



Editorial

Well the year has certainly flown by and we find ourselves reflecting on a very productive year, in which we welcomed four new editors and one statistician to our core editorial team. It has also been a year which has seen our authorship numbers growing as well as those willing to give of their time to peer referee the protocols and reviews for publication through our group. The level of commitment to the production of a synthesized evidence base to reflect the nature of complex public health interventions and the needs of practitioners and decision makers in this area continues to be high and a testament to the wonderful people we have working with us towards these common goals!

We have a brief report on the following page on the wonderful and productive time had by the CPHG team able to attend the Colloquium in Madrid this month. Unfortunately bad timing of a nasty bug rendered me unable to be one of them, but I have been enjoying hearing all the positive stories coming out of the event.

You will notice a lot of new titles on page 2 of this newsletter, reflecting a terrific range of interventions, covering the broad, upstream scope of the CPHG. I encourage you to review the list and identify any of particular interest to you and/or your organisation. There are several ways you can become involved, from peer refereeing to helping to disseminate the findings of the published review.

In November we welcome back Rebecca Armstrong, who returns from her time in Singapore. She will be located at our administrative base at the Victorian Health Promotion Foundation, in Melbourne.

Regards,
Jodie Doyle (CPHG Managing Editor)

We have now joined Twitter!

follow us on
twitter



You can now follow the Cochrane Public Health Group on Twitter.

Twitter is a free service that lets you keep in touch with people through the exchange of quick, frequent answers to one simple question: What are you doing? Join today to start receiving CPHG tweets. To join, visit: <https://twitter.com/signup?follow=cochraneph&commit=Join+today%21>

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Annual Cochrane Colloquium, October 2011, Madrid



The Public Health Group has just returned from a fantastic Cochrane Colloquium in Madrid, Spain. The annual Colloquium is an opportunity for all members of the Collaboration to come together to work through issues relevant to syntheses of evidence and the impact they have on health and research. It is an important forum for the CPHG to connect with our Cochrane colleagues and stakeholders from around the globe to exchange ideas, discuss ongoing projects in person and of course, take part in the local cuisine and a little dancing!

Many core issues related to evidence syntheses of complex interventions were a focus this year. There was a pre-Colloquium symposium on complex interventions, during which Professor Elizabeth Waters was invited to present on synthesising multiple types of evidence. A number of methodological projects that the CPHG team is involved in were progressed during the Colloquium, including the application of GRADE to public health interventions, risk of bias assessment for non-randomised study designs and extending the CONSORT statement to encourage reporting of important factors for complex interventions.

We also utilised this opportunity to conduct a CPHG editorial meeting, which was extremely productive in discussing firm editorial policies around a number of methods issues. We officially welcomed two new editors to their first Colloquium as CPHG editors, Dr Andrea de Silva Sanigorski and Dr Hilary Thomson.

Abstracts and slides from the Colloquium will soon be available online here: www.cochrane.org/events/colloquia

What can we do to prevent obesity in children?

We are eagerly awaiting the publication of an update of the Cochrane Review on “Interventions for preventing obesity in children”. This review is still one of the most downloaded reviews on The Cochrane Library and the current update has included an additional 35 studies. This update was lead by Professor Elizabeth Waters with Dr Andrea de Silva Sanigorski, Dr Belinda Hall and Dr Rebecca Armstrong and so has been developed according to CPHG review guidelines, extracting and incorporating factors relating to implementation and equity. Look out for its release in The Cochrane Library, Issue 12, available on December 7, 2011. www.thecochranelibrary.com

