



THE NORDIC
COCHRANE CENTRE

Annual report

2005



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Introduction

We report here the achievements of The Nordic Cochrane Centre and its branches for 2005 in relation to the Strategic Plan 2003–2005 and include a brief section about the review groups and fields in the Nordic region. General information about The Cochrane Collaboration, The Nordic Cochrane Centre and its branches, and the Strategic Plan can be found on the Centre's home page www.cochrane.dk.

The Nordic Cochrane Centre opened on 13 October 1993. It is the reference Centre for Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden in the Nordic region, and for Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Estonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Mongolia, Poland, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. There are national branches of the Centre in Finland, Norway and Russia and national contact persons in Iceland, Poland and Sweden. The branches perform similar work as the Centre but have less formal obligations. The Centre is responsible for evaluating the work in its branches. The work of the Centre and branches is described in annual reports (available from www.cochrane.dk) and is evaluated by The Cochrane Collaboration Steering Group. The Centre and branches are guided by an advisory board that meets once a year.

The Nordic Cochrane Centre and branches contribute substantially to The Cochrane Collaboration, for example by convening The Methodology Review Group; by managing the development of the Cochrane Information Management System, including Review Manager (see www.cc-ims.net); by producing Cochrane Reviews and methodological research; by contributing to the Publishing Policy Group (which is responsible for providing advice on the contents of the Collaboration's products and overseeing pricing, distribution and marketing arrangements); and by contributing to the Quality Advisory Group.

Summary of selected achievements in 2005

Citizens in Denmark, Iceland, Norway and Sweden, and almost all physicians in Finland, have free access to the internet version of The Cochrane Library. This is undoubtedly one of the major reasons that The Cochrane Library is often consulted in these countries. During one month, in August 2005, number of different users were 2501 in Norway and 2469 in Denmark. When frequency of use worldwide is ranked according to the size of the population, Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden came within the first 11 countries on the list.

The Nordic Cochrane Centre

We have increased our research collaboration with colleagues internationally, primarily with researchers in Canada, Norway, UK, and USA. We have also become more involved in working groups that are setting standards for good reporting: CONSORT for trials, QUOROM for systematic reviews, STROBE for observational studies, and SPIRIT for protocols.

Since 1996, The Nordic Cochrane Centre has managed the development of the entire Cochrane Information Management System (IMS) as one of its core contributions to the Collaboration, as well as producing key elements of the system, such as the Review Manager software. In 2005, a licence agreement was made between Rigshospitalet, that hosts the centre, and the Steering Group of The Cochrane Collaboration that specifies that Rigshospitalet is the owner of the rights; that The Cochrane Collaboration has the right to use the software at no cost; and that any income from sales of licences to third-parties will be divided according to the investments made by Rigshospitalet and The Cochrane Collaboration. The software can still be used freely for non-commercial purposes.

Staff members have published six updated Cochrane Reviews. Important work has been completed on blinding in clinical trials; allocation concealment as described in protocols and corresponding trial reports; conclusions of meta-analyses in relation to quality of the included trials; constraints on publication rights and ghost authorship in industry-initiated trials; and relation between conflicts of interest and scientific information in meta-analyses and other scientific articles. Other research areas involve systematic reviews of studies of diagnostic tests; studies of inter-observer variation; reporting of observational studies; reliability of P-values; communication of scientific information to the public; and harms and informed consent in relation to mammography screening. Five PhD students have been associated with the centre, and two PhD dissertations were defended in 2005.

Since 1996, The Nordic Cochrane Centre has selected reviews from each new issue of the Cochrane Library for possible comments in general medical journals written by content area specialists. This collaboration started with Ugeskrift for Læger and was subsequently extended to the other Nordic medical associations' journals and to the British Medical Journal. These commentaries are very popular. The dissemination process has been expanded to also involve major Danish newspapers. In 2005, people from The Netherlands, Germany and Canada have volunteered to help with this work.

The Cochrane Library has been freely available for all Danish citizens since 2003, thanks to financial support from the Danish counties, the Electronic Research Library, and the Knowledge and Research Centre for Alternative Medicine.

Norwegian Branch of The Nordic Cochrane Centre

We have helped to improve the quality, accessibility and use of Cochrane Reviews and have prepared and updated several reviews.

