

**THE CANADIAN COCHRANE
NETWORK AND CENTRE**

**ANNUAL REPORT
2004**



**THE COCHRANE
COLLABORATION®**

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Introduction

2004 was a very exciting and event-filled year for The Canadian Cochrane Network and Centre (CCN/C). We hosted the 12th Cochrane Colloquium in Ottawa in October and thanks to a grant from the Canadian Coordinating Office of Health technology Assessment (CCOHTA), we offered an expanded program of education and training throughout the year and into 2005. The entities based in Canada, the Network Sites and the Affiliate Organizations all contributed to making this a very productive year.

This Annual Report has a new and improved format. It is shorter than our reports in previous years. However, we have retained the goals from the CCN/C Annual Business Plan (2004-2005) as the organizing framework.

1. Increase the quality, quantity and timely update of Cochrane systematic reviews.
2. Increase the awareness and understanding of The Cochrane Collaboration and the CCN/C among potential funders, Affiliate Organizations, and the users of *The Cochrane Library*.
3. Promote the dissemination and uptake of the evidence from Cochrane reviews among potential users of the reviews.
4. Make education and training opportunities for the creation and dissemination of high quality systematic reviews more readily available throughout Canada.
5. Strengthen the Canadian Cochrane Network to ensure an active, equally accessible program of Cochrane-related activities across Canada.
6. Organize the 2004 Cochrane Colloquium in Ottawa, Ontario.

The Canadian Cochrane Network and Centre

The CCN/C coordinates the efforts of The Cochrane Collaboration in Canada. The Canadian Cochrane Centre is currently located at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario, and the Network is a partnership of Sites in each of the 16 Canadian academic health sciences centres, eight Cochrane entities based in Canada, and 22 national health professional and consumer Affiliate Organizations.

The core function of a Cochrane Centre is to support active members of the Collaboration, whether as reviewer authors, editors, review group co-ordinators, trials search co-ordinators, handsearchers, referees, consumers or members of Fields and Methods Groups. In addition, Cochrane Centres act as a regional focus for the activities of The Cochrane Collaboration in different parts of the world (The Cochrane Manual, 3-2002).

The CCN/C provides support to Cochrane entities, review authors and volunteers in Canada, and works to promote The Cochrane Collaboration, *The Cochrane Library* and evidence-based health care in Canada. To do this, the CCN/C collaborates with health researchers, health technology assessment groups, national consumer and health professional organizations, governments and other interested groups across Canada.

In addition to its core functions, the Centre performs a special communications role within The Cochrane Collaboration. The Centre produces Cochrane News, the main Collaboration newsletter, which is published three times per year, and CCInfo, a bi-weekly email newsletter that provides current updates and information about The Cochrane Collaboration.



Our Vision and Mission

The CCN/C shares the vision of The Cochrane Collaboration and focuses on making this vision a reality in Canada:

Healthcare decision-making throughout the world will be informed by high quality, timely research evidence. The Cochrane Collaboration will play a pivotal role in the production and dissemination of this evidence across all areas of health care.

The mission of the CCN/C is to foster evidence-based healthcare decision making by identifying and supporting individuals in Canada who wish to become involved with The Cochrane Collaboration, and by promoting the awareness, appreciation, distribution and use of Cochrane systematic reviews of healthcare interventions.

In August 2004, Arne Ohlsson, Director of the Canadian Cochrane Centre since 1998, submitted his resignation as Director effective January 3, 2005. During his tenure, there was tremendous growth in the number of Cochrane review authors who live in Canada (519) and the number of systematic reviews and protocols they have completed (718). He has overseen the planning of three successful Canadian Cochrane Symposia, as well as the 12th Cochrane Colloquium. The Centre staff and members of the Advisory Board greatly appreciate the time, effort and leadership that Arne contributed to the CCN/C in his seven years as Director.



