

**Minutes of a meeting of the possible
Cochrane Information Retrieval Methods Group (IRMG)
12th Cochrane Colloquium, Ottawa. 6 October 2004.**

Present: Elizabeth Arnold (UK), Chiara Bassi (Italy), Sylvia Bickley (UK), Karen Blackhall (UK), Jeanette Buckingham (Canada), Nancy Collins (USA), Renée de Gannes (Canada), Finola Delamere (UK), Carolyn Dorée (UK), Susanne Ebrahim (Germany), Yngve Falck-Ytter (Germany), Louise Falzon (USA), Ruth Foxlee (Australia), Julie Glanville (UK), Elena Glatman (USA), Su Golder (UK), Linda Heslop (Australia), Emma Irvin (Canada), Marit Johansen (Norway), Janet Joyce (Canada), Josephine Kavanagh (UK), Julia Lavenberg (USA), Carol Lefebvre (*Co-Convener*, UK), Mark Lodge (UK), Marjan Loep (Netherlands), Vittoria Lutje (UK), Eric Manheimer (USA), Jane McHugh (UK), Shaila Mensinkai (Canada), Ruth Mitchell (Australia), Andra Morrison (Canada), Edith Motschall (Germany), Anne Oestmann (UK), Vanna Pistotti (Italy), Geoff Powell (UK), Bharati Purohit (Canada), Karen Robinson (USA), Margaret Sampson (Canada), Anupa Shah (UK), Becky Skidmore (Canada), Judy Stoelwinder (Australia), Mylène Trottier (Canada), Sheila Wallace (UK), Alison Weightman (*Co-ordinator*, UK), Karen Welch (UK), Susan Wieland (USA)

1. Welcome and minutes of the last meeting

Following a warm welcome and introduction by Carol Lefebvre corrections to the minutes of the meeting held in Barcelona in October 2003 were received.

These were:

- 2a_ Correct Yneve to Yngve
- 4_ Correct 'Diagnostic Test Accuracy Group' to 'Screening and Diagnostic Tests Methods Group'

Action: Alison Weightman to amend minutes

There were no matters arising.

2. Progress with the bid for registration

The bid for registration was submitted to the Cochrane Collaboration in August 2004 and is currently with the Monitoring & Registration Group. Formal notification is likely to be in November 2004 and feedback so far has been positive. As soon as notification is received this will be circulated via the email list (Cochrane-IRMG@mailtalk.ac.uk) and the web-site (<http://www.cochrane.org/docs/irmg.htm>, see below).

3. Communication

3.1 Email list: Attendees at the meeting were informed that, if they provided an email address on the attendance sheet, they would be registered with the Cochrane IRMG mailtalk discussion list. It was confirmed that this is an open

list and all members are encouraged to post suggestions, seek partners in collaborative ventures etc.

3.2 Website: Thanks were expressed to Yngve Falck-Ytter and Dave Booker of the German Cochrane Centre for establishing a web-page for the group & to Yngve for offering to manage the site for the time being. The minutes of this and future meetings and the current module would be circulated via the email list and posted onto the web site as soon as possible after the meeting.

Action: Alison Weightman to forward amendments and papers to Yngve Falck-Ytter

3.3 Links with other groups: It was confirmed that updates on the progress of the Group would also be shared with other relevant Cochrane entities, the Campbell IRMG and other organisations (as listed in the current module) to share information and encourage collaboration.

4. Workplan

Although a workplan for the Group would not be agreed pre-registration, a number of relevant ongoing projects were brought to the Group's attention.

4.1 Description of search strategies in the Cochrane Reviewers' Handbook: Work is required to update Chapter Five of the Cochrane Reviewers' Handbook in collaboration with the Cochrane CENTRAL Advisory Group, particularly the guidance on search strategies. The Special Interest Group on Information Retrieval of Health Technology Assessment international have expressed an interest in working jointly with the Cochrane IRMG and the Information Specialists Sub-group of InterTASC, the UK-based group which works on technology assessment reports for the National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) in the UK would also like to join the collaboration. For more information contact Carol Lefebvre (clefebvre@cochrane.co.uk).

