



Editorial

Happy New Year from the PHRG. We have had a mixed start to 2010. Starting with the positive, we are thrilled to have had our first review published. The review, on flexible working conditions and their effects on workers and their families, was chosen by publishers Wiley Blackwell for highlighting in their press release for the recent edition of *The Cochrane Library*, and highlighted in a podcast on the Library's website, in recognition of its potential influence on public policy. The story has been picked up by the BBC in the UK as well as various other media outlets. Congratulations to Clare Bambra and the rest of the authorship team, who have been kept busy responding to the interest it has generated thus far! Thanks also to those who acted as peer referees and on the review advisory group for this review. More on the findings of the review can be found in this newsletter on page 3.

We are also very pleased to announce a new member to our small Cochrane team, Belinda Hall. Belinda's role will have a broad focus on raising the profile of evidence-informed decision making by looking at stakeholder engagement, priority setting, end-user tracking and training/education. If you are interested in contacting Belinda to identify potential opportunities for sharing information and establishing a more effective collaboration with your own organization, she would be pleased to hear from you (bhall@vichealth.vic.gov.au). Lisa Willenberg's contract with the Group has now ended and we wish to acknowledge the valuable contribution she made to our team.

As some of you are aware, our wonderful Coordinating Editor, Liz Waters, was diagnosed with breast cancer upon return from holidays early this year. Liz will be undergoing treatment over the next 6-8 months and thus lying low from the main activities of the PHRG during this time. This has been quite a shock to us all here, as we are a close-knit team who care about each other enormously. We know you will all be sending Liz positive thoughts and that her strength and everyone's support will get her through this tough time with flying colours. We thank our editors, Mark Petticrew and Laurie Anderson for stepping in to fulfill the obligations of the coordinating editor position in Liz's absence, and to all our other editors for their continued support and contribution.

We look forward to seeing many of you in Colorado in October for the first joint-Colloquium of the Cochrane and Campbell Collaboration. More details of our planned meetings in this newsletter.

Regards,
Jodie Doyle (PHRG Managing Editor) and Rebecca Armstrong
(Editorial and Methods Advisor)

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2010 Joint Cochrane-Campbell Colloquium, Colorado

Please join us!

For information about the colloquium, please visit:

<http://www.regonline.com/builder/site/Default.aspx?eventid=766689>

PHRG Update

New members of staff

The Cochrane PHRG is delighted to welcome **Dr Belinda Hall** to our team. Belinda has a PhD in Medicine as well as 5 years experience in the pharmaceutical industry working on clinical studies, publications and collaborating with clinical decision makers. This has provided her with a strong background in scientific methodology and assessing evidence for interventions in specific populations. Belinda is currently undergoing a Master of Public Health. She has a keen interest in the area of evidence-informed decision making and exploring health issues at a larger population level, and is excited by the opportunity this role presents to apply her skill set to contribute to positive change in the health outcomes of the wider community. Belinda is based over at VicHealth with the Evidence and KT team and her email address is bhall@vichealth.vic.gov.au. We know you will all make Belinda welcome.

We are also thrilled to have **Laura del Otero Sanz** join our team for 3 months. Laura is a student from Spain who will be helping us with review development.

Meet the Editors

Dr Sreekumaran (Sree) Nair

Dr. Sree Nair is Professor of Biostatistics and Chairman of the Department of Statistics at Manipal University, India. Sree established the Department and initiated both the Masters and Doctoral programmes in biostatistics. Sree currently teaches undergraduate and graduate biostatistics at the university, as well as providing consultancy services to health science researchers. Sree has been responsible for establishing and looking after the South Asian Cochrane network site located at Manipal University. He serves as statistical editor for the Cochrane Acute Respiratory Infection Group and the Public Health Review Group. Sree's present mission is to develop core biostatistics strength in India through advanced level workshops and networking.



Two interesting jobs I have had in my life:

Present job as Professor of Biostatistics to nurture a group of young biostatisticians and graduate students.

Twenty years back working with a fertility control vaccine trial at the National Institute of Immunology as a statistician

Two wonderful places I have lived in the world...

Kerala, Southern part of India and Brisbane, Australia

Two people I would love to have dinner with ...

