



THE NORDIC
COCHRANE CENTRE

Annual report

2007



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Introduction

We report here the achievements of The Nordic Cochrane Centre and its branches for 2007 in relation to the Strategic Plan 2006-2008 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, the Strategic Plan and past annual reports 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 and Norway 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 evaluated 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 developing the Cochrane Information Management System, including Review Manager and the Collaboration's central server that facilitates publication of Cochrane Reviews; by convening The Methodology Review Group; by producing Cochrane Reviews and methodological research; by co-convening the Centre Directors' Group; by contributing to the Information Management System Group (which is responsible for overseeing software development in The Cochrane Collaboration) and its advisory groups; 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); and by contributing to the Quality Advisory Group and other advisory and working groups in the Cochrane Collaboration.

Summary of selected achievements in 2007

Citizens in Iceland, Norway, Poland and Sweden, and almost all physicians in Finland, have free access to The Cochrane Library on the Internet. This is undoubtedly one of the major reasons that The Cochrane Library is often consulted in these countries. In Denmark, all citizens also had free access from late 2004 to early 2007. Subsequent restriction of the access to health professionals had disastrous consequences (see next paragraphs), and we hope that there will soon again be free access for all Danes.

The Nordic Cochrane Centre

When the contract with the publisher, John Wiley and Sons, Inc., was renewed in early 2007, access was restricted to hospitals, universities and other institutions and organisations that contributed to the common pot. It was believed that very few non-professionals used The Cochrane Library. This belief has proved to be wrong and the decision had disastrous consequences. There were complaints to leading health politicians and the minister, and the government has recently declared that it will finance full access to The Cochrane Library. Indeed,

this is the only reasonable way forward, as full access for everyone will not be more costly for Denmark than seriously restricted access.

The limited access has had a dramatic impact on the usage of The Cochrane Library. According to data we have received from the publisher, the number times a Dane accessed full text (pdf or html files) from April to October 2007 were:

	April-October	Change
2005	16,676	
2006	23,431	40.5%
2007	12,776	-45.5%

For comparison, the numbers for Norway for the whole period till October were:

	January-October	Change
2005	26,266	
2006	35,287	34.3%
2007	50,117	42.0%

The decision made in early 2007 to prevent the citizens of Denmark from having the same rights as doctors to use knowledge from healthcare research, has meant that nearly 8,000 attempts to access this knowledge have failed. That is equivalent to one person of every hour of 2007 asking a question about health care and being told that they cannot have the answer because they do not belong to the right profession or work in the right hospital. It is even far worse than that because, not surprisingly, many people who get this type of answer to a question, will never ask again.

It is a fundamental asset of democratic countries that information that is important to the citizens is transparent and available. Few things are more important than having access to reliable information about the benefits and harms of interventions for preventing and treating diseases. This is the reason that half the world's population, about 3 billion people, currently have free access to The Cochrane Library.

We hope that there will soon again be free access for all Danes. And we hope that our experience will deter other countries from limiting access to The Cochrane Library.

We have increased our research collaboration with colleagues internationally, primarily with researchers in Canada, Norway, UK, and USA. We have also co-authored guidelines that are setting standards for good reporting: CONSORT for trials and STROBE for observational studies, and are currently working on PRISMA for systematic reviews and SPIRIT for protocols.

Since 1996, The Nordic Cochrane Centre has managed and developed the entire Cochrane Information Management System (IMS) as one of its core contributions to the Collaboration, including the Review Manager software, which is used by authors preparing Cochrane reviews. In 2007, we completed the development of RevMan 5.0, which is a major update of this software. As well as offering new and improved functionality and a more user-friendly and contemporary interface, RevMan 5 also supports the preparation of Diagnostic test accuracy reviews and Overviews of reviews. Both types of reviews will be published in The Cochrane Library during 2008. A RevMan 5 Pilot started in December 2007 with five Cochrane Review Groups (CRGs) and

hundreds of authors and will run until March 2008. At this point, the software will be released collaboration-wide to 51 CRGs and thousands of authors. To facilitate the editorial handling and publication of the new review types, a major update of the central IMS server, Archie 2.0, was released in December 2007. The IMS team has also worked on development of a workflow component that will support the editorial work at editorial bases of CRGs. This will be piloted in 2008.

Staff members have published many research papers and other papers in 2007 (see publication list below).

