

UK Cochrane Centre

Annual Report 2004



**THE COCHRANE
COLLABORATION®**

June 12 2005
UK Cochrane Centre
www.cochrane.co.uk

CONTENTS

Background	3
The Cochrane Collaboration	3
The UK Cochrane Centre	4
Training and supporting Cochrane entities and contributors to The Cochrane Collaboration based in the UK and Ireland	5
Research/Methodology Programme	5
Identification of studies	6
Diagnostic test accuracy reviews	6
Other activities	6
Conclusion	7
Acknowledgements	7
Appendices	
1. Staff list of the UK Cochrane Centre (as of 3 January 2005) and brief biographies of staff at the Centre during 2004	8
2. Cochrane entities with a co-ordinating base in the UK (as of 3 January 2005)	12
3. Publications by UK Cochrane Centre staff and visitors during 2004	13
4. Collaborative Review Groups, journals and others for which refereeing was done by UK Cochrane Centre staff during 2004	19
5. Presentations made by UK Cochrane Centre staff during 2004	20
6. UK Cochrane Centre staff membership of committees during 2004	21
7. UK Cochrane Centre internal seminars during 2004	22
8. Members of the UK Cochrane Infrastructure Advisory Group	23
9. Members of the UK Cochrane Centre Advisory Board	24

Background

The UK Cochrane Centre (UKCC) was established at the end of 1992 by the NHS Research and Development Programme 'to facilitate and co-ordinate the preparation and maintenance of systematic reviews of randomized controlled trials of healthcare'. The Centre is now part of The Cochrane Collaboration, which was launched at the First Cochrane Colloquium in Oxford in October 1993, and remains an integral part of the NHS Research and Development Programme, along with the Centre for Reviews and Dissemination in York and the NHS Health Technology Assessment Programme. The UKCC provides a link between national initiatives in the UK and the international Cochrane Collaboration. It is one of twelve Cochrane Centres, which provide the infrastructure for co-ordinating The Cochrane Collaboration around the world. We are responsible for supporting contributors to The Cochrane Collaboration in the United Kingdom, Ireland and some other countries; and have a branch in Thailand (the Thai Cochrane Network) and, since March 2005, a second branch in Bahrain.

The Cochrane Collaboration

The Cochrane Collaboration is the largest organization in the world engaged in the preparation and maintenance of systematic reviews. The Collaboration aims to help people make well-informed decisions by preparing, maintaining and promoting the accessibility of systematic reviews of the effects of interventions in all areas of health care.

The Cochrane Collaboration is supported by hundreds of organizations from around the world, including health service providers, research funding agencies, departments of health, international organizations and universities. There are currently 13,000 people contributing to the work of The Cochrane Collaboration in almost 100 countries (38% based in the UK). This involvement continues to grow at a rapid rate. The number of people involved has more than doubled since 2000.

There are 50 Cochrane Collaborative Review Groups, responsible for reviews within particular areas of health, and collectively providing a home for reviews in all aspects of health care. These Groups are supported by regional Cochrane Centres, such as the UKCC. There are also Methods Groups, with expertise in relevant areas of methodology; Fields or Networks, with broad areas of interest and expertise spanning the scope of many Review Groups; and a Consumer Network helping to promote the interests of users of health care.

The Cochrane Collaboration has grown quickly since its formation in October 1993. Although there is a great deal of work that remains to be done, much has been accomplished already. *The Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews*, the main product of The Cochrane Collaboration, now contains the full text of 2300 completed Cochrane reviews, each of which will be kept up-to-date as new evidence accumulates and other ways of improving them are identified. There are also 1600 published protocols for reviews in progress, and hundreds more at a pre-protocol stage. Several hundred newly completed reviews and protocols are added each year, and several hundred reviews are updated.

It has been estimated that approximately 10,000 Cochrane reviews are needed to cover all healthcare interventions that have already been investigated in controlled trials, and these reviews will need to be assessed for updating and updated, if necessary, at the rate of 5000 per year. If the growth in The Cochrane Collaboration continues at the pace of the last few years, there will be 10,000 Cochrane reviews during the next 10 years. However, this will require continuing and evolving partnership and collaboration. The Cochrane Collaboration will need to continue to attract and support the wide variety of people who contribute to its work, and to make it easier for these people to contribute. This will be achieved through, for example, the development of a new Information Management System for The Cochrane Collaboration, to help with the preparation, maintenance and dissemination of Cochrane reviews. The Cochrane Collaboration will also need to work together with funders and with providers of health care to ensure that the resources needed for the work grow, and the output of the work is accessible to people making decisions about health care.

In 2004, the Canadian Cochrane Centre led a project to identify ways in which the findings of Cochrane reviews, and other output of The Cochrane Collaboration, are disseminated and used in, for example, decision-making about healthcare policy and research. This inventory is

available on The Cochrane Collaboration website (www.cochrane.org). One of the ways in which Cochrane reviews influence healthcare research in the UK is that the National Co-ordinating Centre for Health Technology Assessment (NCCHTA) within the NHS routinely checks the “Implications for research” section of new Cochrane reviews for ideas to feed into its commissioning process. In 2004, the HTA programme issued calls for proposals for 14 topics, and the most common single source for these was Cochrane reviews, providing four of the 14. [Health Technology Assessment Programme. Annual Report 2004. London: Department of Health, 2005, p.3]

The Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews is available on the Internet and CD-ROM in *The Cochrane Library*. The establishment of several national subscriptions means that this is now free at the point of use to people in several countries of the world. The first of these subscriptions was negotiated with considerable input from the UK Cochrane Centre, and was established for the island of Ireland in January 2002. Similar arrangements now exist in England, Scotland and Wales; as well as in Australia, Denmark, Finland, South Africa, Sweden and Norway. Free access is also available to countries in Latin and Central America and the Caribbean via BIREME at the Latin American and Caribbean Center on Health Sciences Information (<http://www.bireme.br/bvs/ihome.htm>). There are also initiatives to provide free access to low-income countries via HINARI, the Health InterNetwork Access to Research Initiative led by the World Health Organization, and the International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publication’s (INASP) Programme for the Enhancement of Research Information (PERI).

The UK Cochrane Centre

The staff of the UK Cochrane Centre are listed in Appendix 1. During 2004, the Centre was the reference Centre for half of the Cochrane Collaborative Review Groups (CRGs), with 25 of the 50 CRGs having editorial bases in the UK. The co-ordinating bases of one Field and seven Methods Groups were also based in this country (Appendix 2). Just under 40% of the contributors to all 50 Collaborative Review Groups live in the UK. This represented nearly 5000 people in 2004, an increase of 113% since 2000 (see table below). By the end of 2004, approximately one third of the 7500 authors of Cochrane reviews were in the UK.

Contributors to the work of Collaborative Review Groups in the UK and the rest of the world

	2000	2002	2003	2004	2005
UK	2303	3084	3660	4446	4933
Rest of the world	3134	4644	5619	7071	8114
Total	5437	7728	9279	11,517	13,047

The Centre is also the reference Centre for contributors to the work of The Cochrane Collaboration who live in Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Thailand, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen. We have branches in Thailand (since 2002) and Bahrain (since March 2005).