In late 2004, Jeremy Grimshaw was appointed as the new Director of the Canadian Cochrane Centre. We would like to warmly welcome him to the CCN/C. Jeremy brings with him a wealth of experience. He trained as a family practitioner in the UK before going on to become a full-time health services researcher. He moved from the UK three years ago to become the Director of the Clinical Epidemiology Program of the Ottawa Health Research Institute. He has been involved in The Cochrane Collaboration since 1994. He has been an editor (from 1994-1997) and then Co-ordinating Editor (from 1997 onward) of the Cochrane Effective Practice and Organisation of Care (EPOC) Group. He is an author of two Cochrane reviews (and four non Cochrane reviews) and five Cochrane protocols. Jeremy will take over as the CCN/C Director from 3 January 2005.



Cochrane Entities Based in Canada

The heart of The Cochrane Collaboration is review production. There are 50 Cochrane Review Groups (CRGs) worldwide engaged in the preparation and updating of reviews. The editorial bases of six of these CRGs are located in Canada. To learn more about these groups, please visit their websites:

- Back Review Group (Toronto, Ontario) - <http://www.cochrane.iwh.on.ca/>
- Effective Practice and Organisation of Care Review Group (Ottawa, Ontario) - <http://www.epoc.uottawa.ca/>
- Hypertension Review Group (Vancouver, British Columbia) - <http://www.ti.ubc.ca/cochrane/index.htm>

- Inflammatory Bowel Disease and Functional Bowel Disorders Review Group (London, Ontario) - <http://cochrane.mcmaster.ca/ibd/>
- Musculoskeletal Review Group (Ottawa, Ontario) - <http://www.cochranemsk.org/>
- Neonatal Review Group (Hamilton, Ontario) - <http://cochrane.mcmaster.ca/neonatal/>

Cochrane Fields focus on broad areas of health care relevant to many CRGs. These areas can include the setting of care, the type of consumer, the type of provider, the type of intervention, or a major division of health care that is too large to be covered by a single CRG. The editorial base of the Child Health Field is based in Edmonton, Alberta - <http://www.cochranechildhealth.org/>.

Methods Groups are composed of individuals with an interest and expertise in the science of systematic reviews. They provide advice and support to The Cochrane Collaboration in the development of the methods of systematic reviews and play an important role in ensuring that The Cochrane Collaboration's products adhere to a high standard of quality. The Reporting Bias Methods Group is based in Ottawa, Ontario - <http://www.chalmersresearch.com/rbmgl/>.

Goals and Results for 2004

Goal 1: Increase the quality, quantity and timely update of Cochrane

- In 2004, 519 review authors in Canada were working with 46 CRGs worldwide. This is an increase from 450 authors in 2003.
- Review authors in Canada submitted 24 new reviews, 29 new protocols and 29 review updates to Issues 1-4, 2004 of *The Cochrane Library*.
- The outputs from Canadian activity have been substantial, review authors in Canada were the lead authors on 427 (8.4%) and Canadian CRGs were responsible for 718 (14.2%) of Cochrane reviews and protocols in Issue 1, 2005 of *The Cochrane Library*.
- From April to May 2004, the Reporting Bias Methods Group (RBMG) coordinated the Complementary Medicine Field (CAM) Bursary scheme on behalf of the CAM Field.
- Throughout 2004, the RBMG provided consultation to Cochrane entities seeking methodological input on systematic reviews.

Goal 2: Increase the awareness and understanding of The Cochrane Collaboration and the CCN/C among potential funders, Affiliate Organizations and the users of *The Cochrane Library*

- The major event for 2004 was the 12th Cochrane Colloquium, the Collaboration's annual international conference, held this year in Ottawa in October. It attracted 873 attendees.



