

# Equity Update

Campbell and Cochrane Equity Methods Group

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## Letter from our team

Dear Equity Colleagues,

Welcome to the first newsletter of the Campbell and Cochrane Equity Methods Group! The Cochrane Health Equity Field has become a Cochrane Methods Group. This change recognizes our dedication to and work in systematic review methods around equity, and facilitates the discussions of these methodological challenges

within the Collaboration.

Our thanks go out to all those who supported us: those who wrote generous letters of support, those who provided input on our strategic plans, those who offered advice and guidance, and to those who approved our application. Thank you!

We'd like to invite you to collaborate with us;

please contact us if you would like to be involved in any of our projects.

We're looking forward to the first Campbell-Cochrane Joint Colloquium this coming October. We hope to see you there!

*Best regards,*

*The Equity Team*



*Open Equity Meeting at the 17th Cochrane Colloquium in Singapore: thank you to our colleagues and collaborators for your support!*

## Canadian-Croatian GAP program to overcome health gaps

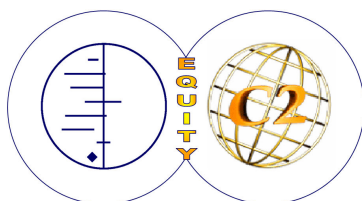
*By Dario Sambunjak*

Employees, students, and visitors at the University of Ottawa's Center for Global Health (CGH) are increasingly being exposed to Croatian language and culture. In the last

two years, two visiting scholars from this South-East European country have spent more than a month at the CGH, working on the projects related to the recently established Croatian Branch of the Italian

Cochrane Centre. Another young Croatian living in Ottawa is working on her Masters degree with the CGH's director Dr Peter Tugwell. So, conversations in

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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)

# Linking Equity Methods Research and Global Indigenous Health Research: towards the creation of a resource group

By Danielle Perron

Within Canada and abroad, two branches of health research are motivated by the challenge of enabling more equitable health outcomes worldwide: Global Indigenous Health Research and Equity Methods Research. While both fields are relatively new and both work to inform and promote the health of disadvantaged people worldwide, global indigenous health researchers and equity methodologists often labour independently, without referring to each other. To remedy this, the Canadian Coalition for Global Health Research and partners, with generous support from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, are preparing for a project titled “Linking Equity Methods Research and Global Indigenous Health Research: towards the creation of



**CCGHR**  
Canadian Coalition for  
Global Health Research

**CCRSM**  
Coalition canadienne pour la  
recherche en santé mondiale

a resource group” to explore potential syntheses between the two fields of research. In preparation for a meeting later this spring, a research methods inventory and environmental scan are being undertaken in advance to support the discussions.

Researchers in the fields of Global Indigenous Health Research and Equity Methods Research are invited to share projects, research methods, and papers of significant theoretical or empirical importance for inclusion in the

research methods inventory or environmental scan.

You may send contributions to Danielle Perron at [dperron@uvic.ca](mailto:dperron@uvic.ca) before **March 8th, 2010**.

*Editor's Note: Erin Ueffing from the Equity Methods Group will be participating in this meeting on May 31 and June 1; we look forward to working with the CCGHR and other colleagues on this exciting project!*

## New Review on Parental Consent in Studies Targeting Children

By Naomi Priest

A team of researchers in Australia is currently developing a protocol for a systematic review registered with the Cochrane Methodology Review Group titled “Active versus passive parental consent for improving participant recruitment and outcomes in studies targeting children”. The review aims to describe and assess the effects of using active (opt-in) versus

passive (opt-out) parental consent on participant recruitment and outcomes in studies targeting children. Doing so will provide much needed information regarding the extent to which a systematic bias in sample characteristics and/or study outcomes may result from active or passive parental consent procedures. This has important implications for current ethics research guidance and for child health and research interna-

tionally, particularly research aiming to address health inequalities. We would welcome comments and feedback relevant to this review, particularly regarding completed or ongoing studies which report the impact of different forms of consent on participant recruitment and study outcomes. For more information, please contact the team via Dr Naomi Priest: [npriest@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:npriest@unimelb.edu.au).

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Croatian could be heard in the corridors of the CGH's building, people could be seen talking in Croatian on their cell phones or skyping with their families over the Atlantic. Everyone at the CGH were invited to a photo presentation of Croatian towns and natural attractions. A Canadian PhD student even expressed an interest in learning this Slavic language.

