

MINUTES

Meeting of the Cochrane Information Retrieval Methods Group (CIRMG)

XIII Cochrane Colloquium, Melbourne

1–2 pm. Wednesday, 26 October 2005

1. Welcome

Carol Lefebvre, Co-Convenor of the CIRMG welcomed those present.

2. Corrections to the minutes of the last meeting (Ottawa, 2004)

There were no corrections from the minutes of the last meeting.

3. Matters arising from the last meeting (Ottawa, 2004)

Carol Lefebvre announced that the 2005 CIRMG-supported registration fee for the Cochrane Colloquium, funded by The Cochrane Collaboration, had been awarded to Su Golder, member of CIRMG and based at the Centre for Reviews and Dissemination at the University of York. This award was likely to be available again next year and attendees were reminded that they needed to be a member of the CIRMG before the announcement of the award took place to be eligible to apply.

The work and dedication of Steve Pritchard, previously Co-Convener of CIRMG, was acknowledged and the implications of his retirement from Cardiff University were discussed. Carol reported that Alison Weightman, Co-ordinator of the CIRMG and also from Cardiff University, was already carrying out much of the work on the activities of the group and that Cardiff University was providing infrastructure and funding and it was hoped that this commitment would continue after Steve's departure. The benefits of a Co-ordinator and Co-Convenor working in close proximity were highlighted. Carol, therefore, proposed that Alison Weightman should take over the role of Co-Convener from Steve Pritchard, that her colleague, Bernadette Coles, should take on the role of Co-ordinator and that Carol herself should continue in her current role as Co-convener. This was agreed by the group. The benefits of having an additional Co-Convenor from outside the UK were discussed and the attendees voted in favour of this.

Action: to establish another Co-Convener from outside the UK .

(Post-meeting note: Carol Lefebvre approached Jessie McGowan, TSC for the Cochrane EPOC Group and member of CIRMG, based in Ottawa, Canada and invited her to become a Co-Convenor alongside Alison Weightman and herself. Jessie accepted and the change in Co-Convenors and Co-ordinator were reported to The Cochrane Collaboration Secretariat in November 2005

4. Communication

4.1 E-mail discussion list - Cochrane-IRMG@mailtalk.ac.uk

4.2 Web site - <http://www.cochrane.org/docs/irmg.htm>

Attendees were reminded of the website which is updated periodically and were encouraged to send messages or questions via the CIRMG e-mail discussion list.

5. Draft work plan (for discussion)

A number of attendees had not seen the draft work plan which had been sent out via the CIRMG e-mail discussion list. Carol Lefebvre explained how to sign up for the list by either e-mailing Alison Weightman at weightmanal@cardiff.ac.uk or by attending any of the CIRMG meetings and asking to be added to the list.

It was suggested that information about the CIRMG e-mail discussion list should be made available on the main Cochrane Collaboration website.

Action: Carol Lefebvre to investigate this

The format of the draft work plan was explained and feedback sought.

The web resource of the UK InterTASC Information Specialists' Subgroup in section 3.3 was highlighted and recommended to attendees. Mark Fenton noted that his colleague Judith Wright had designed a search filter to identify RCTs in a Chinese healthcare database.

Action: Carol Lefebvre to contact Judith Wright and encourage her to submit her filter for inclusion in the above web site.

Andrew Booth suggested that qualitative research should be added to the aims in section 2.2 and section 3.3

Action: 'qualitative research' to be added to the aims in section 2.2 and section 3.3

In relation to section 3.4, it was announced that the U.S. Cochrane Center would continue the re-tagging of MEDLINE records as RCTs or CCTs for at least one more year and this was welcomed by the attendees.

Further comments or amendments to the workplan were encouraged. A second draft would then be sent out via the CIRMG e-mail discussion list.

6. Additional expressions of interest

Attendees were encouraged to come forward with expressions of interest as a way of contacting others with similar work interests. Ruth Mitchell and Su Golder

expressed their interest in diagnostic accuracy search filters, which they had both done some work on.

7. Any other business

It was noted that the Cochrane Highly Sensitive Search Strategy to identify RCTs in MEDLINE had been redesigned as a joint project between the Centre for Reviews and Dissemination at the University of York and the UK Cochrane Centre and had been accepted for publication in the US Journal of the Medical Library Association for April 2006. The appropriate section of the Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions would be updated shortly.

8. Date of next meeting

XIV Cochrane Colloquium, 23-26 October 2006, Dublin, Ireland.

Details of exact date, time and venue during the Colloquium to be confirmed.