



THE NORDIC
COCHRANE CENTRE

Annual report

2004



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Introduction

We report here the achievements of The Nordic Cochrane Centre and its branches for 2004 in relation to the Strategic Plan 2003-2005 and include a brief section about the review groups and fields in the Nordic region. General information about The Cochrane Collaboration, The Nordic Cochrane Centre and its branches, and the Strategic Plan can be found on the Centre's home page www.cochrane.dk.

The Nordic Cochrane Centre opened on 13 October 1993. It is the reference Centre for Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden in the Nordic region, and for Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Estonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Mongolia, Poland, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. There are national branches of the Centre in Finland, Norway and Russia and national contact persons in Iceland, Poland and Sweden. The branches perform similar work as the Centre but have less formal obligations. The Centre is responsible for evaluating the work in its branches. The work of the Centre and branches is described in annual reports (available from www.cochrane.dk) and is evaluated annually by the Cochrane Collaboration Steering Group. The Centre and branches are guided by an advisory board that meets once a year.

The Nordic Cochrane Centre and branches contribute substantially to The Cochrane Collaboration, for example by convening The Methodology Review Group; by producing Cochrane Reviews and methodological research; by contributing to the Publishing Policy Group (which is responsible for providing advice on the contents of the Collaboration's products and overseeing pricing, distribution and marketing arrangements); by contributing to the Quality Advisory Group; by managing the development of the Cochrane Information Management System, including Review Manager (see www.cc-ims.net).

Summary of selected achievements in 2004

The Nordic Cochrane Centre

We have collaborated on research projects with colleagues in Norway, UK, USA and Canada. We have also done research with five medical students and will involve two more from February 2005; one previous student is currently working on a PhD at the centre.

We co-authored an important paper on selective reporting of outcomes in randomised trials that was published in JAMA and nominated as one of 18 papers for The Lancet's Paper of the Year 2004. We also showed that there is no reliable evidence for an effect of polyclonal immunoglobulins on mortality in patients with sepsis, and the use of this treatment has subsequently decreased. We contributed to the Ottawa Statement on registration of clinical trials, co-authored an important paper for the CONSORT group on reporting of harms, contributed to the development of guidelines for reporting observational studies (STROBE), and gained additional political support for establishment of a public fund for conducting clinical trials in Denmark.

Since 1996, The Nordic Cochrane Centre has managed the development of the entire Cochrane Information Management System (IMS) as one of its core contributions to the Collaboration, as well as producing key elements of the system, such as the Review Manager software. Phase one of the new IMS, which replaced the Cochrane Contact Database, was launched Collaboration-wide in November 2004. In the lead up to the launch, the IMS team at the Nordic Cochrane Centre

co-ordinated and undertook training of more than two hundred users of the IMS at national and international meetings around the world.

Since 1996, The Nordic Cochrane Centre has selected reviews from each new issue of the Cochrane Library for possible comments in general medical journals written by content area specialists. This collaboration started with *Ugeskrift for Læger* and was subsequently extended to the other Nordic medical associations' journals and to the *British Medical Journal*. These commentaries are very popular. The dissemination process has been expanded to also involve major Danish newspapers. This work continues to be coordinated by the Nordic Cochrane Centre.

The Nordic Cochrane Centre held a four-day intensive PhD course on systematic reviews and meta-analyses in Copenhagen with 24 participants, sponsored by The Danish Clinical Intervention Research Academy. A workshop was held at the 2004 Colloquium in Ottawa on quality of allocation concealment. Staff members have published three Cochrane Reviews.

The Cochrane Library has been freely available for all Danish citizens since 2003, thanks to financial support from the Danish counties, the Electronic Research Library, and the Knowledge and Research Centre for Alternative Medicine.

Norwegian Branch of The Nordic Cochrane Centre

Our achievements for 2004 include helping to improve the quality, accessibility and used of Cochrane Reviews and preparing and updating several reviews.

We continue to coordinate the GRADE Working Group. In 2004, a report summarising this work was published in *BMJ*. A beta-version of software to prepare GRADE Evidence Profiles was developed, and we have continued to advance the methodology of making judgements about the quality of evidence and the strength of recommendations. We organised an all day meeting and a workshop at the 2004 Colloquium in Ottawa on grading evidence. Together with the Milbank Memorial Fund, we organised a meeting of senior policy makers to discuss preliminary results of a Cochrane Review of the effects of drug policies with the aim of ensuring that the results of the review are relevant to policy makers and that they will be widely used.