Shruti and Varsha (my children)

First Review Published by the Cochrane Public Health Group - Flexible Working Conditions

There is evidence to suggest that flexible working might be beneficial for employees' health only if they are allowed to have input into their own working patterns, a review by Cochrane researchers suggests. The study may throw some light on potential health benefits associated with current trends towards more flexible working in the UK and Europe.



In Scandinavian countries, flexible working arrangements for employees with families are commonplace. And last year, the UK government extended an earlier piece of legislation allowing parents of young children to request flexible working, meaning all parents with children under 16 now have the right request flexible working arrangements. Although it is assumed that such policies are beneficial, it is important to try to understand health impacts in more detail.

The Cochrane review included ten studies, involving a total of 16,603 people altogether, that focused on various different forms of flexible working. Self-scheduling of working hours was found to have positive impacts on a number of health outcomes including blood pressure, sleep and mental health. In one study, for instance, police officers who were able to change their starting times at work showed significant improvements in psychological wellbeing compared to police officers who started work at a fixed hour.

“Flexible working seems to be more beneficial for health and wellbeing where the individuals control their own work patterns, rather than where employers are in control,” said the review lead, Clare Bambra of the Wolfson Research Institute, Durham University in the UK. “Given the limited evidence base, we wouldn’t want to make any hard and fast recommendations, but these findings certainly give employers and employees something to think about.”

Co-author Kerry Joyce, also based at the Institute, added: “We need to know more about how the health effects of flexible working are experienced by different types of workers, for instance, comparing women to men, old to young and skilled to unskilled. This is important as some forms of flexible working might only be available to employees with higher status occupations and this may serve to increase existing differences in health between social groups.”

Full citation: Joyce K, Pabayo R, Critchley JA, Bambra C. Flexible working conditions and their effects on employee health and wellbeing. *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2010, Issue 2. Art. No.: CD008009. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD008009.pub2.

Reviews & protocols underway with the Cochrane Public Health Group

Published reviews

- Flexible working conditions for improving employee health and well being

Published protocols (reviews under development)

- Collaboration between local health and local government agencies for health improvement
- Community wide interventions for increasing physical activity

Registered titles (protocols under development)

- Workplace organisational interventions for preventing adult obesity
- Interventions addressing gender disparities in family food distribution for improving child nutrition
- Interventions aimed at enhancing access for increased consumption of fruits and vegetables for 5-8 year olds
- Housing interventions for improved health and social outcomes
- Community-level interventions to improve food security in developed countries
- Wheat flour fortification with iron for reducing anaemia and improving iron status in at-risk populations
- Slum upgrading strategies and their effects on health and social outcomes

Titles under development and for consideration

- Later school start times for supporting the education, health and well-being of high school students
- Community-building interventions (designed to build a sense of community, connectedness, cultural revival, social capital) to improve physical, social and mental health (*review question to be further refined*)
- Interventions addressing discrimination and prejudice due to sexual orientation and/or gender identity
- Oral health promotion interventions for improving child oral health
- Disseminating Information about drinking water contamination in populations at risk of health effects for health protection & water management behaviours in water managers and consumers



Most recent PHRG publications

Doyle J, Waters E, Noonan E, Royle N, Kowalski K, Gill C, et al. Working with The Campbell Collaboration to produce reviews of relevance to public health across the education, justice and social welfare sectors. *J Public Health*. January 28, 2010; fdp130. Access: <http://jpubhealth.oxfordjournals.org/cgi/reprint/fdp130?ijkey=nkLIDLxiIag65xc&keytype=ref>

Petticrew M, Tugwell P, Welch V, Ueffing E, Kristjansson E, Armstrong R, Doyle J and Waters E, 2009. Better evidence about wicked issues in tackling health inequities. *Journal of Public Health* 31: 3, 453-456.

Waters, E Evidence for public health decision-making: Towards reliable synthesis. *World Health Organization Bulletin*, 2009: 87 (3).

Waters, E Cochrane update: Building an evidence base to meet the needs of those tackling obesity prevention. *Journal of Public Health*, 2009; 31(2): 300-302.

Priest N, Waters E, Armstrong R, Friel S, Valentine N. Engaging Policy Makers in Action on Socially Determined Health Inequalities. *Evidence and Policy*, 2009; 5(1): 53-70.

UK Cochrane Contributors meeting

The 15th Annual Meeting of UK and Ireland-based Contributors to The Cochrane Collaboration will take place on Tuesday 2 and Wednesday 3 March 2010 at Cardiff City Hall.

