



# COCHRANE NIGERIA INFO SHEET

*News Sheet of the Nigeria Branch of the South African Cochrane Centre*



*January 2011*

## From the Editor

Happy New Year from all of us at the Nigeria Branch of the South African Cochrane Centre! Last year, we took some important strides. Notable among these was the completion of the first ever edition of the Reviews for Africa Programme Nigeria. We are pleased to say that some of the reviews that resulted from that programme have already been published in the Cochrane Library. We also held our first Diagnostic Accuracy Test Workshop last year (DTA). This year we plan to continue to take giant strides.

This issue of the Cochrane Nigeria Info Sheet, features an article on the RAP Completion School, the DTA workshop as well as other relevant news.

Happy reading.

Moriam Chibuzor  
*Editor*

## Collaboration News



- **Cochrane Collaboration Formalizes Relationship with WHO**  
The World Health Organization (WHO) awarded the Cochrane Collaboration a seat on the World Health Assembly on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2011. This will allow the Cochrane Collaboration to provide input on WHO health resolutions.
- **Pan-American Health Organization announces single link to SUPPORT Tools for Evidence-Informed Policy-Making (STP)**  
SUPPORT Tools from the Pan-American Health Organization, is a series of articles which provides policy makers and those who support decision makers with tools to enable them find and use research evidence. These tools are available in English, Spanish, Portuguese and French for evidence-informed policy-making in English, Spanish, Portuguese and French. The Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) announces availability of a single link that will allow readers to access these tools.

Link: [http://bit.ly/SUPPORT\\_Tools](http://bit.ly/SUPPORT_Tools)

- **Free Access to Health Economic Evaluation Database (HEED) for Cochrane Contributors**

The Health Economic Evaluation Database (HEED) is a specialist health economics electronic literature database. All contributors to the Cochrane Collaboration can now have free-at-the-point of use access to (HEED). To do this they will need their user name and password for Archie. For instructions on how to access HEED, Visit: <http://www.cochrane.org/news/current-news/access-health-economic-evaluations-database-heed-now-available-all-cochrane-contri>

## **RAP NIGERIA – Review Completion Course**

The first ever Reviews for Africa Programme to be held in Nigeria began in 2009 when the first phase of the programme (a two week protocol development workshop) was held from 19<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> October. Since then, in the second phase of RAP Nigeria, the participants have been working individually on their reviews at their respective home institutions with support and mentorship. The reviewers converged once again at the National Hospital Abuja for the third and final phase of the Programme (a review completion course) from July 26 to August 6, 2010. The Reviews for Africa Programme (RAP) was designed by the South African Cochrane Centre to train African Scientists in Research Synthesis and assist them initiate and prepare Cochrane Reviews.

Five participants were in attendance – namely: Ifeanyi Ezedunukwe, Yusuf Misau, Bappa Adamu, Chizoma Ndikom and Segun Bello. However, four of these participants were there right from the first phase of RAP Nigeria. The fifth original participant had his protocol undergoing peer reviewing at the time and so was unable to attend. Segun Bello, a senior registrar in the Department of Community Medicine, University of Calabar Teaching Hospital was therefore invited to attend. Segun is conducting a review on *Routine vitamin A supplementation for the prevention of blindness due to measles infection in Children* with the Acute Respiratory Infections Cochrane Review Group. He is also a co-author of a registered title: *Hand hygiene practices for prevention of nosocomial infection*.

Most of the faculty members who facilitated the sessions during the protocol development workshop were present: Prof. Martin Meremikwu; Dr. Oluseyi Oniyangi; Dr. Emeka Nwachukwu; Ms. Chioma Oringanje; and Dr. Emmanuel Effa. In addition, they were joined, Dr. Tamara Kredo, a staff of the South African Cochrane Centre (SACC). Tamara has a special interest in evidence-based healthcare practice and policy and completed a systematic review assessing the value of antiretroviral therapeutic drug monitoring in 2008.

The review completion course was a two-week programme designed to:

1. Expose the authors to review methods and the updates;

2. Guide them through study selection and data extraction and
3. Guide authors through data entry, analysis, writing of results and discussion.

The course consisted of 30 minute formal lecture sessions interspersed with practical sessions. Participants were in touch with their co authors, mentors and the editorial bases of their respective review groups for much needed pre-editorial input. Timelines were also agreed upon, for submission of reviews for peer reviewing, in time for publication in the latest version of the Cochrane library. On completion of the course, participants were awarded certificates.



Back Row (L-R): Ifeanyi Ezedunukwe, Chioma Oringanje, Adamu Bappa, Emeka Nwachukwu  
 Front Row (L-R): Segun Bello, Chizoma Ndikom, Tamara Kredo, Yusuf Misau, Emmanuel Effa

## **Exploring New Territory – Diagnostic Test Accuracy Workshop**



**Cross Section of Participants at DTA Workshop**

Making an accurate diagnosis is the first step to solving any health problem. Once the diagnosis is right, the chances are high that an effective intervention or treatment can be provided for that problem.

Diagnosing a number of health problems today relies on the use of diagnostic tests or kits. The accuracy of these tests will determine whether people with a health problem are properly diagnosed and treated or not.

It therefore becomes needful to assess the accuracy of various tests.

Diagnostic Test Accuracy (DTA) Reviews are an unexplored area in Nigeria. The Nigeria Branch of the South African Cochrane Centre has desired to develop reviews in this area. Our opportunity to begin acquiring knowledge in this area came when Ms Chioma Oringanje was invited to attend a DTA Workshop in South Africa. On her return, the Branch organized a one-day workshop on 17<sup>th</sup> August 2010, during which she passed on the knowledge she had gained to twelve participants. The participants were composed of medical doctors, medical laboratory scientists and a public health practitioner.