One important result of this work has been approval of a proposal to include Summaries of Findings in Cochrane Reviews with widespread support for this proposal within the Collaboration. We organised several sessions on this at the 2004 Colloquium and have developed specifications for the next version of Review Manager.

We have continued our collaboration with the Cochrane Back Group to translate the results of Cochrane Reviews into patient information that is relevant, valid and accessible to people suffering from back pain. In 2004 we completed information for each intervention for which there is a Cochrane Review, including peer review of this information and user testing. A poster summarising some of the lessons learned was presented at the Colloquium.

We have continued our work evaluating alternative ways of presenting information about the effects of health care. We completed two randomised trials, a third one is under way and a Cochrane review of framing effects has been revised and updated.

We completed a review comparing the outcomes of people treated in and out of randomised trials and a review of the effects of alternative ways of involving consumers in decisions about health research, health policy, clinical practice guidelines and patient information.

We have worked with WHO in 2004 to improve the use of Cochrane and other systematic reviews in WHO recommendations and in health policy in relationship to several initiatives, including work leading up to the World Health Summit in Mexico in November.

Other ongoing contributions include: support for users of the Cochrane Library, which is available to everyone in Norway through a national subscription; maintenance and further development of the Colloquium Management and Title Management Systems; hosting the editorial base for the Methodology Review Group, including submission of four updates of the Cochrane Database of Methodology Reviews, which includes 10 completed methodology reviews and 8 protocols as of Issue 4, 2004; updating and editing Effective Practice and Organisation of Care reviews; and participation in the Colloquium Advisory Group, the Consumers Network, and the Quality Advisory Group.

Finnish Branch of The Nordic Cochrane Centre

In 2004, we promoted the production and quality of Cochrane Reviews, disseminated information on The Cochrane Collaboration, and trained critical appraisal and systematic review skills.

A Cochrane Review on pit and fissure sealants for preventing dental caries was completed. Five new review titles were proposed to review groups, part of them due to the activity of the recently established Cochrane Occupational Health Field.

There are 75 members on our mailing list who got information and reminders three times during the year. The Finnish Branch provided information and support to four new researchers and awarded a stipend to a Cochrane reviewers' course.

Abstracts of eight new or updated Cochrane Reviews have been published in three Finnish journals. Related to the establishment of the Cochrane Occupational Health Field in May 2004, a series of reports were published in a specialist journal for occupational physicians that described the aims and functions of The Cochrane Collaboration in general. Ten meetings or training sessions were held in Finland and additional lectures were held abroad related to occupational health and the formation of the field.

Hand searching of eight Finnish medical journals continued. We participated actively in the formation and the activities of the Cochrane Occupational Field; the activities included creating a search strategy for Medline to identify intervention studies in occupational health and a specialised trials register, holding two international courses for researchers, registering three protocols organising hand searching.

We contributed to the work of the Scientific Program Committee for the Cochrane Colloquium, the Cochrane Back Group Advisory Board, the administrative board of Guidelines International Network, and the national Current Care Guidelines editorial board. Being hosted by the Finnish Office for Health Technology Assessment (FinOHTA), the co-operation between Finnish HTA activities and Cochrane work is secured.

Russian Branch of The Nordic Cochrane Centre

Kirgiz MoH and Uzbek Institute for Postgraduate Medical Education received help in development of their evidence-based medicine centres. News stories about Cochrane Reviews are published regularly in Russian medical and lay press.

Iceland

Cochrane Reviews are freely available for all Icelandic citizens as part of a national open access funded by various health organizations.

The teaching of the value and use of the Cochrane Library to medical students started in 2002 and was intensified in 2003 and 2004 with more time allocated to this activity and evidence-based medicine in general. There is also increased emphasis on promoting the Cochrane Collaboration and on teaching the use of the Cochrane Library to physicians (small group learning).

The Icelandic Medical Journal (www.laeknabladid.is) is receiving selected Cochrane Reviews for possible comments but has been unable to provide any comments or create a forum for debate or discussions.

