



# COCHRANE NIGERIA INFO SHEET

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



July 2009

## Editor's Note

*Welcome to the third quarter Edition of the Cochrane Nigeria Info Sheet. In this issue we shall update you with happenings at the Nigeria Branch of the South African Cochrane Centre and the Cochrane Collaboration as a whole.*

*In May we had an interesting visitor from Senegal. We also held a number of workshops over the last quarter. All these are highlighted in the body of the Newsletter.*

*The 17<sup>th</sup> Cochrane Colloquium is gradually drawing nearer. Early registration is over. If you wish to attend and have not yet registered, you will need to do so as soon as possible.*

*We wish you delightful reading.*



## Collaboration News

- **The 2008 Impact Factor for the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews is 5.182:**  
Thomson ISI has published the 2008 Impact Factors. The Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews has an Impact factor of 5.182 and is ranked 12th out of 107 in the ISI category 'Medicine, General & Internal'. *'The Impact factor is a tool for ranking, evaluating and comparing journals. It is a measure of the frequency with which the average article in a journal has been cited in a particular year'.*
- **Request for Proposals for Cochrane Register of Studies Released**  
The Steering Group has announced the Request for Proposals (RFP) for the development of the new Cochrane Register of Studies. The new register will comprise all specialized registers from Cochrane Review Groups and Fields/Networks; handsearched records from all Cochrane entities; and records sourced from MEDLINE, EMBASE and other databases.  
For more information on the RFP or to request for a copy, email Lucie Jones at [registerofstudies@cochrane.org](mailto:registerofstudies@cochrane.org)  
*The deadline for proposals is 31 July 2009.*
- **New Journal for Systematic Review Methods**  
A new journal for systematic review methods, *Research Synthesis Methods*, has been launched. *Research Synthesis Methods* is a multidisciplinary peer reviewed journal devoted to the development and dissemination of methods for designing, conducting,

analyzing, interpreting, reporting and applying systematic research synthesis. The journal's scope includes all aspects of research synthesis methods irrespective of discipline or area of application. For more information, visit <http://www.researchsynthesismethods.com>

## **One Month at the NBofSACC - A Senegalese Reviewers Experience.**

*For the whole month of May, Dr. Mohammed Jalloh, a Senegalese Urologist came to do an internship at the Nigeria Branch of the South African Cochrane Centre. Essentially, he came to learn how to conduct a Cochrane Systematic Review. His time here consisted of one-on-one sessions with experienced reviewers (who put him through the different aspects of writing a Cochrane Systematic Review), workshops and time for personal research work.*



*It was a lot of fun having him around. We, the staff at the branch, got to learn a bit about the Senegalese culture and a few phrases in French. What was his experience here? We interviewed him to find out:*

### **Tell us a bit about yourself**

I am Dr Mohamed JALLOH, Fellow of the West African College of Surgeons (FWACS), and Consultant Urologist at the Hôpital Général de Grand Yoff which is a teaching Hospital of the University Cheikh Anta Diop of Dakar Senegal. Although born in Sierra Leone, I am a Senegalese citizen. I did all my studies in Dakar, the capital of Senegal, from primary school to my University degrees. I graduated from Medical School at the University Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar and I finished my Residency training in Urology in 2006.

### **How did you come to do this one-month programme?**

Ever since I attended a 'Training of Trainers Workshop' in the use of HINARI and AGORA in 2006, I have been involved in the training and dissemination of the HINARI portal. This commitment gave me the opportunity to meet Professor Kayode Odusote in 2007 during a HINARI training sponsored in part by the West African Health Organization (WAHO). In this workshop, I was training Francophone West African Ophthalmologists. Since then, I have been an instructor in many workshops organized by WAHO, the last of which was held in Dakar in January 2009. One of these workshops (Ouagadougou 2008) included an Evidence Based Medicine - Cochrane section conducted by a team from Geneva. Although I was not a trainee in that part of the workshop, neither did I really focus on it, I felt the need to learn about Cochrane Systematic Reviews for my own practice and because of the commitment I have to be involved in Evidence Based Medical Practice. This was why Professor Kayode Odusote suggested I visit the Nigeria Branch of the South African Cochrane Center (NBofSACC). Through the Professional and Linguistic Exchange Programme of ECOWAS, WAHO sponsored my visit to NBofSACC, Calabar.

