

**XIV COCHRANE COLLOQUIUM  
DUBLIN, IRELAND**

23 – 26 October 2006

**Workshop Title:** Critical appraisal skills for consumers: understanding the evidence using an online course on Evidence-based Healthcare for Consumer Advocates

**Facilitator(s):** Kay Dickersin, Maryann Napoli, Musa Mayer, and Marianne Hamilton

**Topic:** Critical Appraisal Skills for Consumer Advocates

**Objective:**

The workshop will introduce a web-based course for consumer advocates on evidence-based healthcare and critical appraisal skills that will be offered free-of-charge. The workshop will be an opportunity for the USCC and CUE to obtain feedback from Cochrane contributors.

**Summary:**

Consumers are bombarded with healthcare information from the print media, TV, radio, Internet and from their doctors. Interpreting the accuracy and validity of information is often difficult, as reports can be conflicting and evidence may seem to change over time. The United States Cochrane Center (USCC) and Consumers United for Evidence-based Healthcare (CUE) have developed a web-based course on evidence-based healthcare and critical appraisal skills for consumer advocates. At the conclusion of the online course, participants will be able to:

1. Understand what evidence-based healthcare is and how they can use it to inform their own healthcare decisions;
2. Find reliable sources of evidence-based information;
3. Critically appraise information found in clinical guidelines, healthcare web sites, the lay news media, and journal articles (primary research and systematic reviews).

At the Colloquium workshop, we will present new course modules and request written participant feedback. We will also devote a portion of the workshop session to verbal discussion of the course and improvements that could be made.