

# Equity Update

Cochrane Health Equity Field and Campbell Equity Methods Group

September 28, 2009

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## Letter from our team

Dear Equity Colleagues,

Welcome to our second newsletter for 2009! This issue reports on some of the conferences we've attended over the last few months, and lists some of our recent publica-

tions that may be of interest.

We'd like to invite you to collaborate with us; we've described some activities for which we are currently seeking participants. In addition, we're looking for-

ward to the Cochrane Colloquium in less than two weeks; see page 3 for an outline of our presentations. We hope to see you there!

*Best regards,*

*The Equity Team*

## Campbell Colloquium, May 2009: Oslo Report

- The Campbell Methods Coordinating Group held a very lively open meeting, with a productive discussion around systematic review methods for reviews addressing social welfare, crime and justice, and education. One of the major discussions revolved around the potential adoption of the Cochrane Handbook as a guiding policy document for the Campbell Collaboration. The minutes of the Campbell Methods Coordinating Group meeting are available online at [http://www.campbellcollaboration.org/artman2/uploads/1/Methods\\_Group\\_MINUTES\\_Oslo\\_2009.pdf](http://www.campbellcollaboration.org/artman2/uploads/1/Methods_Group_MINUTES_Oslo_2009.pdf)

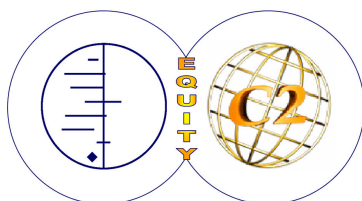
scribed their experiences conducting subgroup analyses in systematic reviews, and the difficulties—both statistical and theoretical—they encountered. A manuscript on the Field's work on subgroup analyses has been submitted for publication.

- A workshop on the Field's collaboration with the WHO Measurement, Evidence and Knowledge Network (MEKN) was led by Peter Tugwell. The group discussed methods of addressing equity and the social determinants of health in systematic reviews; we debated a series of recommendations proposed



by the Field.

- Vivian Welch gave an oral presentation on her Cochrane Methodology Review, described on page 6.
- An Open Equity Meeting was held, with participants from Australia, Canada, Belgium, the US, and Bangladesh; we welcomed Dr. Faye Taxman of the International Network for Justice Health (based at George Mason University in the US) to the Equity Field.



## The Cochrane Health Equity Field and Campbell Equity Methods Group

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*We welcome your contributions—  
please contact us to join our mailing  
list or get involved!!*

[www.equity.cochrane.org](http://www.equity.cochrane.org)

## Canadian Collaboration for Immigrant and Refugee Health Update

*By Jordi Pardo*

### Knowledge translation in your ears

Jim is a young resident of Family Medicine. He had a long trip on the bus before he arrived to the hospital, so he usually has his ipod in his ears. However, he does not have the last song from Cold Play, he is getting himself up-to-date with the new recommendations of the Canadian Collaboration for Immigrant and Refugee Health. A dream? No, a reality in next December.

The guidelines project is preparing an innovative knowledge translation program, following the successful experience of the Cochrane Collaboration podcasts. Follow it next December! Find them in <http://www.cochrane.org/podcasts/>

*For more information:*

Jordi Pardo  
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CCIRH Meeting, June 2009. Back row, L-R: Nina McEvoy, Helena Swinkels, Peter Tugwell, Ghayda Hassan, Meb Rashid, Erin Ueffing. Front row, L-R: Vivian Welch, Chris Greenaway, Kevin Pottie, John Feightner.

## Open Equity Meeting

*Tuesday, October 13, 12:45-2:00*

*Cochrane Colloquium, Singapore*

## 16th Canadian Conference on International Health, October 2009: Health Equity: Our Global Responsibility

The 2009 Canadian Conference on International Health (CCIH) will be held this year in Ottawa, Canada from October 25th to 28th, 2009. The conference will examine inequities of health status, and the impact on the health of marginalized, vulnerable and Indigenous populations to changing environments, whether these changes are due to climate, technology, the economy or threats to human security. Renowned speakers Jeffrey

Sachs and Sonia Sachs will be giving keynote presentations.

Members of the Equity Team will be giving two presentations at the CCIH this year on Monday, October 26th at 1:30 PM:

*Update of an Equity-Oriented Toolkit for Health Technology Assessment*

*Scaling Up Education and Training for International Human Resources for Health: An Application of the Equity-Oriented Toolkit*

In addition, Drs. Kevin Pottie, Jeff Turnbull, and Peter Tugwell will be giving a workshop on "Pathways to Global Health Competence: Developing Knowledge, Skills, and a Commitment to Social Justice" (Sunday, October 25th, 9:30-4:00).