The meeting provides an opportunity for UK and Ireland based members actively involved with The Cochrane Collaboration to get together to learn, debate and network..

The PHRG have scheduled a meeting for Tuesday 2nd March from 11-12pm which will be run by our TSC Ruth Turley. This will be an informal knowledge exchange session, that will include an update on the scope of our group and our activities. It will also be an opportunity for participants to share their review-production experiences & for those new to the systematic review process, to gain more information with regards to registration with our group, training, author support & our specialised study register.

If you are attending, please feel free to join us and pass on to colleagues who may be interested in attending.

To register and for more information, please visit: <https://asp.artegis.com/lp/CardiffRegistration/cochrane?>



Cochrane Collaboration Update

Monthly publication of CDSR

The *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (CDSR)* and the 'About The Cochrane Collaboration' database has now moved to monthly publication. This is the first of a series of enhancements to the presentation of Cochrane reviews that are expected to be announced during 2010.

This represents an important development for the *CDSR* and *The Cochrane Library*. The increased publication frequency will bring benefits to readers, authors, and editorial teams. New evidence will also be able to be published more rapidly, which will be attractive to review authors, and the changes should also lead to more manageable publication deadlines and opportunities to spread the workload.

The first issue was published on 20 January and introduced some minor changes to the display of protocols and reviews to accommodate monthly publication.

Please refer to the webpage below for detailed information about the move to monthly publication, including the information about editorial processes, the new 2010 schedule, and contacts for technical and general queries:

<http://ims.cochrane.org/support/crgs/publication-frequency>

Cochrane Journal Club

The Cochrane Journal Club is a new feature that was launched with Issue 4, 2009 of *The Cochrane Library* as a free, online, monthly publication. The Club focuses on a recently published Cochrane Review and provides relevant background information and related resources. There is a podcast explaining the key points of the review, discussion questions to help a reader explore the review methods and findings in more detail, and



downloadable PowerPoint slides containing key graphs and tables so the Cochrane Review can be used at a Journal Club meeting. In addition, a PDF of the review is free for everyone to access.

Each Cochrane Journal Club covers a single review of special interest, selected from the hundreds of new and updated reviews published in each issue of *The Cochrane Library*. It highlights practice-changing findings, controversial conclusions, new methodology, evidence-based methods, and reviews from diverse clinical topics, with a hope that it will be utilised by trainees, researchers and practitioners alike.

Finally, it provides a shortcut to a relevant and interesting paper to discuss at your next journal club. For more information about the CJC and how you can get involved, please visit: <http://www.cochranejournalclub.com>

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 please contact Jodie jdoyle@vichealth.vic.gov.au. Please make sure you let Jodie know your areas of interest.

2010 Joint Colloquium of the Cochrane & Campbell Collaborations

Bringing Evidence-Based Decision-Making to New Heights

18 - 22 October 2010 - Keystone Resort, Colorado, USA



This year, the Joint Colloquium of the Cochrane & Campbell Collaborations will be held at the Keystone Resort in Colorado, USA. This will be the first time for these two groups to hold a combined colloquium.

This colloquium will focus on raising evidence-based decision-making to new heights. In this region, known for its towering mountain peaks and natural beauty, we will come together for multidisciplinary learning and sharing at its best.

For more details, please visit: <http://www.regonline.com/builder/site/Default.aspx?eventid=766689>

DATES TO REMEMBER

15 February 2010

Registration Begins

29 March 2010

Abstract Submission Closes

17 May 2010

Notification of abstract Acceptance

1 June 2010

Closing date for Consumer & Developing Nations Stipends applications*

28 June 2010

Closing date for Notification of Stipend Acceptance

6 July 2010

Early Registration Ends

9 August 2010

Meeting Room Requests Due

7 September 2010

Hotel Registration Deadline

13 September 2010

For those travelling from outside the USA- please check [Visa information](http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/types/types_1262.html) (http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/types/types_1262.html)



An open meeting of the Public Health Group during the Colloquium has been requested for **Wednesday 20 Oct**, 07:30-09:00 AM. Please check meeting details in the final program.

The editorial team will also be meeting at a separate time to discuss editorial policies and management issues.