But the working language was English, and some serious work has been done through this Canadian-Croatian partnership, formalized in 2007 as the Global Academic Partnership (GAP) program between University of Ottawa, Canada, and the University of Split, Croatia. The idea of GAP is to improve health care and

academic medicine at the partner universities, with a focus on health equity. To promote the evidence-based medicine and health care in Croatia, a Croatian branch of the Cochrane Collaboration was established, with support of the Italian Cochrane Center. The role of the Canadian side in this international endeavour is to provide training for core members of the Croatian branch, and to help them achieve the envisioned goals. These include introducing the Cochrane activities and products in other countries of South-East Europe, where evidence-based medicine is still not a widely accepted practice. Recent history of violent conflicts in this region resulted in additional health inequalities that need to be addressed, and the Croatian Cochrane Branch plans to work on this problem,



- Croatia. Photo credit: Jason Nickerson

together with their international partners and local stakeholders.

So, it seems that Croatian is to be heard in Ottawa's CGH for some time in the future. With regard to global health and academic medicine, there are still many

gaps. The GAP program will continue working to overcome them.

For more information:

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## Spotlight Event: Joint Cochrane/Campbell Colloquium, October 2010



- Colorado

This year, for the first time, the Campbell and Cochrane Collaborations are coming together to present a Joint Colloquium, "Bringing Evidence-Based Decision-Making to New Heights." From October 18 to 22, participants from the fields of health, social welfare, education, crime, and justice will explore evidence-based decision-making and systematic review methods in Keystone, Colorado (USA).

The Equity Methods Group will be hosting an Open Equity Meeting and leading

workshops on equity methods for systematic reviews; details will be distributed in our next Equity Update newsletter (September 2010). We hope that you are able to join us!

For more information about the Colloquium, please visit [www.regonline.com/builder/site/Default.aspx?eventid=766689](http://www.regonline.com/builder/site/Default.aspx?eventid=766689). Registration is capped at 1200 attendees, so please book your spot today!



### Key Dates

**Current:** Registration is open

**March 29:** Abstract submission closes

**June 1:** Consumer and Developing Nations Stipends

**July 6:** Early registration ends

**August 9:** Meeting room requests due

**September 7:** Hotel registration deadline

**October 4:** Registration closes.

## Equity Events, 2010

**April 17-18**

Global Health & Innovation Conference (Yale University, USA)

**May 19-20**

Canadian Cochrane Symposium (Ottawa, Ontario)

**July 11-15**

20th IUHPE World Conference on Health Promotion: Health, Equity, and Sustainable Development (Geneva, Switzerland)

**October 18-22**

First joint Cochrane and Campbell Colloquium (Keystone, Colorado)

**October 31-  
November 3**

Canadian Conference on Global Health 2010 (Ottawa, Ontario)

**November 16-19**

First Global Symposium on Health Systems Research (Montreux, Switzerland)

# Announcing Developments in the formation of the proposed Cochrane Justice Health Field

By Ajima Olaghere

A diverse team of dedicated professionals, led by Dr. Catherine Gallagher have been working diligently to develop the Cochrane Justice Health Field (CJHF). CJHF aims to merge the methodological rigor and dissemination values of Cochrane with the complex research on health issues that uniquely or disproportionately impact justice populations and justice systems. Justice health can best be conceived as targeting high risk adolescent and adult populations served in justice settings, such as prisons, jails, detention centers, and community-based programs. Justice health also involves families of justice-involved individuals within a collateral consequence context.

Justice health highlights the needs of under-resourced and undereducated racial and ethnic minorities entangled in the control of justice systems around the world. This same demographic also suffers from a host of

social, physical, and mental health problems. Yet, the health services available for these populations are often substandard and inadequate, presenting a common challenge to human rights concerns and issues of health equity (The Lloyd Society, 2009).

As a developing health equity field, the CJHF team is perfectly poised to integrate systematic reviews to build the evidence base concerning justice health populations. Thus far, the CJHF team has:

1. Held exploratory meetings in Orlando, Florida (May 2009), Oslo, Norway (June 2009), and Singapore (October 2009). Dr. Gallagher and Dr. Kinner also presented on sexually transmitted diseases among justice health populations at the annual Colloquium in Singapore and met with several delegates to discuss the possible CJHF.

2. Submitted an application for a Justice Health

Field and await a response in the next couple of months.

3. Submitted a protocol for the first justice health review to an international Review Advisory Group concerning the protocol for the first Justice Health review.

4. Built 20 health equity libraries about disease prevalence among justice-involved populations.

In planning for the future, the team working to develop the Cochrane Justice Health Field will hold an organizational meeting on June 26th, prior to the 2010 International Network for Justice Health (INJH) Conference in Scottsdale, Arizona. In addition to developing and introducing the Justice Health Field, the CJHF is also looking forward to developing relationships and collaborating with our Health Equity colleagues.