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 involves staff from other Cochrane centres as well. The comments are very popular, and in the Danish Medical Association Journal (*Ugeskrift for Læger*) there were 20 such comments in 2007.

Norwegian Branch of The Nordic Cochrane Centre

We have prepared and updated several reviews. We have also helped to improve the quality, accessibility and use of Cochrane reviews through developing and testing summary of findings tables and improvements in plain language summaries, developing methods for overviews of reviews, and contributing to four chapters of the Cochrane Handbook. We received funding from the Cochrane Collaboration's Opportunities Fund to pursue our development of plain language summaries in 2007-2008. We contributed to the establishment of an Editorial Board with the central aim of improving the quality of the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews. Establishment of the Editorial Board was approved in principle by the Steering Group in April 2007, and we have worked together with the Coordinating Editors' Executive Group to develop a proposal for the Editorial Board, which will be considered by the Steering Group in April 2008.

We continue to coordinate the GRADE (grading quality of evidence and strength of recommendations) Working Group, which works jointly with the Cochrane Applicability and Recommendations Methods Group. The GRADE Working Group met twice in 2007 and has continued to develop the methods used to make judgments about the quality of evidence and the strength of recommendations, as well as summary of findings tables. The GRADE profiler software has been adapted to produce Cochrane summary of findings tables that can be imported into Review Manager 5. A growing number of guideline developers are using the GRADE approach and the Working Group continues to organise workshops for these groups, as well as workshops for Cochrane review authors.

We have continued to develop methods for translating the results of Cochrane reviews into relevant, valid and accessible patient information through the development of a template for Plain Language Summaries.

We have continued to work with the WHO in 2007 to improve the use of systematic reviews in WHO recommendations, and through the Evidence-Informed Policy Network (EVIPNet), which is supporting the development of units in low and middle-income countries to facilitate the use of research evidence by managers and policy makers. In 2007, the Director General of WHO established a Guidelines Review Committee, based in part on our work, including an article

published in The Lancet, and recommendations. In 2007, we provided training to EVIPNet teams in Africa, Brazil, Chile, and Vietnam, and organised an EVIPNet workshop in Oslo. Other ongoing contributions include: support for users of The Cochrane Library, which is available to everyone in Norway through a national subscription; hosting the editorial base for the Methodology Review Group and submitting four updates of the Cochrane Database of Methodology Reviews, which includes 12 completed methodology reviews and 11 protocols as of issue 4, 2007; hosting the editorial base for the Cochrane Effective Practice and Organisation of Care (EPOC) Review Group's Oslo satellite and providing editorial support for 12 reviews that are in progress; working with the Umbrella Review Group to develop methods for summarizing the results of several Cochrane reviews across related topics; and preparing mass media reports for selected reviews for each new issue of The Cochrane Library. In 2007, we hosted the annual Continental Cochrane Meeting in Oslo and helped with the scientific programme of the Cochrane Colloquium in São Paulo, as well as providing training and support in Africa, Asia, America and Europe.

Finnish Branch of The Nordic Cochrane Centre

In 2007, we participated in the update of two Cochrane reviews and funded two reviews. We trained critical appraisal and systematic review skills for physicians, dentists, nurses, statisticians and clinical researchers on twelve occasions in Finland; medical students at Copenhagen University; and participants at an EBM-course in Hankø, Norway. There are 75 members on our mailing list involved with Cochrane activities. Overviews of 28 Cochrane reviews were published in five Finnish journals. We continued hand searching Finnish medical journals.

The Finnish Branch participated in developing the European Core Model for health technology assessment (HTA), as Finohta is a lead partner in the European network for HTA (EUnetHTA). Finohta is responsible for EUnetHTA Work Package 4, which in 2007 published the Core HTA Model for Effectiveness and started developing the Core HTA Model for Diagnostics.

We contributed to the work of the Cochrane Back Group's editorial board, Cochrane Occupational Health Field, the Board of Guidelines International Network, the Board of Health Technology Assessment International, and EUnetHTA. We participated in the meetings of Cochrane Nursing Network. 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

The Russian branch was deregistered in 2007, as it had failed to live up to agreed expectations and objectives in the Guidelines for Establishment of National Branches of the Nordic Cochrane Centre. The Advisory Board has followed the development closely over the years and made a unanimous recommendation to deregister the branch.