Recent CPHG publications

- Anderson LM, Petticrew M, Rehfues E, Armstrong R, Ueffing E, Baker P, Francis D, Tugwell P. ‘Using logic models to capture complexity in systematic reviews’ *Research Synthesis Methods* 2: 33–42. doi: [10.1002/jrsm.32](https://doi.org/10.1002/jrsm.32)
- Armstrong R, Hall BJ, Doyle J, Waters E. ‘Scoping the scope’ of a Cochrane review. *Journal of Public Health*. 2011;33(1):147.
- Francis DP, Baker PRA, Doyle J, Hall BJ, Waters E. Reviewing interventions delivered to whole communities: learnings and recommendations for application to policy, practice and evidence development. *Journal of Public Health*. 2011;33(2):322.
- Hall BJ, Armstrong R, Francis DP, Doyle J, Baker PRA. Enhancing capacity for systematic thinking in public health. *Journal of Public Health*. 2010;32(4):582.
- Waters E, Armstrong R., Swinburn B, Moore L, Dobbins M., Anderson L., Petticrew M., Clark R., Conning R, Moodie M. ‘An exploratory cluster randomised controlled trial of knowledge translation strategies to support evidence-informed decision-making in local governments (The KT 4 LG study).’ *BMC Public Health*. 2011; 11, 34
- Waters E, Hall BJ, Armstrong R, Doyle J, Pettman TL, de Silva Sanigorski A. Essential components of public health evidence reviews: capturing intervention complexity, implementation, economics and equity. *Journal of Public Health*. 2011;33(3):462-5.

Reviews & protocols underway with the CPHG

Published reviews

- Flexible working conditions for improving employee health and well being
- Community wide interventions for increasing physical activity
- Collaboration between local health and local government agencies for health improvement

Published protocols (reviews under development)

- Workplace-based organisational interventions to prevent and control obesity by improving dietary intake and/or increasing physical activity
- Housing interventions for improved health and social outcomes (co-registered with Campbell Collaboration)
- Community-based interventions for enhancing access to or consumption of fruit and vegetables (or both) among five to 18-year olds
- Community-level interventions to improve food security in developed countries
- Knowledge translation strategies for facilitating evidence-informed public health decision making among managers and policy-makers
- Nutritional labeling to promote healthier food purchasing and consumption
- Interventions to improve water quality and supply, sanitation and hygiene practices, and their effects on the nutritional status of children (in-print, for 9th November 2011 publication)

Registered titles (protocols under development)

- Later school start times for supporting the education, health and well-being of high school students (in-print, for 7th December 2011 publication)
- Fortification of maize flour with iron for preventing anaemia and iron deficiency in populations
- Wheat flour fortification with Iron for reducing anaemia and improving iron status in at-risk populations
- Population level interventions for improving health outcomes in ex-prisoners
- Interventions addressing gender disparities in family food distribution for improving child nutrition
- Oral health promotion interventions for improving child oral health
- Incentive-based interventions to increase physical activity
- Fortification of staple foods with vitamin A for preventing vitamin A deficiency in populations
- Welfare to work interventions and their effects on the health and wellbeing of lone parents and their children
- Population health effects of fortification of wheat and maize flour with folic acid
- Fortification of condiments and seasonings with iron for preventing anaemia and improving health
- Fortification of wheat and maize flour with folic acid for population health outcomes
- Fortification of rice with vitamins and minerals for improved maternal and child nutrition and health outcomes
- Food fortification with calcium & vitamin D for improving health outcomes
- Slum upgrading strategies and their effects on health and social outcomes
- In-work tax credits and their impact on health status in adults
- Housing mobility interventions to improve the health of vulnerable populations
- Built environment interventions for physical activity in adults and children
- Ecological interventions: effects on children and youth behaviours and health
- Interventions for preventing abuse in the elderly
- Interventions by community coalitions in collaborative partnership with local multi-sector public and private organizations for reducing unfavorable health disparities among racial and ethnic minorities
- Interventions for promoting reintegration and reducing harmful behaviour and lifestyles in street children and young people
- Individual-, family-, school- and community-level intervention for preventing multiple risk behaviours in 8 to 25 year olds

Interested in helping to peer review a Cochrane Review in progress?

As part of the Cochrane Collaborations' systematic review process, each protocol and subsequent review requires a team of peer reviewers. Peer reviewers are responsible for assessing the relevance and usefulness of the review. This results in Cochrane Reviews that better meet the needs of end users. If you are interested in peer reviewing (refer to the current list of CPHG reviews over the page), please contact Jodie jdoyle@vichealth.vic.gov.au. Please make sure you let Jodie know your areas of interest.

Meet the Editors

Professor Mark Petticrew

Mark is Professor of Public Health Evaluation in the Department of Social and Environmental Health Research at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. He is Director of the Public Health Research Consortium (PHRC), and is also involved in the Policy Innovation Research Unit (PIRU), both of which are funded by the Department of Health Policy Research Programme. Mark is an Honorary Researcher at the MRC Social and Public Health Sciences Unit in Glasgow.

