



THE NORDIC
COCHRANE CENTRE

Annual report

2002



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Introduction

We report here the achievements of The Nordic Cochrane Centre and its branches for 2002 in relation to the Strategic Plan 2000-2002 and include a brief section about the review groups 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 <http://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 editing The Reviewers' Handbook in collaboration with the UK Cochrane Centre; 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 chairing The Software Development Group and developing Review Manager and other essential software.

Summary of selected achievements in 2002

The Nordic Cochrane Centre

Since 1996, The Nordic Cochrane Centre has overseen the development of the entire Information Management System in the Cochrane Collaboration as one of its core contributions to the Collaboration, as well as producing key elements of the system, such as the Review Manager software. The Centre has developed the Cochrane Contact Database which will be the basis for the future central management of contact details and other information in the Collaboration.

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. This work continues to be coordinated by the Nordic Cochrane Centre, assisted by volunteers from the Australasian and the Iberoamerican Cochrane centres.

The Nordic Cochrane Centre held the second international workshop on Cochrane editing in Copenhagen; fourteen of the 50 review groups were represented, most of the participants were editors or review group co-ordinators. The initiative is expected to lead to improvements in the quality of Cochrane Reviews. Workshops were also held to train members of registered Review Groups to develop protocols and use the Review Manager software. Staff members have published five updated Cochrane Reviews.

Draft guidelines for use of non-randomised studies in Cochrane Reviews have been produced; the work in the Cochrane Non-Randomised Studies Methods Group was co-ordinated by the Nordic Cochrane Centre.

As an example of academic recognition of Cochrane Reviews, The University of Copenhagen accepted a Ph.D. application that will consist entirely of four Cochrane Reviews.

Cochrane Reviews are not yet available for all Danish citizens. Funds have been secured from the hospital owners (Amtsrådsforeningen), the Association of Danish Research Libraries and the Knowledge and Research Centre for Alternative Medicine (ViFAB). We hope to obtain the remaining funds during 2003.

Norwegian Branch of The Nordic Cochrane Centre

In 2002 the Norwegian Branch of the Nordic Cochrane Centre organised and hosted the 10th Cochrane Colloquium in Stavanger, Norway, contributed to seven workshops and hosted seven meetings.

The branch arranged for a national subscription to The Cochrane Library in Norway, hosted two meetings of the Information Management System working group, developed and maintained the Colloquium Management System, maintained the Title Management System, provided the editorial base for the Methodology Review Group and submitted four updates of its module so that it included 4 completed methodology reviews and 11 protocols as of Issue 4, 2002.

The branch developed consumer web pages, contributed to updating the Cochrane Reviewers' Handbook, contributed to updating and editing Effective Practice and Organisation of Care reviews, contributed to the Funders' Forum, convened three meetings of the GRADE Working Group (a subgroup of the Applicability and Recommendations Methods Group), prepared three manuscripts, and organised two workshops and one plenary session at the Colloquium.

Finnish Branch of The Nordic Cochrane Centre

Pre-exploratory meetings to investigate the possibility of creating a new Cochrane Occupational Health Care Field were held at the Colloquium in Stavanger and at the 10th Congress on Occupational Health Services, by ICOH Scientific Committee on Health Services, Research and Evaluation in Occupational Health, in Amsterdam, both in 2002. A network of interested people was created. There is agreement that there is a need for such a field and the Finnish Branch will therefore continue its work with establishing the field as part of the Finnish Institute of Occupational Health.

Cochrane Reviews became available for all Finnish citizens in 2002, funded by Duodecim.

Handsearches of the eight Finnish medical journals for eligible trials were updated, the process was documented, funds were secured, and a new handsearcher was recruited.

The branch has liaised with the Finnish Cochrane Network; there were two educational meetings, help-desk services, translations of trials and collaboration with the Finnish Medical Library (Terkko) on article retrieval for Cochrane reviewers. Branch staff participated in the Cochrane Editing Workshop in Copenhagen and in the Nordic Cochrane Centre's Strategic Planning meeting, and made preparations for the Centre's Advisory Board meeting in January 2003.

Russian Branch of The Nordic Cochrane Centre

A small number of Cochrane protocols from Russian reviewers have been registered. The all-Russia Society of specialists in evidence-based medicine was registered with branches in 18 regions of Russia by a group of Cochrane enthusiasts.