Iceland

The Icelandic government makes The Cochrane Library freely available for all Icelandic citizens and this is secured for 2008 at least. Teaching the use of The Cochrane Library to medical students, residents and physicians continued in 2007. A decision was made not to translate any search guides from the Library as most users are comfortable with English, but this is to be reevaluated if we manage to increase the use by lay people. Promotion of summaries of reviews continues, both to health care workers and policy makers. Promotion to the media has not been

successful yet, but strategies are being developed. We have secured the use of The Cochrane Library in all Icelandic clinical guidelines work, but as there is no HTA institution in Iceland, the use of the Cochrane resources is promoted via the EUnetHTA project. In this project, Sigurður Helgason is a collaborating partner, and is involved in Work Packages 4, 5 and 8, currently working on developing the Core HTA Model for Diagnostics (WP4) and finishing a draft of the Handbook on HTA capacity building (WP8).

The Icelandic Medical Journal (www.laeknabladid.is) is receiving selected Cochrane reviews for possible comments, but is still unable to provide any comments or create a forum for debate or discussion.

There is no funding for Cochrane activities in Iceland but the value of The Cochrane Library in decision making is firmly established with politicians and decision makers and the use of Cochrane reviews increases steadily.

Sweden

The Cochrane Library is available for all Swedish citizens through the Swedish Council on Technology Assessment in Health Care (SBU) thanks to financial support from the Swedish government.

In 2007, SBU released a translation into Swedish of a Danish guide (Vejledning til Cochrane-biblioteket (www.cochrane.dk/clib/)) on how to search information in The Cochrane Library. This guide is available at SBU's homepage: www.sbu.se.

Poland

Citizens in Poland got free access to the internet version of The Cochrane Library in January 2007. We trained critical appraisal and systematic review skills for medical students, residents, physicians, dentists, physiotherapists, nurses and people from the pharmaceutical industry. Structured summaries of Cochrane reviews are published each month in the largest Polish medical journal, *Medycyna Praktyczna*. To promote use of The Cochrane Library and other evidence, a contest on using evidence in decision-making was organised by The Polish Agency for Health Technology Assessment.

The eligibility of trial reports published in Polish is checked and relevant reports are translated into English for authors of Cochrane reviews. Summaries of clinically relevant reviews are published in the Polish Medical Journal, *Medycyna Praktyczna*. One Cochrane review was finished in 2007 and will be published in Issue 1, 2008.

Results in relation to goals for 2006-2008

Goal 1. To ensure high quality, Cochrane Reviews are available across a broad range of health care topics.

The methods used in preparing and maintaining systematic reviews are under constant development to ensure high quality. Improving quality of reviews, and of the research studies that are summarised in reviews, are major concerns for The Cochrane Collaboration and for The Nordic Cochrane Centre. Furthermore, The Nordic Cochrane Centre is globally responsible for developing and maintaining the Cochrane Information Management System (IMS) on behalf of The Cochrane Collaboration. The system is partly internet based and consists of software and processes that supports the preparation, maintenance and publication of Cochrane reviews. More information about software development by The Nordic Cochrane Centre can be found at www.cc-ims.net.

Target 1.1: Continue to improve the Review Manager (RevMan) software by working closely with RevMan Advisory Group and the Information Management Advisory Group (IMSG). *The IMS team finished the development of RevMan 5 in 2007, and started a pilot with 5 Cochrane Review Groups and their authors. The software will be released throughout the Collaboration in 2008. RevMan 5 supports the development of four Cochrane review types: intervention reviews, methodology reviews, diagnostic test accuracy reviews and overviews of reviews.*

Target 1.2: Conduct methodological research, contribute to improving the quality of Cochrane reviews, recruit medical students for research at the centre, and collaborate with researchers nationally and internationally. *Done, see publications.*

Target 1.3: Prepare and update Cochrane reviews performed by staff members, provide training for authors of Cochrane reviews, and provide support to Cochrane Review Groups and other entities based in the Nordic region, contribute to recruitment of new authors, enhance updating of reviews, and increase Nordic participation in The Cochrane Collaboration. *Done.*

Target 1.4: Contribute to the establishment of international trial registries and to ensuring that all results of all trials, and trial protocols, become publicly accessible. *Done.*

Target 1.5: Co-ordinate the editorial process for protocols and reviews in the Cochrane Methodology Review Group and update the Cochrane Methodology Register (register of articles on research methodology). *Done.*

Target 1.6: Contribute to relevant working groups, workshops and courses on research methodology, editing, evidence-based medicine, and initiatives for improving the relevance and quality of research (CONSORT for trials, GRADE for grading the evidence, SPIRIT for protocols, STARD for diagnostic tests, STROBE for observational studies, QUOROM for systematic reviews). *Done.*