Mark's main research interests are in evidence-based policymaking, systematic reviews, and the evaluation of the health effects of social policies. Current research involves systematic reviews in the areas of mental health, and methodological research on systematic reviews of complex interventions. He is a co-convenor of the



Two interesting jobs I have had in my life:

I have probably been pretty lucky as I've never had an uninteresting job, though some elements are more interesting than others. One of the most rewarding and enjoyable parts of my job so far was when I coordinated the ESRC Centre for Evidence-Based Public Health Policy, when I was based at the MRC Social and Public Health Sciences Unit in Glasgow. It was an opportunity to do a range of systematic reviews of social interventions, and also to do some useful and interesting methodological research.

Two wonderful places I have visited in the world:

The winner by a long shot is the Australian Outback. I stayed in Alice Springs in 2005 for a week and it was very memorable. The outback is an strange, unearthly and slightly threatening place, but incredibly beautiful.

The other place would have to be the Western Isles of Scotland <http://www.thewesternisles.co.uk/>. I had a three-week holiday there a few years ago and keep meaning to go back.

Two people I would love to have dinner with:

I think this is where I should say Nelson Mandela and Mother Theresa.

But I think I will go for: <http://www.johnlydon.com/jlhome.html> and Quentin Crisp http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quentin_Crisp - both people who were reviled by the public, but ended up changing British society in very different ways, and have eventually ended up as Great British Institutions.

Cochrane Collaboration Update

Australasian Cochrane Symposium, July 2011, Melbourne

The Australasian Cochrane Symposium was held in Melbourne on 1 July 2011, with the theme 'Evidence, Communication & Impact'. Plenary presentations are now online at <http://acc.cochrane.org/symposium2011> - including presentations from Jonathan Craig, David Tovey, Georgia Salanti, Chris Del Mar, Paul Glasziou and others.

Important information regarding the 2012 Cochrane Colloquium in China

Due to changes within the last few months in Chinese government policy governing scientific meetings in China, there is now uncertainty as to whether the 2012 Cochrane Colloquium in China can go ahead in its current form. The Collaboration Steering Group is committed to a Colloquium in China if at all possible and is working with the Chinese Cochrane Centre to see if the uncertainties can be resolved within the next two months. If approval for the Colloquium from the Chinese government cannot be achieved in that time, alternative options for the 2012 Colloquium will be explored.

Stay tuned for more details: <http://www.cochrane.org/events/colloquia>

Cochrane Collaboration releases statement on access to clinical trial data

An international non-profit organisation committed to providing the most reliable evidence of the benefits and harms of healthcare interventions has released a statement calling for free access to all data from all clinical trials in order to provide the best care for patients globally.

In its statement, The Cochrane Collaboration argues that selective reporting of trial results occurs frequently, leading to exaggerated findings of the beneficial effects of healthcare interventions and to underestimates of their harms. As a consequence, many patients are unknowingly treated with interventions that have little or no effect and may be harmed unnecessarily.

Read the full Press release [here](#)

Read the official statement [here](#)

Read an Editorial on this topic in *The Cochrane Library* [here](#)

Minutes available from the Steering Group Meeting in Split, Croatia

The minutes of the face-to-face meeting of the Cochrane Collaboration Steering Group, held in Split, Croatia earlier this year are available at <http://www.cochrane.org/intranet/organisation-administration/minutes-reports/minutes-all-full-meetings-ccsg>.

Should you prefer to read a briefer document in the form of a summary of the highlights of this meeting, the related Steering Group Bulletin is available on the website at <http://www.cochrane.org/news/newsletters#sgb>.

Collaboration's 2010/11 Annual Report and Financial Statements

The Cochrane Collaboration's 2010/11 Annual Report & Financial Statements is now available at <http://annual-report.cochrane.org/>. Here you can view and download copies of the Report, read about plans for the coming year, and listen to audio interviews with contributors and stakeholders.

Comments, questions and requests are welcome at annualreport@cochrane.org. If you want to discuss any aspect of the Report, you can do so on the Community Discussion Forum, [here](#) [Archie login required].