There is still no funding for Cochrane activities in Iceland but the value of Cochrane Reviews in decision making is becoming increasingly clear to politicians and decision makers. In 2004, the Icelandic Social Security Institute published a report that clearly acknowledged that the results of Cochrane Reviews are very important for decision making in health care.

Sweden

Actions have been taken to get free access to the Cochrane Library for all Swedish citizens. The database will be available from January 2005 in connection with the release of the new interface. The Cochrane Library is considered a highly reliable source of information and is now increasingly used by different Swedish health care organizations such as the Drug Committees, The Social Board of Health and The Swedish Council on Technology Assessments in Health Care (SBU).

Poland

Two Cochrane Protocols were published in 2004. The eligibility of trial reports published in Polish is checked and relevant reports are translated into English for authors of Cochrane Reviews.

Results in relation to targets for 2003-2005

Theme 1. Methodology

Target 1.1: Conduct methodological research, for example on bias related to randomisation method, lack of blinding or exclusion of patients or outcomes; reporting of harms; patients' views on the balance between benefits and harms; bias in non-randomised studies; bias related to source of funding; informed consent; philosophical and empirical analysis of the concept of evidence-based healthcare; placebo effects.

Paper published in BMJ on bias related to source of funding of web sites; paper published in Annals of Internal Medicine for the CONSORT group on reporting of harms; paper published in JAMA on outcome reporting bias; research ongoing on bias related to randomisation method, lack of blinding and use of disease specific mortality, and on industry-sponsored reviews compared with Cochrane Reviews.

Target 1.2: Prepare and update Cochrane Reviews performed by staff members.
See Publications in 2004.

Target 1.3: Recruit medical students for research at the centre.

By December 2004, five students were involved with research at the centre and one former student, now a physician, became a PhD student.

Target 1.4: Co-ordinate the editorial process for protocols and reviews in the Cochrane Methodology Review Group.

Achieved, 1 new review, 1 updated review and 1 new protocol were published in 2004. There are now 10 published reviews and 8 protocols (The Norwegian Branch).

Target 1.5: Update the Cochrane Methodology Register (register of articles on research methodology) four times a year in time to be submitted for the quarterly issues of The Cochrane Library.

Achieved (The Norwegian Branch).

Target 1.6: Improve the indexing of articles in the Cochrane Methodology Register.

Under continuing development (The Norwegian Branch).

Target 1.7: Update Cochrane Reviewers' Handbook in collaboration with the UK Cochrane Centre, Methods Groups and others.

Achieved (The Norwegian Branch). Editorial responsibility was handed over to the UK and Australian Cochrane Centres in July, 2003.

Target 1.8: Conduct a two to three-day editing workshop for editors and Review Group Co-ordinators from the three Review Groups based in the Nordic area.

Held in Sept 2003 with 18 participants.

Target 1.9: Conduct a three-day workshop on editing of Cochrane Reviews for all Cochrane Review Groups.

Postponed.

Target 1.10: Contribute to obtain greater standardisation of Cochrane Reviews to ensure that their quality becomes more homogeneous.

Achieved by a workshop, by contribution to methodological research, and by correspondence with authors and review groups.

Target 1.11: Peer review Cochrane protocols and reviews on demand.

Achieved.

Target 1.12: Write comments and criticisms to Review Groups on published Cochrane protocols and reviews; if necessary, also submit them via the Comments and Criticism system.

Achieved, several comments sent to authors and Review Groups.

Target 1.13: Contribute to finalising the draft guidelines on the use of non-randomised studies in Cochrane Reviews.

Some progress made; final guidelines expected in 2005.

Theme 2. Software development

Target 2.1: Develop the next generation of the Information Management System, which includes further development and integration of the existing tools in the IMS and development of new ones. The new IMS will be partly internet-based and will include an enhanced version of the Cochrane Contact Database, a central review database, RevMan 5, workflow management tool, systems for

preparing modules of information from Cochrane entities and tools for providing Cochrane material to the publisher for publication. The project is estimated to run throughout the period of the strategic plan. In 2003, emphasis will be put on designing the system and implementing the structure for all elements in the IMS. Actual software releases will follow in 2004 and 2005.

Phase 1 of the new IMS (an enhanced version of the Cochrane Contact Database) was launched in November 2004. Phase 2 of the IMS will follow in 2005.

