



The Cochrane Effective Practice and Organisation of Care Group

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EPOC has moved to Ottawa, Canada

EPOC is now based at the Institute of Population Health (IPH), University of Ottawa (www.iph.uottawa.ca) following the move of co-ordinating editor, Jeremy Grimshaw. The IPH is a new consortium of nine faculties of the University of Ottawa (Law, Science, Social Sciences, Health Sciences, Medicine, Administration, Engineering, Arts and Education). As a consortium, the IPH coordinates, initiates, and supports transdisciplinary research and training in Population Health.



EPOC Editorial Team:

- Jeremy Grimshaw
– Co-ordinating editor
- Lisa Bero
– editor
- Roberto Grilli
– editor
- Andy Oxman
– editor
- Merrick Zwarenstein
– editor
- Laura McAuley
– RGC
- Nancy Santesso
– Knowledge translation specialist
- Anna Farmer
– Research fellow
- To be appointed
– TSC
- Craig Ramsay
– Statistical editor
- Luke Vale
– Economics editor
- Penelope Cream
– Synopsis editor
- Andrew Herxheimer
– Comments & Criticisms editor

We are in the process of establishing our team and getting settled. Laura McAuley was appointed Review group Coordinator in late April (see page 2). We expect to fill the position of Trial Search Coordinator shortly.

We are very fortunate to have had a lot of support during our transition. Graham Mowatt, past RGC, spent a few days in Ottawa and Cynthia Fraser has helped keep the register searches going and helped with reviewer requests. She has also agreed to spend time in Ottawa once the new TSC has been appointed.

The Cochrane Musculoskeletal group is also based at the IPH. Maria Judd, Musculoskeletal group RGC, has been a great resource helping Laura get acquainted with the day-to-day function of a Cochrane RGC.

Who are we?

EPOC is a Collaborative Review Group (CRG) of the Cochrane Collaboration: an international organisation that aims to help people make well informed decisions about health care by preparing, maintaining and ensuring the accessibility of systematic reviews of the effects of health care interventions. EPOC's scope is to undertake systematic reviews of educational, behavioural, financial, organisational and regulatory interventions designed to improve health professional practice and the organisation of health care services, potentially spanning any clinical area.

Apologies

We would like to apologize for any delays or omissions that may have occurred while we were in transit from Aberdeen to Ottawa. We appreciate your patience and encourage you to contact us again if you have an outstanding issue or query. We promise it will get better!



Looking to the Future: EPOC resources

For the past few months we have been establishing our editorial base in our new home. We hope to be settled by early September.

Introducing Laura McAuley

I am very excited to have joined the EPOC team and look forward to working with you and facing and overcoming challenges together.

In my previous position, I was a researcher at the Canadian Coordinating Office for Health Technology Assessment. Before that I worked with Terry Klassen and David Moher establishing the Cochrane Child Health Field. While working with the Child Health Field, I completed and defended my Master's thesis in epidemiology. Working under the guidance of David Moher and Peter Tugwell, I examined the impact of excluding grey literature in meta-analysis.

Although I was away from the collaboration for about 2 years, most of my colleagues will attest to my commitment and high regard for Cochrane.

A big thanks to all who have facilitated my

transition and those who have been patient while I find my feet.

Some of the things we are working towards include:

Team growing

We are in the process of assembling the editorial base team. By September we expect that the following positions will be filled; trial search coordinator, knowledge translation specialist, research assistant, and secretarial support

Web site

We have the files from the Aberdeen web site and are working to make revisions. We expect to launch a revised site in the next few months.

Register

Cynthia Fraser has maintained searches to grow the register. We have been fortunate to find a research fellow and a librarian to help with the assessment and coding of the studies identified through Cynthia's continued electronic searches.



University of Ottawa - Evidence-based Practice Center

The University of Ottawa has been awarded a prestigious research contract by the United States Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), worth up to \$5 million (US) over its 5-year duration. The University is one of 13 academic medical centers and other science institutions that the AHRQ has designated an Evidence-based Practice Center (EPC). As the health services research arm of the US Department of Health and Human Services, AHRQ is the lead federal government agency for enhancing the access to, quality, appropriateness, and effectiveness of health care services. An EPC's primary goal is to derive and disseminate the findings from systematic reviews and other analyses of scientific health care evidence to benefit those delivering and receiving health care in North America and beyond.

Led by Dr. Howard Schachter and David Moher, scientists with the Chalmers Research Group (CRG) of the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario (CHEO) Research Institute, the University of Ottawa EPC includes 16 partner sites or organizations and 133 investigators. These include the University's Faculty of Health Sciences and the University of Maryland's Complementary Medicine Program. Prominent among the core technical EPC team are members of the Ottawa Health Research Institute's Clinical Epidemiology Program, the University's Institute of Population Health, and, the CRG.