### **What was the Rationale behind your Visit?**

Little is known about Evidence Based Medicine and systematic reviews in sub-Saharan Africa. This visit is intended to contribute to a larger knowledge and understanding of Cochrane Systematic Reviews. Also it should help in spreading this knowledge in West Africa and stimulate involvement of our health professionals in the production of Evidence in Medicine. Apart from the scientific aspect, WAHO promotes learning of a different official language. The ultimate reason is to encourage integration and network throughout the West African sub region.



**Dr. Jalloh receiving certificate at Cochrane Protocol Workshop**

**What was your experience in Calabar?**

My experience was excellent in many aspects:

- Human aspect: People are very warm, enthusiastic and hard working.
- Everybody was dedicated in teaching me and making me feel at home. The training format was excellent with a lot of interaction.
- I have made many new friends I can work with in the future.
- I like the weather and the local food: Nigeria is really green.
- The faith in God is remarkably evident.

The only concern here is the irregular power supply and the instability of the Internet service: these tend to slow down work and study.

**How did you benefit from the Internship Programme?**

The Nigeria Branch made the necessary efforts to make me understand the importance of the Cochrane Collaboration and how to conduct a Systematic Review. To date I have been able to submit a title to the Cochrane Wounds Group and a final answer is expected shortly. Assuming that the proposed topic is accepted, I have written the Background section, designed a search strategy and I am working on writing a Review Protocol.

**What did you like best about your stay here?**

It is the enthusiasm, hard work and humanity of the whole team.

**What is your candid opinion about Calabar/Nigeria?**

Calabar is a special place because of its good weather, its potential for development and the quality of human resources. I think 'Unity' is strength and Nigeria should keep on being united and strong so that it can stimulate the rest of sub-Saharan Africa to move forward. Nigeria has natural resources and the human potential. Maybe a better leadership could improve its development and give it the place of a real giant.



**Dr Jalloh with staff and associates of the Branch**



**Branch Director (Professor Martin Meremikwu) and Admin Officer (Felix Eke) with Dr. Jalloh**

## **Cochrane Review Workshops**



**Group Photo of Participants at Cochrane Protocol Development Workshop**

The Nigeria Branch of the South African Cochrane Centre held two workshops in May. The first workshop took place from May 14-15, 2009. It was a Cochrane Protocol development workshop aimed at introducing interested persons to Cochrane Systematic Reviews and providing assistance to reviewers who are at the protocol stage of their reviews.

The workshop was targeted at consultants and doctors from all the specialties at the University of Calabar Teaching Hospital. Thirty-six persons attended in all.

One of the highlights of the workshop was when our intern from Senegal, Dr. Mohammed Jalloh, made a presentation on the work he had done, while here at the Branch.



The second workshop conducted from May 25-26, 2009, was a Critical Appraisal workshop. During the workshop participants were taught how to critically appraise studies for inclusion in a review. The participants not only listened to presentations but did plenty of practical work. Eleven persons were present, some of whom were present at the first workshop. Resource persons included Dr. Angela Oyo-Ita, Dr. Ekong Udoh, Dr. Emmanuel Effa, Dr. Regina Nwadiaro, Dr. Segun Bello and Professor Meremikwu: all seasoned reviewers and staff at the University of Calabar.



**Critical Appraisal Workshop: Participants during hands-on session**

## **Upcoming Courses, Fellowships and Workshops**



### **❖ 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/>

### **❖ Wellcome Trust - Senior Fellowships in Public Health and Tropical Medicine**

This fellowship covers research on infectious and non-communicable diseases within the fields of public health and tropical medicine that is aimed at understanding and

controlling human and animal diseases of local, national or global health importance. It is open to nationals or legal residents of developing countries who are medical graduates or graduates in subjects relevant to public health or tropical medicine. Applicants with first degree or masters level, who have substantial research experience, may be considered. Applications are considered three times a year. For full details and to apply visit: <http://www.wellcome.ac.uk/Funding/Biomedical-science/Grants/Fellowships-and-personal-awards/Public-health-and-tropical-medicine/WTD025884.htm>  
**Deadline for applications:** 25 September 2009

❖ **Understanding Evidence-based Healthcare: A foundation for action**

This is a free online course for consumer advocates created by the United States Cochrane Centre.