Targets 2.2: In 2003, develop a new and more dynamic interface to the Information Management System web site and expand it to include more information about the software developed by The Nordic Cochrane Centre under the aegis of the IMSG.

Achieved (see www.cc-ims.net).

Target 2.3: Release RevMan 4.2 in spring 2003. Initially the software will be released via the Internet, but later CD-ROMs will be produced and circulated to Cochrane entities for further distribution.

Partly achieved. RevMan 4.2 was released in March 2003 on the Internet; it has been decided not to produce CD-ROM versions centrally.

Target 2.4: In 2003, together with The Cochrane Collaboration Secretariat, make the Cochrane Contact Database the official contact database in the Collaboration (thereby replacing the existing system, HIREx) and have all entities registered as users of the system.

Achieved. The Cochrane Contact Database (now Phase 1 of the new IMS) was made mandatory on 1 July 2004.

Target 2.5: Continue to maintain RevMan 4 and ModMan 4 until RevMan 5 and the new IMS are available.

Achieved and ongoing.

Target 2.6: Continue to provide and seek input on software issues at various Cochrane meetings. Communicate actively on the progress of development projects through the IMS web site and other channels in The Cochrane Collaboration.

Achieved and ongoing.

Target 2.7: Coordinate meetings of the IMSG, its advisory groups and other relevant groups to ensure that the development of software reflects the needs of members of The Cochrane Collaboration.

Achieved. The convenorship changed in 2003 since the previous convenor is also director of the IMSG; the director will work with the new convenor to coordinate meetings.

In addition to the targets above, the NCC has established IMS Support in 2004 and is responsible for its ongoing management. There are four members (1.2 FTE) of IMS Support, based in Australia, Europe and North America, whose roles are to provide training and support to members of editorial bases of CRGs world-wide in their use of the IMS, and contribute to the preparation of high quality documentation. IMS Support is funded by core Collaboration funds.

Theme 3. Core functions of Cochrane Centres

Target 3.1: Continue to provide support to the Collaborative review groups based in the Nordic area: Cochrane Hepato-Biliary Group, Cochrane Colorectal Cancer Group, and Cochrane Anaesthesia Group (all based in Copenhagen) and to authors of Cochrane Reviews and other researchers wishing to do systematic reviews.

Achieved.

Target 3.2: Contribute to recruitment of new reviewers, filling the gaps in the current coverage of Cochrane Reviews, and increasing Nordic participation in The Cochrane Collaboration.

Achieved. In Denmark, 11 stipends for Cochrane Reviews in alternative medicine were awarded in 2003 by collaboration with the Knowledge and Research Centre for Alternative Medicine. In Finland, 4 stipends to produce or update Cochrane Reviews were awarded in 2003 and 3 stipends for training course or Colloquium participation in 2004, and the finalisation of the database of trials in psychiatry (PSI-TRI) was co-funded.

Target 3.3: Offer at least two workshops a year and other forms of training to support members of registered review groups to develop protocols, and offer training workshops for handsearchers on demand.

Achieved.

Target 3.4: Continue to get recognition from relevant institutions that Cochrane Reviews are research and a merit in themselves, and that a PhD can therefore be based entirely on Cochrane Reviews; continue to contribute to the propagation of the principles of problem-based learning and evidence-based medicine.

Many lectures held. The Nordic Cochrane Centre held a four-day intensive PhD course on systematic reviews and meta-analyses in Copenhagen with 24 participants, sponsored by The Danish Clinical Intervention Research Academy. A PhD that was based entirely on Cochrane Reviews was submitted to the University of Copenhagen in 2004. All newly employed physicians at Rigshospitalet in Copenhagen are introduced to the Cochrane Collaboration, systematic reviews and the Cochrane Library. Several courses of evidence-based medicine and systematic review methodology held in Finland and training arranged for topic specialists working at FinOHTA.

Target 3.5: Continue to collaborate with the Danish Knowledge and Research Centre for Alternative Medicine (ViFAB) to promote the production of Cochrane Reviews in alternative medicine.

See target 3.2 above.

Target 3.6: Continue to provide support to consumers, primarily by continued liaisons with consumer organisations; obtain funding for making The Cochrane Library freely available for all Danish citizens; produce, evaluate and update a homepage that helps Danish citizens use The Cochrane Library.