Ms Oringanje who facilitated the workshop made a number of presentations. She gave a brief overview of Diagnostic Test Reviews and also taught the participants how to formulate a DTA title, develop the protocol and the study design required for DTA reviews.

Participants were encouraged to develop DTA review titles but were also made to understand that there is currently a hold on the registration of new titles pending completion of those already registered. Though the statistical aspect of the review process appeared a bit complicated, participants were still keen on conducting DTA reviews in areas that border on tropical and neglected diseases. It was agreed that training on DTA reviews should be continuous with further explanations on the statistical analysis.

The workshop is expected to set the ball rolling with regard to the writing of DTA reviews.

## Upcoming Courses, Fellowships and Workshops



### ❖ Commonwealth Distance Learning Scholarships

The following UK institutions are currently recruiting candidates who wish to be considered for Commonwealth Scholarships to study by distance learning for the following and other degrees:

University of Edinburgh – Masters in Global Health

Liverpool School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) – Masters in Clinical Trials

University of Manchester – Masters in Public Health

For more details visit: [http://www.cscuk.org.uk/apply/distance\\_learning.asp](http://www.cscuk.org.uk/apply/distance_learning.asp)

### ❖ Commonwealth Scholarships for Short Term Courses

Fellowships for mid-career professionals from developing commonwealth countries for short-term courses lasting 3-6 months in the UK are available.

To access full details go to: [http://www.cscuk.org.uk/apply/professional\\_fellowships.asp](http://www.cscuk.org.uk/apply/professional_fellowships.asp)

**Deadline for Applications for 2011:** 21<sup>st</sup> April 2011

❖ **Global Health World Fellowship**

The Global Health World Fellowship provides outstanding recent college or public health graduates with an opportunity to engage in a high impact frontline global health programme. It is a one-year full-time paid job.

For full details and mode of application visit:

<http://www.uniteforsight.org/global-health-university/global-health-fellowship>

Next available opening begins Summer 2011.

❖ **Unite for Sight Global Health Courses:**

Unite for Sight, a non-profit organization which promotes global health, provides a number of free online courses as well as certificate courses for a reasonable fee. These include certificate courses in global health, health education, global health research, community development, cultural competency and evaluative frameworks among others.

To access the free courses visit: <http://www.uniteforsight.org/global-health-university/courses>

Certificate courses may be registered for at: <http://www.uniteforsight.org/global-health-university/enroll>

❖ **Wellcome Trust –Masters Fellowship in Public Health and Tropical Medicine**

Fellowships are available for residents of developing countries carrying out research projects at masters degree level in the areas of public health and tropical Medicine. For full details and eligibility criteria visit:

<http://www.wellcome.ac.uk/Funding/Biomedical-science/Funding-schemes/Fellowships/Public-health-and-tropical-medicine/WTD025881.htm>

**Next Deadline for Applications:** 5 August 2011

❖ **Free online courses in Research Ethics and Good Clinical Practice**

The African Malaria Network Trust (AMANET) is an organization located in Tanzania which promotes capacity strengthening and networking of malaria Research and Development in Africa. AMANET provides free online courses in the following areas: Basic Health Research Ethics (available in English and French); Advanced Health Research Ethics; and Good Clinical Practice. Certificates can be printed online once the courses are completed.

To register and take the courses see: <http://webcourses.amanet-trust.org/>



## New Reviews from the Cochrane Library

The following reviews published in the Cochrane Library in January 2011, were authored or coauthored by Nigerians.

- Sperm washing to prevent HIV transmission from HIV-infected men but allowing conception in sero-discordant couples **by** *Ahizechukwu C. Eke, Chikelue Oragu. Issue 1, 2011.*
- Steam inhalation or humidified oxygen for acute bronchiolitis in children up to three years of age **by** *Rachel Umoren, Friday Odey, Martin Meremikwu. Issue 1, 2011.*

## Announcements

### ▪ 19<sup>th</sup> Cochrane Colloquium

The 19<sup>th</sup> International Cochrane Colloquium will take place in Madrid, Spain from 19-22 October 2011. For more details visit: <http://colloquium.cochrane.org/>

### *Colloquium: Important Dates to Note*

**28 March 2011**

Call for Abstracts and Workshop  
Call for Stipend Applications

**21 April 2011**

Workshop Submission Deadline

**29 April 2011**

Abstract Submission Deadline

**25 May 2011**

Abstract and Workshop Notification

**30 May 2011**

Stipends Applications Deadline

**4 July 2011**

Stipend Notification

**1 Aug 2011**

Early Registration Deadline

**5 Aug 2011**

Meeting Request Deadline

**12 Sep 2011**

Workshop and Meeting Sign-up

**3 Oct 2011**

Registration Cancellation Deadline

- **Issue 1, 2011 of the Cochrane Library is now online:** To access full text reviews, visit: [www.thecochranelibrary.com](http://www.thecochranelibrary.com)

### ▪ New Baby

Moriam (Editor, Cochrane Nigeria Info Sheet) and Kelechi Chibuzor had a lovely baby boy whom they named Jonathan, on 17<sup>th</sup> August 2010.



**Jonathan Chibuzor**



- **Cochrane Colloquium Stipends**

A limited number of stipends to help cover registration, travel costs, accommodation and other expenses associated with attending the 19<sup>th</sup> Cochrane Colloquium in Madrid are available for consumers and contributors from developing countries.

For details on how to apply visit: <http://colloquium.cochrane.org/colloquium-stipends>

**Application Period:** 28 March- 30 May 2011

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