The UKCC had its external review by the Department of Health in late 2003 and we were awarded funding for the period to 31 March 2010, with a further external review to take place in 2008. The work of the UKCC during 2004 reflected the decisions made by the external review. These decisions included a change in emphasis by the Department of Health in relation to the core funding of our Training and Support and Research/Methodology Programmes. The main emphasis was changed to the extent that the primary use for the core funding provided to the UKCC by the Department of Health (via the NHS Research and Development Programme) is now on the training and support for entities (in particular Collaborative Review Groups) and contributors to The Cochrane Collaboration based in the UK.

The external review was supportive of our Research/Methodology Programme and recognized its high quality but emphasized that funding should be sought from elsewhere to support this Programme on the scale we proposed. In view of the need for our Training and Support Programme to draw on good evidence on how to improve the quality of systematic reviews, our Research/Methodology Programme will be maintained.

Brief reports for various aspects of our work follow:

Training and supporting Cochrane entities and contributors to The Cochrane Collaboration based in the UK and Ireland

The training programme provided by the UK Cochrane Centre continued to evolve during 2004, under the co-ordination of Phil Wiffen, Esther Coren, Nicola Thornton, Nancy Owens and Lisa Horwill. During the year, there were nine 'Developing a protocol for a review' and eight 'Introduction to Analysis' workshops for authors of Cochrane reviews in the UK and Ireland, with 261 places filled by 212 people. Workshops were held in Bristol, Dundee, Liverpool, London, Oxford and York. 98% of the participants were based in the UK and 99% completed a feedback form. In June 2004, we piloted a new 2-day workshop on editor training, as part of the initiative to develop and provide training to the editorial staff of Collaborative Review Groups. The workshop was run with assistance from Sally Hughes of Oxford Brookes University and involved nine participants. More information is provided in the Centre's annual report on training.

Other major opportunities for training are provided by the Annual Meeting for UK and Ireland-based Contributors to The Cochrane Collaboration, and the Cochrane Colloquium. In 2004, these took place in Edinburgh and Ottawa, respectively. A wide variety of training workshops were offered to participants, covering, for example, study identification, data collection and statistical analyses; and staff from the UK Cochrane Centre facilitated several of these workshops at both meetings.

To stimulate interest in systematic reviews in Ireland and Northern Ireland, three-day workshops on systematic reviews have continued to be held on that island, with support from the R&D Office in Belfast and the Health Research Board (HRB) in Dublin. These courses were held in Belfast, Cork, Dublin (twice) and Limerick during 2004. More than 60 people attended these workshops and the feedback has been uniformly positive. The HRB/R&D Office initiative also provides funding for Cochrane training fellowships on the island of Ireland and these were doubled in value in 2004 to cover the salaries of Fellows to work on a Cochrane review for the equivalent of two days per week for two years. The UK Cochrane Centre (Mike Clarke) has convened the Selection Panel for these awards since their inception in 2002. The Fellowships are being offered again in 2005.

Research/Methodology Programme

Appendix 3 contains references to research studies that were published by UK Cochrane Centre staff during 2004. Among these, is a study assessing how trial information reported in a conference abstract differs from its subsequent full publication and whether trials reported only as abstracts should be included in systematic reviews (Sally Hopewell, Mike Clarke and Lisa Askie). This study showed that findings reported in conference abstracts can be unstable, especially for trials reporting early or preliminary results. It highlights the need to improve the quality of trials reported in the proceedings of scientific meetings. Another study redesigned the Cochrane Highly Sensitive Search Strategy for identifying reports of randomized trials in MEDLINE, using objective statistical analysis, to increase its sensitivity and precision (Carol Lefebvre). A further study investigated methods of detecting publication bias in systematic reviews of diagnostic test accuracy and found that existing methods used to detect bias in meta-analyses of randomized trials are likely to be seriously misleading when applied to meta-analyses of diagnostic test accuracy (Jon Deeks). Staff at the UK Cochrane Centre are also working on a new Cochrane Methodology Review, currently published as a protocol in the *Cochrane Database of Methodology Reviews*, which assesses the effects of masking (blinding) and not masking (non-blinding) authors to the identity of studies at the inclusion stage of a systematic review, and the influence of masking on the findings of that review (Maggie Westby, Mike Clarke and Sally Hopewell).

As part of the Research/Methodology Programme, Sally Hopewell successfully completed and was awarded her D.Phil at the University of Oxford at the end of 2004. Her thesis assesses the potential and actual impact of including grey literature in systematic reviews and several of the research projects undertaken at the UKCC contributed to this work. Sally was

awarded a Thomas C. Chalmers student scholarship to attend the Society for Clinical Trials meeting in New Orleans in May 2004, to present some of her work.

The Centre continues to be responsible for the production of the annual Cochrane Collaboration Methods Groups Newsletter. Sally Hopewell and Mike Clarke are editors of this Newsletter, which contains articles about the methodology of healthcare evaluations, structured abstracts and commentaries on published research, details of empirical research within The Cochrane Collaboration, and reports from the Methods Groups. More than 750 copies of the 2004 edition were distributed to Cochrane entities worldwide, as well as to other people and organizations inside and outside The Cochrane Collaboration, and it is available from The Cochrane Collaboration website (www.cochrane.org/newslett/index.htm).

With funding from the Methodology Programme within the NHS Health Technology Assessment Programme, the Centre has continued to enhance *The Cochrane Methodology Register* during 2004. This Register is a unique resource, containing thousands of records and abstracts for studies relevant to the methodology of systematic reviews and other healthcare evaluations. Through systematic searching of relevant journals and bibliographic databases (co-ordinated by Anne Eisinga with input from Sally Hopewell and Mike Clarke), we identified, indexed and included more than 1400 additional records in the Register during 2004 (compared to approximately 500 in 2003), bringing its total content to nearly 7000 records. Furthermore, we provided an annual report to the Director of the Methodology Programme, Professor Richard Lilford, in December 2004 highlighting topics that might be suitable for calls for proposals for future research. The topics highlighted arose from discussions within The Cochrane Collaboration and an assessment of the incidence of new research in *The Cochrane Methodology Register*, relating to topics that had been studied previously in Health Technology Assessment (HTA) funded projects.

Identification of studies

Although there has been a substantial decrease in the amount of work done by the UKCC in the identification of studies for possible inclusion in Cochrane reviews, we remain active in this area. During 2004, our trial identification programme (co-ordinated by Carol Lefebvre and Anne Eisinga) contributed more than 5000 reports of trials to *The Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials (CENTRAL)*, compared to 19,000 in 2003 (which was largely due to the work done to develop a search strategy for EMBASE).

Just over 1700 reports of definite or possible randomized or quasi-randomized trials of healthcare were identified by handsearching journals published in the UK and Ireland. These are available in CENTRAL in *The Cochrane Library*. The majority of reports identified, however, come from the ongoing project to search the electronic bibliographic biomedical database, EMBASE. This searching uses a combination of free-text words and indexing terms and covers the publication years 1980-2003. The titles and abstracts of the retrieved records are read to determine whether they are reports of controlled trials and, those that are, are submitted for inclusion in CENTRAL. In 2004, 3500 reports of trials were identified and made available in this way.