We have had collaboration with consumer organisations in Denmark, Norway and internationally. The Cochrane Library became freely available for all Danish citizens in 2003 and for Swedish citizens from Jan 2005; a draft homepage for consumers has been produced.

Target 3.7: Continue to provide support to the Norwegian, Finnish, and Russian branches of the Centre; to the Cochrane Methodology Review Group (based in Oslo) and to the Cochrane Non-randomised Studies Methods Group (originally based in Copenhagen, future location to be decided).

Achieved. Also provided support to the establishment of the Occupational Health Field (based in Helsinki), which was officially registered with the Collaboration on 10 May 2004.

Target 3.8: Conduct and participate in workshops on evidence-based healthcare and offer or contribute to shorter courses on demand which are open to researchers who are not authors of Cochrane Reviews.

The Nordic Cochrane Centre held a four-day workshop on evidence-based healthcare in Copenhagen in 2004. The Norwegian branch offered a course on systematic reviews in 2003.

Target 3.9: Continue co-ordination of the dissemination project; continue to collaborate with journals of the Nordic national medical associations and British Medical Journal in getting articles published on evidence-based medicine which summarise important Cochrane Reviews.

Achieved.

Target 3.10: Continue to promote Cochrane Reviews as an important basis for health technology assessment and for practice guidelines; continue to collaborate with the media to promote awareness and use of Cochrane Reviews.

There has been increased collaboration with the media that now regularly refer to Cochrane Reviews and the Nordic Cochrane Centre as providers of independent information on health care interventions. The Cochrane Library is used as a basic source of data for all new HTA reports and Current Care Guidelines (evidence based clinical practice guidelines) in Finland.

Target 3.11: Enhance the design of the Centre's homepage while maintaining ease-of-use and simplicity and update and add useful content while avoiding duplication of material on The Cochrane Collaboration's home page.

Achieved, major change introduced in 2004.

Target 3.12: Update the translated information brochure on The Cochrane Collaboration in Danish, Finnish, Norwegian, Polish, Russian and Swedish.

Cancelled, since a new, shorter version will be used in the Collaboration.

Target 3.13: Continue to handsearch general medical journals in the Nordic area for randomised trials; contribute to ensuring that results of all unpublished trials become publicly accessible.

Handsearching continues but is no longer a high priority; translations are provided for reviewers. We continue to advocate in papers, at meetings and elsewhere that it is unethical not to make results of all trials publicly available.

Target 3.14: Translate into English titles of all trials identified by handsearching that are not on MEDLINE; provide translations of relevant text in trial reports published in Nordic languages or Russian for reviewers on request.

Achieved, ongoing process.

Target 3.15: Update prospective and retrospective handsearches at least annually and send citations for all new trials to the New England Cochrane Center for inclusion in CENTRAL; contribute to the establishment of national registers of ongoing trials by collaboration with research ethics committee systems and medical research councils.

Achieved, ongoing process.

Review Groups in the Nordic region

The Cochrane Hepato-Biliary Group

with Christian Gluud, Denmark, as Co-ordinating Editor, was registered with the Collaboration on 29 March 1996. Forty-two systematic reviews and 69 protocols from the group appeared in the 1st issue of The Cochrane Library 2005. Three reviews have been updated since Issue 1, 2004. Out of 37 registered specialist journals and conference proceedings, 36 have been actively searched for the period of registration. The group's specialised register contains 16,675 citations, 9024 of which report on randomised or controlled clinical trials. An additional 1000 abstracts of articles of possible interest are in the process of being evaluated. For further information, see the latest issue of The Cochrane Library as well as the group's Annual Report, incorporated in the Annual Report of the Copenhagen Trial Unit, available from:

Ms Dimitrinka Nikolova, Review Group Coordinator
 Copenhagen Trial Unit, Centre for Clinical Intervention Research,
 Dept. 7102
 H:S Rigshospitalet, Blegdamsvej 9
 DK-2100 Copenhagen Ø, Denmark
 Tel: +45 3545 7169
 Fax: +45 3545 7101
 E-mail: chbg@ctu.rh.dk
 Web site: <http://inet.uni2.dk/~ctucph/chbg/>