*For more information:*

Canadian Society for International Health  
Email: [2009ccih@csih.org](mailto:2009ccih@csih.org)  
Website: [www.csih.org](http://www.csih.org)

The Equity Field is looking forward to the Cochrane Colloquium in Singapore, Oct. 11-14, 2009. We hope that you can join us for our equity events; we'd like to learn more about your work and invite you to collaborate with us!

## Meet the Entities

*Sunday, October 11, 2:30-3:30*

The Health Equity Field will be at the annual "Meet the Entities" session, with copies of our newsletter, a listserv sign-up, and treats from Canada. Please come introduce yourself—we'd like to meet you!

## Checklist Workshop

*Monday, October 12, 2:00-3:30*

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Checklist workshops in Halifax, Canada (June, 2008 and March, 2009) and Oslo, Norway (May, 2009). Thank you also to the systematic review authors who have used our Checklist and the Cochrane Managing Editors who have

distributed it. Your feedback, contributions, and suggestions have been most useful—and appreciated!

Based on the feedback that we've received, we're working on a revision of the Checklist. We welcome you to join us to discuss the new version: its application to systematic reviews, its relevance for policy—and decision-makers, and its use for review authors.

## Open Equity Meeting

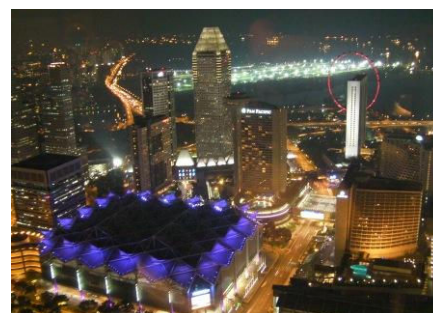
*Tuesday, October 13, 12:45-2:00*

We'll be holding an Open Equity Meeting in Singapore to describe our latest activities, invite collaboration, meet new colleagues, and discuss equity methods issues. We hope that you can come!

## Workshop on Special Populations

*Wednesday, October 14, 2:00-3:30*

In collaboration with the Cochrane Child Health Field and the Cochrane Public Health Review Group, we will be



giving a workshop on "Special Populations": groups that, due to characteristics such as age or socioeconomic status, may show significant differences in harms, treatment effects, baseline risk, and outcome measures used.

## Priority-Setting Events

*Various*

We've been very involved over the past couple of years in priority-setting, with generous support from the Cochrane Prioritisation Fund and our colleagues. Mona Nasser has kindly compiled a list of priority-setting events on page 4.



## Welcome to the Equity Team, Jordi Pardo!

We'd like to welcome Jordi Pardo to the Cochrane Health Equity Field and Campbell Equity Methods Group. Jordi brings a wealth of experience working with the Cochrane Collaboration, and will be a terrific asset to the group; we're very excited about his ideas around e-learning and knowledge translation.

## Equity-Oriented Toolkit for HTA: Next Steps

*By Maria Benkhalti*

The WHO Collaborating Centre for Knowledge Translation and Health Technology Assessment in Health Equity, housed at the Centre for Global Health at the University of Ottawa, is currently in the process of updating and expanding its Equity-Oriented Toolkit for Health Technology Assessment (HTA). The Equity-Oriented Toolkit is based on a needs-based model of health technology assessment. It provides tools that explicitly consider health equity at each of the four steps of health technology assessment: 1) Burden of Illness, 2) Community Effectiveness, 3) Economic Evaluation, 4) Knowledge Translation and Implementation.

The Centre has recently received seed funding from the Canadian

Institutes of Health Research to update the toolkit via a series of workshops targeting both academics and policy makers. This will allow a debate on the tools to be included – or not – at each step. Additionally, the Centre is exploring the plausibility of incorporating health impact assessment within the Toolkit.

The Toolkit will be featured in two presentations at the upcoming Canadian Conference on International Health taking place October 25<sup>th</sup>- 28<sup>th</sup> in Ottawa, Canada.

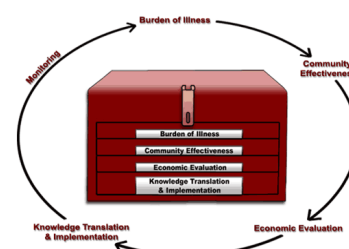
In addition, we are seeking suggestions on validated and widely disseminated HTA tools that explicitly consider health equity and that are relevant to the toolkit. Furthermore, should you be inter-

ested in participating in the update by attending the upcoming workshops and would like to receive further information on the process, please contact Maria Benkhalti at [maria.benkhalti@uottawa.ca](mailto:maria.benkhalti@uottawa.ca).