4.2 Indexing policies in databases of relevance to public health: A web-site is available free-of-charge on the web with details of subject headings in databases (23 to date) describing specific research types (reviews, trials, observational, qualitative etc.) and the results from a range of relevant text words. Collaboration is welcomed from other information searchers who might like to use the information to explore indexing policies and search strategy developments. Web site address:
http://www.hda.nhs.uk/evidence/indexing_home.html

For more information contact Alison Weightman (WeightmanAL@cf.ac.uk), Julie Glanville (jmg1@york.ac.uk) or Geoff Powell (geoff.powell@hda-online.org.uk).

4.3 Other relevant projects: Margaret Sampson is seeking collaborators to look in more detail at the indexing of the randomized controlled trials (RCTs) indexed in MEDLINE and EMBASE. In particular, were the trials appropriately tagged, such as with Randomized Controlled Trial [publication type] in MEDLINE? It is suggested that further research is needed on the accuracy and completeness of

this tagging over time and across disciplines. It was agreed that Margaret's original proposal would be re-circulated to the email list for information once all attendees to the meeting had been included. For more information contact msampson@cheo.on.ca.

Action: Alison Weightman to repost original message

Carol Lefebvre asked for views on inclusion of specific streams for information retrieval papers at the next Colloquium to avoid overlaps in timing of papers covering similar work, as had been the case this year. This idea was welcomed.

Action: Carol Lefebvre to speak to organisers of 13th Colloquium

5. New ideas for projects

5.1 Follow up of registered trials to see if they have been published within five years. Carol L informed the group that a document is being drawn up within the Cochrane Collaboration addressing the issue of registration of trials at inception and the possible penalties of not doing so, such as refusal of the journal publishers to publish the results in high impact-factor journals.

5.1 Peer reviewing of search strategies and an analysis of the methodological strategies produced by McMaster and other organisations. It was agreed that this project would be carried forward within the work identified in 4.1

Action: Carol Lefebvre to follow up

5.2 Ludovic Reveiz of the Acute Respiratory Infections Group would welcome collaboration with members of the Group on developing a web resource to provide access to information in Latin America. Contact: lreveiz@colsanitas.com or lreviez@yahoo.com.

5.3 Ruth Foxlee would welcome collaboration on the development of diagnostic test accuracy filters with sensitivity/precision measures. It was noted that relevant work is ongoing at the University of York's Centre for Reviews & Dissemination (CRD).

Action: Ruth Foxlee (r.foxlee@library.uq.edu.au) and Julie Glanville (jmg1@york.ac.uk) to liaise.

Julie Glanville informed the Group that the CRD is developing a web resource of published search filters as a joint project with the InterTASC Group. As soon as the resource is in a useable state, details will be circulated to the Cochrane IRMG list.

Action: Julie Glanville

6. Additional expressions of interest in the activities outlined in the draft module

As an update to the minutes of the meeting in Barcelona the following amendments and additions were made:

Offering training and support in effective information retrieval skills

(2.1/2.2): Add Elena Glatman; Remove Susan Wieland

Developing and evaluating retrieval strategies (3.3): Add Ruth Foxlee

Liaising with publishers/database suppliers to encourage developments of indexing/abstracting tools (3.4): Add Karen Welch, Julia Lavenberg and (post meeting request) Renée de Gannes

Formalising a method for monitoring the quality of information retrieval methods in systematic reviews (4.2): Add Susan Wieland

It was noted that collaborative work on information retrieval issues for developing countries (as suggested at the Barcelona meeting) is not listed specifically in the current module following a request from the Monitoring and Registration Group for details of the proposed areas of work.

Action: Justus Krabshuis, Elizabeth Pienaar & Alison Weightman to liaise

7. Any Other Business

It was agreed that all present at the meeting would have the opportunity to comment on these minutes before the minutes and the current module were circulated to the wider email list.

Action ALL

There was no further business and the meeting was closed with thanks to all contributors.

8. Date and Venue of Next Meeting

Venue: Melbourne Colloquium
Date and time to be advised.