

What's new from the Cochrane Back Review Group, March 2012

The Cochrane Back Review Group submitted two new protocols and one updated review for *The Cochrane Library* 2012, issue 3, which will be published online 14th March 2012. Our numbers stand at 56 published reviews (including one review of diagnostic test accuracy and six withdrawn reviews) and 16 published protocols (including two protocols for reviews of diagnostic test accuracy).

New Protocols

The McKenzie method for subacute non-specific low-back pain, L Machado et al.
The McKenzie method for chronic non-specific low-back pain, L Machado et al.

Updated Review

Patient education for neck pain, A Gross et al.

Other CBRG news

CBRG reviews featured on the homepage of *The Cochrane Library*

Our reviews have been featured as part of a special collection on "Exercise for Musculoskeletal Conditions." Check out the full collection [here](#).

Welcome to the new members of our Associate Editorial Board

Jon Lurie	Patrick Loisel
Bradley Weiner	Jeremy Fairbank
David Kallmes	Sidney Rubinstein
Jeffrey Jarvik	Mark Hancock
Angela Lis	Donald Krawciw
Esther Williamson	

Rachel attended the Ontario Health Library Association Conference

On Feb 2, 2012, I attended the Ontario Health Library Association Conference in Toronto. I learned about the latest resources available from sponsors EBSCO and Wiley and enjoyed a nice visit with my colleagues. Highlights of the conference included Dr. Diane Doran's study on using mobile devices to support nurses' information needs, and Alanna Campbell, Mindy Thuna and colleagues' discussion of their work supporting evidence based medicine at the libraries of Ontario's newest medical schools (Northern Ontario School of Medicine and University of Toronto, Mississauga.)

Rachel Couban, Trials Search Coordinator

Connections

Say hello to the Western Slope Study Group, based in Colorado, USA. Their mission is to strive for quality, sustainable, cost-effective healthcare for all through evaluation of outcomes and application of evidence-based practice.



The group is headed by Michael Dohm, MD, Executive Director along with Kim Williams, Project Manager, Ellen Higgins, Clinical Co-ordinator and Gina Gomez, Assistant Project Manager. To find out more about the Western Slope Study Group, go to www.wssqco.com.

CBRG Feature Author

Wilco Jacobs, PhD



Wilco is an Epidemiologist in the Department of Neurosurgery at Leiden University Medical Center, and he has been working with both the Back Group and the Musculoskeletal Group since 2002. Wilco is still early in his career, yet he has already contributed a great deal to the Collaboration. To date he is an author on four published reviews, three published protocols, and one registered title. He is a member of the Back Group's Associate Editorial Board and a Peer Referee for the Musculoskeletal Group.

How do you come up with a good topic for a review?

I am not a medical doctor, so most of the ideas come from the specialists I work with. Sometimes I sense there is uncertainty about the effect of interventions and I suggest them to look at literature first. Especially with PhD students I suggest to perform a systematic analysis of what's already out there, which gives them a good overview, good directions for choice of outcome parameters and tools for their main project and a fine first chapter of their thesis. I believe every thesis should start with such an overview.

As a veteran CBRG review author, what do you think is the biggest challenge to writing a successful Cochrane review?

You have to have a long breath. My reviews usually take two years, and I'm not slow. The process of getting everything right and approved by all parties is time consuming. But in the end it pays to have had a good thought about the protocol, or even in the title registration. The first decisions on which patients, interventions, outcomes to include and what question to answer, guide the rest of the project and helps you to keep focus on what you really wanted to know.

Do you have any advice for the novice Cochrane review author?

Look for a good team, well balanced in international perspective, specialists for medical content, scientists for methodological content, and someone familiar with Cochrane procedures. And to be frank, make sure enough of the people in the team can really allocate some time for some of the more time consuming processes. Co-authors unfamiliar to Cochrane many need some help and/or encouragement when it comes to conducting critical assessments or selecting references from a list of thousands. For the rest, do not try to reinvent the wheel, rely on what others have developed, but stay critical in every choice you make. I agree that there is a conflict there, but it pays to think everything through and sometimes stride from the path. Do not use the Handbook as a cookbook, but use it together with your own expertise to write the best review ever written.

What's your favourite iPhone App?

We have this cartoon in the Netherlands of a Duck and a Canary ([Fokke & Sukke](#)) with no underwear, who have daily a funny idea about the current news.

*To read the full interview, go to <http://back.cochrane.org/news/cbrg-feature-author-dr-wilco-jacobs>.



Where's Wilco?

Can you name the location where Wilco is so thoughtfully perched?

Let us know what you think by commenting at

<http://back.cochrane.org/news/wheres-wilco>.

Staffing Alert

Allison Kelly, CBRG Editorial Assistant will be out of the office from 5th March 2012 until 13th April 2012. Please direct all your enquiries during this time to **Teresa Marin, CBRG Managing Editor** at tmarin@iwh.on.ca.

Teresa Marin, CBRG Managing Editor, will be on vacation 6th – 16th April 2012. During this time, please direct all your enquiries to **Rachel Couban, CBRG Trials Search Co-ordinator** at rcouban@iwh.on.ca.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

Canadian Cochrane Center Training

Two-Day Standard Author Training Workshop

McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada
Event Date: 7 – 8 July 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 at McMaster University for Cochrane's Standard Author Training course this July.

Mentored Training: Systematic Reviews in Health Care February – July 2012

The program provides a supportive environment for participants to develop and complete their own systematic review.

Course information and registration is available through C2E2's website:
<http://c2e2.vchri.ca/education.htm>

Other Cochrane News

Take part in a survey on the future of the Cochrane Library

Cochrane contributors and users of *The Cochrane Library* are invited to complete a [survey](#) about developing the content of *The Cochrane Library*. The survey's findings will contribute to the development of recommendations for changes to *The Cochrane Library* over the next three to five years.

Have a great week!

Teresa, Allison and Rachel