* For information on **developing country stipends** contact: dcstipends@cochrane.org. For information on **consumer stipends** contact: consumerstipends@cochrane.org

Funding Opportunity: Authors in England

The National Institute for Health Research in England has just announced the new NIHR Cochrane Collaboration Programme Grant Scheme, which was established to provide high quality systematic reviews that will be of direct benefit to users of the NHS in England.

Grants will be awarded to support work that includes both new Cochrane reviews and updating of existing reviews. Criteria for selection will include scientific quality, NHS relevance and value for money.

All NHS organisations and Universities in England are eligible to propose programmes, in collaboration with an appropriate Cochrane Co-ordinating Editor or Editor based in England.

Note that there are two **submission dates** for applications:

26 March 2010

5 November 2010

Any queries can be directed to Sally Bailey, Senior Programme Manager, NETSCC, at S.E.Bailey@soton.ac.uk

For further details, please see: http://www.netscc.ac.uk/funding/cochrane_programme_grants.asp

Knowledge Translation Tools for the Collaboration

Facebook



The Cochrane Collaboration is now on Facebook!

Facebook is a social utility that connects people with friends and other who work, study and live around them. It gives people the power to share and makes the world more open and connected. To join and connect with the Cochrane Collaboration just visit: <http://www.facebook.com/>

Twitter

follow us on
twitter



Hey there! **cochranecollab** is now 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>

Cochrane Multimedia

Podcasts from The Cochrane Library



To listen to audio summaries from the Cochrane library, including the most recent addition—Issue 3, July 2009 and some of the most-accessed Cochrane reviews, please visit: <http://www.cochrane.org/podcasts/index.html>

Training Opportunities



Knowledge Translation in health: what it is and how to do it

Thursday 11th March
9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Venue: Melbourne, Victoria

This seminar will draw on the experiences of both international and national knowledge translation experts to provide information on what knowledge translation is and how to do it.

Invited international speakers

Dr Jeremy Grimshaw

Co-ordinating Editor, Cochrane EPOC Group; Director, Clinical Epidemiology Program of the Ottawa Health Research Institute; Director, Centre for Best Practice, Institute of Population Health, University of Ottawa, Canada

Professor Susan Michie

Head, Health Psychology Research Unit, Centre for Outcomes Research and Effectiveness, University College London Co-director, NHS Centre for Smoking Cessation and Training

For registration and further information please contact:

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Email: Jennifer.burchill@med.monash.edu.au

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Australasian Cochrane Centre's Training & Support for Review authors

The Australasian Cochrane Centre offer a wide variety of workshops and training opportunities for authors at the various stages of the systematic review process. Designed to meet the needs of both new and experienced authors, they provide dedicated support and are free provided that participants are either working on or intending to work on a registered Cochrane review.

Date	Type of Workshop	Location
12-16 Apr	Cochrane Review Completion and Update Program	Melbourne
7 June	Developing a Protocol for a Systematic Review Workshop	Melbourne
8 June	Introduction to Analysis Workshop	
21 June	Developing a Protocol for a Systematic Review Workshop	Brisbane
22 June	Introduction to Analysis Workshop	
23-24 June	Cochrane Review Completion and Update Program	Brisbane
7 July	Cochrane Review Completion and Update Program	Sydney
8 July	Developing a Protocol for a Systematic Review Workshop	Sydney
9 July	Introduction to Analysis Workshop	

For more information on each workshop and how to register, please visit:

<http://www.cochrane.org.au/training/index.php>.

For our international subscribers, please visit your local Cochrane Centre's website for updates on more local training opportunities.

PHRG 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 PHRG as well as other Cochrane Review Groups) with each quarterly release of *The Cochrane Library*:



www.ph.cochrane.org

PHRG Contacts & Membership

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PHRG Membership

The PHRG currently has a contact database of over 500 individuals who have expressed an interest in contributing in some way to the PHRG. Membership is free and those on the database will receive the bi-annual PHRG 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 PHRG contact database please see the back of this newsletter. If you have changed 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 1309

Cochrane Public Health Review Group (PHRG) – 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 PHRG, 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 PHRG on various matters</p> <p>Other (please provide detail)</p>		
<p>Would you like to contribute to the PHRG 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 PHRG'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 PHRG on areas of interest to myself or my organisation.</p> <p>Other (please describe)</p>		
<p>What topic area/s of the PHRG 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 PHRG?</p> <p>No Yes</p> <p>Send me PHRG 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 PHRG?</p>		

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