We continue to coordinate the GRADE Working Group. In 2005, a version of the GRADE Profiler software was developed to produce Summary of Findings (SoF) Tables for Cochrane Reviews. A pilot study in which authors prepared SoF tables for 20 reviews found that this is feasible and can help to improve the accessibility and quality of reviews. The software is being revised and improved based on the results of the pilot study. The GRADE Working Group met three times in 2005 and has continued to develop the methods used to make judgments about the quality of evidence and the strength of recommendations. A growing number of guideline developers are starting to use the

GRADE approach and many workshops were organized by the Working Group for these people, as well as at the Cochrane Colloquium.

Through the BackInfo project, we have continued to develop methods for translating the results of Cochrane Reviews into relevant, valid and accessible patient information, and we presented these methods at the 2005 Colloquium. We have also assisted the Cochrane Consumer Network in the development of consumer summaries of reviews, and our experiences have been helpful for the Plain Language Summaries Working Group, established during the Colloquium.

We continue our work on evaluating alternative ways of presenting information about the effects of health care, and completed our third randomized trial; a fourth is under way.

We have continued to work with the WHO in 2005 to improve the use of systematic reviews in WHO recommendations and through the Evipnet project, which is supporting the development of units in low and middle-income countries to support the use of research evidence by managers and policy makers.

Other ongoing contributions include: support for users of The Cochrane Library, which is available to everyone in Norway through a national subscription; maintenance and further development of the Colloquium Manager and Title Management Systems; hosting the editorial base for the Methodology Review Group and submitting four updates of the Cochrane Database of Methodology Reviews, which includes 11 completed methodology reviews and 9 protocols as of Issue 4, 2005; updating and editing Effective Practice and Organisation of Care reviews; co-coordinating the Colloquium Advisory Group, the Cochrane Consumer Network, and the Quality Advisory Group; working with the Umbrella Review Group to develop methods for summarizing the results of Cochrane reviews across related reviews; and developing processes for selecting newsworthy reviews and preparing mass media reports for selected reviews for each new issue of The Cochrane Library.

Finnish Branch of The Nordic Cochrane Centre

In 2005, we promoted the production and quality of Cochrane Reviews, disseminated information on The Cochrane Collaboration, and trained critical appraisal and systematic review skills. A two-day basic course for authors of Cochrane Reviews was organized together with the Cochrane Occupational Health Field. There are 75 members involved with Cochrane activities on our mailing list, and we arranged two meetings for these people. Abstracts of seven Cochrane Reviews have been published in three Finnish journals; nine articles described results from Cochrane Reviews and an additional 20 articles in Finnish medical journals cited one or more Cochrane reviews in 2005.

We contributed to two Cochrane Reviews on exercise therapy for nonspecific low back pain and on treatments for anterior cruciate ligament rupture. We have started to update two reviews, on seclusion and restraint in serious mental illness and treatment of maxillary sinusitis.

Handsearches of eight Finnish medical journals continued. We contributed to the work of the Cochrane Back Group advisory board, Cochrane Occupational Health Field, possible

Cochrane Behavioral Medicine Field, the Administrative Board of Guidelines International Network, and the national Current Care Guidelines editorial board. Being hosted by the Finnish Office for Health Technology Assessment (FinOHTA), the co-operation between Finnish HTA activities and Cochrane work is secured.

Russian Branch of The Nordic Cochrane Centre

Kirgiz Ministry of Health received help in the development of its centre for evidence-based medicine (EBM), and the ministry was advised about the development of a new stage of the Program of the Reform of the National Health Care System. Lectures on EBM, The Cochrane Collaboration and on the establishment of EBM centres were given at the Baku Institute for Postgraduate Medical Education (Azerbaijan), Tbilisi Medical University (Georgia), and Yerevan Medical Academy (Armenia) thanks to funding from the Government of Canada through the Canadian Society for International Health.

News stories about Cochrane Reviews are published regularly in Russian medical and lay press.

The journal “Mezhdunarodnii Zhurnal Meditsinskoi Praktiki”, a bimonthly publication that is available on the web, publishes translations of selected abstracts of new Cochrane Reviews and in every issue a short comment on Cochrane news and activities related to the Collaboration (like GRADE).