Diagnostic test accuracy reviews

During most of 2004, Jon Deeks worked at the UK Cochrane Centre one day per week developing the material necessary for Cochrane reviews of diagnostic test accuracy. This has involved producing a specification for the review structure, a detailed Reviewers' Handbook and an outline for the additional functions that will be added to RevMan (The Cochrane Collaboration's review management software). A meeting of 35 key methodologists was held at the German Cochrane Centre in April 2004, which enabled the development of the Handbook to progress, the first complete draft of which was reviewed at the Ottawa Colloquium. Furthermore, proposals are being developed to obtain funding to employ key staff to support the implementation of these new methods across The Cochrane Collaboration in 2006. The first reviews are scheduled to be published in 2007.

Other activities

Every day, staff at the UK Cochrane Centre provide advice and support to members of The Cochrane Collaboration and others interested in the evaluation of health care. This is usually

by email or telephone. In 2004, we made more use of our website to provide information to people and this may have reduced the number of enquiries direct to the Centre slightly, with several hundred hits per week on the website.

Staff have refereed protocols and reviews for several Collaborative Review Groups, articles for journals (Appendix 4), made several presentations about the work of the UK Cochrane Centre or The Cochrane Collaboration more generally (Appendix 5) and participated in a variety of committees within the UK and internationally (Appendix 6). Mike Clarke continued to suggest referees for all outline proposals for clinical trials received by the UK Medical Research Council (30 applications in 2004); Esther Coren and Carol Lefebvre were members of the selection committee for workshop abstracts for the 12th Cochrane Colloquium in Ottawa, Canada. The UK Cochrane Centre also hosted several meetings relating to the Information Management System of The Cochrane Collaboration during 2004. Furthermore, Carol Lefebvre and Anne Eisinga conducted extensive testing of the Wiley InterScience version of *The Cochrane Library* and provided advice to The Cochrane Collaboration Steering Group and Publishing Policy Group about this, throughout the year. The series of UKCC seminars also continued during the year (Appendix 7), with responsibility for organizing them passing from Maggie Westby to Nandi Siegfried when Maggie left in the second half of the year.

During 2004, a steady stream of visitors spent periods of between a few weeks and more than one year at the UKCC to work on their Cochrane reviews or other research projects. For example, in 2004, Lisa Askie continued to work at the Centre on an individual patient data based Cochrane review of antiplatelet drugs for the prevention of pre-eclampsia and John Simes and Davina Ghersi from Sydney made separate visits to work on topics relevant to methodological research.

Conclusions

Over the coming years, the UK Cochrane Centre, along with the other UK-based Cochrane entities will continue to provide substantial benefits to the NHS, and national and international health care more generally. These benefits will arise through the continued improvement of the quality of systematic reviews, an increased understanding of these reviews, and the provision of reliable evidence on the importance of various elements of the conduct and interpretation of systematic reviews, including their updating.

Furthermore, the work of the UK Cochrane Centre and The Cochrane Collaboration more widely should continue to provide an example to others engaged in scientific research of how the primary research (i.e. Cochrane reviews) can be continually improved through a high quality training and support programme, backed up by methodological research informed by the results of high-quality, systematic reviews of empirical methodological studies.

Acknowledgements

We are grateful to our funders (in particular the NHS Research and Development Programme, Department of Health, England; the Chief Scientist Office, Scottish Executive Health and Community Care Department; the NHS Wales Office of Research and Development; the Department of Health and Social Services, Northern Ireland; the Health Research Board, Ireland; and to the Milton Keynes Primary Care Trust with whom the contract for the UK Cochrane Centre is held. We are also grateful to the members of the UK Cochrane Infrastructure Advisory Group (Appendix 8) and the Advisory Board of the UK Cochrane Centre (Appendix 9) for their help and support during the year.

Appendix 1. Staff list of the UK Cochrane Centre (as of 3 January 2005) and brief biographies of staff at the Centre during 2004

Director: Mike Clarke
Training Director: Phil Wiffen
Administrator: Caroline Rouse
Personal Assistant/Secretary: Lisa Horwill
Personal Assistant/Secretary: Sarah Moore
Workshops/Meetings Co-ordinator: Nicola Thornton
Lecturer in Systematic Reviews: Esther Coren
Training Co-ordinator: Nancy Owens
Research Assistant: Sally Hopewell
Research Fellow (diagnostic test accuracy): Jon Deeks
Information Specialist: Carol Lefebvre
Information Specialist: Anne Eisinga
Nuffield Fellow: Nandi Siegfried

Brief biographies of staff at the UK Cochrane Centre during 2004

Phil Alderson is a public health doctor and was the Associate Director of the UK Cochrane Centre until January 2005 when he joined the National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE). He worked at the UK Cochrane Centre from 1996 and was in charge of our training programme from 1998. He has taught on systematic review courses, has aided in the development of a short course on analysis of systematic reviews, and has developed The Cochrane Collaboration's Open Learning Material for Reviewers. He was Co-Editor of the Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions (formerly known as the Cochrane Reviewers' Handbook) and Co-Convenor of the Collaboration's Quality Advisory Group during 2004. Phil was previously an editor for the Cochrane Injuries Group and published several reviews on the treatment of head injuries and the use of fluids for treatment of seriously ill patients.

Mike Clarke is Director of the UK Cochrane Centre. He did a degree in Chemistry at the University of Oxford in the early 1980s, followed by a DPhil in the history of suicide by poisoning. He started working at the Clinical Trial Service Unit (CTSU) in Oxford in 1989 and still works there one day per week. He is responsible for the collaborative overviews of cancer treatments co-ordinated by the CTSU. Mike became Associate Director (Research) at the UK Cochrane Centre in April 1999, with a special responsibility for our work to identify published reports of randomized trials and the Methodology Research Programme. He became Director in October 2002. He is involved in several other aspects of the work of The Cochrane Collaboration, was Co-Chair of the international Steering Group until October 2004 and is the Convenor of the Information Management System Group. As well as systematic reviews, Mike is also involved in the conduct of large randomized trials. He is on the management committees for trials in pre-eclampsia, subarachnoid haemorrhage, breast cancer and poisoning - each of which has become the largest ever randomized trial in these conditions. He designed and teaches the Advanced Clinical Trials and Advanced Systematic Reviews modules on the University of Oxford's MSc in Evidence-Based Health Care, and is Chairman of the Board of Examiners for this degree. He became Professor of Clinical Epidemiology at the University of Oxford in October 2004.

Esther Coren is Training Lecturer at the UK Cochrane Centre and has a professional background in child protection social work. She has worked in this post at the Centre since February 2002. She assists the Training Director in developing training materials, and teaches on systematic review courses both for UK and Ireland-based contributors to The Cochrane Collaboration and others. She has specific responsibility for the training of UK-based editors of Collaborative Review Groups and has been involved in widening and developing the workshop programme for the annual meeting of UK and Ireland-based contributors to The Cochrane Collaboration as part of this remit. She is an editor with the Developmental, Psychosocial and Learning Problems Group, and author of systematic reviews on the effectiveness of parenting interventions. She is currently conducting systematic reviews of the effectiveness of home visiting programmes for supporting

disadvantaged parents, and of risperidone for autism. Esther is also Visiting Fellow at The Evidence for Policy and Practice Information and Co-ordinating Centre (EPPI-Centre), which is part of the Social Science Research Unit (SSRU), Institute of Education, University of London.