Knowledge Translation Tools for the Collaboration

Cochrane Multimedia

Podcasts from The Cochrane Library



To listen to audio summaries from the Cochrane library, including the most recent addition and some of the most-accessed Cochrane reviews , please visit: <http://www.cochrane.org/podcasts>

The Cochrane “Official Blog”

You can view the latest submissions to The Cochrane Official Blog at <http://www.cochrane.org/blog>. The Official Blog features 'News, information, resources & issues affecting The Cochrane Collaboration. Articles are published soon after submission and readers have the option of commenting on posts, subscribing via RSS and navigating by tags. The Official Blog is meant to highlight accomplishments of Cochrane groups and individuals and share beneficial resources to those in the evidence-based health field. To submit items for publication to the blog, email news@cochrane.org

Facebook

The Facebook logo, consisting of the word 'facebook' in white lowercase letters on a dark blue rectangular background.

The Cochrane Collaboration is on Facebook!

Facebook is a social utility that connects people with friends and colleagues who work, study and live around them. To join and connect with the Cochrane Collaboration just visit: <http://www.facebook.com/>

Twitter

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Hey there! **cochranecollab** is using Twitter.

Twitter is a free service that lets you keep in touch with people through the exchange of quick, frequent answers to one simple question: What are you doing? Join today to start receiving **cochranecollab's** tweets. To join just visit: <https://twitter.com/signup?follow=cochranecollab&commit=Join+today%21>

CPHG Contacts & Membership

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The CPHG website

A reminder to please continue to visit our website as we are constantly posting new reviews and protocols of health promotion and public health topics (published by the CPHG as well as other Cochrane Review Groups) with each quarterly release of *The Cochrane Library*:

www.ph.cochrane.org



CPHG Membership

The CPHG currently has a contact database of over 500 individuals who have expressed an interest in contributing in some way to the CPHG. Membership is free and those on the database will receive the bi-annual CPHG electronic newsletter. The database is also used to link individuals to opportunities to participate in other Cochrane activities (such as peer reviewing a Cochrane protocol around their area of interest or expertise)

If you have not already filled out our membership form and would like to be on the CPHG contact database please see the back of this newsletter. If you have changed your email address since the last newsletter, please email: cochrane@vichealth.vic.gov.au

Questions or comments? Please email us at: cochrane@vichealth.vic.gov.au or call +61 3 9667 1336

Cochrane Public Health Group (CPHG) – Information Request Form

First Name:	Family Name:	Male or Female
Place of Work:		Your role:
Work address:		
Email address:		
Country:		
Languages read (other than English):		
<p>Have you contributed to the CPHG, or to the Cochrane Collaboration, in some way in the past?</p> <p>No Yes</p> <p>How?</p> <p>I have prepared a systematic review</p> <p>I have peer-reviewed a systematic review</p> <p>I have done some handsearching of health promotion/public health journals</p> <p>I have been involved in lobbying for funding to support the production of systematic reviews</p> <p>I have presented at a conference/workshop/seminar on systematic reviews in health</p> <p>I have presented information related to the Cochrane Collaboration at a conference/workshop/seminar</p> <p>I have provided comment back to the CPHG on various matters</p> <p>Other (please provide detail)</p>		
<p>Would you like to contribute to the CPHG in some way in the future?</p> <p>No Yes</p> <p>How?</p> <p>I am interested in doing or assisting in a systematic review of a public health topic</p> <p>I would be available to peer-review a systematic review or protocol</p> <p>I would be available to do some handsearching of health promotion/public health journals</p> <p>I would be prepared to do a presentation of the CPHG's aims and objectives at an appropriate meeting, or relevant conference</p> <p>I would be available to help with translation of articles of relevance to public health reviews</p> <p>I would be prepared to provide comment back to the CPHG on areas of interest to myself or my organisation.</p> <p>Other (please describe)</p>		
<p>What topic area/s of the CPHG is of interest to you? (delete or highlight as appropriate)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Employment & the work environment; income distribution/financial interventions; housing and the built environment; food supply / access; education health & related systems; public safety; social networks/support; the natural environment; transport</i></p> <p>Other?</p>		
<p>Would you like to maintain contact with the CPHG?</p> <p>No Yes</p> <p>Send me CPHG newsletters electronically</p> <p>Send request for help as indicated in my response above</p> <p>Other (please provide detail)</p>		
<p>How did you find out about the Cochrane CPHG?</p>		

If you don't not have an email address please provide us with your mailing address to send you the newsletter by post.