EPOC will contribute to the EPC by providing expertise and support for reviews that fall within the EPOC scope. EPOC will also contribute to the development of methods for reviewing complex interventions.

EPOC Editors



An introduction to our team for readers new, and to keep others informed of changes.

Lisa Bero:

My newest position is Associate Director, Center for Tobacco Control Research and Education, UCSF. I am also director of the postdoctoral training program for the Center. I am still Co-Director, SFCC and Professor of Clinical Pharmacy and Health Policy. I have two new grants from the NIH -one examining how institutions manage financial conflicts of interest, the other is a qualitative study of publication bias at four journals. I have been on sabbatical since January 2002 (through Sept 2002).

Roberto Grilli:

Roberto is an epidemiologist and health services researcher. Since January 2001 he holds the position of senior executive at the Regional Health Care Agency of Emilia-Romagna (a 4 million resident Italian region), head of the Dept. of Clinical Governance.

Jeremy Grimshaw:

Jeremy took up his appointment as Director, Clinical Epidemiology Programme, Ottawa Health Research Institute and Head, Centre for Best Practice, Institute of Population Health, University of Ottawa, in January 2002.

Andy Oxman:

Andy is Director of the Department of Health Services Research at the Norwegian Directorate of Health and Social Welfare, formally the Section for Health Services Research at the Norwegian National Institute of Public Health and soon to be reorganised yet again.

Merrick Zwarenstein:

Merrick is joining the staff of the University of Toronto, department of health policy, management and evaluation in its project on knowledge translation, working with Dave Davis, another EPOC reviewer and expert in continuing education. The position is jointly held with the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences, the repository for Ontario's health and health care databases. His main work will be to establish large scale efforts on trials of knowledge translation interventions, using the databases as sources for outcome data.

Merrick will continue to work for the MRC in South Africa, directing the health systems unit, and supporting projects on improving the practice of clinical nurses in primary care setting on respiratory illnesses.

Recipe – In keeping with tradition



When the EPOC group was originally registered with the Cochrane collaboration it was the "Cochrane Collaboration on Effective Professional Practice" or "CCEPP". Ceps are one of the most famous of all edible fungi - as such it has been a tradition to include a recipe in our newsletters.

SHITAKE AND WILD RICE PILAF

4 oz. Shiitake Mushrooms, sliced
1 clove Garlic, minced
2 tbsp. Olive Oil
2 cups Cooked Wild Rice
1/2 cup Toasted Walnut pieces
1/4 cup Green onions, sliced
1 tbsp. Grated Lemon Peel



DIRECTIONS

In broad skillet, saute mushrooms and garlic in oil until tender, 1 to 2 minutes. Add rice, walnuts, onions and lemon peel, mixing to blend. Season with salt and pepper; heat to warm through.

Source: <http://db.adhost.com/mushroomcouncil/recipes.cfm>



Reflections on the Past

Reflections of a Former RGC

I became RGC in April 1997 when the editorial base moved from York to the Health Services Research Unit, University of Aberdeen.

During the period 1997 to 2001, thanks to the dedicated work of our reviewers, editors and editorial base staff, the number of EPOC reviews grew from 3 to 27. During the same period, thanks to Cynthia Fraser, TSC, with help from editorial base staff, the number of studies in the specialised register increased substantially from around 300 to 3000. Some highlights of EPOC's growth included:

- 1997: Mary Ann O'Brien joined us from McMaster University as a Research Fellow for a year, working on her reviews and contributing to the development of the group's methods.
- 1998: the name of the group was changed to EPOC, in order to provide a more accurate reflection of the group's scope.
- 1999: Merrick Zwarenstein joined the ranks of the EPOC editors.
- 1999: we updated an overview of systematic reviews of professional behaviour change strategies. This was published as part of an Effective Health Care bulletin on getting

evidence into practice.

(<http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/crd/ehcb.htm>)

- 1999: EPOC became one of four training nodes within the UK Cochrane Training and Support Network.

It was an interesting, educational, sometimes challenging, occasionally hectic, but always enjoyable experience working as a member of the editorial team with Jeremy and the other EPOC editors and contributing to the work of the group. I am pleased that I will continue to be involved with EPOC as a reviewer. I would like to pass on my best wishes to Jeremy, Laura and the Ottawa editorial base staff - I have no doubt that they will do a splendid job in taking the group forward and meeting the challenges that lie ahead!

Since November 2001, I have remained within HSRU and am happily still involved in systematic review work. I am part of a team working on technology assessment reviews for the National Institute for Clinical Excellence being undertaken by HSRU, in collaboration with the Health Economics Research Unit.