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- As part of this event, a workshop for health journalists and members of the media as well as a special session for policy makers were offered to promote awareness of The Cochrane Collaboration. This brought together interested members of both these target audiences from across Canada to discuss the use of evidence in communications and health policy decision making.
- The Canadian Physiotherapy Association (CPA) initiated and co-hosted a night of education at the Colloquium, attended by over 110 physiotherapists. This event greatly increased the awareness and understanding of The Cochrane Collaboration among the participants.
- The Effective Practice and Organization of Care Group and the Musculoskeletal Group obtained funding from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research for work in translating knowledge into better health information for Canadians.
- The Musculoskeletal Group now has 50 consumer summaries of Cochrane reviews available on the Arthritis Society website, 19 of which have been translated into French.
- In May 2004, the CCN/C published an inventory on the many avenues through which Cochrane reviews are disseminated, such as textbooks, journals, websites, consumer summaries and clinical guidelines. This impact inventory was funded by the Cochrane Collaboration Steering Group and compiled on behalf of The Cochrane Collaboration. It is available at <http://www.cochrane.org/reviews/impact/>.
- The Musculoskeletal Review Group (CMSG) supported the Bone and Joint Decade (BJD) in identifying, collating and disseminating information about the present and future predictions of the burden of musculoskeletal disorders and about ways to prevent and treat musculoskeletal disorders to decrease that burden. They contributed quarterly articles to the Bone and Joint Decade Canada newsletter. They also were well represented at the Frontiers in Inflammatory Joint Diseases Conference in May 2004. The purpose of this research initiative by the Alliance for a Canadian Arthritis Program (ACAP) was to foster consultation with key stakeholders to develop a national research agenda for inflammatory joint diseases.



CPA Education Event

Goal 3: Promote the dissemination and uptake of the evidence from Cochrane reviews among potential users of the reviews

- The Canadian Cochrane Centre as well as the other Canadian-based entities maintained websites as vehicles to communicate with others and disseminate information. The Centre also maintains e-mail mailing lists to facilitate communication with review authors, entities, policy makers and consumers. The CCN/C website (<http://www.cochrane.mcmaster.ca/>) had a dramatic increase in the number of visitors to the site. There were about 220,000 hits during 2004, an increase of almost 50,000 over 2003. There were 27,000 unique visitors in 2004, an increase from 20,000 in 2003. The amount of data transferred was 18GB, a huge increase from 2.5 GB in 2003.

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- The Canadian Dental Association CDA worked with the Canadian Collaboration on Clinical Practice Guidelines in Dentistry (CCCD) to establish links to The Cochrane Collaboration from the website of CCCD.
- Saskatchewan became the first province in Canada to provide all residents with free access to *The Cochrane Library*. An evaluation project is underway to examine how librarians and health professionals make use of the Library.
- A workshop on the utilization of Cochrane reviews in developing clinical guidelines was conducted for the Registered Nurses Association of Ontario, in Toronto.
- RBMG research and initiatives were integrated into systematic review training workshops developed for the Natural Health Products Directorate for Health Canada
- Dr. Michael Moffatt, Network Site Representative for the University of Manitoba, wrote short summaries of new health technology assessment reports. These contain some Cochrane reviews and they are distributed to senior managers and clinical program managers in Manitoba.
- To address the constantly evolving nutrition environment within the Canadian health system, Dietitians of Canada developed Practice-based Evidence in Nutrition [PEN] – an interactive web-based decision support service providing access to easy-to-use, evidence-based practice tools.
- The Canadian Physiotherapy Association published several articles in their national and provincial newsletters regarding finding the evidence to support evidence based and best practice. These articles highlighted the role and resources of The Cochrane Collaboration.

Goal 4: Make education and training opportunities for the creation of high quality systematic reviews more readily available throughout Canada

- In March 2004, the Canadian Cochrane Centre received a Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Capacity Building Grant from the Canadian Coordinating Office of Health Technology Assessment (CCOHTA). For the first time, this grant enabled the Centre to employ an Education Coordinator to manage an expanded program of education and training activities in collaboration with the Canadian Cochrane Network Sites and the Cochrane entities based in Canada.
- Three successful training workshops for review authors were conducted: one at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia and two at the University of Toronto in Toronto, Ontario. These workshops were the first steps in rolling out the CCOHTA funded program of introductory, author training and utilization workshops to be continued in 2005. Evaluation of each workshop contributed to an overall evaluation of the education and training program, including consideration of distance learning alternatives.