Results in relation to targets for 2000-2002

Theme 1. Helping to ensure that reports of all relevant controlled trials are made accessible for inclusion in Cochrane Reviews

Target 1.1. Search 170 journal title years annually, at least till June 2001.

Target changed for all centres participating in this BioMed project to 150 journal title years. Revised target achieved. The Nordic Cochrane Centre has been the most active contributor next to the UK Centre: 7,257 trial reports were identified.

Target 1.2. Assess the yield from handsearching medical journals retrospectively as a basis for planning any further retrospective searches in collaboration with the UK Cochrane Centre. Target date: January 2002.

Waits for reply from Carol Lefebvre.

Target 1.3. Ensure quality control of handsearches by having two handsearchers search every 10th year of a journal independently.

BioMed 2 project stopped in 2001.

Target 1.4. Contribute to the establishment of national registers of ongoing trials by collaboration with research ethics committee systems and medical research councils.

The Central Research Ethics Committee in Denmark is looking for funding to establish a national register and will discuss this initiative with the other Nordic countries.

Target 1.5. Contribute to ensuring that results of all unpublished trials, whether sponsored by industry or from elsewhere, become publicly accessible.

See target 1.4.

Target 1.6. Translate titles of all trials identified by handsearching which are not on Medline into English.

Ongoing.

Target 1.7. Provide translations of trials published in Nordic languages for reviewers on request.

Ongoing, several such requests are received each year, also for trials in Russian.

Target 1.8. 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, and by this mechanism also in Medline and in The Cochrane Controlled Trials Register.

Ongoing.

Theme 2. Improving the quality of Cochrane Reviews

2.1 Identification of common types of weaknesses, errors and biases in Cochrane reviews

Target 2.1.1. By the end of 2000 to have published the results of the collaborative quality assessment project.

Achieved in 2001, published in the BMJ (2001;323:829-32).

2.2 Prevention of common types of weaknesses, errors and biases in Cochrane reviews

Target 2.2.1. By October 2001, the NCC has, in collaboration with the UKCC, contributed to plans to rectify common problems before publication of reviews on The Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews.

Achieved. The Nordic Cochrane Centre held a 3-day workshop on Cochrane Editing in Copenhagen in September 2001 and in September 2002.

2.3 Prepublication peer review of Cochrane reviews

Target 2.3.1. To peer review at least two Cochrane reviews from each of the Nordic Collaborative Review Groups per year.

Ongoing, target partly met.

2.4 Evaluation of the effectiveness of the post-publication peer review processes in the Cochrane Collaboration

Target 2.4.1. To follow up on the comments and criticisms submitted as part of the collaborative quality assessment project and to present the results at the Colloquium in Cape Town, October 2000.

Achieved. The Steering Group was informed about the results in February 2001 and they were presented at a poster in Lyon, October 2001.

2.5 Investigation of influential trials and outcomes in Cochrane reviews and possible misreporting of results

Target 2.5.1. To follow up at least one case and present it at appropriate meetings or in journals.

Letter published in the Lancet referring to a trial of routine ultrasound in pregnancy (2001;357:1360), and case submitted to the Norwegian Council of Scientific Dishonesty which resulted in publication of more correct results from this trial.

2.6 Development of guidelines for inclusion of non-randomised studies in Cochrane reviews

Target 2.6.1. To have draft guidelines ready for presentation at the Colloquium in Cape Town, October 2000. To have guidelines ready for widespread dissemination by the end of 2001.

Delayed, draft chapters became available in autumn 2002.

Target 2.6.2. By March 2000, to provide input to updates of the Handbook. Update appendix 6 of the Handbook; gradually provide input to all sections of the Handbook.
Achieved.

Target 2.6.3. To liaise with other relevant international organisations, like The Campbell Collaboration, International Epidemiological Association and WHO.

Ongoing. We have liaised with WHO and The Campbell Collaboration.

2.7 Cochrane Empirical Methodological Studies Method Group (name changed to Cochrane Methodology Review Group)

Target 2.7.1. In 2000, co-ordinate editorial process for up to 10 reviews for Issue 2, 2001 of The Cochrane Library.

A new review group coordinator was appointed. A trials search coordinator was recruited. The group's module and the Cochrane Database of Methodology Reviews were updated four times during 2002 (The Norwegian Branch).

Target 2.7.2. To submit the first five EMSMG reviews for Issue 2, 2001 of The Cochrane Library.

Issue 4, 2002 had 4 completed reviews and 11 protocols (The Norwegian Branch).