*For more information:*

Maria Benkhalti

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## Cochrane Colloquium, October 2009: Priority-Setting Events

### Equity Events

#### 2009

**October 11-14, 2009**  
Cochrane Colloquium  
(Singapore)

**October 25-28, 2009**  
Canadian Conference  
on International Health.  
Health Equity: Our  
Global Responsibility  
(Ottawa, Ontario)

**November 16-20,  
2009**  
Global Forum for  
Health Research  
(Havana, Cuba)

#### 2010

**May 19-20, 2010**  
Canadian Cochrane  
Symposium (Ottawa,  
Ontario)

**July 11-15, 2010**  
20th IUHPE World  
Conference on Health  
Promotion: Health, Eq-  
uity, and Sustainable De-  
velopment (Geneva,  
Switzerland)

**October 18-22, 2010**  
First joint Cochrane and  
Campbell Colloquium  
(Keystone, Colorado)

By Mona Nasser

#### **Establishment of a Prioritisation Methods Group - Exploratory Meeting**

*Tuesday, October 13, 7:30-9:00*

The meeting will introduce a proposal on establishing a Priority-Setting Methods Group as part of the Cochrane Collaboration. We will begin with a general presentation on the current ways Cochrane reviews are prioritized, the scope of the proposed Methods Group and how this Methods Group can support and inform the current activities across the Cochrane Collaboration. This will be followed by a general discussion on how the proposed Methods group could work with other Cochrane entities to avoid duplication of efforts and support the production of Cochrane reviews.

To register for the meeting, please follow the instruction on <http://www.colloquium09.com/> and

for further information, please contact Mona Nasser ([mona.nasser@iqwig.de](mailto:mona.nasser@iqwig.de))

The current priority-setting projects for Cochrane reviews are discussed in more detail in the following events in the 17th Cochrane Colloquium in Singapore:

#### **Priority-setting for the Cochrane Collaboration: methods, challenges and opportunities - workshop**

*Tuesday, October 13, 14:00-15:30*

The workshop aims to discuss different existing priority-setting exercises for Cochrane reviews and the methodological challenges in developing, conducting and evaluating them. Participants will discuss how different priority-setting methods can be adapted for the Cochrane Collaboration.

#### **Assessing mechanisms for the prioritisation of review topics in the Cochrane Collaboration - Special session**

*Wednesday, October 14, 9:15-10:45*

This session will assess mechanisms for, and issues surrounding, prioritisation of topics for systematic review by the Cochrane Collaboration. It will focus on the results and recommendations of a number of projects funded by the Collaboration's Prioritisation Fund ([http://www.cochrane.org/admin/cc\\_funding\\_initiatives.htm#priorfund](http://www.cochrane.org/admin/cc_funding_initiatives.htm#priorfund)).

#### **An equity lens for identifying priority topics for Cochrane reviews - Oral presentation**

*Wednesday, October 14, 11:00-16:00*

The presentation will introduce an equity lens that could help Cochrane entities in developing and conducting a priority-setting process for Cochrane reviews

For more information:  
Mona Nasser  
[mona.nasser@iqwig.de](mailto:mona.nasser@iqwig.de)

### ATTENTION!

*Do you have experience in systematic reviews and/or musculoskeletal conditions? Have you been diagnosed with a musculoskeletal condition (e.g. arthritis)? The Cochrane Musculoskeletal Review Group (CMSG) is seeking peer reviewers and people to join their Consumer Group. If you're interested, please contact Elizabeth at [cmsg@uottawa.ca](mailto:cmsg@uottawa.ca). We appreciate your interest!*

# Next Generation Priority Setting in Healthcare: A Call Out to Study Participants!

By Alejandra Jaramillo

As we all know, healthcare is a field with limited resources and challenges with respect to setting priorities. Alejandra Jaramillo, a student in the MSc in Health Systems Program at the University of Ottawa, is going to be researching this particular issue and will be developing a next generation priority setting tool that can be applied by healthcare organizations and stakeholders in order to effectively launch initiatives and allocate resources.

The research effort will be incorporating the use of “health equity” and the “social determinants of health”, which has been identified as a current criteria gap in health research for systematic reviews. This improved method will build upon existing frameworks and lead to more transparent, fair and equitable decisions with respect to research priorities.

The research methodology involves a comparative analysis of priority setting approaches as well as expert consultations in order to identify new decision factors and processes that can be incorporated into the next generation methodology. Once finalized, the new tool will be piloted with the Cochrane Musculoskeletal Group using the condition of Osteoarthritis (OA) to set priorities.

In order to build an effective priority setting tool, a minimum of 60 stakeholders representing different groups will be engaged: decision-makers, policy-makers, researchers, clinicians, patients, and consumers located globally.

## A Call Out to Osteoarthritis (OA) Stakeholders!

Ms Jaramillo is currently seeking individuals who can participate in either Stakeholder Interviews or through a Mapping Workshop. Please see below for more information on how to participate.

If you have any questions or would like to contribute as a participant in this exciting research, please feel free to contact Ms. Jaramillo via email at [ajara005@uottawa.ca](mailto:ajara005@uottawa.ca).