Jon Deeks qualified as a medical statistician in 1989, and first worked as a lecturer at the London Hospital Medical College before taking up a research position at the Centre for Reviews and Dissemination at the University of York. Since 1995 he has been based at the Centre for Statistics in Medicine at the University of Oxford. Jon is a Co-Convenor of the Statistical Methods Group of The Cochrane Collaboration, and is currently the Methods Group representative on the Steering Group. In the latter part of 2002, he was employed as a statistical consultant at the UK Cochrane Centre. During 2004, he led the working party paving the way for Cochrane reviews of diagnostic test accuracy and worked one day per week on this at the Centre.

Anne Eisinga is a qualified information specialist who joined the UK Cochrane Centre in 1999. She has a first degree in French and German and an MSc in Library and Information Science (Loughborough University, 1987). Previously she worked as a clinical librarian supporting evidence-based practice in a frontline acute medicine service and conducted a randomized trial of teaching searching skills to medical students. Anne supports the UK Cochrane Centre's research methodology team and the NHS R&D Methodology Programme by co-ordinating the production of *The Cochrane Methodology Register*, which is published in *The Cochrane Library*. She designs search strategies to identify relevant studies for the Register and manages the Centre's team of handsearchers. She has also worked on a European Union funded project to identify reports of trials in specialized healthcare journals and is currently working on a project to identify reports of trials in EMBASE. She co-ordinates the handsearching activities of countries for which the UK Cochrane Centre is the reference centre, including the recently established Bahrain Branch. She is responsible for the quarterly submission to the US Cochrane Center of reports of trials, identified through the Centre's handsearching programme and the electronic search of EMBASE, for inclusion in the *Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials (CENTRAL)*, published in *The Cochrane Library*. She is a member of the Search Testing Group which reports to the Collaboration's Steering Group. She also provides advice on designing search strategies to the Centre's staff and visiting research fellows who are working on Cochrane systematic reviews.

Sally Hopewell is a Research Assistant at the UK Cochrane Centre. She has been working at the Centre since August 1999. Previously, she worked as a paediatric nurse before undertaking an MSc in healthcare studies in 1997. She successfully completed a DPhil at the University of Oxford into the effects of including grey and other unpublished literature in systematic reviews in 2004. Sally is part of the methodology research team conducting research to help improve the quality of Cochrane reviews. She has published several methodology reviews into the effects of bias in systematic reviews and is a member of the Cochrane Methodology Review Group. She also works on the production and development of *The Cochrane Methodology Register*, which is published in *The Cochrane Library*. Other responsibilities include co-editing and production of the annual Cochrane Collaboration Methods Groups Newsletter, supporting new Methods Groups and assisting in the teaching of protocol and analysis workshops for Cochrane reviewers. She is involved in conducting a systematic review into the effects of wearing stockings on long-haul flights.

Lisa Horwill is Personal Assistant to the Training Director and provides secretarial support to members of the training team and the Administrator. She graduated from the University of Birmingham in 2002 with a BA in History and subsequently worked and travelled for a year before joining the UKCC in June 2004. She is responsible for co-ordinating the arrangements for the series of Protocol and Analysis workshops within the UK and Ireland and assists the training team with the administration of the other training workshops and courses conducted by the UKCC. These include editors' training in the UK, Systematic Review Courses in the island of Ireland, NICE training in London and the Review Completion Course held in Oxford. She is the first point of contact within the UKCC for enquiries regarding training and partakes in reception duties. During 2004, she helped to organize the Annual meeting of UK and

Ireland-based Contributors to The Cochrane Collaboration, which took place in Manchester in March 2005.

Carol Lefebvre is the Information Specialist at the UK Cochrane Centre and has been in post since the Centre opened in 1992. She has a first degree in German and an MSc in Library and Information Science (Loughborough University, 1985). Before joining the Centre, she was Deputy Librarian at the University of Oxford Medical School library at the John Radcliffe Hospital. Her role at the Centre is to co-ordinate the identification of reports of controlled trials and to support Review Groups in this activity – to facilitate the inclusion of trials in Cochrane reviews. This has included taking the lead on two European Union funded projects involving six other Cochrane Centres, to identify reports of trials by handsearching European journals. She also initiated the systematic searching of MEDLINE for all reports of trials and a similar project with EMBASE. She provides training and support in trial identification to Collaborative Review Groups, predominantly through the Trials Search Co-ordinators. She also provides training for reviewers in this area. She is Co-Convenor of the Cochrane Information Retrieval Methods Group and Convenor of the newly established Search Testing Group, which reports to the Collaboration's Steering Group. Her research interests include improving the design of search strategies to identify reports of controlled trials and systematic reviews. She designed the original Cochrane Highly Sensitive Search Strategy for identifying reports of randomized trials in MEDLINE which she and colleagues from the Centre for Reviews and Dissemination in the University of York have recently revised using objective statistical analysis techniques, and submitted for publication.

Sarah Moore is Personal Assistant to the Director of the UK Cochrane Centre and provides secretarial and administrative support to others in the Centre. She joined the Centre in March 1999, where she has worked for various members of the Centre in a PA/administrative capacity, for example, typing personal correspondence, managing diaries, making travel arrangements and performing reception duties. She is responsible for the ordering of research papers for staff, keeping records of what has been ordered, by whom and when the paper is likely to be available. Sarah is currently working on research methodology projects, which involve summarising reports of studies assessing biases in systematic reviews and randomized trials. She has reviewed and commented on protocols and systematic reviews for the Cochrane Epilepsy Group as a consumer and has co-authored a review for add-on treatments for epilepsy which was recently updated.

Nancy Owens works part-time as a Training Co-ordinator at the UK Cochrane Centre, with particular focus on developing and providing training relevant to people working in Collaborative Review Groups. She has worked with The Cochrane Collaboration since 1999 in a variety of roles, including Review Group Co-ordinator of the Schizophrenia Group and Co-ordinator of the US Cochrane Center. In 2001-2002 she undertook a comprehensive survey of Cochrane entities on behalf of the Cochrane Collaboration Steering Group, with a view to identifying strategies and processes to improve the quality and consistency of Cochrane reviews. She is also an editor of The Cochrane Collaboration's website and a copy editor on the Cochrane/Wiley Copy Edit Support project.

Caroline Rouse is the Administrator at the UK Cochrane Centre and has worked at the Centre since it opened in 1992. Caroline is primarily responsible for the administration and financial aspects of the Centre; this includes managing the physical and financial resources of the office accommodation at Summertown Pavilion. She works closely with Milton Keynes Primary Care Trust, which 'hosts' the UK Cochrane Centre. Caroline has principal responsibility for the Annual Meeting of UK and Ireland-based Contributors to The Cochrane Collaboration, which is now into its eleventh year and works with a small planning group to co-ordinate arrangements for the meeting.

Nandi Siegfried is a public health doctor and was the Co-director of the South African Cochrane Centre until March 2004. She has been based at the UKCC since April 2004 when she received a Nuffield Medical Fellowship to complete a DPhil degree at the University of Oxford under the supervision of Mike Clarke. Her thesis addresses the methodological quality of African HIV/AIDS trials. Nandi is Deputy Co-ordinating Editor of the Cochrane HIV/AIDS Review Group (CRG) and, in partnership with this CRG, established the successful African

HIV/AIDS Mentoring Programme to increase the number of HIV/AIDS reviews relevant to the region. She took over responsibility for organizing the internal seminars at the UK Cochrane Centre when Maggie Westby left.