Target 1.7: Handsearch general medical journals in the Nordic area for randomised trials, provide English titles and keywords for trials that are not indexed on PubMed, and provide help with

translations of research reports written in Nordic languages. *Done; handsearches now have low priority as indexing of Nordic journals is much improved.*

Target 1.8: Develop the software needed for producing Cochrane reviews of diagnostic tests. *The software is currently being tested and is expected to be used to prepare diagnostic test accuracy reviews in 2008.*

Goal 2. To promote access to Cochrane reviews and the other products of The Cochrane Collaboration

Target 2.1: Ensure continued funding for making The Cochrane Library freely available for all Nordic citizens. *Ongoing.*

Target 2.2: Provide support to patients and liaise with patient organisations, contribute to making the interface for The Cochrane Library more user-friendly, with better indexing and browsing systems, and improve the homepage that helps Nordic citizens use The Cochrane Library. *Done.*

Target 2.3: Improve the process of selecting interesting new Cochrane reviews for comments in journals of the Nordic national medical associations (the dissemination project). *Done, more volunteers recruited. In the Danish Medical Association Journal (Ugeskrift for Læger) there were 20 such comments in 2007.*

Target 2.4: Collaborate with the media to promote awareness and use of Cochrane reviews. *Done; the media contact us every week about the evidence-base for their stories.*

Target 2.5: Contribute to improving the readability and relevance of Cochrane reviews, and introducing summary of findings tables. *Ongoing, important progress made in 2007.*

Goal 3. To ensure an efficient, transparent organisational structure and management system for The Cochrane Collaboration

Target 3.1: Contribute to effective communication ensuring that key responsibilities and roles are described for all contributors to the Collaboration and are easily searchable. *Done.*

Target 3.2: Contribute to ensuring that Nordic Cochrane entities adhere to the practices and policies of The Cochrane Collaboration, and that any conflicts of interest are declared for all contributors. *Done.*

Target 3.3: Contribute to resolving conflicts between individuals and entities. *Done; we have provided assistance to authors.*

Target 3.4: Maintain user-friendly web sites for pivotal projects. *Done.*

Target 3.5: Contribute to ensuring that all decision-making processes and relationships within The Cochrane Collaboration are transparent and explicit. *Done.*

Target 3.6: By working closely with the IMSG and its advisory groups, continuing to improve the Information Management System, including the internet based server, Archie, which consists of a

central review database, workflow management tools, systems for preparing modules of information from Cochrane entities and tools for providing Cochrane material to the publisher for publication. *Ongoing, important progress made in 2007.*

Goal 4. To achieve sustainability of The Cochrane Collaboration

Target 4.1: Contribute to ensuring support for the Nordic Cochrane entities. *Done.*

Target 4.2: Contribute to ensuring that the preparation and maintenance of Cochrane reviews receives full academic recognition. *Done.*

Target 4.3: Contribute to the development of the Collaboration and its software by sales of licences to software to third-parties for commercial use. *Done, a few licences sold.*

Review Groups in the Nordic region

Cochrane Hepato-Biliary Group

Christian Gluud, Denmark, is Co-ordinating Editor. The group was registered on 29 March 1996. Issue 1 of The Cochrane Library 2008 contains 84 reviews and 82 protocols, which is a 13% increase, compared with 2007. In addition, 7 previously published reviews were updated. In 2007, the Editorial Team was strengthened by 4 new editors, all specialists in surgery. The member database consists of more than 1400 people with an interest in the group's activities, and about one third contribute to the production of reviews.

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 18,833 citations, 10,767 of which report on randomised or controlled clinical trials. Abstracts of publications of possible interest are being evaluated regularly. For further information, see The Cochrane Library, or <http://ctu.rh.dk/chbg>, or contact:

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Editorial Team Office
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Cochrane Colorectal Cancer Group

Peer Wille-Jørgensen, Denmark, is Co-ordinating Editor and Rick Nelson, UK, is deputy Co-ordinating Editor. The group was registered on 27 January 1998 and now has 38 reviews and 53 protocols published in The Cochrane Library. A specialised register of topic-related literature is

established and contains more than 10,000 studies. The group has a fulltime Trials Search Coordinator to support the authors and to coordinate the handsearch activities; a list of prioritised journals to be handsearched is available. For further information, see The Cochrane Library or contact:

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Cochrane Anaesthesia Group

Tom Pedersen has resigned as joint Co-ordinating Editor, but continues as Editorial advisor and Treasurer. Ann Møller continues as Co-ordinating Editor. The Anaesthesia Group was registered in February 2000. The Group will have 40 systematic reviews and 61 protocols for systematic reviews published in Issue 1 of The Cochrane Library, 2008. The Group's specialised register of topic-related literature is now established and contains more than 26,000 trials. For further information, see The Cochrane Library or contact:

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Cochrane Effective Practice and Organisation of Care (EPOC) Review Group

A satellite of the EPOC Review Group was launched in Oslo in November 2006. The aim of the satellite is to support review authors in low and middle-income countries (LMIC) and reviews relevant to LMIC, as well as supporting EPOC review authors in the Nordic area. The editorial base in Norway is staffed by Andy Oxman (Editor), Marit Johannsen (Trial Search Coordinator), Elizabeth Paulsen (Review Group Coordinator), Jan Ødgaard-Jensen (Statistician), and Morton Aaserud (Health Economist). Susan Munabi-Babigumira was the Review Group Co-ordinator during 2007 while Elizabeth Paulsen was on maternity leave. The satellite collaborates with a number of international organisations, including the Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research (AHP SR), the Evidence-Informed Policy Network (EVIPNet), and the World Health

Organisation (WHO). In 2007, the Satellite offered training in Bangladesh, Brazil, Chile, China, Norway, South Africa, Switzerland, the UK, and Vietnam. It provided editorial support for 12 reviews that are in progress, including a growing number of reviews from LMIC. A report of the Satellite's launch can be found at:

<http://www.kunnskapssenteret.no/index.php?back=2&artikkelid=763>. For further information, see The Cochrane Library.

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Cochrane Methodology Review Group

Andy Oxman (Norway) and Mike Clarke (UK) are Co-ordinating Editors. The group prepares Cochrane methodology reviews (systematic reviews of empirical studies of methods used in systematic reviews and evaluations of health care). Preparations to establish the group started in 1996 and the group was formally registered as a review group in 2001. Twelve methodology reviews and eleven protocols appeared in the 4th issue of The Cochrane Library 2007 and the Cochrane Methodology Register contained 10,008 records. Susan Munabi-Babigumira was the Review Group Co-ordinator during 2007 while Elizabeth Paulsen was on maternity leave. For further information, see The Cochrane Library.

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Nordic editors in Cochrane Review Groups

There are 19 Nordic editors:

- Als-Nielsen, Bodil; Denmark (Hepato-Biliary Group – Editor)
- Berge, Eivind; Norway (Stroke Group - Editor)
- Christensen, Robin; Denmark (Musculoskeletal Group - Statistics Editor)
- Fredrikson, Sten; Sweden (Multiple Sclerosis Group - Editor)
- Glenton, Claire; Norway (Consumers and Communication Group - Editor)
- Gluud, Christian; Denmark (Hepato-Biliary Group – Co-ordinating Editor)
- Gluud, Lise Lotte; Denmark (Hepato-Biliary Group – Editor)

- Gøtzsche, Peter C; Denmark (Methodology Review Group - Editor)
- Janzon, Lars; Sweden (Peripheral Vascular Diseases Group - Editor)
- Malmivaara, Antti; Finland (Back Group - Editor)
- Møller, Ann; Denmark (Anaesthesia Group – Co-ordinating Editor)
- Oxman, Andy; Norway (Methodology Review Group - Co-ordinating Editor; Effective Practice and Organisation of Care Group - Editor)
- Pedersen, Tom; Denmark (Anaesthesia Group – Editorial Advisor)
- Pontoppidan, Maiken W; Denmark (Developmental, Psychosocial ... Group - Editor)
- Rask Madsen, Jørgen; Denmark (Inflammatory Bowel Disease Group - Editor)
- Specht, Lena; Denmark (Haematological Malignancies Group - Editor)
- Wahlbeck, Kristian; Finland (Depression, Anxiety and Neurosis Group - Editor)
- Wille-Jørgensen, Peer; Denmark (Colorectal Cancer Group – Co-ordinating Editor)

Fields in the Nordic region

The Occupational Health Field

The Occupational Health Field was registered in May 2004. Members of the field have produced seven Cochrane reviews, eight protocols and registered eight new titles as of 2007. The reviews cover a wide range of interventions varying from hearing protection to return to work in depressed patients. Two reviews were funded by the Australian Safety and Compensation Council. With this funding we hired a first author who was an expert in the area and a researcher to support him. We also asked a group of international experts to join the project team, and all of them accepted. We feel that this is an interesting and novel approach to producing reviews. Authors were supported by the field by means of two-day workshops to stimulate the finishing of protocols and reviews. Our database with occupational health intervention studies now contains over 800 studies. As part of the reorganization of the Finnish Institute of Occupational Health, the field is now incorporated in the Knowledge Transfer Team. For further information, see www.cohf.fi.