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- Dietitians of Canada (DC) partnered with the Centre for Health Evidence to create an online course entitled: Evidence-based Decision Making for Dietitians.
- As part of the systematic review course offered by the Clinical Epidemiology Program, Health Policy, Management and Evaluation Department, University of Toronto (HAD 5308), the Back Review Group delivered two systematic review workshops in May and October 2004, for external stakeholders. They also collaborated with the Canadian Cochrane Centre and the Musculoskeletal Review Group to offer a review author training workshop to a group of physiotherapists in Toronto, with Lara Maxwell (CMSG) and Ba' Pham (tutor, HAD 5308) (November 27th, 2004).
- An important contribution of the Network Sites was the provision of seminars and presentations to various health science students in the academic health science centres. For example, Dr. John W. McDonald gave a lecture to approximately 70 fourth year medical students at UWO on the use of systematic reviews, The Cochrane Collaboration and *The Cochrane Library*. In addition, Dr. Janet Pinelli and Amanda Symington offered presentations to other health science students at McMaster University. For the third consecutive year Dr. Arne Ohlsson introduced approximately 190 third year students at the University of Toronto to *The Cochrane Library* and Knowledge Management as part of the module 'Determinants of Health in Community'.
- A special program of workshops and presentations was offered at the 12th Cochrane Colloquium for consumers. Nancy Santesso, Lara Maxwell and Maria Judd were among those who served as resource people.
- A new interdisciplinary graduate course titled "Systematic Reviews of Health Care Interventions", based on the conduct of Cochrane reviews, was developed by Dorothy Forbes and will be offered in January 2005 at the University of Saskatchewan.

Goal 5: Strengthen the Canadian Cochrane Network to ensure an active, equally accessible program of Cochrane related activities across Canada



- The Centre began collaborative work on the development of new Network Sites at the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton, New Brunswick and at the Stanton Health Authority in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories (NWT), Yukon and Nunavut.



- Workshops were planned in cooperation with local Network Site Representatives, using local presenters, to encourage networking and productive communication between Cochrane contributors in each Site.
- Dr. Allan Gotlib, Affiliate Representative for the Canadian Chiropractic Association, raised funds in support of the Centre from 13 chiropractic organizations across Canada. He also arranged for 30 chiropractic organizations to sponsor the Colloquium by contributing financially to the Program and Abstract Book.

Goal 6: Organize the 2004 Cochrane Colloquium in Ottawa, Canada

The CCN/C was pleased to host the 12th Cochrane Colloquium in Ottawa from October 2-6, 2004.

Each year, a different Cochrane Centre hosts the annual Colloquium of The Cochrane Collaboration. It is the time when the members of the Collaboration meet to advance their work on the preparation of Cochrane systematic reviews, share experiences, attend educational workshops, and attend meetings to plan the future activities of the Collaboration.

The theme of this year's Colloquium was "Bridging the Gaps". Plenary sessions were planned around four sub-themes: gaps between The Cochrane Collaboration and clinical practice, gaps between high and low-income countries and individuals, gaps between methodologists and reviewers, and gaps between producers and users of healthcare information.



Members of the CCN/C Staff at the Colloquium

The Colloquium attracted 873 attendees from 41 countries, including attendees, speakers, students, the media and exhibitors.

In total, there were 88 workshops scheduled, along with 91 oral presentations and 179 poster displays. Special programs were organised for members of the Campbell Collaboration, consumers, health journalists and the media, and health policy makers.



Dr. Orbinski speaking during the Opening Session

One of the highlights of the Colloquium was the Opening Session, which featured a keynote speech by Dr. James Orbinski, former international president of Médecins Sans Frontières. He addressed neglected needs in war and social crisis faced by many around the world today. Appreciation for his address was acknowledged with a standing ovation, one of the first at a Colloquium.

On a lighter note, there were many social events that were enjoyed by many participants, including the Welcome Reception at the National Gallery of Canada and the Farewell Dinner at the Canadian Museum of Civilization. There was also a free afternoon where many had fun trying their hand at curling, while others ran or walked along the Rideau Canal.

In 2005 the Colloquium will be held in Melbourne, Australia, <http://www.colloquium.info>.