*For more information:*

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- CJHF Exploratory Meeting in Orlando, Florida. Photo credit: Liz Ressler



- Equity Watch Methods Workshop Delegates

### **Intervention-Generated Inequalities**

In September 2009, Mark Petticrew and Peter Tugwell presented at the Society for Social Medicine's Annual Scientific Meeting at Newcastle University; they spoke on "Intervention generated socio-economic inequalities in health – when improvement in health comes at the expense of widening socio-economic inequalities". For more information, please visit <http://www.ssm2009.org.uk/satellite.html>

### **Taking forward the Equity Watch in east and southern Africa: Report of a regional Methods Workshop**

At the end of November 2009, the Training and Research Support Cen-

tre (TARSC) WHO (AFRO), EQUINET, ECSA-HC, and SADC held a three-day methods workshop at the University of Cape Town, South Africa. The workshop was held to address the design and implementation of the Equity Watch work at country and regional levels. The report can be downloaded at <http://www.equinetafrica.org/bibl/docs/EWmtg%20repNov09.pdf>.

### **University of Ottawa Equity Presentations**

In December 2009, Peter Tugwell gave two presentations at the University of Ottawa on equity. The first, "Equity Evidence Aid: Synthesizing the Evidence on Equity Effectiveness", was part of the Global Health Knowledge

Series presented by the Centre for Global Health in collaboration with the Canadian Society for International Health, the Canadian Nurses Association, and the Canadian Public Health Association. The second, "If you had a million dollars? What works in the poor" was given in the Institute of Population Health Seminar Series.

### **Equity 101: What Equity Can Do For You!**

In January 2010, Erin Ueffing and Jordi Pardo, in collaboration with the Canadian Cochrane Network and Centre, gave a webinar on equity in systematic reviews called "Equity 101: What Equity Can Do For You!" Thank you to those who participated and contributed their experiences! Thank you also to Adrienne Stevens for facilitating and supporting the session, and to PAHO for providing the Elluminate platform. If you would like to hear a recording of this session, or to sign up for future sessions, please contact Erin at [erin.ueffing@uottawa.ca](mailto:erin.ueffing@uottawa.ca).

### **US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Guide to Community Preventive Services and Equity**

In February 2010, members of the Equity Methods Group (Elizabeth Kristjansson, Mark Petticrew, Peter Tugwell, and Erin Ueffing) met with the Community Guide team at the CDC in At-

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## 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!*



- CDC and Equity Team

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lanta, Georgia to discuss methodological issues for equity-oriented systematic reviews. Thank you very much to the Cochrane Collaboration Steering Group for providing travel funds for this work—and to the CDC for their warm and generous hospitality! We look forward to continuing to work with the CDC on methods development.

**EQUIDAD's 10th Anniversary: "Connecting Ideas and Knowledge Sharing on Equity and Health"**

In February 2010, the Equity and Health Listserv EQUIDAD celebrated its 10th anniversary: congratulations to Ana Lucia Ruggiero and PAHO for their success! To honour this work, a symposium, "Connecting Ideas and Knowledge Sharing on Equity and Health", was held in Washington, D.C. on February 24th. Erin Ueffing presented on the Equity Methods Group's work with the WHO Measurement and Evidence Knowledge Network on challenges in addressing social determinants of health and equity

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in systematic reviews.

**Equity-Oriented Toolkit Update**

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). Thank you very much to the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) for their generous support of this initiative!

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; and 4) Knowledge Translation and Implementation.

We are seeking suggestions on validated and widely disseminated HTA tools that explicitly consider health equity and that are relevant to the Equity-Oriented Toolkit for Health Technology Assessment. To be involved, suggest tools, or learn more, please contact Maria Benkhalti at [maria.benkhalti@uottawa.ca](mailto:maria.benkhalti@uottawa.ca)

**World Health Organization, Geneva - Internship opportunity addressing-Health Equity**

The Equity Analysis and Research Unit within the Information, Evidence and Research Cluster's Department of Ethics, Equity, Trade and Human Rights at the World Health Organization in Geneva, Switzerland, is offering several exciting internship opportunities during 2010-2011. Internships are ideally three months, with the possibility for extension, and can take place any time of the year. All of the unit's work aims to contribute to the reduction of health inequities within and across countries.

For more information, please visit [http://www.cgh.uottawa.ca/assets/documents/news\\_WHO\\_Equity\\_Internship.pdf](http://www.cgh.uottawa.ca/assets/documents/news_WHO_Equity_Internship.pdf)

**Equity Update Submissions: Seeking Your Input!**

Has your group published a report on equity and global health? Are you looking for collaborators on a methods project? We would be honoured to feature your work in our next issue of Equity Update! Please contact Erin Ueffing at [erin.ueffing@uottawa.ca](mailto:erin.ueffing@uottawa.ca) to share your materials.