In October 2005, the largest medical school in Russia – Moscow Medical Academy – in collaboration with WHO Europe held a two-day conference devoted to the development of EBM teaching in medical school. Speakers from The Nordic Cochrane Centre (P. Gøtzsche, M. Mäkelä and V. Vlassov) gave lectures. Support from the Academy to the Russian branch seems likely.

Iceland

Cochrane Reviews are freely available for all Icelandic citizens as part of a national open access funded by various health organizations (www.hvar.is).

The teaching of the value and use of the Cochrane Library to medical students started in 2002 and was intensified in 2003 and 2004. There is also continuing emphasis on promoting The Cochrane Collaboration and on teaching the use of The Cochrane Library to physicians (small group learning). Promotion of consumer summaries of reviews is planned for 2006 as part of a campaign to increase the use of high quality information by patients and other consumers.

The Icelandic Medical Journal (www.laeknabladid.is) is receiving selected Cochrane Reviews for possible comments but is still unable to provide any comments or create a forum for debate or discussions.

There is still no funding for Cochrane activities in Iceland but the value of Cochrane Reviews in decision making is becoming increasingly clear to politicians and decision makers. In 2004, after the publication of a report by the Icelandic Social Security Institute

that clearly acknowledged that results of Cochrane Reviews are very important for decision making in health care, the use reviews has increased.

Sweden

The Cochrane Library became freely available for all Swedish citizens in January 2005 through the Swedish Council on Technology Assessment in Health Care (SBU) thanks to financial support from the government. SBU is currently translating the guide to searching "Vejledning til Cochrane-biblioteket" (<http://www.cochrane.dk/clib/>) from Danish into Swedish.

The Cochrane Library is increasingly considered as one of the most important and reliable sources for information for Drug Committees, the Social Board of Health, the Pharmaceutical Benefits Board and the SBU.

One of the first steps when a new SBU project is initiated is to search for relevant reviews in The Cochrane Library. The Cochrane Reviews are evaluated before they are included in the systematic reviews performed at SBU. In addition, the experts involved in the different health technology assessment projects are encouraged to use the feed back comment system in the Cochrane Reviews and to participate in The Cochrane Collaboration.

Poland

Two Cochrane Protocols were published in 2005. The eligibility of trial reports published in Polish is checked and relevant reports are translated into English for authors of Cochrane Reviews. Summaries of clinically relevant Cochrane Reviews are published in the Polish Medical Journal "Medycyna Praktyczna". The teaching of the value and use of the Cochrane Library and evidence-based medicine in general to medical students started in 2004.

Results in relation to targets for 2003-2005

Theme 1. Methodology

Target 1.1: Conduct methodological research, for example on bias related to randomisation method, lack of blinding or exclusion of patients or outcomes; reporting of harms; patients' views on the balance between benefits and harms; bias in non-randomised studies; bias related to source of funding; informed consent; philosophical and empirical analysis of the concept of evidence-based healthcare; placebo effects.

A substantial amount of research within these areas has been completed and submitted for publication during 2005, and other projects are ongoing, see Summary of selected achievements above.

Target 1.2: Prepare and update Cochrane Reviews performed by staff members.
See Publications.

Target 1.3: Recruit medical students for research at the centre.

During 2005, four students and five external physicians were involved with research at the centre.

Target 1.4: Co-ordinate the editorial process for protocols and reviews in the Cochrane Methodology Review Group.

Achieved, 1 new review, 2 updated reviews and 2 new protocols were published in 2005. There are now 11 published reviews and 9 protocols (The Norwegian Branch).

Target 1.5: Update the Cochrane Methodology Register (register of articles on research methodology) four times a year in time to be submitted for the quarterly issues of The Cochrane Library.

Achieved (The Norwegian Branch).

Target 1.6: Improve the indexing of articles in the Cochrane Methodology Register.

Under continuing development (The Norwegian Branch).

Target 1.7: Update Cochrane Reviewers' Handbook in collaboration with the UK Cochrane Centre, Methods Groups and others.

Achieved (The Norwegian Branch). Editorial responsibility was handed over to the UK and Australian Cochrane Centres in July, 2003.

Target 1.8: Conduct a two to three-day editing workshop for editors and Review Group Co-ordinators from the three Review Groups based in the Nordic area.

Held in Sept 2003 with 18 participants.

Target 1.9: Conduct a three-day workshop on editing of Cochrane Reviews for all Cochrane Review Groups.

Postponed.