2.8 Cochrane Review Methodology Database (CRMD)

Target 2.8.1. Continue to update the CRMD four times a year in time to be submitted for the quarterly issues of The Cochrane Library.

Responsibility transferred to the UK Cochrane Centre (The Norwegian Branch).

Target 2.8.2. Assist with a search strategy for identifying methodological articles for the CRMD.

Ongoing. A trials search coordinator was appointed in Oslo in 2002 and has begun work on the Cochrane Methodology Register in collaboration with the UK Cochrane Centre (The Norwegian Branch).

2.9 The Cochrane Handbook

Target 2.9.1. To continue revision of the Handbook in collaboration with the Mike Clarke (CG, AO).

Version 4.2 of the Handbook was published (The Norwegian Branch).

Theme 3. Software Development in the Cochrane Collaboration

Target 3.1.1. To release RevMan 4.1 in 2000.

Achieved. CD-ROMs were distributed in September 2000.

Target 3.1.2. To carry out a needs assessment and develop specifications for the next major version of RevMan which will be part of the next generation of the Information Management System.

Partly achieved, by a special group with Mike Clarke as convenor. Results from a Collaboration-wide survey is available from www.cc-ims.net. The survey and the report were developed by a working group led by Mike Clarke. Specifications for RevMan 5 will be developed in 2003.

Target 3.1.3. In 2000, to develop a special version of RevMan 4.1 for methodological reviews.

Achieved.

Target 3.2.1. In 2000, to seek formal endorsement by the Software Development Group and The Cochrane Collaboration Steering Group that The Nordic Cochrane Centre assumes responsibility for development of statistical software to be used with RevMan.

Achieved.

Target 3.2.2. To carry out a needs assessment and develop specifications for the statistical software which will be used in the next generation of the Information Management System.

Ongoing.

Target 3.3.1. In 2000, to develop and release the next version of ModMan for non-CRGs.

Achieved. Non-CRGs use a special module in the Cochrane Contact Database.

Target 3.3.2. In 2000, to get approval to assume responsibility for development of ModMan for CRGs and liaise with the ModMan Advisory Group about additional functionality in a future version of the software.

Achieved. ModMan 4.1 was released in September 2001, ModMan 4.2 in December 2002.

Target 3.4.1. To maintain the current level of support and investigate ways of improving it, possibly by implementing standard operational procedures.

Ongoing.

Target 3.4.2. To set up a searchable, archived, internal system for all members of the RevMan Team to access e-mails sent to revman-techsupport@cochrane.dk and their responses.

An alternative has been accepted.

Target 3.4.3. In 2000, to expand the FAQ, and implement a system of scheduled updates to it.

Ongoing. New versions are released when RevMan is updated.

Target 3.4.4. To create basic tutorials for new users.

Ongoing, tutorial to be prepared by The UK Cochrane Centre to be released with RevMan 4.2.

Target 3.4.5. To set up a searchable, archived version of the RevMan user's email list.

Achieved.

Target 3.4.6. To support other software than RevMan, as appropriate, e.g. ModMan.

Ongoing. Responsibility for support of ModMan assumed by The Nordic Cochrane Centre.

Target 3.5.1. In 2000, to prepare a project plan for the next generation of the Information Management System (from this project plan, additional targets will be derived for The Nordic Cochrane Centre's strategic plan).

Partly achieved. A preliminary plan was presented to the Steering Group in July 2002. A more detailed plan is under preparation.

Target 3.5.2. In 2000-2001, to secure more funding for software development.

Core funding for the Centre has been achieved and the Steering Group provides funding for meetings of the Information Management System Group (formerly Software Development Group), and for employing a system developer to work on the new Information Management System.

Target 3.5.3. In 2000, to identify areas in which systematic reviews can be carried out that are relevant to development of the next generation of the Information Management System, for example, the provision of information electronically; the use of the Internet to share documents for editing; or the inclusion of tutorials within software.

Dropped because of other priorities.

Target 3.5.4. By 2001, to complete a systematic review within one of the above areas.

Dropped because of other priorities.

Target 3.5.5. To carry out needs assessments to identify necessary elements in the next generation of the Information Management System.

Ongoing.

Target 3.5.6. To run relevant pilot projects to gain experience within areas relevant to the next generation of the Information Management System.

Ongoing, pilot for Contact database system has been developed. This is now being adopted more widely as the Cochrane Contact Database.