The Cochrane Colorectal Cancer Group

with Peer Wille-Jørgensen, Denmark, as Co-ordinating Editor was registered on 27 January 1998. Now seven years later, the group has 25 reviews and 35 protocols approved and published in the Cochrane Library. A specialised register of topic related literature is established and contains more than 10,500 trials. A list of relevant journals to handsearch has been prioritised, of which 10 are finished. For further information, see The Cochrane Library or get the group's Annual Report from:

Henning K Andersen, Review Group Co-ordinator
 H:S Bispebjerg Hospital, Building 11B, 1st floor
 23 Bispebjerg Bakke
 DK-2400 Copenhagen NV, Denmark
 Tel: +45 3531 2704
 Fax: +45 3586 1831
 E-mail: cccg@cccg.dk
 Web site: www.cccg.dk

The Cochrane Anaesthesia Group

with Tom Pedersen and Ann Møller, Denmark, as Co-ordinating Editors was officially registered with the Collaboration in February 2000. The group has 17 systematic reviews and 40 protocols for systematic reviews published in the 4th issue of The Cochrane Library 2004. The group's specialised register of topic related literature is now established and contains more than 26,000 trials. The Anaesthesia Group moved to Rigshospitalet in January 2004. For further information, contact:

Jane Cracknell, Review Group Co-ordinator
Cochrane Anaesthesia Review Group
Room 216, Dept. 7421
H:S Rigshospitalet,
Blegdamsvej 9,
DK-2100 Copenhagen Ø, Denmark
Tel: +45 3545 8383
Mobile: +45 27372207
Fax: +45 35 45 32 45
E-mail: jane_cracknell@yahoo.com

The Cochrane Methodology Review Group

with Andy Oxman (Norway) and Mike Clarke (UK) as co-ordinating editors was re-registered from a Methods Group to a Review Group in February 2003. Beginning with issue 4, 2003 the group's module was published together with other Review Group modules in The Cochrane Library. The group continues to prepare, maintain and make available Cochrane Methodology Reviews: systematic reviews of empirical studies of methods used in systematic reviews and evaluations of health care. These are published in the Cochrane Database of Methodology Reviews in The Cochrane Library. Ten methodology reviews and eight protocols appeared in the Cochrane Database of Methodology Reviews in the 4th issue of The Cochrane Library 2004. For further information, see The Cochrane Library.

Elizabeth Paulsen, Review Group Co-ordinator
Cochrane Methodology Review Group
Informed Choice Research Department
Norwegian Health Services Research Centre
P.O. Box 7004, St. Olavs plass
N-0130 Oslo
Norway
Tel: +47 23 25 50 95
Fax: +47 23 25 50 40
E-mail: elizabeth.paulsen@nhsrc.no

In addition to the names mentioned above, there are Nordic editors in 13 of the 50 Review Groups:

- Berge, Eivind (Stroke Group)
- Esposito, Marco; Sweden (Oral Health Group)
- Fredrikson, Sten; Sweden (Multiple Sclerosis Group)
- Gluud, Lise Lotte; Denmark (Hepato-Biliary Group)
- Gøtzsche, Peter C; Denmark (Methodology Review Group)
- Janzon, Lars; Sweden (Peripheral Vascular Diseases Group)
- Lous, Jørgen; Denmark (Ear, Nose and Throat Disorders Group)
- Oxman, Andy; Norway (Effective Practice and Organisation of Care Group)
- Rask Madsen, Jørgen; Denmark (Inflammatory Bowel Disease Group)
- Specht, Lena; Denmark (Haematological Malignancies Group)
- Tfelt-Hansen, Peer; Denmark (Pain, Palliative Care and Supportive Care Group)
- Tøttrup, Anders; Denmark (Colorectal Cancer Group)
- Wahlbeck, Kristian; Finland (Depression, Anxiety and Neurosis Group)

Fields in the Nordic region

The Finnish Branch of the Nordic Cochrane Centre has actively supported the establishment of the Occupational Health Field, which was officially registered with the Collaboration on 10 May 2004. The main activities during the first year included searching for relevant trials in the field, linking to collaborators and setting up the structure for the Field. Four titles and two protocols on occupational health topics were registered, an optimal search strategy to find intervention studies in Medline and a specialised trials database were created, Medline was searched and studies screened and classified. Two courses for Cochrane Review authors were held, a hand searcher network was created, and presentations given and meetings held at congresses and the Ottawa Colloquium. For further information, see The Cochrane Library.