Target 1.10: Contribute to obtain greater standardisation of Cochrane Reviews to ensure that their quality becomes more homogeneous.

Achieved by a workshop, by participation in a workshop with other methodologists in Cambridge, by contribution to methodological research, and by correspondence with authors and review groups.

Target 1.11: Peer review Cochrane protocols and reviews on demand.

Achieved.

Target 1.12: Write comments and criticisms to Review Groups on published Cochrane protocols and reviews; if necessary, also submit them via the Comments and Criticism system.

Achieved, several comments sent to authors and Review Groups.

Target 1.13: Contribute to finalising the draft guidelines on the use of non-randomised studies in Cochrane Reviews.

The responsibility for this project has been transferred to UK; applications for funding to provide protected time to finish the guidelines will be submitted.

Theme 2. Software development

Target 2.1: Develop the next generation of the Information Management System, which includes further development and integration of the existing tools in the IMS and development of new ones. The new IMS will be partly internet-based and will include an enhanced version of the Cochrane Contact Database, a central review database, RevMan 5, workflow management tool, systems for preparing modules of information from Cochrane entities and tools for providing Cochrane material to the publisher for publication. The project is estimated to run throughout the period of the strategic plan. In 2003, emphasis will be put on designing the system and implementing the structure for all elements in the IMS. Actual software releases will follow in 2004 and 2005.

Phase 1 of the new IMS (an enhanced version of the Cochrane Contact Database) was launched in November 2004. Roll out of Phase 2 started in February 2005 with five pilot Cochrane Review Groups (CRGs). At the end of 2005, about 35 CRGs will be using Phase 2 of the new IMS. This includes using the Internet server, Archie and RevMan 4.3. It is expected that all 50 CRGs will have transferred to the new IMS by June 2006. The development of RevMan 5 has been delayed and a release is now not expected until the end of 2006. The delay is due to the decision to also include support for reviews of diagnostic tests.

Targets 2.2: In 2003, develop a new and more dynamic interface to the Information Management System web site and expand it to include more information about the software developed by The Nordic Cochrane Centre under the aegis of the IMSG.

Achieved (see www.cc-ims.net).

Target 2.3: Release RevMan 4.2 in spring 2003. Initially the software will be released via the Internet, but later CD-ROMs will be produced and circulated to Cochrane entities for further distribution.

Partly achieved. RevMan 4.2 was released in March 2003 on the Internet; it has been decided not to produce CD-ROM versions centrally.

Target 2.4: In 2003, together with The Cochrane Collaboration Secretariat, make the Cochrane Contact Database the official contact database in the Collaboration (thereby replacing the existing system, HIREx) and have all entities registered as users of the system.

Achieved. The Cochrane Contact Database (now Phase 1 of the new IMS) was made mandatory on 1 July 2004.

Target 2.5: Continue to maintain RevMan 4 and ModMan 4 until RevMan 5 and the new IMS are available.

Achieved and ongoing.

Target 2.6: Continue to provide and seek input on software issues at various Cochrane meetings. Communicate actively on the progress of development projects through the IMS web site and other channels in The Cochrane Collaboration.

Achieved and ongoing.

Target 2.7: Coordinate meetings of the IMSG, its advisory groups and other relevant groups to ensure that the development of software reflects the needs of members of The Cochrane Collaboration.

Achieved. The convenorship changed in 2003 since the previous convenor is also director of the IMSG; the director will work with the new convenor to coordinate meetings.

In addition to the targets above, the NCC has established IMS Support in 2004 and is responsible for its ongoing management. There are four members (1.2 FTE) of IMS Support, based in Australia, Europe and North America, whose roles are to provide training and support to members of editorial bases of CRGs world-wide in their use of the IMS, and contribute to the preparation of high quality documentation. IMS Support is funded by core Collaboration funds.

In 2005, the IMS team at the NCC has also contributed substantially to the development of web-services to support the Entity web-site project by the German Cochrane Centre; and to provide topics lists, abstracts and synopses to the Cochrane.org web site after each publication of The Cochrane Library.

Theme 3. Core functions of Cochrane Centres

Target 3.1: Continue to provide support to the Cochrane review groups based in the Nordic area: Cochrane Hepato-Biliary Group, Cochrane Colorectal Cancer Group, and Cochrane Anaesthesia Group (all based in Copenhagen), Cochrane Methodology Review Group (Oslo), and to authors of Cochrane Reviews and other researchers wishing to do systematic reviews.