To register visit: <http://apps1.jhsph.edu/cochrane/CUEwebcourse.htm>



## New Reviews from the Cochrane Library

The following reviews in Issue 3, 2009 of the Cochrane Library were either published by Nigerian authors or are relevant to developing countries like Nigeria.

- The Effects of Antimicrobial Therapy on Bacterial Vaginosis in Non-Pregnant Women by *Oyinlola O Oduyebo, Rose I Anorlu, Folasade T Ogunsola.*
- Artemisinin-Based Combination Therapy for treating Uncomplicated Malaria by *David Sinclair, Babalwa Zani, Sarah Donegan, Piero Olliaro, Paul Garner.*
- Firstline Drugs for Hypertension by *James M. Wright, Vijaya M Musini*
- A combination drug of abacir-lamivudine (Trizivir®) for treating HIV Infection and AIDS by *Muki Shey, Eugene J Kongnyuy, Judith Shang, Charles Shey Wiysonge*

### Other Recent Reviews

- Polymer-based Oral Rehydration Solution for treating Acute Watery Diarrhoea by *Germana V Gregorio, Maria Liza M Gonzales, Leonila F Dans, Elizabeth G Martinez.*
- Male Circumcision for Prevention of Heterosexual Acquisition of HIV in Men by *Nandi Siegfried, Martie Muller, Jonathan J Deek, Jimmy Volmink.*
- Treatments for Suppression of Lactation by *Oladapo Olufemi, Fawole Bukola.*
- Iron Supplementation for Reducing Morbidity and Mortality in Children with HIV by *Ifedayo Adetifa, Uduak Okomo.*
- Haematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation for Children with Sickle Cell Disease by *Chioma Oringanje, Eneida Nemecek, Oluseyi Oniyangi.*
- Interventions for preventing late Post-natal Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV by *Tara Horvath et al.*
- Antiretroviral Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis for Preventing HIV in High Risk Individuals by *Charles I Okwundu, Christy Okoromah.*
- Azithromycin for Treating uncomplicated Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever by *Emmanuel Effa, Hasifa Bukirwa.*
- Reminder Systems and Late Patient Tracers in the Diagnosis and Management of Tuberculosis by *Qin Lui et al.*

- Oral Zinc for treating Diarrhoea by *Marzia Lazzerini, Luca Ronfeni*.
- Antimotility Agents for Chronic Diarrhoea in People with HIV/AIDS by *Chukwuemeka Nwachukwu, Joseph U Okebe*.
- Handwashing for preventing diarrhoea by *Regina Ejemot and John Ehiri*.
- Chemoprophylaxis and Intermittent Treatment for Preventing Malaria in Children (Updated Review) by *Martin Meremikwu, Donegan S, Esu E*.

## Announcements

### 17<sup>th</sup> Cochrane Colloquium



The 17<sup>th</sup> International Cochrane Colloquium will take place in Singapore, from 11-14 October 2009. Below are important dates for the Colloquium.

18 May	Notification of abstract and workshop acceptance
1 June	Stipends application deadline
29 June	Notification of Stipends acceptance
13 July	Early registration deadline
10 August	Meeting request deadline
11 August	Workshop and meeting sign-up opens
11 September	Cancellation deadline

For more details visit: [www.colloquium09.com](http://www.colloquium09.com)

- **Issue 3, 2009 of the Cochrane Library is out.**
- **How can we serve you better?**  
Please feel free to contact us and let us know how we can tailor the *Info Sheet* to better meet your needs. Send your emails to [cochranenigeria@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:cochranenigeria@yahoo.co.uk)

---

#### Branch Personnel

Professor Martin Meremikwu – Director  
 Dr Angela Oyo-Ita – Deputy Director  
 Mr Felix Awara Eke – Administrative Officer  
 Ms Chioma Oringanje – Research Assistant  
 Dr Ekong Udoh – Research Associate  
 Dr Emmanuel Effa – Research Associate

Mrs Moriam Chibuzor – Editor *Cochrane Nigeria Info Sheet*

Email: [cochranenigeria@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:cochranenigeria@yahoo.co.uk)

Phone Nos: +234(0)8036742377; +234(0)8036572179; +234(0)8037239898  
 +234(0)8055452670