



Minutes  
US Contributors' Meeting  
XV Cochrane Colloquium, São Paulo  
Friday, October 26, 2007, 18:00 – 19:00  
Port Elizabeth Room

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**1. Welcome and introductions:**

Bobbi Scherer, US Cochrane Center (USCC) Associate Director, welcomed everyone to the meeting. The attendees introduced themselves and briefly described ongoing activities.

**2. What's happening in the US:**

- Ron Koretz, Editor for the Hepato-Biliary Group, reported that for the past four years, he has facilitated a successful Cochrane Symposium at the annual Digestive Diseases Week meeting. He reported that this year was remarkably successful in that the number of participants overflowed the available room and monitors were set up for those unable to enter the meeting room. He also reported that a satellite Cochrane symposium at the Association of Liver Diseases was less successful.
- Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM) Field - Eric Manheimer reported that five years of funding (\$2.1 million) was awarded by the National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (NCCAM) to the University of Maryland for Brian Berman, CAM field Coordinating Editor. The project provides funding for some Cochrane reviews, a bursary for CAM reviews, continued development of the CAM trials register, and dissemination of Cochrane reviews through columns in the journals *Explore* and *Journal of Complementary and Alternative Medicine*.
- Barbara Warren, Co-Chair of the USCC-sponsored coalition of consumer advocacy groups, Consumers United for Evidence-based Healthcare (CUE), reported a successful year for CUE, with two major initiatives. First, CUE and the USCC launched a distance education course on evidence-based healthcare and critical appraisal for consumer advocates hosted by the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Second, CUE and the USCC coordinated a conference aimed for consumer advocacy groups. The CUE Advocacy Summit was held in Washington, D.C. with over 100 participants and speakers representing government, consumer advocacy groups, journalism, and policymaking. In addition, Barbara Warren and Richard Davis reported that they have produced a video about CUE that will be used on the USCC, Cochrane, and other web sites to disseminate information about the organization. They also were filming participants at the São Paulo Colloquium for another video, this one about the Cochrane Consumer Network (CCNet). Finally, Barbara and Kay received support from Wiley to present *The Cochrane Library* and CUE's online course at the American Public Health Association meeting in Washington, D.C. 6 November, 2007. Barbara itemized CUE's current projects, including recruiting new member-organizations to CUE, establishing

relationships with policy makers, and lobbying for a national subscription to *The Cochrane Library*.

- Lisa Bero, Co-Director of the San Francisco Branch of the USCC reported receiving funding of \$200,000 for five years from **Flight Attendants**, related to interventions with policymakers and critical appraisal related to tobacco use. This funding will allow the Branch to continue methodological studies in the field of tobacco use. Lisa also reported that the HIV Cochrane Review Group has been supporting the Sexually Transmitted Diseases Review Group, pending a move to a permanent location, probably Brazil.
- Louise Falcon reported for the Behavioral Medicine Field. Funding is minimal at this time, but there has been progress in attracting authors and in building the trials register. These activities are supported by group's website, which provides information about the Behavioral Medicine Field and also provides free access to the group's trials register.
- Maryann Napoli, CUE and CCNet member, commented on the successful CUE Advocacy Summit meeting. Maryann reported that as a member of CCNet, she is trying to increase participation of US consumers in the preparation of plain language summaries. She also reported that CCNet aims to provide funds to bring more consumers to the Colloquium, but they are struggling financially with this goal.
- Tianjing Li, from the Cochrane Eyes and Vision Group, US Satellite (CEVG@US) reported that the group received one of the prioritization awards from the Cochrane Collaboration. The CEVG group will identify priority topics using guidelines prepared by the American Academy of Ophthalmology. CEVG@ US also sponsored two successful systematic review workshops in 2007, one in Florida and one in Baltimore. Planned activities for the next year include two 2 ½ - day workshops on conducting systematic reviews and two half-day workshops on evidence-based healthcare; the latter to be held in conjunction with ophthalmology research network meetings. Other activities include support for US-based review authors and handsearching the US vision science literature. CEVG also supports an online handsearching course, which is free and available to anyone. In process in a second online course, this one on peer review of the biomedical literature.
- Prostatic Diseases and Urologic Cancers Group - No representative present
- Becky Gray from the Pain, Palliative, and Supportive Care Group, Headache Satellite reported that the group is operating on reserves until new funding is obtained. She also reported on her activities as the IMS support person in the US. She described the anticipated rollout of RevMan 5, including the addition of two new tables, the summary of findings table and the risk of bias table. She also indicated that she is available for any group with questions about the new RevMan version or any other IMS problems.
- Primary Health Care Field - No representative present.

- Screening and Diagnostic Test Methods Group - No representative present.
- Skin Group - No representative present
- Neonatal Group - No representative present
- US Cochrane Center - Bobbi Scherer reported that the main activities of the US Cochrane Center in the past year were the launch of the distance education course for consumer advocates on evidence-based healthcare and the CUE Advocacy Summit, as described by Barbara Warren. Other activities included two workshops on evidence-based health care and various presentations on Cochrane and evidence-based healthcare, as well as usual activities associated with the Masterlist of Journals Being Handsearched. Kay Dickersin reported that the Boston Branch of the USCC has closed.
- Susan Norris, from the Oregon Evidence Based Practice Center reported that work continues on the Drug Effectiveness Review Project (DERP), which aims to compare the effectiveness and safety of different drugs within pharmaceutical classes. As such, DERP makes frequent use of *The Cochrane Library*. DERP comparative effectiveness reviews complement the work of the Cochrane Collaboration.
- Randy Elder, Director of the group at the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) producing the Guide to Community Preventive Services (Community Guide), reported increased support at the CDC for the Community Guide group. He indicated that the Community Guide group is investigating a possible collaboration with the Cochrane Public Health Field.
- Ida Sim, Associate Professor at the University of California, San Francisco, and active in implementing the WHO Trials Registration Portal, reported on progress relating to trial registration. This includes a new US law mandating results reporting for trials of drugs newly approved by the Food and Drug Administration. Currently, there is an opportunity to give feedback on this law. Ida challenged the group to ask "What is Cochrane's voice?" and asked whether the USCC could post information about the relevant legislation on the USCC website.

### **3. Cochrane Steering Group news**

Lisa Bero briefly summarized Cochrane Collaboration Steering Group (CCSG) discussions and decisions made at the Colloquium. Of obvious interest is the planning and implementation of RevMan 5, with the addition of the new tables, ways to incorporate figures into the text, and attention to non-intervention review types (e. g., diagnostic accuracy and methodological reviews). Simultaneously, an updated version of the Handbook of Systematic Reviews of Interventions has been developed and is available for comment. The Handbook will be published as a paperback book, as well as be available free online; it is expected to be available soon. Cochrane Opportunity Funding proposals are again available and due in November. The CCSG also plans to present a request for proposals to fund development of the "new CENTRAL." This project will fund development of an internal group to create a database

combining study- and citation-based specialized registers. Those partnering with an external group will be preferred. Other news includes a formal association with the Guidelines International Network (G-I-N), last year's review of CCSG and CCSG's response, the upcoming review of the Collaboration by Jeremy Grimshaw, and the decision to renew the contract with Wiley for another five years. Venues for the next colloquia are as follows: Freiburg, 3-7 October, 2008; Singapore, 11-15 October 2009; and Keystone, Colorado, 18-22 October, 2010.

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