Achieved.

Target 3.2: Contribute to recruitment of new reviewers, filling the gaps in the current coverage of Cochrane Reviews, and increasing Nordic participation in The Cochrane Collaboration.

Achieved. In Denmark, 11 stipends for Cochrane Reviews in alternative medicine were awarded in 2003 by collaboration with the Knowledge and Research Centre for Alternative Medicine. In Finland, 4 stipends to produce or update Cochrane Reviews were awarded in 2003 and 3 stipends for training course or Colloquium participation in 2004, and the finalisation of the database of trials in psychiatry (PSI-TRI) was co-funded.

Target 3.3: Offer at least two workshops a year and other forms of training to support members of registered review groups to develop protocols, and offer training workshops for handsearchers on demand.

Achieved.

Target 3.4: Continue to get recognition from relevant institutions that Cochrane Reviews are research and a merit in themselves, and that a PhD can therefore be based entirely on Cochrane Reviews; continue to contribute to the propagation of the principles of problem-based learning and evidence-based medicine.

Many lectures held. The Nordic Cochrane Centre held a four-day intensive PhD course on systematic reviews and meta-analyses in Copenhagen with 24 participants in 2004, sponsored by The Danish Clinical Intervention Research Academy. A PhD that was based

entirely on Cochrane Reviews was defended at the University of Copenhagen in 2005; another, also in 2005, consisted of a systematic review and methodological research related to such reviews. All newly employed physicians at Rigshospitalet in Copenhagen are introduced to The Cochrane Collaboration, systematic reviews and the Cochrane Library. Several courses of evidence-based medicine and systematic review methodology have been held in Finland and training arranged for topic specialists working at FinOHTA. The Centre and its branches in Finland and Russia contributed to a seminar on evidence-based medicine in Moscow in 2005.

Target 3.5: Continue to collaborate with the Danish Knowledge and Research Centre for Alternative Medicine (ViFAB) to promote the production of Cochrane Reviews in alternative medicine.

See target 3.2 above.

Target 3.6: Continue to provide support to consumers, primarily by continued liaisons with consumer organisations; obtain funding for making The Cochrane Library freely available for all Danish citizens; produce, evaluate and update a homepage that helps Danish citizens use The Cochrane Library.

We have had collaboration with consumer organisations in Denmark, Norway and internationally. The Cochrane Library became freely available for all Danish citizens in 2003 and for Swedish citizens from Jan 2005; the Library is also freely available in Finland and Norway; a draft homepage for consumers has been produced in Danish.

Target 3.7: Continue to provide support to the Norwegian, Finnish, and Russian branches of the Centre; to the Cochrane Methodology Review Group (based in Oslo) and to the Cochrane Non-randomised Studies Methods Group (originally based in Copenhagen, future location to be decided).

Achieved. Also provided support to the establishment of the Occupational Health Field (based in Helsinki), which was officially registered with the Collaboration on 10 May 2004.

Target 3.8: Conduct and participate in workshops on evidence-based healthcare and offer or contribute to shorter courses on demand which are open to researchers who are not authors of Cochrane Reviews.

The Nordic Cochrane Centre held a four-day workshop on evidence-based healthcare in Copenhagen in 2004. The Norwegian branch offered a course on systematic reviews in 2003. See also target 3.4 above.

Target 3.9: Continue co-ordination of the dissemination project; continue to collaborate with journals of the Nordic national medical associations and British Medical Journal in getting articles published on evidence-based medicine which summarise important Cochrane Reviews.

Achieved.

Target 3.10: Continue to promote Cochrane Reviews as an important basis for health technology assessment and for practice guidelines; continue to collaborate with the media to promote awareness and use of Cochrane Reviews.

There has been increased collaboration with the media that now regularly refer to Cochrane Reviews and the Nordic Cochrane Centre as providers of independent information on health care interventions. The Cochrane Library is used as a basic source of data for all new HTA reports and Current Care Guidelines (evidence based clinical practice guidelines) in Finland.

Target 3.11: Enhance the design of the Centre's homepage while maintaining ease-of-use and simplicity and update and add useful content while avoiding duplication of material on The Cochrane Collaboration's home page.

Achieved, major change introduced in 2004.

