, Moher D**. L-carnitine for intermittent claudication.
- **Ausejo M, Saenz A**, Hood S, **Barber G, Pham B, Moher D**. Naftidrofuryl for intermittent claudication.

## PREGNANCY AND CHILDBIRTH REVIEW GROUP

### Reviews

- **Hodnett ED**. Support during pregnancy for women at increased risk.

### Protocols

- French LM, **Smaill FM**. Antibiotic regimens for endometritis after delivery.
- **Gyvetvai K, Hannah ME, Hodnett ED, Ohlsson A**. Any tocolytic drug for preterm labour.
- Bigirimana P, **Fraser WD**. Midwifery-led versus medical-led care for low risk women during pregnancy and childbirth.



## PROSTATIC DISEASES AND UROLOGIC CANCERS REVIEW GROUP

### Protocols

- **Coppin C**, Porzsolt F, Kumpf J, Coldman A. Immunotherapy for advanced renal cell cancer.

## SCHIZOPHRENIA REVIEW GROUP

### Reviews

- Pharoah FM, Mari JJ, **Streiner D**. Family intervention for schizophrenia.

## STROKE REVIEW GROUP

### Reviews

- **Cina CS, Clase CM, Haynes RB**. Carotid endarterectomy for symptomatic carotid stenosis.

## TOBACCO ADDICTION REVIEW GROUP

### Protocols

- **Thomas R, Busby K**. School based programmes for preventing smoking.

## UPPER GASTROINTESTINAL AND PANCREATIC DISORDERS REVIEW GROUP

### Protocols

- **Malthaner R, Fenlon D**. Preoperative chemotherapy for resectable esophageal cancer.
- **Rostom A, Welch V, Wells G, Tugwell P**, Dubé C, Lanas A, **McGowan J**. Prostaglandin analogues, H2-receptor antagonists and proton pump inhibitors for the prevention of chronic non steroidal antiinflammatory drug induced upper gastrointestinal toxicity in adults.

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## DATABASE OF ABSTRACTS OF REVIEWS OF EFFECTIVENESS (DARE)

### Abstracts of Quality Assessed Reviews

Attia J, Margetts P, Guyatt G. Diagnosis of thyroid disease in hospitalized patients. Archives of Internal Medicine 1999;159:638-65.

Fox PL, Raina P, Jadad AR. Prevalence and treatment of pain in older adults in nursing homes and other long-term care institutions: a systematic review. Canadian Medical Association Journal 1999; 160:329-33.

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## HEALTH TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT

Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research (AHFMR). 1999. Assessing the payback from AHFMR-funded research. Edmonton: Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research (AHFMR).

Canadian Coordinating Office for Health Technology Assessment (CCOHTA). 1999. Clopidogrel: an alternative to acetylsalicylic acid and ticlopidine in antiplatelet therapy? - summary. Ottawa: Canadian Coordinating Office for Health Technology Assessment (CCOHTA).

Conseil d'Evaluation des Technologies de la Sante du Quebec. 1999. Assertive community treatment for the treatment of persons with serious mental problems, nonsystematic review. Montreal: Conseil d'Evaluation des Technologies de la Sante (CETS).

Conseil d'Evaluation des Technologies de la Sante du Quebec. 1999. In vivo magnetic resonance spectroscopy. Montreal: Conseil d'Evaluation des Technologies de la Sante du Quebec; pp.16.

Conseil d'Evaluation des Technologies de la Sante du Quebec. 1999. Screening for colorectal cancer, systematic review. Montreal: Conseil d'Evaluation des Technologies de la Sante (CETS).

Conseil d'Evaluation des Technologies de la Sante du Quebec. 1999. The use of abciximab (c7E3 Fab) as a therapeutic adjunct to transluminal coronary balloon angioplasty. Montreal: Conseil d'Evaluation des Technologies de la Sante du Quebec; pp.18.

Conseil d'Evaluation des Technologies de la Sante du Quebec. 1999. Thermography. Montreal: Conseil d'Evaluation des Technologies de la Sante du Quebec; pp.16.

Green C, Martin C W, Bassett K, Kazanjian A. 1999. A systematic review and critical appraisal of the scientific evidence on craniosacral therapy. Vancouver: B.C. Office of Health Technology Assessment, Centre for Health Services and Policy Research, University of British Columbia; pp.54.

Homik J, Hailey D. 1999. Selective testing with bone density. Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research.

Moher D, Cook DJ, Jadad AR, Tugwell P, Moher M, Jones A, Pham B, Klassen TP . 1999. Assessing the quality of reports of randomised trials: implications for the conduct of meta-analyses. Health Technology Assessment 3(12), pp. 98.

Noorani Hz, McGahan L. 1999. Criteria for selection of adult recipients for heart, cadaveric kidney and liver transplantation. Ottawa: Canadian Coordinating Office for Health Technology Assessment/Office Canadien de Coordination de l'Evaluation des Technologies de la Sante; pp.54.

Noorani H Z, McGahan L . 1999. Predictive genetic testing for breast and prostate cancer. Ottawa: Canadian Coordinating Office for Health Technology Assessment/Office Canadien de Coordination de l'Evaluation des Technologies de la Sante; pp. 85.

Shukla V K, Otten N . 1999. Assessment of attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder therapy: a Canadian perspective. Ottawa: Canadian Coordinating Office for Health Technology Assessment/Office Canadien de Coordination de l'Evaluation des Technologies de la Sante; pp.11.

Shukla V K, Otten N . 1999. Insulin lispro: a critical evaluation. Ottawa: Canadian Coordinating Office for Health Technology Assessment/Office Canadien de Coordination de l'Evaluation des Technologies de la Sante; pp.18.