Target 3.5.7. To set up a dedicated web page to keep users of the Information Management System aware of project plans and progress.

Ongoing. Dedicated website established and improvements are planned for 2003.

Target 3.6.1. In 2000, to have the first version of a new contact register ready.

Achieved in August 2001. Project delayed due to staff changes at the Norwegian Branch, transferred to The Nordic Cochrane Centre.

Target 3.6.2. In 2000, to have the first version of the Review Title Manager ready.

Achieved. The Review Title Manager was maintained during 2002 (The Norwegian Branch).

Target 3.6.3. In 2000, to offer a service for administrating discussion lists for any group within The Cochrane Collaboration.

Transferred to The German Cochrane Centre.

Target 3.6.4. In 2000, to bring forward the process of renewing The Cochrane Collaboration official website.

Transferred to The German Cochrane Centre.

Target 3.6.5. In 2000, to start planning and develop a web system to support better internal communication within The Cochrane Collaboration.

Ongoing in collaboration with the Information Management System working group. The Colloquium Manager was developed and maintained in 2002 and planning was progressed on the Information Management System (The Norwegian Branch).

Target 3.6.6. In 2000, to start planning a new service to support automatic generation of websites for groups in The Cochrane Collaboration.

Transferred to the German Cochrane Centre.

Target 3.6.7. In 2000, to plan the first version of the Repository of unpublished documents.

Not achieved (The Norwegian Branch).

Target 3.7.1. In 2000, to investigate whether the needs assessment for the next generation of the Information Management System should be extended to members of The Campbell Collaboration.

Achieved. The Campbell Collaboration wished to develop their own system.

Target 3.7.2. In 2000, to prepare funding applications with members of The Campbell Collaboration for carrying out joint needs assessments.

No longer relevant, see target 3.7.1.

Theme 4. Supporting Cochrane groups and individuals in the Nordic area

Target 4.1. Offer at least two workshops a year and other forms of training to support members of registered Review Groups to develop protocols and use the Review Manager software.

Achieved.

Target 4.2. Offer one training workshop for handsearchers each year.

Achieved. From 2002, these workshops will no longer be held but support will be offered to trial search co-ordinators on demand, in accordance with the policy of other Cochrane centres.

Target 4.3. Conduct at least one four day course on evidence-based health care each year and offer or contribute to shorter courses on demand which are open to researchers who are not Cochrane reviewers.

Achieved.

Target 4.4. Convene a workshop on non-randomised data in 2000.

Achieved.

Target 4.5. Conduct a 2-3 day course on systematic reviews and meta-analysis in 2001.

Achieved. The Nordic Cochrane Centre held a 3-day workshop on Cochrane Editing in Copenhagen in September 2001 and in September 2002.

Target 4.6. Contribute to recruitment of new reviewers, filling the gaps in the current coverage of Cochrane reviews, and increase Nordic participation in The Cochrane Collaboration.

Ongoing. All new physicians at Rigshospitalet attend a small lecture on the aims of the Cochrane Collaboration.

Target 4.7. In 2000, establish a formal network for supporting Finnish members of Cochrane review groups.

Partly achieved, several meetings in 2000.

Target 4.8. Prepare and maintain Cochrane Reviews performed by staff members.

Achieved, ongoing process.

Target 4.9. Get recognition from relevant institutions that Cochrane Reviews are a merit in themselves and should be regarded as equally valuable as original research - if not more - since the results are directly applicable to patients.

Achieved, from major institutions, ongoing process.

Target 4.10. Achieve core funding for the Centre and contribute to achieving core funding for the Nordic review groups and the Russian Branch of the Centre.

Achieved. Core funding for the Centre and the three Nordic review groups is being provided by the Copenhagen Hospital Corporation from 2001.

Target 4.11. Evaluate the performance of the registered Review Groups and the branches of the Centre in the Nordic area annually.

Ongoing. The Review Groups are now being monitored by the Monitoring and Registration Group under the Cochrane Collaboration Steering Group.

Target 4.12. Develop a training programme for consumers.

Workshop carried out May 2001. Web pages under development (The Norwegian Branch).

Target 4.13. Develop material about The Cochrane Collaboration for individual user organisations.

Ongoing. Web pages were developed for consumers (The Norwegian Branch).

Target 4.14. In 2000, host a two-day meeting of continental European review groups and centres to strengthen the relationship among the continental European Cochrane entities and provide a forum for exchanging information about how the work in the review groups can be improved.