Target 3.12: Update the translated information brochure on The Cochrane Collaboration in Danish, Finnish, Norwegian, Polish, Russian and Swedish.

Cancelled, since a new, shorter version will be used in the Collaboration.

Target 3.13: Continue to handsearch general medical journals in the Nordic area for randomised trials; contribute to ensuring that results of all unpublished trials become publicly accessible.

Handsearching continues but is no longer a high priority; translations are provided for authors of reviews. We continue to advocate in papers, at meetings and elsewhere that it is unethical not to make results of all trials publicly available and participate in efforts to ensure registration of all trials in humans.

Target 3.14: Translate into English titles of all trials identified by handsearching that are not on MEDLINE; provide translations of relevant text in trial reports published in Nordic languages or Russian for reviewers on request.

Achieved, ongoing process.

Target 3.15: Update prospective and retrospective handsearches at least annually and send citations for all new trials to the New England Cochrane Center for inclusion in CENTRAL; contribute to the establishment of national registers of ongoing trials by collaboration with research ethics committee systems and medical research councils.

Achieved, ongoing process.

Review Groups in the Nordic region

The Cochrane Hepato-Biliary Group

with Christian Gluud, Denmark, as Co-ordinating Editor, was registered on 29 March 1996. Fifty systematic reviews and 74 protocols from the group appeared in the 1st issue of The Cochrane Library 2006. Five reviews have been updated since Issue 1, 2005. Out of 37 registered specialist journals and conference proceedings, 36 have been actively searched for the period of registration. The group's specialised register contains 17,409 citations, 9473 of which report on randomised or controlled clinical trials. An additional thousand abstracts of articles of possible interest are being evaluated. For further information, see the latest issue of The Cochrane Library as well as the group's Annual Report, incorporated in the Annual Report of the Copenhagen Trial Unit, available from:

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The Cochrane Colorectal Cancer Group

with Peer Wille-Jørgensen, Denmark, as Co-ordinating Editor was registered on 27 January 1998. Now eight years later, the group has 31 reviews and 40 protocols approved and published in The Cochrane Library. A specialised register of topic related literature is established and contains more than 10,500 trials. The group has now got a fulltime Trials Search Coordinator to support the authors, and to coordinate the handsearch activities; the group has a list of prioritised journals to be handsearched. For further information, see The Cochrane Library or get the group's Annual Report from:

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Web site: www.cccg.dk

The Cochrane Anaesthesia Group

with Tom Pedersen and Ann Møller, Denmark, as Co-ordinating Editors was officially registered with the Collaboration in February 2000. The Group has 24 systematic reviews and 48 protocols for systematic reviews published in the 4th issue of The Cochrane Library 2005. The Group's specialised register of topic related literature is now established and contains more than 26,000 trials. The Anaesthesia Group appointed a Trials Search Co-ordinator in 2005 (Karen Hovhannisyanyan). For further information, see The Cochrane Library or contact:

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The Cochrane Methodology Review Group

with Andy Oxman (Norway) and Mike Clarke (UK) as co-ordinating editors continues to prepare, maintain and make available Cochrane Methodology Reviews (systematic reviews of empirical studies of methods used in systematic reviews and evaluations of health care). These are published in the Cochrane Database of Methodology Reviews in The Cochrane Library. Eleven methodology reviews and nine protocols appeared in the Cochrane Database of Methodology Reviews in the 4th issue of The Cochrane Library 2005. For further information, see The Cochrane Library.

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Nordic editors in Cochrane Review Groups

There are Nordic editors in 13 of the 50 Review Groups:

- Als-Nielsen, Bodil; Denmark (Hepato-Biliary Group – Editor)
- Berge, Eivind; Norway (Stroke Group – Editor)
- Fredrikson, Sten; Sweden (Multiple Sclerosis Group – Editor)
- Gluud, Christian; Denmark (Hepato-Biliary Group – Co-ordinating Editor)
- Gøtzsche, Peter C; Denmark (Methodology Review Group – Editor)
- Janzon, Lars; Sweden (Peripheral Vascular Diseases Group – Editor)
- Lous, Jørgen; Denmark (Ear, Nose and Throat Disorders Group – Editor)
- Møller, Ann; Denmark (Anaesthesia Group – Co-ordinating Editor)
- Oxman, Andy; Norway (Methodology Review Group – Co-ordinating Editor; Effective Practice and Organisation of Care Group – Editor)
- Pedersen, Tom; Denmark (Anaesthesia Group – Co-ordinating Editor)
- Rask Madsen, Jørgen; Denmark (Inflammatory Bowel Disease Group – Editor)
- Specht, Lena; Denmark (Haematological Malignancies Group – Editor)
- Tfelt-Hansen, Peer; Denmark (Pain, Palliative Care and Supportive Care Group – Editor)
- Wahlbeck, Kristian; Finland (Depression, Anxiety and Neurosis Group – Editor)
- Wille-Jørgensen, Per; Denmark (Colorectal Cancer Group – Co-ordinating Editor)