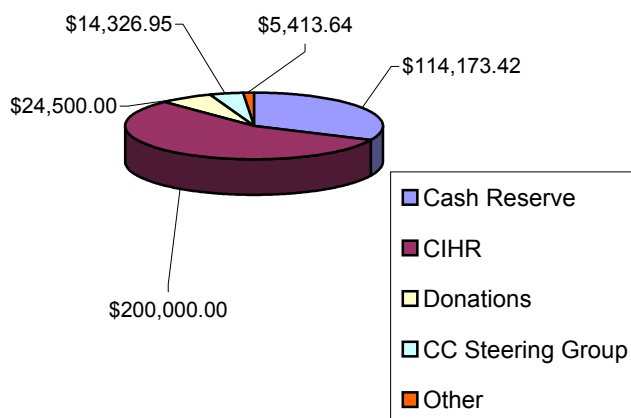
Summary of Revenue and Expenses

The Canadian Cochrane Centre was financially supported in 2004 by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, donations from 13 chiropractic organizations, and in kind contributions from McMaster University, Mount Sinai Hospital and the other academic health sciences centres. We received project grants from the Steering Group of The Cochrane Collaboration and the Canadian Coordinating Office for Health Technology Assessment. The CCOHTA funds were administered separately from the Centre account and the amount (\$94,699.00) is not reflected in the following revenue pie chart, nor are the expenses associated with the Education Project.

The 2004 Centre expenses have been summarized into the following categories: personnel, the Colloquium expenses, travel, technological support and administrative supplies and services.

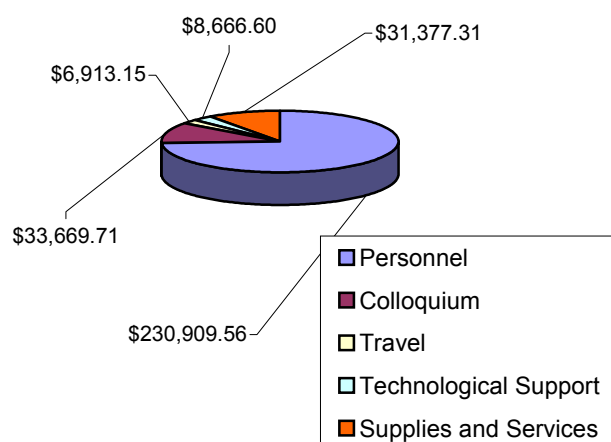
2004 Sources of Revenue

Total Revenue: \$358,414.01



2004-2005 Expenses

Total Expenses: \$311,536.33



Acknowledgments

In 2004, the CCN/C welcomed the Canadian Women's Health Network as a new consumer Affiliate Organization. Their representative on the CCN/C Advisory Board is Madeleine Boscoe, Executive Director. We said au revoir et merci to Dorianne Sauvé, the Affiliate Representative of the Canadian Physiotherapy Association (CPA). She was replaced by Maria Judd, CPA's Best Practice Program Coordinator, who we warmly welcomed to the Advisory Board. Serge Taillon continues to be the Past-Chair of the Advisory Board as well as the Affiliate Representative for the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI). He was joined by Anne MacFarlane also representing CIHI.

The staff of the Canadian Cochrane Centre would like to extend its sincere thanks to all those who contributed their time, energy and talents to the CCN/C in 2004. We are very grateful for the financial support provided by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, the Canadian Coordinating Office of Health Technology Assessment, the Steering Group of The Cochrane Collaboration, and the 13 chiropractic organizations across Canada as well as the in kind contributions from McMaster University, Mount Sinai Hospital and the other academic health sciences centres. We would also like to acknowledge the assistance of everyone involved in helping with the 12th Cochrane Colloquium, including the McMaster students: Daren Spithoff, Meghan Spithoff, Lisa Milani, Sean MacDonald and Samia Omar.