Achieved in May 2000.

Theme 5. Promote awareness of, access to and use of Cochrane reviews

Target 5.1. By 2000, to develop a strategy for identification of new interesting Cochrane reviews which ensure input into the quarterly selection process by content area specialists.

Achieved. Staff at centres participate in selecting interesting reviews, collaboration between 2-3 centres.

Target 5.2. Continue to collaborate with journals of the national medical associations (Ugeskrift for Læger, Suomen Lääkärilehti and Läkartidningen) in publishing articles on evidence-based medicine, which summarise important Cochrane Reviews.

Ongoing. Suitable reviews are selected at the Centre and forwarded to Ugeskrift for Læger, British Medical Journal, Marjūkka Mäkelä (for Lääkärilehti), Mats Eliasson (for Läkartidningen) and Sigurður Helgason (for Icelandic Medical Journal); Vasilij Vlassov forwards reviews to Meditsinskii Vestnik, Kardiologija and Meditsinskaia Gazeta.

Target 5.3. Ensure that Cochrane reviews are publicly perceived as a necessary basis for health technology assessment.

Achieved.

Target 5.4. Ensure that sufficient funding goes to the Nordic Cochrane Centre and its Review Groups and branches to enable them to contribute importantly to unbiased assessment of health technologies for the benefit of the Nordic citizens.

Core funding for the Centre and the three Nordic Review Groups has been achieved, see target 4.10.

Target 5.5. Continue to collaborate with the media to promote awareness and use of Cochrane reviews.

Achieved.

Target 5.6. Contribute to the propagation of the principles of problem-based learning and evidence-based medicine at the universities in the Nordic area.

Ongoing.

Target 5.7. Continue to contribute to the development of the guidelines on evidence-based medicine by the World Federation for Medical Education.

Achieved. Guidelines written and paper produced.

Target 5.8. Continue to contribute to make The Cochrane Library available for large numbers of potential users on major networks.

Ongoing.

Target 5.9. 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 international pages.

Achieved.

Target 5.10. Update the translated information brochures on The Cochrane Collaboration into five Nordic languages.

Danish brochure has been updated, Polish brochure has been added to our website.

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. Twenty-six systematic reviews and 45 protocols from the Group appeared in the 4th issue of The Cochrane Library 2002. Out of the 36 registered specialist journals and conference proceedings, 25 have been actively searched and the search has been almost finalized up to the present date for the registered span of years. The Group's specialised register contains 14,510 citations, 7,568 of which report on randomised or controlled clinical trials. An additional 1,000 copies 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:

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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. The Group has 13 reviews and 17 protocols published in the 4th issue of The Cochrane Library 2002. The specialised register of topic related literature is established and contains more than 5,400 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:

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DK-2400 Copenhagen NV, Denmark
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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 four systematic reviews and 26 protocols for systematic reviews published in the 4th issue of The Cochrane Library 2002. The group's specialised register of topic related literature containing more than 26,000 trials will appear in issue 1, 2003 of the Library. For further information, contact:

Jane Cracknell, Review Group Co-ordinator
Cochrane Anaesthesia Review Group
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In addition to the names mentioned above, there are Nordic editors in 13 of the 49 Review Groups:

- Back Review Group (Alf Nachemson, Sweden)
- Colorectal Cancer Group (Ole Kronborg, Denmark)
- Ear, Nose and Throat Disorders Group (Jørgen Lous, Denmark)
- Effective Professional Practice and Organisation of Care Group (Andy Oxman, Norway)
- Haematological Malignancies Group (Lena Specht, Denmark)
- Hepato-Biliary Group (Torben Jørgensen, Denmark; Lise Lotte Kjærgård, Denmark - Associate Editor)
- Inflammatory Bowel Disease Group (Jørgen Rask Madsen, Denmark)
- Multiple Sclerosis Group (Sten Fredrikson, Sweden)
- Oral Health Group (Marco Esposito, Sweden)
- Pain, Palliative Care and Supportive Care Group (Peer Tfelt-Hansen, Denmark)
- Peripheral Vascular Diseases Group (Lars Janzon, Sweden)
- Prostatic Diseases and Urologic Cancers Group (Gunnar Steineck, Sweden)
- Schizophrenia Group (Kristian Wahlbeck, Finland)

Methods Groups in the Nordic region

Two methods groups are based in the Nordic region:

The Cochrane Methodology Review Group

(formerly Cochrane Empirical Methodological Studies Method Group) with Andy Oxman as convenor has started to produce systematic reviews of methodological issues which are published in the Cochrane Database of Methodology Reviews. The Group has four systematic reviews and 11 protocols for systematic reviews published in the 4th issue of The Cochrane Library 2002.