Nicola Thornton has worked at the UK Cochrane Centre since 1996 and in her present post, as Co-ordinator for UK Workshops and Meetings since 1998. Her work includes the administration of the Aubrey Sheiham Public Health and Primary Care Scholarship and the administration and technical support for the production of The Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions. Nicola is also involved in the organization of the Annual Meeting of UK and Ireland-based Contributors to The Cochrane Collaboration, with specific responsibility for consumer issues and the planning of the workshop schedule. Nicola is a consumer with the Oral Health, Heart and Skin Groups. She is also a co-reviewer and consumer with the Cochrane Multiple Sclerosis Group and is currently working on a review of the effects of diet on those suffering with multiple sclerosis.

Maggie Westby had a part-time research fellowship from the Daphne Jackson Trust, which was extended by the UK Cochrane Centre, to carry out three systematic reviews - in asthma, skin cancer and anti-emetics for chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting - until September 2004 when she joined the guidelines team at the Royal College of Nursing Institute. She also worked on a methodology review, was responsible for a project assessing the quality of all randomized trials in the BMJ from 1948 to date, and developed an Access database that was programmed to cover all steps in a systematic review from inclusion of studies to producing output ready for RevMan (The Cochrane Collaboration's review management software). The database won an award for innovation at the British Female Inventors and Innovators Awards, in 2005. The Daphne Jackson Trust funds women returners to science and engineering, with a view to re-training them following a career break. Before the Fellowship (which Maggie held from March 2001), she worked for six years on a casual basis for the UK Cochrane Centre on the quality control of handsearching and some methodology work. She originally trained as a research chemist. Maggie initiated and organized the internal seminars at the UK Cochrane Centre until she left and passed this responsibility to Nandi Siegfried.

Phil Wiffen splits his time between two Cochrane roles. He is Associate Director (Training) at the UK Cochrane Centre and works as Co-ordinating Editor for the Cochrane Collaborative Review Group in Pain, Palliative and Supportive Care. He has a clinical pharmacy background. Phil is closely involved in pain research and systematic reviews and meta-analyses of pain and palliative care studies with the Pain Relief Unit based at the Churchill Hospital in Oxford. He is honorary senior research assistant at the University of Oxford's Nuffield Department of Anaesthetics. Phil has a long standing interest in healthcare issues for low and middle income countries and is an adviser on the WHO Essential Medicines Committee. In previous roles, Phil has headed up pharmacy services at a major teaching hospital, worked at the regional level of the NHS and also worked for the Department of Health in England on major policy issues.

Appendix 2. Cochrane entities with a co-ordinating base in the UK (as of 3 January 2005)

Collaborative Review Groups

Airways Group, London
Cystic Fibrosis and Genetic Disorders Group, Liverpool
Dementia and Cognitive Improvement Group, Oxford
Depression, Anxiety and Neurosis Group, London
Developmental, Psychosocial and Learning Problems Group, Bristol
Ear, Nose and Throat Disorders Group, Oxford
Epilepsy Group, Liverpool
Eyes and Vision Group, London
Gynaecological Cancer Group, Bath
Heart Group, Bristol
Incontinence Group, Aberdeen
Infectious Diseases Group, Liverpool
Injuries Group, London
Musculoskeletal Injuries, Middlesborough (now Bone, Joint and Muscle Trauma Group, York)
Neuromuscular Disease Group, London
Oral Health Group, Manchester
Pain, Palliative and Supportive Care Group, Oxford
Peripheral Vascular Diseases Group, Edinburgh
Pregnancy and Childbirth Group, Liverpool
Schizophrenia Group, Leeds
Skin Group, Nottingham
Stroke Group, Edinburgh
Tobacco Addiction Group, Oxford
Upper Gastrointestinal and Pancreatic Diseases Group, Leeds
Wounds Group, York

Fields

Cancer Network, Oxford

Methods Groups

Applicability and Recommendations, Oxford (now Rome, Italy)
Health Economics, Norwich
Individual Patient Data Meta-analysis, London
Information Retrieval, Cardiff
Non-Randomised Studies, London
Qualitative Methods, Lancaster
Statistical Methods, Oxford

Appendix 3. Publications by UK Cochrane Centre staff and visitors during 2004

Alderson P. Absence of evidence is not evidence of absence: we need to report uncertain results and do it clearly. *BMJ* 2004;328:476-477.

Alderson P, Deeks JJ. Concerning 'The number needed to treat needs an associated odds estimation' [letter]. *Journal of Public Health* 2004;26(4):400.

Alderson P, Gaskary C, Signorini DF. Therapeutic hypothermia for head injury (Cochrane Review) [Updated]. In: *The Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2004, Issue 4. Art. No.:CD001048.pub2. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD001048.pub2.

Alderson P, Green S, Higgins J, editors. Cochrane Reviewers' Handbook 4.2.1 [updated December 2003]. In: *The Cochrane Library*, Issue 1, 2004. Chichester, UK: John Wiley & Sons, Ltd.

Alderson P, Groves T. What doesn't work and how to show it: ineffectiveness is hard to prove and accept. *BMJ* 2004;328:473.

Allen C, Clarke M. International activity within Collaborative Review Groups [abstract]. In: *12th Cochrane Colloquium* 2004 Oct 2-6; Ottawa, Ontario, Canada:102.

Allen C, Hopewell S, Prentice A. Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs for pain in women with endometriosis (Protocol for a Cochrane Review). In: *The Cochrane Library*, Issue 2, 2004. Chichester, UK: John Wiley & Sons, Ltd.

Altman D, Beyene J, Deeks J, Higgins J, Lewis S. Cochrane Statistical Methods Group. *Cochrane Collaboration Methods Groups Newsletter* 2004;8:29-30.

Barden J, Edwards JE, McQuay HJ, Wiffen PJ, Moore RA. Relative efficacy of oral analgesics after third molar extraction. *British Dental Journal* 2004;197:407-411.

Barlow J, Coren E. Parent-training programmes for improving maternal psychosocial health (Cochrane Review) [Updated]. In: *The Cochrane Library*, Issue 1, 2004. Chichester, UK: John Wiley & Sons, Ltd.

Biron C. Hall, Sir Edward Marshall (1858-1927), rev. Mike Clarke. *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, Oxford University Press, 2004 [Accessed 18 Oct 2004: <http://www.oxforddnb.com/view/article/33651>].

Bourne LT, Hendricks M, Mzamo B, Siegfried N, Goeiman H. "Masiphulise". "Let us produce/let us develop". *The Bloemkombos Integrated Nutrition Programme – lessons learned and experiences gained*. Cape Town, South Africa: South African Medical Research Council, 2004.

Boynton J, Glanville J, Lefebvre C. Commentary on Royle P and Waugh N *Health Technology Assessment* 2003;7(34):1-51. *Cochrane Collaboration Methods Groups Newsletter* 2004;8:14-15.

Boynton J, Glanville JM, Lefebvre CJ. Literature searching for systematic reviews and health technology assessments (HTAs): can one rule fit all? [abstract]. In: *12th Cochrane Colloquium* 2004 Oct 2-6; Ottawa, Ontario, Canada:73.

Boynton J, Glanville J, Lefebvre C. Literature searching for systematic reviews and health technology assessments (HTAs): can one rule fit all? [abstract] In: *Proceedings of the First Annual Meeting of the Health Technology Assessment International (HTAi)* 2004 May 30 – June 2; Krakow, Poland:37.

