Cochrane Colloquium

CBRG staff, authors and editors attended the 21st Cochrane Colloquium in Quebec City in September. It was fantastic to hear from Collaboration leaders during plenaries and oral sessions and reunite with our colleagues from around the world. Here are some highlights:

✦ Iain Chalmers gave the 1st Annual Cochrane Lecture - Keeping systematic reviews up to date: A continuing challenge. All plenary videos are available on the Colloquium website: http://colloquium.cochrane.org/plenary-videos

✦ At the Opening Ceremony, Jeremy Grimshaw formally announced the establishment of the Quebec Branch of the Canadian Cochrane Centre. The mission of the Quebec Branch is to promote and support Canadian francophone people involved or interested in Cochrane.

✦ There was a lot of buzz about linked data. For an explanation of linked data and its potential for systematic reviews, take a look Chris Mavergames' presentation on The Future of Knowledge (Plenary IV http://colloquium.cochrane.org/plenary-videos)

✦ For a consumer perspective, read this blog posting by Marilyn Walsh: http://consumers.cochrane.org/blog/twenty-year-celebration-colloquium-quebec-city. Marilyn is a Canadian consumer reviewer with the Back Group and the MSK Group.

Au Revoir from Rachel

It would be sad to say goodbye to all of you, so I will say au revoir instead as I leave my position as Trials Search Coordinator (TSC) for the Back Group to become the Research Coordinator at the DeGroote Institute for Pain Research and Care at McMaster University. In this position I will perform literature searches and other duties - some of you will hear from me again quite soon when I call to ask for advice about how to tackle my new responsibilities!

At McMaster I will be working with Jason W. Busse, an author with the Cochrane Anaesthesia and Bone Joint and Muscle Trauma groups and a former colleague at the Institute for Work & Health (where his work on prognosis and appropriate diagnostic imaging of low back pain was supported by the fantastic CBRG Trials Register!).

Rachel Couban

Trials Search Coordinator Position

We would like to thank Rachel for her contribution to the CBRG over the past seven years. She did a fantastic job maintaining our trials registry, assisting authors with literature searches, and contributing to the day-to-day activities of the editorial office. We will miss her clever insights, positive attitude and great sense of humor. Best of luck to Rachel in her new role!

We are currently recruiting a new TSC, and we expect that s/he will be up and running early in the New Year. If you have any questions about your search in the meantime, please contact Teresa at tmarin@iwh.on.ca

Below - Teresa, Rachel, and Andrea present their poster at the Quebec Colloquium
The YODA Project on the Safety of rhBMP-2

The company that makes the bone morphogenic protein, Medtronic, allowed two research teams to access the full trial data from their approval process with the FDA, after questions were raised by Dr. Eugene Carragee about biased industry-funded publications reporting on the effectiveness that underestimated the incidence of adverse events.

The project was coordinated by Harlan Krumholtz at Yale and called the YODA project. You can find more information on the YODA website here: http://medicine.yale.edu/core/projects/yodap/index.aspx

This work resulted in two posters at the Cochrane Colloquium, one by each of the teams selected by YODA to review the Medtronic evidence - one team from Oregon Health and Science University (http://www.ohsu.edu/xd/about/news_events/news/2013/06-17-ohsu-review-previous-stu.cfm) and the other from the University of York (https://www.york.ac.uk/inst/crd/projects/spinal_fusion.html).

Take-Home Points

✦ Both teams found that there was significant reporting bias in the journal publications of these trials
✦ Mark Rodgers, who presented the poster for the York team, described the challenges their team faced extracting data, which was not collected with the intention of communicating it to external researchers, and was therefore not formatted in a way that made analysis convenient.
✦ This work is a model of what Cochrane Review Groups may be tasked with in the future. In particular, if the AllTrials Campaign is successful, it will be compulsory for industry and regulators to supply researchers with the kind of information that Medtronic supplied voluntarily for the YODA project.

CBRG Publications


✦The CBRG published an editorial in Spine that covers how the group got started, the major methodological contributions of CBRG authors and editors, and ideas for future research (http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24220307).

✦ Our host organization, the Institute for Work & Health in Toronto, wrote a piece on the Back Group as part of Cochrane’s 20th Anniversary Celebrations. It was published in the Institute’s newsletter, At Work (http://www.iwh.on.ca/at-work/74/building-an-understanding-of-back-pain-a-common-but-poorly-understood-condition).

✦ The CBRG is prioritizing review updates over new topics/titles! If you would like to get involved in a review update, contact Teresa at tmarin@iwh.on.ca

New CBRG Awards!

Starting in 2014, two prizes will be awarded at the CBRG Open Meeting at the Low Back Forum, which takes place every 18 months.

The CBRG Scientific Award for the Best Review. This prize will be awarded to the review team that published the best review over the past 18 months. All authors of new and updated reviews published between 1st January 2013 and 1st July 2014 will be eligible for an award at the Low Back Forum in Brazil in 2014. To determine the best review, referees will rate the quality, clinical relevance, and readability of each review.

The Alf Nachemsom Award for the Greatest Contribution to the CBRG. This prize will be awarded to the CBRG contributor (i.e., author, associate editor, editorial board member, consumer, or peer reviewer) whose contributions over the past 18 months exceeded expectations. The Coordinating Editors and Managing Editor will come to a consensus regarding who should receive this award.
Brazil Low Back Forum in Primary Care

The 2014 Forum will take place in the city of Campos do Jordao, Brazil from the 1st to 3rd of October. The official theme is *Low Back Pain: Simplifying the Complex or Complicating the Simple?* The preliminary program can already be found on the Forum website at lbpforum.org

CBRG Preconference Day at Brazil Forum

The Cochrane Back Review Group is organizing a one-day preconference at the Low Back Forum in Brazil. This will take place on the 30th of September 2014. The preconference will include presentations from our authors and editors, as well as discussions of methodological developments in conducting systematic reviews. If you have an idea for a methods presentation or discussion that you would like to lead, please send us a message at cochrane@iwh.on.ca.

Collaboration-Wide News & Events

✦ Save the date! The 11th Annual Cochrane Canada Symposium will be held on the 24th and 25th of April 2014. The Symposium is open to policy-makers, health practitioners, researchers, students, patients/health consumers and carers, and anyone who is interested in health. The call for abstracts will go out in early December.

✦ Cochrane Canada Webinars! Check out the Different Evidence, Different Syntheses Series, which begins on the 28th of November 2013 with a webinar on Qualitative Evidence Synthesis. [http://ccnc.cochrane.org/cochrane-canada-live-webinars](http://ccnc.cochrane.org/cochrane-canada-live-webinars)

✦ Philippines residents have extended free access to Cochrane evidence in the aftermath of Typhoon Haiyan [http://www.cochrane.org/news/news-events/current-news/philippines-residents-have-extended-free-access-cochrane-evidence-afte](http://www.cochrane.org/news/news-events/current-news/philippines-residents-have-extended-free-access-cochrane-evidence-afte)


On the left, CBRG staff, authors, and editors enjoy dinner at a Spanish restaurant in Quebec City.

Best wishes,

The CBRG Editorial Team

cochrane@iwh.on.ca
back.cochrane.org
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