The Cochrane Non-Randomised Studies Methods Group

with Ole Olsen as convenor. The Group has produced a set of draft guidelines during 2002 for when and how data from non-randomised studies could or should be included

in Cochrane Reviews. The co-convenor, Barney Reeves, temporarily took over as convenor during 2002; the future location of the group will be decided in 2003.

Nordic Cochrane reviews

Nordic researchers participate in many Review Groups, Methods Groups and Fields (see The Cochrane Library). In the 4th issue of 2002 of The Cochrane Library, 47 reviews and 42 protocols were listed with a Nordic contact address:

Country	Protocols	Reviews
DENMARK	22	24
FINLAND	5	11
NORWAY	5	8
RUSSIA	3	1
SWEDEN	7	3
Total	42	47

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
- Medical Enlightenment Charity Foundation, Moscow
- Norwegian Agency of 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-) and other members of the Advisory Board of the Centre; Managing Director Helle Ulrichsen, Copenhagen Hospital Corporation; Director Finn Børlum Kristensen, Danish Institute for Health Technology Assessment; General Secretary Jan Lindgren, Finnish Medical Society Duodecim; Chief Librarian Liisa Salmi, Kuopio University Hospital; Librarian Leena Lodenius, Medical Society Duodecim; Taito Pekkarinen, Finnish Medical Journal.

Publications in 2002

Publications by staff at The Nordic Cochrane Centre

New or updated Cochrane reviews and protocols

Gøtzsche PC. Somatostatin analogues for acute bleeding oesophageal varices (Cochrane Review). In: The Cochrane Library, Issue 1, 2002. Oxford: Update Software (updated).

Gøtzsche PC, Johansen HK. Nystatin prophylaxis and treatment in severely immunodepressed patients (Cochrane Review). In: The Cochrane Library, Issue 2, 2002. Oxford: Update Software (updated).

Gøtzsche PC, Johansen HK. Routine versus selective antifungal administration for control of fungal infections in patients with cancer (Cochrane Review). In: The Cochrane Library, Issue 2, 2002. Oxford: Update Software (updated).

Johansen HK, Gøtzsche PC. Amphotericin B versus fluconazole for controlling fungal infections in neutropenic cancer patients (Cochrane Review). In: The Cochrane Library, Issue 2, 2002. Oxford: Update Software (updated).

Johansen HK, Gøtzsche PC. Amphotericin B lipid soluble formulations vs amphotericin B in cancer patients with neutropenia (Cochrane Review). In: The Cochrane Library, Issue 2, 2002. Oxford: Update Software (updated).

Other publications

Gøtzsche PC. Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs. London: BMJ Publications, Clinical Evidence, 2002;7:1063-70.

Gøtzsche PC. Commentary: Medicalisation of risk factors. BMJ 2002;324:890-1.

Gøtzsche PC, Olsen O. Screening for mammacancer – to år efter. Ugeskr Læger 2002;164:204-6.

Gøtzsche PC. Kritik af Cochrane-oversigt om screening med mammografi er uberettiget. Ugeskr Læger 2002;164:653-4.

Gøtzsche PC. Trends in breast-conserving surgery in the Southeast Netherlands: Comment on article by Ernst and colleagues Eur J Cancer 2001, 37, 2435-2440. Eur J Cancer 2002;38:1288.

Gøtzsche PC. Update on effects of screening mammography. Lancet 2002;360:338-9.

Gøtzsche PC. Terlipressin for acute esophageal variceal hemorrhage. Comment on Cochrane Review. In: The Cochrane Library, Issue 3, 2002. Oxford: Update Software.

Gøtzsche PC. Beyond randomized controlled trials. Cancer 2002;94:578.

Gøtzsche PC. Mammographic screening: no reliable supporting evidence? Lancet 2002;359:706.

Gøtzsche PC. Alarmerande att screeningsförsöken inte ger minskad cancerdödlighet. Läkartidningen 2002;99:945.

Gøtzsche PC. Misvisende fremstilling af vort arbejde om screening med mammografi. Läkartidningen 2002;99:75-6.

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