For more information:  
Alejandra Jaramillo  
[ajara005@uottawa.ca](mailto:ajara005@uottawa.ca)

## Stakeholder Interviews:

<b>Date/ Duration</b>	Date: Until November, 2009 Duration: 20-30 Minutes
<b>Location</b>	Via Teleconference or Face to Face
<b>Purpose</b>	Stakeholder interviews will involve 20-30 minute interviews which would involve discussing current evidence in OA and identifying new research topics.
<b>Participant Requirements</b>	Individuals interested in participating should have experience in OA either as a patient, clinician, research or policy maker.

## Mapping Workshop:

<b>Date/ Duration</b>	Date: Monday, October 12 <sup>th</sup> , 2009 Duration: 19:30 – 21:30
<b>Location</b>	Singapore, 17 <sup>th</sup> Annual Cochrane Colloquium at the Suntec Singapore International Convention and Exhibition Centre, Room 304
<b>Purpose</b>	The purpose of the meeting is to conduct a mapping workshop with key stakeholders (clinicians, researchers, consumers/patients, and decision-makers/policy-makers) in the care of osteoarthritis (OA). The objective of the mapping workshop is to gather stakeholders' perspectives of key clinical questions, outcomes, patient factors and contextual factors affecting osteoarthritis care. The output of the meeting will be a list of research topics of interest in OA, along with a list of priority topics identified by the mapping workshop participants.
<b>Participant Requirements</b>	Individuals interested in participating should have experience in OA either as a patient, clinician, research or policy maker.

**International Society for Equity in Health (ISEqH)**

In June 2009, Erin Ueffing attended the ISEqH Conference in Crete. Thank you very much to the Canadian Cochrane Network and Centre Capacity Building Fund for their generous support!



On behalf of the Field, Erin gave oral presentations on the Canadian Collaborative for Immigrant and Refugee Health (CCIRH) preventive guidelines for primary care practitioners and on the Field's Equity Evidence Aid initiative. She also presented a plenary on the Equity-Oriented Toolkit as applied to human resources for health; this work has since been published by the WHO journal *Human Resources for Health*.

*Ueffing E, Tugwell P, Hatcher Roberts J, Walker P, Hamel N, Welch V.*

**Contact Information**

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[www.equity.cochrane.org](http://www.equity.cochrane.org)

*Equity-oriented toolkit for health technology assessment and knowledge translation: application to scaling up of training and education for health workers. Human Resources for Health 2009;7:67 doi:10.1186/1478-4491-7-67.*

**LATINCLEN/Iberoamerican Cochrane Centre meeting**

Vivian Welch of the Field was an invited speaker at the LATINCLEN/Iberoamerican Cochrane Centre meeting in Bogota, Colombia (June, 2009). She gave two oral presentations: "Equity Evidence Aid: Are systematic reviews applicable to disadvantaged populations?" and "Supporting evidence-informed decisions by patients".

**Equity editorial published**

The Equity Field collaborated with the Cochrane Public Health Review Group to write an editorial in July, 2009:

*Petticrew M, Tugwell P, Welch V, Ueffing E, Kristjansson E, Armstrong R, Doyle J and Waters E. Better evidence about wicked issues in tackling health inequities. Journal of Public Health 2009; 31(3):453-6 doi: 10.1093/pubmed/fdp076.*

**Cochrane Methodology Review on Equity in Systematic Reviews: Protocol published in the Cochrane Library**

Led by Vivian Welch, the Equity Field is conducting a review on equity in systematic reviews. In this review, we aim to describe and assess the effects of using different methods to assess health inequalities in empiric research studies of systematic reviews of the effectiveness of interventions. The review protocol was recently published:

*Welch V, Tugwell P, Wells GA, Kristjansson B, Petticrew M, McGowan JL, de Montigny J, Benkhalti M, Ueffing E. How effects on health equity are assessed in systematic reviews of interventions (Protocol). Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2009, Issue 3.*

**Overviews of Reviews: Addressing Health and Health Inequalities**

Since our last newsletter in March, Mark Petticrew and his colleagues have published two overviews of reviews looking at health and health inequalities:

*Bambra C, Gibson M, Sowden AJ, Wright K, Whitehead M, Petticrew M. Working for health? Evidence from systematic reviews on the effects on health and health inequalities of organisational changes to the psychosocial work environment. Prev Med. 2009 May;48(5):454-61.*

*Bambra C, Gibson M, Amanda S, Wright K, Whitehead M, Petticrew M. Tackling the wider social determinants of health and health inequalities: evidence from systematic reviews. J Epidemiol Community Health. 2009 Aug 19. [Epub ahead of print] PubMed PMID: 19692738.*

**SPOTLIGHT EVENT**

Joint Cochrane/Campbell Colloquium:

**"Bringing evidence-based decision making to new heights"**

18-22 October 2010  
Keystone, Colorado, USA