

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

The Cochrane Back Review Group published one new protocol for *The Cochrane Library* 2012, issue 5. This gives us 56 published reviews (including one review of diagnostic test accuracy and six withdrawn reviews) and 19 published protocols (including two protocols for reviews of diagnostic test accuracy).

New Protocol

Muscle energy technique for non-specific low-back pain, H Franke et al.

Other CBRG news

The Cochrane Back Review Group has launched a social media campaign! You can now follow the CBRG on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/#!/cochraneback> and please have a look at our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/CochraneBackReviewGroup> (and Like us!). You can also access both through our website.

For those of you who are already on Twitter, please let us know so that we can follow you!

We would love to hear about how our members may be using social media to highlight and disseminate new research and knowledge on the topic of back and neck pain. Now there are many ways to send us feedback – tweet us @CochraneBack, post on our Facebook wall, or send us an email!

Mark your calendar!

We have scheduled our editorial meetings for the day immediately before the [12th International Forum on Low Back Pain Research in Primary Care in Odense, Denmark](#).

The exact location is yet to be determined. Final details will be available closer to the event -- please check our website for up-to-date information.

16 October, 2012

12:00 – 2:00 pm Closed Editorial Board Meeting

Agenda items will include:

- Priority review updates
- Inclusion of reviews of observational studies (including effectiveness, harms)
- Inclusion of reviews of economic evaluations (cost-effectiveness studies)
- Editorial(s) for 20th Anniversary of the Collaboration

3:00 – 5:00 pm Open Back Group meeting (refreshments will be served)

Agenda items will include:

- “Speed Data-ing” session – Five of our authors will present their findings in two minutes or less
- Discussion of the future direction of the CBRG (observational studies, empty reviews, economic evaluations)
- CBRG social media strategy

All CBRG members are welcome to attend the Open Meeting. For planning purposes, please RSVP as soon as possible to [Allison](#) with your attendance plans -- space is limited!

CBRG exploring new Visual Identity

As we add more channels of communication to increase our outreach, we need to be aware of our visual identity. Our host organization, the [Institute for Work & Health](#), follows all the best practices for visual identity—including policies on the use of the logo, the colours, and the size and font of text – so that all of their communication looks polished and consistent, and we at the CBRG are heading in that direction too! We are supported in this endeavour by our colleagues at Cochrane Canada and the Cochrane Collaboration. Their logos combine a blue letter C with a forest plot, showing the original meta-analysis of the effect of antenatal steroids for promoting proper lung development in premature babies.

At the recent Canadian Cochrane Symposium in Winnipeg, Dr. John Ioannidis discussed a recent umbrella review of steroids for diverse conditions, according to which, the visual representation of the antenatal steroids forest plot has changed (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/21880039>) — does this mean that Cochrane will have to go back to the printers for an updated logo!?

Here at the CBRG we are looking forward to adding some nice images to enhance our website. The athletic man with the sore back will be heading into retirement, and we are seeking copyright permission to use some attractive new (and old) images we have found online:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/neilhobbs/328480814/>

<http://lawron.tumblr.com/post/8142330168/leonardo-da-vincis-drawing-of-a-human-spine>

<http://smaloney.com/category/art/knitted-work/#&panel1-10>

Please let us know what you think of these images, and send us some of your favourites, so we can offer something for everyone.

CBRG author has recently published a book on systematic reviews

CBRG author [Josette Bettany-Saltikov](#), of Teesside University, UK has just published a new book, *How to do a Systematic Literature Review in Nursing*, to critical acclaim. For more details, see the [flyer](#) from Open University Press.



CBRG Feature Author

Luciana AC Machado, PhD

Luciana is a Post-Doctoral Research Fellow in the Faculty of Medicine at Federal University of Minas Gerais, Brazil. Luciana completed her PhD in 2008 at the George Institute for Global Health, University of Sydney. To date, she is an author on other two published protocols within the Collaboration and on many other studies outside the Collaboration, including six published reviews and two published randomized controlled trials.

What are your primary research interests?

My primary research interests are the causes, course and treatment of common musculoskeletal conditions.

How did you first get involved with Cochrane?

It was in 2010 that I started to contribute to the Collaboration when I worked with the Back Group on two reviews about cost-effectiveness of treatments for low-back pain, which were both published last year.

Tell us about some of the other projects you are involved in?

I am currently involved in two epidemiological studies investigating chronic musculoskeletal disorders in Brazil. One of these studies is a cross-sectional, population-based survey investigating the prevalence and correlates of musculoskeletal pain in nearly 400 older adults (the PAINEL Study). Data collection for this survey has already been completed and the preparation of papers is on the way.

The other study is a multi-center cohort with a 10-year follow-up focusing on people from adult to young elders. This cohort, named Brazilian Longitudinal Study of Adult Health (ELSA – Brazil), is a national study with over 15,000 participants investigating a number of chronic non-communicable diseases, including hypertension and diabetes. The nature of measurements investigated in ELSA – Brazil are quite extensive: from social determinants of health to DNA, which allows the study to contribute to the basic understanding of psychosocial and pathophysiologic pathways of causation and progression of the diseases. Data collection regarding musculoskeletal disorders is planned to start in the coming months. Once completed, ELSA – Brazil will be the largest study of its kind ever conducted in South America and it is without a doubt the most important research project I have been involved in.

You relocated to Australia from Brazil for your graduate studies – what was that like for you?

It was a fantastic experience. First, my adaptation was not difficult at all because ‘Aussies’ are a very friendly people and the climate in Australia is very similar to that in Brazil. Second, I had the privilege to work with an extremely competent group of researchers, who helped me all the

way through my PhD studies. Obviously being away from my family for almost 5 years was sometimes hard, but all the knowledge and experience acquired was worth the time away from home.

Where do you see yourself in five years?

In five years, I imagine myself trying to keep the balance between taking care of my three children (to date I have only one child, my princess Nicole) and maintaining productivity as a researcher, as any other mother of three and researcher would! I also do not rule out the possibility of moving overseas again in the future. The experience of living in Australia was great and I have plans of spending some time working with other research teams outside Brazil when I finish my post-doc at Federal University of Minas Gerais.

Do you use social media?

I use social media to keep in touch with my relatives and friends, particularly those who live in other countries. In fact, my family is quite international. I currently have relatives living in Canada, US, France and the UK. I also believe social media will play a key role in the near future in helping to disseminate research findings and assisting recruitment and retention of participants in large epidemiological studies. I already know of a few successful uses of Facebook to boost recruitment in randomized controlled trials. I think this approach will be used increasingly by researchers worldwide.

Other Cochrane News

The 10th Annual Cochrane Canada Symposium: Health Evidence for ALL was held in Winnipeg, Manitoba this month. Teresa and Rachel both attended the conference. Here are their highlights:

- Heather Husson from Health-Evidence.ca gave a great presentation about using social media to disseminate research evidence. The timing couldn't have been better! Click here to see Heather's slides: <http://www.slideshare.net/HealthEvidence>
- Connie Walker showed us a fantastic website that tracks indicators of well-being across communities in Winnipeg. See how evidence is conveyed using stories and maps: <http://www.mypeg.ca/>
- In honour of the Symposium's 10th Anniversary, Cochrane Canada and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research are pleased to present [**Where's the Evidence? A Top Ten List of Cochrane Reviews**](#), a list of memorable Cochrane Reviews that have shed light on important health issues affecting us all in our everyday lives.

The [20th Cochrane Collaboration Colloquium](#) will be held in Auckland, New Zealand from 30 September to 3 October 2012. Early registration ends on 6 July 2012.

Teresa, Allison and Rachel