Jos Verbeek, Field Co-ordinator,
 Finnish Institute of Occupational Health
 P.O. Box 93
 SF-70701 Kuopio
 Finland
 Tel: +358 17 201 211
 Fax: +358 17 201 204
 E-mail: jos.verbeek@ttl.fi

Methods Groups in the Nordic region

In 2002, there were two methods groups based in the Nordic region, The Cochrane Methodology Review Group and The Cochrane Non-Randomised Studies Methods Group. The former group has been transformed into a Review Group (see above) and the latter group currently has only one convenor who is located in the UK.

Nordic Cochrane Reviews

Nordic researchers participate in many Review Groups, Methods Groups and Fields (see The Cochrane Library). In the 4th issue of 2004 of The Cochrane Library, 81 reviews and 45 protocols were listed with a Nordic contact address:

Country	Reviews	Protocols
DENMARK	45	27
FINLAND	14	3
NORWAY	12	9
RUSSIA	1	3
SWEDEN	9	3
Total	81	45

Advisory Board for the Nordic Cochrane Centre

The Advisory Board for the Nordic Cochrane Centre provides advice and support about the strategic direction for activities within the Centre. Currently, the members are:

Ms Margrethe Nielsen, Consumers' Council, Denmark (chairman and consumer representative)
Mr Henrik Grosen Nielsen, Ministry of Health, Denmark
Dr Sigurður Helgason, Landlaeknisembaettið, Iceland
Dr Risto Roine, HUS, Group Administration, Finland
Dr Arild Bjørndal, Norwegian Directorate of Health and Social Welfare, Norway
Dr Juliette Säwe, Swedish Council for Technology Assessment in Health Care, Sweden

Acknowledgements

The Cochrane Collaboration is registered as a charity and it is the responsibility of all contributors to the organisation to secure their own funding. The staff at the Nordic Cochrane Centre and branches are grateful for the financial support received from our funders and the voluntary help received from many people and institutions since the Centre was founded in 1993 (see annual reports and previous strategic plans). Currently, our funders are:

- Central Library for Medical Sciences, Finland
- Cochrane Collaboration, UK
- Copenhagen Hospital Corporation
- Duodecim, Finland
- Finnish Medical Association
- FinOHTA
- Finnish Institute of Occupational Health (FIOH)
- Media Sphera Publishing Group, Moscow
- Norwegian Directorate for Health and Social Welfare
- Nordic Council of Ministers
- Open Society Institute, Moscow (Soros Foundation)
- Rigshospitalet, Denmark
- Stakes (National R &D Centre for Welfare and Health), Finland

Currently, we owe special thanks to Arild Bjørndal (chair 1998-2004) and other members of the Advisory Board of the Centre; Managing Director Helle Ulrichsen, Copenhagen Hospital Corporation; General Secretary Ilkka Rauramo, Finnish Medical Society Duodecim; Chief Librarian Liisa Salmi, Kuopio University Hospital; Librarian Leena Lodenius, Medical Society Duodecim; Taito Pekkarinen, Finnish Medical Journal; and Harri Vainio and Kaj Husman from the Finnish Institute of Occupational Health.

Publications in 2004

Publications by staff at The Nordic Cochrane Centre

New or updated Cochrane Reviews and protocols

Gøtzsche PC, Johansen HK, Schmidt LM, Burr ML. House dust mite control measures for asthma. The Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2004, Issue 4. Art. No.: CD001187 (updated).

Hróbjartsson A, Gøtzsche PC. Placebo interventions for all clinical conditions (Cochrane Review). In: The Cochrane Library, Issue 3, 2004. Chichester, UK: John Wiley & Sons, Ltd (updated).

Jørgensen KJ, Gøtzsche PC, Johansen HK. Voriconazole versus amphotericin B and fluconazole in cancer patients with neutropenia (Protocol for a Cochrane Review). The Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2004, Issue 2. Art. No.: CD004707.

Wienecke T, Gøtzsche PC. Paracetamol versus nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs for rheumatoid arthritis (Cochrane Review). In: The Cochrane Library, Issue 1, 2004. Chichester, UK: John Wiley & Sons, Ltd.

