

## What's new at the Cochrane Upper GI and Pancreatic Diseases Group

It's been a busy twelve months at the Cochrane UGPD Group. We have registered an additional 29 titles since May last year, two of which have achieved review stage already and further nine are now protocols. The group now has 53 published reviews and 48 published protocols, with many more in the pipeline. We have recently completed an audit of our topic areas and would welcome new authors across our scope - please see <http://ugpd.cochrane.org/published-reviews> for our coverage.

The group is now settled into McMaster University in Canada, and we would like to issue an invitation to any of our authors who would like to visit us and spend a little protected time completing their reviews. We have a designated space for you to work, can offer support and advice and we make excellent coffee!



*Editorial base staff, clockwise from top left: Paul Moayyedi, Joint Co-ordinating Editor; Karin Dearness, Managing Editor; Racquel Simpson, Trials Search Co-ordinator; Grigoris Leontiadis, Joint Co-ordinating Editor.*

We are delighted to welcome back Sarah Rhodes to our team. Those of you who have been UGPD authors for many years will have benefited from her knowledgeable comments on your reviews and from her advice on tricky statistical issues in the past, and she is now back with us as our Stats Editor, based in Australia.

Also rejoining us as Assistant Managing Editor is Jan Lilleyman, who has been off on maternity leave but will be working part time through the Cochrane UK UGPD Group Satellite.

Registration is now open for a Cochrane Author Training Workshop to be held at McMaster July 7th and 8th 2012 at McMaster University. It's a two-day session that will teach you the basic skills of conducting a Cochrane review, see page 2 for more information.

### Inside this issue:

Author training work-shop	2
Call for new authors	2
Colloquium Stipends	2
Evidence Aid	3
New and Updated Reviews	3
Steering Group	4

## 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Cochrane Colloquium

The 2012 Cochrane Colloquium was originally scheduled to be held in China but, due to recent changes in government policy, it wasn't possible for the Chinese Cochrane Centre to secure government approval for a meeting of international delegates on the scale of a Colloquium with such short notice.

Accordingly, the beautiful city of Auckland, New Zealand, will now host the 20<sup>th</sup>

Cochrane Colloquium from September 30th to October 3rd 2012.

Details of the plenary sessions have now been posted online at the official website <http://colloquium.cochrane.org>, covering topics such as Rational Thinking About Healthcare; Better Global Health; Beyond healthcare decisions: systematic reviews as a tool for informing future research and research methodology; and intriguingly, It's About Connections.

Registration for the Colloquium is now open. The standard registration fee is discounted by NZ\$150 for registrations before July 12th, and the fee covers the opening function at Auckland War Memorial Museum, participation in all sessions, conference materials, all refreshments and lunches, and attendance at the Farewell party on Auckland's Waterfront.

### Annual Colloquium is Open to All

The Cochrane Collaboration holds annual conferences, known as 'Colloquia', which are open to everyone. Colloquia are designed to bring people together in one place to discuss, develop and promote our work, and to shape the organisation's future direction.

**Cochrane Colloquium 2012, 30th September-3rd October  
Auckland, New Zealand**

<http://colloquium.cochrane.org/>

## Did you know ....?

- That there are now over 5,000 reviews on the Cochrane Library
- That the 2010 ISI impact factor for the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews is 6.186
- The total number of times the CDSR was cited in publications increased from 23,102 in 2009 to 27,366 in 2010, meaning the CDSR receives the 7th highest number of citations in its category.

## Did you know ....?

That you can now follow the Cochrane Collaboration on Twitter

@cochranecollab



And follow the UGPD Group

@CochraneUGPD

## Did you know ....?

You don't have to be medically knowledgeable to join the Cochrane Collaboration. As the Cochrane Consumer Network says:

*"Evidence-based health care is a combination of best research evidence, the expertise of the healthcare provider and patient values."*

We would love more consumer involvement in our group! For more information, see <http://consumers.cochrane.org/>

## Author Training Workshop - July 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> 2012

Are you thinking of undertaking a Cochrane review? Have you recently registered a review title with a Cochrane group?

If so, please join us for our author training course on **Saturday July 7<sup>th</sup> and Sunday July 8<sup>th</sup>** at McMaster University Medical Centre, Hamilton Canada (<http://tinyurl.com/7ns8lt2>). The course is organised and delivered by the Upper GI and Pancreatic Diseases Group, but is not specific to gastroenterology topics nor is it limited to those working with our group.

Over the two days, we will cover the basic skills of conducting a Cochrane review: setting your question, literature searching, study selection,

assessing bias, data and analysis, formulating conclusions, and a hands-on session with the Review Manager software.