The Canadian Cochrane Network and Centre Advisory Board

Chair of the Advisory Board

Dr. Andreas Laupacis, MD, MSc, FRCPC

Canadian Cochrane Centre

Director: Arne Ohlsson, MD, MSc, FRCPC, FAAP

Co-Director: Kathie Clark, RN, PhD

Network Sites

University of British Columbia
University of Calgary

University of Alberta
University of Saskatchewan

University of Manitoba
University of Western Ontario
McMaster University

University of Toronto

Queen's University

University of Ottawa

McGill University
Université de Montréal
Université de Sherbrooke
Université Laval
Dalhousie University

Memorial University

Arminée Kazanjian, BA, MA, PhD
Roger Thomas, MD, PhD, CCFP, MRCGP
Laura Ghali, PhD
Joanne Homik, MD
Janet Bangma, MLIS, MAEd
Dorothy Forbes, RN, PhD
Michael Moffatt, MD, FRCPC
George Rice, MD
Janet Pinelli, RN, DNS
Amanda Symington, RN, MHSc
Rebecca Wong, MD, MBChB, MSc, FRCPC
Janet Yamada RN, MSc
Phil Hahn, MSc
Tanveer Towheed, BA, MD, MSc, FRCPC, FACR, DABIM
Peter Tugwell, MD, MSc, FRCPC
George Wells, MSc, PhD
Roland Grad, MD, CM, MSc
Marie Hatem, MSc, PhD
Sophie Michaud, MD, MPH, CSPQ, FRCPC
France Légaré, MD, PhD, CCMF, FCMF
Alexandra Howlett, MD, FRCPC
Grace Paterson, BSc, MA, MSc
Sandra LeFort, RN, MN, PhD
Donna Moralejo, RN, PhD

Cochrane Review Groups

Back Review Group
Effective Practice and
Organisation of Care Group
Hypertension Review Group
Inflammatory Bowel Disease
and Functional Bowel Disorders
Review Group
Musculoskeletal Review Group
Neonatal Review Group

Claire Bombardier, MD, FRCPC
Jeremy Grimshaw, MBChB, PhD, FRCGP

James Wright, MD, PhD, FRC
John W.D. McDonald, MD, PhD, FRCPC

Peter Tugwell, MD, MSc, FRCPC
John Sinclair, MD

Methods Groups

Reporting Bias Methods Group

David Moher, MSc, PhD

Fields

Child Health Field

Terry Klassen, MD, MSc, FRCPC

Affiliate Organizations

L'agence d'évaluation des technologies et des modes d'intervention en santé

Véronique Déry, MD, MSc

Arthritis Society

Dennis Jeanes, BA

Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists

Laurie Snider, PhD, OT(C)

Canadian Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists

Rosemary Martino, MSc, MA, S-LP(C), CCC-SLP

Canadian Cancer Society

Heather Logan, RN, BScN, MHSc

Canadian Chiropractic Association

Allan Gotlib, DC

Canadian Coordinating Office for Health Technology Assessment

Jill Sanders, PhD

Canadian Dental Association

Euan Swan, BSc, DDS, DDPH

Canadian Health Libraries Associations

Jessie McGowan, MLIS, AHIP

Canadian Institute for Health Information

Serge Taillon, BSc, MHA

Canadian Institute for the Relief of Pain and Disability

Anne McFarlane, MA, MSc

Canadian Medical Association

Marc White, BA, PhD

Canadian Nurses Association

Todd Watkins, BSc, MD, CCFP

Canadian Pharmacists Association

Carole Estabrooks, RN, PhD

Canadian Physiotherapy Association

Carol Repchinsky, BSP

Dorianne Sauvé, BSc, PT *

Maria Judd, BSc, MSc, PT **

Canadian Task Force on Preventive Health Care

John Feightner, MD, MSc, FRCPC

Canadian Women's Health Network
College of Family Physicians of Canada

Madeline Boscoe, RN, DU **

Walter Rosser, MD, CCFP, FCFP, MRCPG

Consumers' Association of Canada
Dietitians of Canada

Jean Jones, CM, LLD, MSW

Jayne Thirsk, RD, PhD

Institute for Clinical Evaluative Studies

Andreas Laupacis, MD, MSc, FRCPC

The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada

John McDonald, MD, PhD, FRCPC

* left during the year

** joined during the year