



COCHRANE BACK REVIEW GROUP

The best evidence in back and neck pain care

WINTER 2014

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The CBRG Editorial Office will be closed for the winter holidays from December 29, 2014 to January 6, 2015.

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After three years with the CBRG, Teresa Marin stepped down as Managing Editor to pursue another PhD. We would like to thank her for all the work she's done (and

continues to do as an author) for the CBRG!

Since September, I have stepped into the Managing Editor role and it has been a very busy and educational experience. Just a few short weeks after coming on board, I was off to Hyderabad, India to represent the Back Group at Cochrane's 22nd Colloquium, which focused on Evidence-Informed Public Health Opportunities and Challenges, I had the opportunity to meet and train with other managing editors from around the world.

I attended many informative sessions covering topics like editorial processes, risk of bias tools for non-randomized studies, guideline development based on Cochrane reviews, and participated in a meet-the-Cochrane-groups session. It was a privilege to meet so many supportive, welcoming and passionate people during this week, and to have the opportunity to travel around this exciting city.

I appreciate all the warm welcomes I have received this fall from within the CBRG, and to those authors I have not had a chance to speak with yet, I look forward to working with you!

Happy Holidays!

Claire

CBRG Pre-conference at the Low Back Pain Forum in Brazil

This year, on 30 September, 2014, the Back Group held its first mini-conference immediately prior to Forum XIII in beautiful Campos do Jordão, Brazil. The one-day conference was hosted by CBRG Co-ordinating Editors, Andrea Furlan and Maurits van Tulder, and featured our usual Open Meeting as well as short sessions focussing on relevant topics such as dissemination, priority-setting and the popular 'speed data-ing' session. In the afternoon, CBRG experts facilitated sessions on DTA reviews, prognosis reviews and harms reviews.



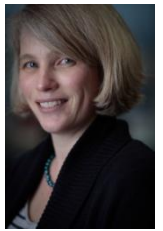
The feedback we received from participants was extremely positive, with virtually all attendees reporting that sessions and presenters were unbiased and their expectations for the day were met. The open, informal atmosphere and small-group format was well-received, and made the short, interactive sessions very effective for all those who participated. Many felt it was a great lead-up to the

larger Low Back Pain Forum. By far, the speed data-ing session was the most well-received and appreciated. As this was the Back Group's first conference, we consider it a successful one, and the feedback we got from all of you who participated will help us to offer useful, informative and relevant events in future years. Thanks to all those who participated!

2014 CBRG Award Winners

At the end of the pre-conference day, the CBRG Award winners were announced.

The CBRG would like to once again congratulate Alison McGregor and her team for winning the award for Best Review, *Rehabilitation following surgery for lumbar spinal stenosis*. The review was assessed by CBRG referees based on quality, clinical relevance, and readability. It reflects the standard of quality that the Back Group strives for in all its publications.



We would also like to congratulate CBRG Editor and Consumer Representative, Mark Schoene for winning the First Alf Nachemson Award for Greatest Contribution, in

recognition of his many years of valuable contribution to the group. Mark has been instrumental to the success of the CBRG, and this award symbolizes the appreciation of all Back Group staff, past and present.

CBRG Pre-conference attendees, Campos do Jordão, Brazil, September 2014.



The CBRG introduces our newest product – CBRG QuickDecks

In August of 2014, the CBRG rolled out the [QuickDecks](#), a set of the summary slides describing findings from systematic reviews published by the Cochrane Back Review Group. These summaries provide clinicians and researchers with a snapshot of evidence on various treatment and prevention measures for back and neck pain. They can be downloaded and used in presentations and are a great way to spread the word about Back Group reviews and evidence.



In the few months since introducing this new product, the feedback we have received through Twitter and Facebook is fantastic. The slides are free for anyone to download and use at presentations or events.

CBRG YouTube Channel

Created earlier this year, the [CBRG YouTube Channel](#) features videos by our Co-ordinating Editor, Maurits van Tulder, and other Back Group editorial board members and authors.

Be sure to have a look at these videos covering topics like avoiding common mistakes in CBRG Editorial submissions, Jill Hayden's video presentation on Harms reviews, and evidence summaries of various Cochrane reviews.

We are always looking for videos to add to our channel, so if you are a Back Group author, editor, or

member, we'd love to be able to include your pre-recorded videos on relevant topics for authors or users of Back Group evidence. If you have a video that would be suitable, please contact Allison Kelly, Editorial Assistant, at akelly@iwh.on.ca.

Cochrane MECIR tip -- keep an eye on your search date!

The *Methodological Expectations of Cochrane Intervention Reviews* (MECIR) project was recently launched to ensure that methodological expectations for Cochrane Protocols, Reviews, and updates of reviews are supported and implemented across The Cochrane Collaboration. They provide authors and users of *The Cochrane Library* with clear and transparent expectations of review conduct and reporting. These standards enable Cochrane Review Groups to hold authors accountable during the editorial process, and facilitate support and monitoring by the Cochrane Editorial Unit (CEU).

All current (and potential) Cochrane authors should stay on top of Methodological standards for the [conduct](#) and [reporting](#) of new Cochrane Intervention Reviews (aka [MECIR standards](#))! [MECIR conduct standard C37](#) requires that your search date be within *12 months* (ideally 6 months) of publication of the review or review update, and that these results must be screened for potentially eligible studies.

The "date of search" field in your review corresponds to the date of the search **for which results have been fully incorporated** into the review. The published review should be as up to date as possible so don't get caught! Keep an eye on your search date to ensure it will be within 12 months of publication.

*Happy Holidays from the Editorial Staff!
Claire, Allison, and Shireen*

Coming in 2015!

Updated Method Guidelines

CBRG iBook