Bredenkamp B, Siegfried N, Spruyt L, Gulmezoglu M. Card, dice, game and – Evidence in action [roundtable presentation]. In: *Global Health Council 31st Annual Conference 2004* June 1-4; Washington DC, USA.

Chalmers I, Clarke M. Commentary: The 1944 Patulin Trial: the first properly controlled multicentre trial conducted under the aegis of the British Medical Research Council. *International Journal of Epidemiology* 2004;32:253-260.

Clarke M. The 1944 Patulin Trial of the British Medical Research Council: an example of how concerted common purpose can get reliable answers to important questions very quickly. *The James Lind Library*. Available from: www.jameslindlibrary.org [accessed Tuesday 4 May, 2004].

Clarke M. Conflictos de interes en las revisiones sistematicas. In: Bonfill X (editor). *Evidencia Cientifica, Atencion Sanitaria y Cultura*. (Monografias Humanitas; vol. 3). Barcelona: Fundacion Medicina y Humanidades Medicas, 2004:81-92.

Clarke M. Doing new research? Don't forget the old. Nobody should do a trial without reviewing what is known. *PLoS Medicine* 2004;1(2):100-102.

Clarke M. National provisions to The Cochrane Library: a personal view. *Cochrane News* 2004;30:1,6.

Clarke M, Kjeldstrøm M. The Cochrane Collaboration's new Information Management System: making it easier to do more [abstract]. In: *12th Cochrane Colloquium 2004* Oct 2-6; Ottawa, Ontario, Canada:58-59.

Clarke M, Neilson J. From the Co-Chairs. *Cochrane News* 2004;30:2.

Deeks J, Gatsonis C, Bossuyt P, Antes G. Cochrane reviews of diagnostic test accuracy: a progress report. *Cochrane News* 2004;31:1,5.

Deeks J, Macaskill P, Irwig L. By how much does publication bias affect the results of systematic reviews of diagnostic test accuracy? [abstract]. In: *12th Cochrane Colloquium 2004* Oct 2-6; Ottawa, Ontario, Canada:48.

Deeks J, Macaskill P, Irwig L. Detecting publication bias in systematic reviews of diagnostic test accuracy [abstract]. In: *12th Cochrane Colloquium 2004* Oct 2-6; Ottawa, Ontario, Canada:47.

Deeks JJ, Altman DG. Diagnostic tests 4: likelihood ratios. *BMJ* 2004;329(7458):168-169.

Demicheli V, Rivetti D, Deeks JJ, Jefferson TO. Vaccines for preventing influenza in healthy adults (Cochrane Review). [Updated]. In: *The Cochrane Library*, Issue 3, 2004. Chichester, UK: John Wiley & Sons, Ltd.

Devane B, Begley CM, Clarke M. The effectiveness of pilot midwifery-led services in the North Eastern Health Board: the protocol for the MidU Study. 2004. *Paper presented at the Fifth Annual Research Conference Transforming Healthcare through Research, Education and Technology* 2004 Nov 4; School of Nursing and Midwifery Studies, Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland.

Devane D, Begley CM, Clarke M. How many do I need? Basic principles of sample size estimation. *Journal of Advanced Nursing* 2004;47(3):297-302.

Devane D, McCann C, Hughes P, Maguire R, Begley C, Clarke M. An evaluation of midwifery-led services in the North Eastern Health Board: the protocol for the MidU Study, an ongoing multi-centre randomised trial. *Poster presented at Ireland's Annual Joint Midwifery Conference, The Politics of Pregnancy* 2004 Oct 14; Dundalk, County Louth, Ireland.

Devane D, McCann C, Hughes P, Maguire R, Begley C, Clarke M. An evaluation of the effectiveness of midwifery-led services in the North Eastern Health Board: design issues in the MidU Study, an ongoing multi-centre randomised trial. *Poster presented at the Fourth Annual Conference of the National Council for the Professional Development of Nursing and Midwifery, Facing the Challenge of Change: Nurses and Midwives - Proactive in Professional Development to Support Change* 2004 Nov 17; Dublin, Ireland. (Winners of the First Prize at the conference).

Eisinga A, Lefebvre C. Closing the gap - identifying reports of randomized trials in EMBASE for inclusion in CENTRAL [abstract]. In: *12th Cochrane Colloquium* 2004 Oct 2-6; Ottawa, Ontario, Canada:150-151.

Eisinga A, Lefebvre C. The Cochrane Library: CENTRAL now includes 60,000 reports of trials from EMBASE. *Cochrane News* 2004;30:12.

Fairman FS, Wiffen PJ, Carr D, Bickley S. Pain, Palliative Care and Supportive Care Group. In: *The Cochrane Library*, Issue 2, 2004. Chichester, UK: John Wiley & Sons Ltd.

Gatsonis C, Deeks J. Cochrane Screening and Diagnostic Tests Methods Group. *Cochrane Collaboration Methods Groups Newsletter* 2004;8:29.

Glanville J, Lefebvre C, Camosso-Stefinovic J, Miles J. Finding RCTs becomes easier [abstract]. In: *Proceedings of the First Annual Meeting of the Health Technology Assessment International (HTAi)* 2004 May 30 – June 2; Krakow, Poland:39.

Glanville J, Lefebvre C, Miles J, Camosso-Stefinovic J. Redesigning the Cochrane Highly Sensitive Search Strategy for identifying RCTs in MEDLINE using statistical analysis to improve sensitivity and precision [abstract]. In: *12th Cochrane Colloquium* 2004 Oct 2-6; Ottawa, Ontario, Canada:76-77.

Hawton K, Simkin S, Deeks J, Cooper J, Johnston A, Waters K, Arundel M, Bernal W, Gunson B, Hudson M, Suri D, Simpson K. UK legislation on analgesic packs: before and after study of long term effect on poisonings. *BMJ* 2004;329(7474):1076.

Hetrick S, Green S, Alderson P. 'Best practice' in editorial and organizational processes of Collaborative Review Groups (on behalf of QAG) [abstract]. In: *12th Cochrane Colloquium* 2004 Oct 2-6; Ottawa, Ontario, Canada:136-137.

Hopewell S. Trials reported as abstracts and full publications: how do they compare? [abstract] *Clinical Trials* 2004;1 Suppl 1:216-217.

Hopewell S, Clarke M, Askie L. Trials reported as abstracts and full publications: how do they compare? [abstract]. In: *12th Cochrane Colloquium* 2004 Oct 2-6; Ottawa, Ontario, Canada:77.

Hopewell S, Clarke M (editors). *The Cochrane Collaboration Methods Groups Newsletter* 2004;8:1-39.

Jefferson T, Deeks JJ, Demicheli V, Rivetti D, Rudin M. Amantadine and rimantadine for preventing and treating influenza A in adults (Cochrane Review). [Updated]. In: *The Cochrane Library*, Issue 3, 2004. Chichester, UK: John Wiley & Sons, Ltd.

Jesner OS, Aref-Adib M, Coren E. Risperidone for autism spectrum disorder (Protocol for a Cochrane Review). In: *The Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2004, Issue 4. Art. No.:CD005040. DOI:10.1002/1461858.CD005040.

Kumar A, Soares HP, Wells RJ, Khayat A, Clarke M, Hills RK, Bleyer A, Reaman G, Djulbegovic B. Experimental vs control interventions in cancer therapy: which is better? - The Children's Oncology Group Experience. *Journal of Clinical Oncology. Supplement* 2004;22(14S):523s.