This workshop is suitable if you:

- Have registered a review title about **interventions**, and are ready to begin writing your protocol
- Have **little or no experience** in systematic reviews or
- You are experiencing difficulty defining the scope of your review

### PROGRAM

- Overview of the Cochrane Collaboration and Systematic Reviews

- Defining the Research Question and Developing a Protocol
- Systematic Searching of the Literature
- Study Selection
- Critical Appraisal and Risk of Bias tool
- Data extraction
- Analysis and Interpretation
- GRADE, Summary of Findings tables & Completing Your Review
- RevMan

If you aren't able to join us, get in touch and we can suggest other training courses available in your area.

## New Authors Needed

Although the Cochrane UGPD Group has already published many reviews, there is still much work to be done. According to the Cochrane Collaboration "The latest estimate is that at least 10,000 Cochrane Reviews are needed to cover all healthcare interventions that have already been investigated in controlled

trials, and these reviews will need to be updated at the rate of 5,000 per year. If the growth in The Cochrane Collaboration continues at the pace of the last few years, this target will be reached within the next decade or so. However, this will require continuing and evolving partnership and collaboration.

We need to continue to attract and support the wide variety of people who contribute to our work.

<http://www.cochrane.org/cochrane-reviews/about-cochrane-library>

If you have friends or colleagues who would like to work with us as an author, peer referee or consumer, we would love to hear from them.

## Colloquium Stipends

If you are thinking of attending this year's Cochrane Colloquium in Auckland but need financial assistance, you may be eligible for a stipend to help with the costs. A limited number of stipends are available to help cover registration, travel, accommodation and other expenses associated with attending, and these are open to consumers and contributors from developing countries.

Funds are, however, very limited, so if you can find some or all the money you need from another source (such as your local consumer or self-help group, or the Cochrane group with which you are involved), please do so. To be eligible to apply, you should have been an active member of the Collaboration for at least a year, be strongly recommended by a Cochrane Group (or an individual strongly associated

with Cochrane) and be able to attend the full Colloquium. Before submitting your application for a consumer stipend, please read the criteria and application instructions at <http://colloquium.cochrane.org/colloquium-stipends>. You will need to apply before May 31st 2012, and will require a formal letter of support from the Cochrane Group you are most closely associated with.

## Evidence Aid

*“Evidence-based practice in humanitarian response is very poor. We do most things because we have been doing them year after year, we don’t do them because we have proven they are right. Very few have been really proven...”*

Quote from a senior aid worker,  
December 2010.

The Cochrane Collaboration’s Evidence Aid project was established by Collaboration following the tsunami in the Indian Ocean in December 2004. Evidence Aid is a co-ordinated, international initiative to improve effective and timely access to systematic reviews on the effects of

interventions and actions of relevance before, during and after natural disasters and other humanitarian emergencies, to improve health-related outcomes; working with those who need and use this evidence and those who produce it. It welcomes the involvement of individuals and organisations who wish to work together to achieve this aim.

The Evidence Aid Information leaflet lists several ways in which they need people to be involved, including helping to select priority areas for systematic reviews for Evidence Aid, identifying gaps in the

Evidence Aid database (for example, to develop gap maps), introducing Evidence Aid to an organisation or colleagues, and act as a champion for Evidence Aid (for example, by inviting the Evidence Aid team to speak to the organisation, to the appropriate staff or at international meetings). They are also looking for people to take part in the Evidence Aid online survey about the need for systematic reviews in natural disasters and other humanitarian emergencies. For more information, please see <http://www.cochrane.org/cochrane-reviews/evidence-aid-project>.

## Did you know ....?

The Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions is now available in Spanish

<http://www.cochrane.org/news/tags/authors/cochrane-handbook-now-available-en-espanol>

The Cochrane Library is also published in Spanish

<http://www.update-software.com/cibplus/cibplus.asp>

## New and Updated Reviews

### New Reviews

The following reviews have been published on the Cochrane Library over the last 12 months.

Tse F, Yuan Y. **Early routine endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography strategy versus early conservative management strategy in acute gallstone pancreatitis.** Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2012, Issue 5. <http://tinyurl.com/7kduggg>

Glud LL, Klingenberg SL, Langholz E. **Tranexamic acid for upper gastrointestinal bleeding.** Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2012, Issue 1. <http://tinyurl.com/7hyf7fo>

Ahmed Ali U, Pahlplatz JM, Nealon WH, van Goor H, Gooszen HG, Boermeester MA. **Endoscopic or surgical intervention for painful obstructive chronic pancreatitis.** Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2012, Issue 1. <http://tinyurl.com/bls8a62>

Wang Z, Chen J, Su K, Dong Z. **Abdominal drainage versus no drainage post gastrectomy for gastric cancer.** Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2011, Issue 8. <http://tinyurl.com/88lnxrv>

### Updated reviews

Among the many factors which distinguish a Cochrane review is that they are kept regularly updated as new evidence comes in. In fact, it’s now Collaboration policy that all reviews should either be updated within two years or should have a commentary added to explain why this is done less frequently.