Fields in the Nordic region

The Occupational Health Field

The Occupational Health Field was officially registered with the Collaboration in May 2004. The field has established an international network in- and outside the Collaboration. With funding from the Dutch government, 6 occupational health reviews could be started, and with funding from the Australian Occupational Health and Safety organisation, another review was started. The reviews cover a wide range of interventions varying from hearing protection to return to work in depressed patients. Authors were supported by the field by means of two-day workshops to stimulate the finishing of protocols and reviews. On the field's website, the database with occupational health intervention studies is now fully operational. To stimulate the conduction of occupational health reviews, a basic review course was organised. To support authors, a taxonomy of occupational health interventions was developed which was presented as a poster at the Melbourne Colloquium. For further information, see www.cohf.fi.

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Nordic Cochrane Reviews

Nordic researchers participate in many Review Groups, Methods Groups and Fields (see The Cochrane Library). In the 4th issue of 2005 of The Cochrane Library, 73 reviews and 47 protocols were listed with a Nordic contact address:

Country	Reviews	Protocols
DENMARK	40	25
FINLAND	17	3
NORWAY	12	10
POLAND	0	4
RUSSIA	2	2
SWEDEN	2	3
Total	73	47

For 2003, the total numbers were 81 and 45, respectively. The reason for the decline in number of reviews is that visiting researchers have later published another address in an update of their review.

Advisory Board for the Nordic Cochrane Centre

The Advisory Board for the Nordic Cochrane Centre provides advice and support about the strategic direction for activities within the Centre. Currently, the members are:

Ms Margrethe Nielsen, Consumers' Council, Denmark (chairman and consumer representative)

Mr Henrik Grosen Nielsen, Ministry of Health, Denmark

Dr Sigurður Helgason, Landlaeknisembaettið, Iceland

Dr Risto Roine, HUS, Group Administration, Finland

Dr Inger Natvig Norderhaug, Norwegian Knowledge Centre for the Health Services, Norway

Dr Juliette Säwe, Swedish Council for Technology Assessment in Health Care, Sweden

Acknowledgements

The Cochrane Collaboration is registered as a charity and it is the responsibility of all contributors to the organisation to secure their own funding. The staff at the Nordic Cochrane Centre and branches are grateful for the financial support received from our funders and the voluntary help received from many people and institutions since the Centre was founded in 1993 (see annual reports and previous strategic plans). Currently, our funders are:

- Central Library for Medical Sciences, Finland
- Cochrane Collaboration, UK
- Copenhagen Hospital Corporation
- Duodecim, Finland
- Finnish Medical Association
- Media Sphera Publishing Group, Moscow
- Norwegian Knowledge Centre for the Health Services
- Nordic Council of Ministers
- Rigshospitalet, Denmark
- Stakes (National R &D Centre for Welfare and Health) /FinOHTA, Finland

Currently, we owe special thanks to the members of the Advisory Board of the Centre and to Managing Director Helle Ulrichsen, Copenhagen Hospital Corporation.

Staff at the centre and its branches

The Nordic Cochrane Centre

Askham FA, Administrator
Christiansen MS, System Developer
Friis P, System Developer
Gøtzsche PC, Director
Hedegaard J, Centre Secretary
Hróbjartsson A, Senior researcher
Jørgensen KJ, Physician
Kjeldstrøm M, Director of the Cochrane Information Management System
Moustgaard R, System Developer
Pandal M, Secretary
Riis J, Support Technician, Web Designer

Norwegian Branch of The Nordic Cochrane Centre

Dyrnes JA, Systems Developer
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Publications by staff at The Nordic Cochrane Centre

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Awards received

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