Graham Mowatt

Reflections of a Former TSC

This week the specialised register articles were packed up in boxes - lots of boxes - and sent out to Ottawa, marking the final step in EPOC's move. When I joined five years ago, one of my first tasks was to develop a sensitive search strategy to identify EPOC studies. In so doing, I don't think that I fully realised the amount of work that this would generate! Five years later I reckon 134,000 citation in Medline alone, have been scanned with over 6000 articles having been obtained, read and coded. I would particularly like to thank Ruth Thomas and Liz Shirran for their help with this task.

While working on the register became somewhat routine, one of the more varied and interesting aspects of my time as TSC has been in providing information support to our reviewers. The demands of each review have been different; from searching

the specialised register to developing more complex search strategies for primary bibliographic databases. Whatever the request, I hope that I was able to give the reviewers the help that was required and I'd like to pass on my best wishes to you all.

Working for EPOC has been challenging and enjoyable. Thanks to Jeremy, Graham and the rest of the team for making it so. I am continuing to work at HSRU, part of my time being spent working with Graham on the technology assessment reviews for NICE. 'The old team', then, has not completely disbanded! Finally I'd like to send my best wishes to Laura, to Jeremy and the other EPOC editors and to my successor for the future - I'm sure that EPOC will continue to flourish in their care.

Cynthia Fraser

Meetings and Training



10th International Cochrane Colloquium, Stavanger

The 10th Cochrane Colloquium is targeted at active contributors to the Cochrane Collaboration and those interested in contributing and will focus on quality, productivity and sustainability. It will be similar to previous Colloquia in that it will include one plenary session each morning, time for meetings, poster presentations, workshops, and social activities. Social activities in the evenings will include a welcoming reception, fjord cruises and a dinner-dance to celebrate the 10th year of the Collaboration.

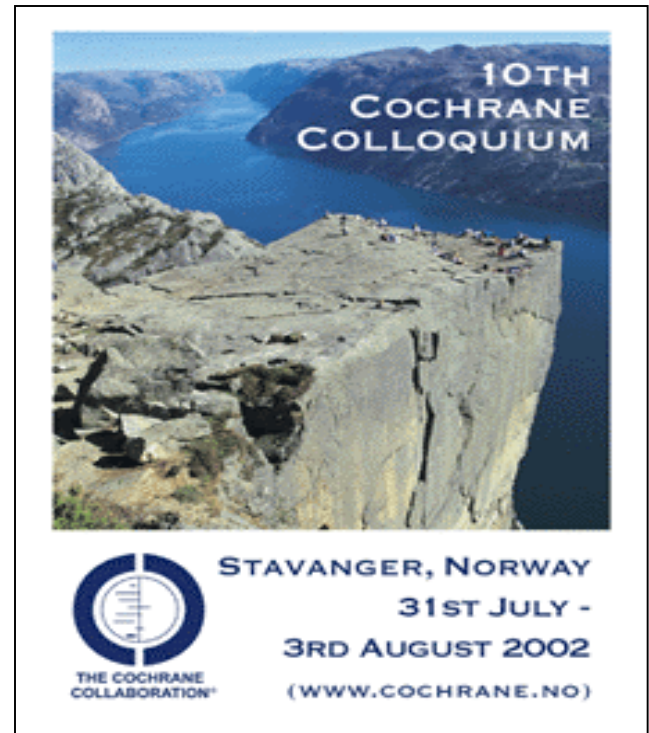
EPOC Meetings at the Colloquium:

We invite all current EPOC contributors, as well as people not already involved with our group to attend our open meeting:

Saturday August 3rd from 7:45 to 9:15.

Room: Moterom 4

Come find out what we are all about and how you can be involved!



Protocol and Review Workshops

The two Ottawa based Cochrane review groups (EPOC and Musculoskeletal) are working with the Canadian Cochrane Network/Centre to organize protocol and review workshops just before the CCN/C Annual general meeting November 2002.

The protocol workshop (November 22) will be targeted to those who are interested in undertaking a review and have a general idea of their research question.

The review workshop (November 23) will be held the following day and is intended as a broad introduction to systematic reviews. Those

attending the protocol workshop are encouraged to also attend the review workshop. All aspects of doing a Cochrane review will be discussed. Time will be allotted for hands on practice with Review Manager software.

Both workshops will be held at the University of Ottawa.

Watch for more details or be in-touch if you would like more information or are interested in registering.

For an up-to-date listing of upcoming Cochrane meetings and training opportunities see <http://www.cochrane.org/cochrane/workshop.htm>

Contact Details

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Your contact details have changed and you wish to keep informed about our group
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You would like to be removed from our mailing list

Name:

Job title/ position:

Address:

Telephone (please include international and area codes):

Fax:

E-mail address:

Professional interests (in brief):

Interests relevant to our group (if different from above):

Proposed contribution to our group (e.g. undertaking a review (give area); literature searching; peer review):

I would like to receive future newsletters: Y / N

I Prefer electronic copies of newsletters

I Prefer print copy of newsletters

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<http://> COMING SOON !