Gomes Jr CAR, Lustosa SAS, Matos D, Andriolo RB, Waisberg DR, Waisberg J. **Percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy versus nasogastric tube feeding for adults with swallowing disturbances.** Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2012, Issue 3. <http://tinyurl.com/7btc2g9>

Fedorowicz Z, Jagannath VA, Carter B. **Antiemetics for reducing vomiting related to acute gastroenteritis in children and adolescents.** Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2011, Issue 9. <http://tinyurl.com/89j6m6g>

Diener MK, Fitzmaurice C, Schwarzer G, Seiler CM, Antes G, Knaebel HP, Büchler MW. **Pylorus-preserving pancreaticoduodenectomy (pp Whipple) versus pancreaticoduodenectomy (classic Whipple) for surgical treatment of periampullary and pancreatic carcinoma.** Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2011, Issue 5. <http://tinyurl.com/7u5r5tf>

Bennett C, Wang Y, Pan T. **Endoscopic mucosal resection for early gastric cancer.** Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2009, Issue 4. <http://tinyurl.com/7xd8ury>

## The Cochrane Journal Club

Cochrane Journal Club is a free, monthly publication that introduces a recent Cochrane review, together with relevant background information, a podcast explaining the key points of the review, discussion questions to help you to explore the review methods and findings in more detail, and downloadable PowerPoint slides containing key figures and tables. You can even contact the review authors with your questions.

<http://www.cochranejournalclub.com/>

## Did you know ....?

The Cochrane Newsletter is now available as a blog? It contains current news about the Collaboration, details of job opportunities, workshops, discussion links and shows the Calendar of forthcoming events. Contributions are welcome from all our members.

<http://www.cochrane.org/blog>

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*The Cochrane UGPD Group aims to use evidence from randomised controlled trials to answer practical questions on the prevention, treatment and rehabilitation of benign and malignant upper gastrointestinal and pancreatic diseases. This includes disorders of the oesophagus, stomach, duodenum and pancreas.*

## The Cochrane Collaboration - world leaders in evidence-based health care

The Cochrane Collaboration is an international, independent, not-for-profit organisation of over 28,000 contributors from more than 100 countries, dedicated to making up-to-date, accurate information about the effects of health care readily available worldwide.

Our contributors work together to produce systematic reviews of healthcare interventions, known as Cochrane Reviews, which are published online in The Cochrane Library. Cochrane Reviews are intended to help providers, practitioners and patients make informed decisions about health care, and are the most comprehensive, reliable and relevant source of evidence on which to base these decisions.

### UGPD Group New Member

We would like to take this opportunity to introduce the newest member of the Cochrane UGPD Group - though we think it could be a while before little Jude submits his first review.

Jan Lilleyman will be back to work after her maternity leave in June and is hoping that Jude will allow her a little more sleep before that happens.

Congratulations Jan and welcome Jude!



### Did you know ....?

*There are more than 28,000 people working within The Cochrane Collaboration in over 100 countries (as of July 2011), over seventy percent of whom are authors of Cochrane Reviews. The number of people has increased by about 20% every year for the last five years. The increase in the number of contributors from low, lower-middle and upper-middle income countries has been even greater, to more than 1000 (9.3%) in 2004 - up by 42% since 2003, and by 248% since 2000.*

<http://www.cochrane.org/about-us/newcomers-guide>

## Steering Group - New 10 Point Plan

The Cochrane Collaboration Steering Group recently held its annual meeting in Paris. In this, the Collaboration's 21st year, they have issued a revised ten point list of their aims for the next twelve months.

### VISION AND WORKPLAN FOR THE STEERING GROUP:

#### 2012-13

1. To continue to prioritise support for the Editor in Chief and the CEU as they seek to improve the quality, relevance, usability and impact of *The Cochrane Library*;
2. To appoint a new CEO to provide leadership, vision and high-level management across the Collaboration;
3. To expand the COU to enable it to provide better support for Cochrane groups and individuals worldwide as they seek to implement the vision and mission of the Collaboration;
4. To sign off on a new publishing contract for *The Cochrane Library*, which will enhance the use and impact of the *Library* worldwide, and ensure we can continue to provide core infrastructural support to the Collaboration;
5. To celebrate our 21st year, and tell the world our story;
6. To enhance our monitoring and management functions, particularly of individuals, groups and platforms which receive core Collaboration funding and/or use the Cochrane brand, primarily through the Editorial and Operations Units, working with relevant executives;
7. To seek to develop alternative funding sources (carried over from 2011-12);
8. To form an external advisory board, and enhance our partnerships with external stakeholders of the Collaboration and *The Cochrane Library*, such as health information providers, policy-makers and funders;
9. To enhance global participation and relevance of the Collaboration and *The Cochrane Library* through the formation of the 'Cochrane Academy' (carried over from 2011-12);
10. To improve the dissemination and uptake of our reviews, and enhance our brand, through the implementation of a coherent marketing and communications strategy.