Lefebvre C, Pritchard S, Weightman A. Cochrane Information Retrieval Methods Group. *Cochrane Collaboration Methods Groups Newsletter* 2004;8:30.

Liebeschuetz S, Bamber S, Ewer K, Deeks J, Pathan AA, Lalvani A. Diagnosis of tuberculosis in South African children with a T-cell-based assay: a prospective cohort study. *Lancet* 2004;364(9452):2196-2203.

Mallett S, Deeks J, Altman D. Treatment of heterogeneity in systematic reviews of diagnostic tests in cancer [abstract]. In: *12th Cochrane Colloquium 2004* Oct 2-6; Ottawa, Ontario, Canada:159.

Mant J, McManus RJ, Oakes RA, Delaney BC, Barton PM, Deeks JJ, Hammersley L, Davies RC, Davies MK, Hobbs FD. Systematic review and modelling of the investigation of acute and chronic chest pain presenting in primary care. *Health Technology Assessment* 2004;8(2):1-158.

Mason L, Moore RA, Edwards JE, McQuay HJ, Derry S, Wiffen PJ. Systematic review of efficacy of topical rubefacients containing salicylates for the treatment of acute and chronic pain. *BMJ* 2004;328(7446):995-998.

McDonald S, Crumley E, Eisinga A, Villanueva E. Search strategies to identify reports of randomized trials in MEDLINE (Protocol for a Cochrane Methodology Review). In: *The Cochrane Library*, Issue 2, 2004. Chichester, UK: John Wiley & Sons, Ltd.

Mills E, Montori VM, Wu P, Gallicano K, Clarke M, Guyatt G. Interaction of St John's Wort with conventional drugs: systematic review of clinical trials. *BMJ* 2004;329:27-30.

Montori VM, Saha S, Clarke M. A call for systematic reviews. *Journal of General Internal Medicine* 2004;19(12):1240-1241.

Moayyedi P, Soo S, Deeks J, Delaney B, Innes M, Forman D. Pharmacological interventions for non-ulcer dyspepsia (Cochrane Review) [Updated]. In: *The Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2004, Issue 4. Art. No.:CD001960.pub2. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD001960.pub2.

Muller M, Siegfried N, Volmink J, Deeks J, Egger M, Low N, Walker S, Williamson P. Quality assessment in a systematic review of HIV and circumcision [abstract]. In: *South African Statistical Association Conference 2004* Nov 2-5; Bloemfontein, South Africa.

Richeldi L, Ewer K, Losi M, Bergamini BM, Roversi P, Deeks J, Fabbri LM, Lalvani A. T-cell based tracking of multidrug resistant tuberculosis infection after brief exposure. *American Journal of Respiratory & Critical Care Medicine* 2004;170(3):288-295.

Roberts I, Alderson P, Bunn F, Chinnock P, Ker K, Schierhout G. Colloids versus crystalloids for fluid resuscitation in critically ill patients (Cochrane Review). [Updated]. In: *The Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2004, Issue 4. Art. No.:CD000567.pub2. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD000567.pub2.

Scott RB, Farmer E, Smiton A, Tovey C, Clarke M, Carpenter K. Methodology of neuropsychological research in multicentre randomized clinical trials: a model derived from The International Subarachnoid Aneurysm Trial. *Clinical Trials* 2004;1(1):31-39.

Siegfried N, Muller M, Volmink J, Deeks J, Egger M, Low N, Walker S, Williamson P. [ThPeC7413] HIV and circumcision - a systematic review uses study quality to help determine the evidence [abstract]. In: *XV International AIDS conference 2004* July 11-16; Bangkok, Thailand.

Soares H, Kumar A, Serdarevic F, Cantor A, Clarke M, Hozo I, Djulbegovic B. Findings of clinical research cannot be predicted in advance: an empirical study of cancer trials [abstract]. In: *12th Cochrane Colloquium 2004 Oct 2-6; Ottawa, Ontario, Canada*:95.

Soares HP, Daniels S, Kumar A, Clarke M, Scott C, Swann S, Djulbegovic B. Bad reporting does not mean bad methods for randomized trials: observational study of randomised controlled trials performed by the Radiation Therapy Oncology Group. *BMJ* 2004;328:22-25.

Soares KVS, Rathbone J, Deeks JJ. Gamma-aminobutyric acid agonists for neuroleptic-induced tardive dyskinesia (Cochrane Review). In: *The Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2004, Issue 4. Art. No.:CD000203.pub2. DOI: 10/1002/14651858.CD000203.pub2.

Soo S, Moayyedi P, Deeks J, Delaney B, Lewis M, Forman D. Psychological interventions for non-ulcer dyspepsia (Cochrane Review). [Updated]. In: *The Cochrane Library*, Issue 3, 2004. Chichester, UK: John Wiley & Sons, Ltd.

Stewart L, Tierney J, Clarke M. Cochrane Individual Patient Data Meta-analysis Methods Group. *Cochrane Collaboration Methods Groups Newsletter* 2004;8:27-28.

Strippoli GF, Craig M, Deeks JJ, Schena FP, Craig JC. Effects of angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitors and angiotensin II receptor antagonists on mortality and renal outcomes in diabetic nephropathy: systematic review. *BMJ* 2004;329(7470):828.

The Albumin Reviewers (Alderson P, Bunn F, Lefebvre C, Li Wan Po A, Li L, Roberts I, Schierhout G). Human albumin solution for resuscitation and volume expansion in critically ill patients (Cochrane Review) [Updated]. In: *The Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2004, Issue 4. Art. No.:CD001208.pub2. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD001208.pub2.

Tooher R, Middleton P, Griffin T, Pham C, Hopewell S. How different are conference abstracts of surgical RCTs from the subsequent full publication? [abstract]. In: *12th Cochrane Colloquium 2004 Oct 2-6; Ottawa, Ontario, Canada*:137-138.

Turner A, Rabi M, Clarke M. Patching for corneal abrasion: the need for a systematic review to resolve uncertainty about this widely used, simple intervention for a common condition [abstract]. In: *12th Cochrane Colloquium 2004 Oct 2-6; Ottawa, Ontario, Canada*:116.

Volmink J, Siegfried N, Robertson K, Gulmezoglu AM. Research synthesis and dissemination as a bridge to knowledge management: The Cochrane Collaboration. *Bulletin of the World Health Organization* 2004;82(10):778-783.

Westby M, Benson M, Gibson P. Anticholinergic agents for chronic asthma in adults (Cochrane Review). In: *The Cochrane Library*, Issue 3, 2004. Chichester, UK: John Wiley & Sons, Ltd.

Westby M, Clarke M, Hopewell S, Ram F. Masking reviewers at the study inclusion stage in a systematic review of healthcare interventions (Protocol for a Cochrane Methodology Review). In: *The Cochrane Library*, Issue 2, 2004. Chichester, UK: John Wiley & Sons, Ltd.

Wiffen PJ. Evidence based pain management and palliative care in the Cochrane Library. *Journal of Pain and Palliative Care Pharmacotherapy* 2004;18(1):79-85.

Wiffen PJ. Evidence based pain management and palliative care in the Cochrane Library. *Journal of Pain and Palliative Care Pharmacotherapy* 2004;18(2):87-92.

Wiffen PJ. Evidence based pain management and palliative care in the Cochrane Library. *Journal of Pain and Palliative Care Pharmacotherapy* 2004;18(3):89-93.