Other publications

Chan A-W, Hróbjartsson A, Haahr MT, Gøtzsche PC, Altman DG. Empirical evidence for selective reporting of outcomes in randomized trials: comparison of protocols to published articles. JAMA 2004;291:2457-65.

Gøtzsche PC. The debate on breast cancer screening with mammography is important. J Am Coll Radiol 2004;1:8-14.

Gøtzsche PC. On the benefits and harms of screening for breast cancer. Int J Epidemiol 2004;33:56-64.

Gøtzsche PC. Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs. London: BMJ Publications, Clinical Evidence, 2004;11:1551-9 (updated).

Gøtzsche PC. Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs. London: BMJ Publications, Clinical Evidence, 2004;12:1702-10 (updated).

Gøtzsche PC. Ondt i ryggen og muskelrelaksantia (reply). Ugeskr Læger 2004;166:1034.

Gøtzsche PC. Vær forsigtig med videnskabelig uredelighed. Politiken 2004; 25. januar, 3. sektion, s. 9.

Gøtzsche PC, Vestergård B. Åbent bibliotek om virkninger og bivirkninger. Politiken 2004; 9. maj, 3. sektion, s. 9.

Gøtzsche PC. What to conclude when treatments are harmful. CoRect News, Newsletter, The Cochrane Colorectal Cancer Group 2004;8:2-4.

Gøtzsche PC. Kreativ markedsføring af margarine og medicin. Politiken 2004; 15. august, 3. sektion, s. 9.

Gøtzsche P. Niels Finsen's treatment for lupus vulgaris. James Lind Library (www.jameslindlibrary.org). © Peter Gøtzsche, 2004.

Gøtzsche PC. Re: Trends in the treatment of ductal carcinoma in situ of the breast. J Natl Cancer Inst 2004;96:1257.

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university of Helsinki; the best medical thesis in 2003 in Finland by the Finnish Medical Association; and received the European Rehabilitation Academy award as the best rehabilitation report in 2003. The thesis includes two Cochrane Reviews.

Addresses and web sites

The Nordic Cochrane Centre

Dr Peter C. Gøtzsche (director)
The Nordic Cochrane Centre
Rigshospitalet, Dept. 7112
Blegdamsvej 9
DK-2100 Copenhagen Ø
Denmark
Tel: +45 35 45 7112
Fax: +45 35 45 70 07
E-mail: general@cochrane.dk
Internet: www.cochrane.dk

The Finnish Branch of The Nordic Cochrane Centre

Dr Marjukka Mäkelä (director)
Finnish Office for Health Care Technology Assessment / FinOTHA
National Research and Development Centre for Welfare & Health /STAKES
PO Box 220
SF-00531 Helsinki
Finland
Tel: +358 9 3967 2290
Fax: +358 9 3967 2278
E-mail: Marjukka.Makela@stakes.fi

The Norwegian Branch of The Nordic Cochrane Centre

Dr Andy D. Oxman (director)
Informed Choice Research Department
Norwegian Health Services Research Centre
P.O. Box 7004, St. Olavs plass
N-0130 Oslo
Norway
Tel: +47 23 25 50 94
Fax: +47 23 25 50 40
E-mail: oxman@online.no

The Russian Branch of The Nordic Cochrane Centre

Dr Vasiliy Vlassov (director)
Russian Branch of the Nordic Cochrane Centre
PO Box 13
109451 Moscow
Russia
Tel: +7 095 4824210
Fax: +7 095 4824312
E-mail: vlassov@cochrane.ru

Contact in Iceland

Dr. Sigurður Helgason
Landlaeknisembaettið
Austurströnd 5
IS-170 Seltjarnarnes
Iceland
E-mail: sh@centrum.is

Contact in Sweden

Dr Juliette Säwe
The Swedish Council on Technology Assessment in Health Care (SBU)
Box 5650
S-114 86 Stockholm
Sweden
Tel: +46 8 412 3200
Fax: +46 8 411 3260
E-mail: sawe@sbu.se
Internet: www.sbu.se

Contact in Poland

Dr Malgorzata Bala
Medycyna Praktyczna
8 Skawinska St
31-066 Krakow
Poland
Tel: +48 12 29 34 236
Fax: +48 12 29 34 030
E-mail: mbala@mp.pl

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