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Nordic Cochrane Reviews

Nordic researchers participate in many Review Groups, Methods Groups and Fields (see The Cochrane Library). In the 4th issue of 2007 of The Cochrane Library, 101 reviews and 40 protocols were listed with a Nordic contact address:

Country	Reviews	Protocols
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DENMARK	55	18
FINLAND	22	3
NORWAY	17	12
POLAND	1	3
RUSSIA	3	1
SWEDEN	4	3
Total	101	40

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. In 2007, the members were:

Ms Margrethe Nielsen, Danish Consumers' Council (chairman, consumer representative)
 Ms Astrid K. Rasmussen, Ministry of Health, Denmark
 Dr Sigurður Helgason, Landlaeknisembaettið, Iceland
 Dr Risto Roine, HUS, Group Administration, Finland
 Dr Inger Natvig Norderhaug, Norwegian Knowledge Centre for the Health Services
 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 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
 Duodecim, Finland
 Finnish Medical Association
 Norwegian Knowledge Centre for the Health Services
 Nordic Council of Ministers
 Rigshospitalet, Denmark
 Stakes (National R & D Centre for Welfare and Health)/FinOHTA, Finland

We also wish to thank the members of the Advisory Board of the Centre.

Staff at the centre and its branches

Nordic Cochrane Centre

Amenuvor B, IT Assistant
 Askham FA, Administrator

Christiansen MS, System Developer
Gøtzsche PC, Director
Hedegaard J, Centre Secretary
Hróbjartsson A, Senior researcher
Jørgensen AW, PhD student
Jørgensen KJ, PhD student
Kjeldstrøm M, Director of the Cochrane Information Management System
Moustgaard R, System Developer
Nielsen M, PhD student
Pandal M, Secretary
Riis J, Support Technician, Web Designer
Tendal B, PhD student
Saunders G, System Developer

Norwegian Branch of The Nordic Cochrane Centre

Glenton C, Director
Johansen M, Trials Search Co-ordinator
Munabi-Babigumira S, Co-ordinator
Kristoffersen DT, Statistics Advisor
Nilsen ES, Consultant
Odgaard-Jensen J, Statistician
Oxman AD, Co-ordinating Editor
Paulsen E, Co-ordinator
Underland, V, Researcher
Vist GE, Senior Researcher
Aaserud M, Health Economist

Finnish Branch of The Nordic Cochrane Centre

Ahovuo-Saloranta A, Researcher
Isojärvi, Jaana, Librarian
Ilonen T, Secretary
Malmivaara A, Senior Medical Officer
Mäkelä M, Director
Pasternack I, Administrator
Ramula H, Hand search co-ordinator

Publications in 2007

Publications by staff at The Nordic Cochrane Centre

Journal articles, books

Boutron I, Guittet L, Estellat C, Moher D, Hróbjartsson A, Ravaud P. Reporting methods of blinding in randomized trials assessing nonpharmacological treatments. PLoS Med 2007; 4(2):e61.

Gøtzsche PC. Rational Diagnosis and Treatment. Evidence-Based Clinical Decision-Making, 4th edition. Chichester: Wiley, 2007:1-229.

Gotzsche PC, Hrobjartsson A, Johansen HK, Haahr MT, Altman DG, Chan AW. Ghost authorship in industry-initiated randomised trials. *PLoS Med* 2007; 4(1):e19.

Gotzsche PC, Hrobjartsson A, Maric K, Tendal B. Data extraction errors in meta-analyses that use standardized mean differences. *JAMA* 2007; 298(4):430-7.

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Marjukka Mäkelä: Nordic Research Prize in General Practice

Antti Malmivaara: Best poster - prize at HTA congress in June 2007.

Anneli Ahovuo-Saloranta: Department of Health (UK) Incentive Award for updating the review of dental sealants.

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