Wiffen PJ. History of drug treatments including formularies: current situation and strategy. *Chinese Journal of Evidence-based Medicine* 2004;4(5):288-292.

Wiffen PJ, McCrory D. Cochrane proposes further limits on commercial funding [letter]. *BMJ* 2004;March 2:<http://bmj.bmjournals.com/cgi/eletters/328-7436/366#52252>.

Wong R, Shukla VK, Mensinki S, Wiffen P. *Biphosphonate agents for the managment of pain secondary to bone metastases: a systematic review of effectiveness and safety* (Technical Report no. 45). Ottawa, Canada: Canadian Co-ordinating Office for Health Technology Assessment, 2004.

Appendix 4. Collaborative Review Groups, journals and others for which refereeing was done by UK Cochrane Centre staff during 2004.

American Journal of Family Medicine
American Family Physician
Annals of Internal Medicine
BMJ
Canadian Institute of Health Research - grant application
Clinical Trials
Cochrane Developmental, Psychosocial and Learning Problems Group
Cochrane Gynaecological Cancer Group
Cochrane Epilepsy Group
Department of Health – Evidence Synthesis Awards
Home Office
International Journal of Pain and Palliative Care
JAMA
Journal of Clinical Oncology
Journal of the National Cancer Institute
Journal of Pain and Palliative Care Pharmacotherapy
Lancet
NHS Health Technology Assessment - grant applications
NHS Health Technology Assessment - reports
Pain
Palliative Medicine
Public Library of Science Medicine
Quarterly Journal of Medicine
Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists - guideline
Tommys - grant application

Appendix 5. Presentations made by UK Cochrane Centre staff during 2004

12th Cochrane Colloquium, Ottawa, Canada
Animal Health Information Specialists Annual Conference, London, UK
British Society for Antimicrobial Chemotherapy, UK
Brookes University, Oxford, UK
Green College, University of Oxford, UK
Health Libraries Group Conference, Belfast, UK
Health Services Research Conference, Cork, Ireland
London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, UK
Methods in Systematic Reviews, Milan, Italy
National workshop on MRSA, London, UK
Netherlands Cancer Institute, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
UK and Ireland-based Cochrane Contributors' Meeting, Edinburgh, UK
University of Central England, UK

Appendix 6. UK Cochrane Centre staff membership of committees during 2004

Cochrane Central Advisory Group (Carol Lefebvre)

Cochrane Collaboration Monitoring and Registration Group (Sally Hopewell)

Cochrane Collaboration Search Testing Group (Anne Eisinga; Convenor: Carol Lefebvre)

Cochrane Collaboration Steering Group (Jon Deeks; Chair: Mike Clarke)

Cochrane Colloquium Advisory Group (Sally Hopewell)

Cochrane Colloquium, Ottawa, International Advisory Committee (Mike Clarke and Sally Hopewell)

Cochrane Colloquium, Ottawa, Workshop Abstracts Committee (Esther Coren and Carol Lefebvre)

Cochrane Information Management System Group (Convenor: Mike Clarke)

Cochrane News Advisory Board (Sally Hopewell)

Cochrane Training Fellowships on the island of Ireland, Selection Committee (Chair: Mike Clarke)

European Association for Health Information and Libraries, Santander, Spain, Scientific Programme Committee (Carol Lefebvre)

MeerKat Specialized Registers Working Group (Carol Lefebvre; Convenor: Sally Hopewell)

Milton Keynes Primary Care Trust 'Agenda for Change' Steering Group (Carol Lefebvre)

Milton Keynes Primary Care Trust 'Agenda for Change' Terms and Conditions Group (Carol Lefebvre)

Milton Keynes Primary Care Trust Joint Staff Committee (Carol Lefebvre)

Milton Keynes Primary Care Trust Joint Staff Committee Policies Subgroup (Carol Lefebvre)

NHS R&D HTA Programme Methodology Panel (Mike Clarke)

Ninth International Congress on Medical Librarianship Programme Committee, Salvador, Brazil (Carol Lefebvre)

RevMan Advisory Group (Convenor: Mike Clarke)

Second International Collaboration for Evidence-based Dentistry (ICEBD)/IADR Systematic Reviews Prize, organized in conjunction with the Oral Health Collaborative Review Group (Mike Clarke)

St Catherine's Cochrane Prize Panel (Phil Wiffen)

University of Birmingham, MSc in Health Technology Assessment, Examining Board (Mike Clarke)

University of Oxford, Diploma in Evidence-Based Health Care, Examining Board (Chair: Mike Clarke)

University of Oxford, MSc in Evidence Based Health Care, Examining Board (Chair: Mike Clarke)

Appendix 7. UK Cochrane Centre internal seminars during 2004

Lisa Askie. Prospective meta-analysis of neonatal oxygen trials.

Iain Chalmers. The James Lind Alliance.

Mike Clarke. The benefits or not of stockings.

Sally Hopewell. How reliable is the information reported in an abstract?

Sue Mallett. Cochrane Diagnostic Test Accuracy Reviews.

Marie Martens (BioMed Central). Open access publishing.

Nandi Siegfried and Karishma Busgeeth. The HIV/AIDS Mentoring Programme and the HIV/AIDS Trials Register.

Phil Wiffen. Update on the Training Programme.

Appendix 8. Members of the UK Cochrane Infrastructure Advisory Group

Mike Clarke, UK Cochrane Centre

Gill Gyte, Consumer/patient representative

Miles Irving, Newcastle Hospitals Trust

Barbara Kennedy, Milton Keynes Primary Care Trust

Jos Kleijnen, Centre for Reviews and Dissemination, York

Peter Littlejohns, National Institute for Clinical Excellence

Tony Marson, CRG Co-ordinating Editor representative

Kay Pattison, Department of Health, England

Morton Phillips, Department of Health, England

Alison Spaul, Scottish Executive

Ron Stamp, Department of Health, England

Andrew Stevens, University of Birmingham

Tom Walley, Director of the Reviews Infrastructure (Chair)

Appendix 9. Members of the UK Cochrane Centre Advisory Board

Gerd Antes, German Cochrane Centre

Christopher Cates, Cochrane Airways Group

Kathie Clark, Canadian Cochrane Centre

Harris Cooper, Campbell Collaboration Methods Co-ordinating Group

Matthias Egger, University of Bristol and University of Berne, Switzerland

Paul Garner, Cochrane Infectious Diseases Group

Sally Green, Australasian Cochrane Centre

Julie Glanville, Centre for Reviews and Dissemination, York

Bec Hanley, Director, TwoCan Associates

Sonja Henderson, Cochrane Pregnancy and Childbirth Group

Julian Higgins, MRC Biostatistics Unit, Cambridge

Monica Kjeldstrøm, The Cochrane Collaboration Information Management System

Peter Langhorne, Glasgow Royal Infirmary

Gill Leng, National Institute for Clinical Excellence

Teresa Maguire, Health Research Board, Ireland

Andy Oxman, Norwegian Directorate for Health and Social Welfare

Drummond Rennie, JAMA

Nick Royle, The Cochrane Collaboration

Rosalind Smyth, Cochrane Cystic Fibrosis and Genetic Disorders Group

Lesley Stewart, MRC Clinical Trials Unit, London

Rod Taylor, University of Birmingham

Brenda Thomas, Cochrane Stroke Group