



# COCHRANE NIGERIA INFO SHEET

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



*April 2009*

## **Moving Ahead**

*The first quarter of the year is over already and the second quarter is gradually moving on. Here at the Nigeria Branch of the South African Centre (NBofSACC) we have also been moving ahead. We have had a statistics workshop and have initiated a mentorship programme.*

*In this issue of the Cochrane Nigeria Info Sheet you will find current Collaboration news as well as news about activities here at the NBofSACC. You will also find information relating to the upcoming Cochrane Colloquium and available courses/fellowships etc.*

*As a Cochrane Author/Consumer in Nigeria, you may wish to take advantage of the Cochrane Developing Country Stipends or the Consumer Stipends to assist you in attending this year's Colloquium. Details are the body of the Newsletter.*

*Happy Reading!*



## **Collaboration News**

- **Nursing Care Network Newly Registered**  
The Nursing Care Network was officially registered with The Collaboration on 25 February 2009. The Network Co-ordinator/Convenor is Professor Alan Pearson, operating from the School of Population Health and Clinical Practice, The University of Adelaide South Australia 5005.  
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- **17<sup>th</sup> Cochrane Colloquium Website now Online**  
The website for the 17<sup>th</sup> Cochrane Colloquium slated to hold in Singapore from 11-14 October 2009, is now online. The website can be accessed at [www.colloquium09.com](http://www.colloquium09.com)
- **Cochrane Collaboration Launches Journal of Evidence Based Medicine**  
The Cochrane Collaboration and Wiley-Blackwell have launched the *Journal of Evidence Based Medicine*. The Journal, which is the official English Language Journal of the Chinese Cochrane Centre, aims to present the newest research results and promote the international understanding and development of evidence-based decision-making, research, practice and education. Papers in the following fields will be considered: editorial, commentary, systematic review, clinical trials and register, methodology,

policy-making and management, drug safety, education, patient safety, and knowledge translation.

For more information visit: <http://www.wiley.com/bw/journal.asp?ref=1756-5383>

- **Update on New Cochrane Register of Controlled Studies**

Oakleigh Consulting is making good progress in finalizing the user requirement and invitation to tender for the new Cochrane Register of Controlled Studies. It is hoped that the invitation to tender will be released by the Collaboration in early May 2009.

## **Research Methods and Statistics for the Health Sciences Workshop**

Statistics can not be separated from research. After data has been collected, statistics play an important part in the interpretation and analysis of the data.

The Institute of Tropical Diseases Research and Prevention (ITDR&P), University of Calabar Teaching Hospital in collaboration with the Nigeria Branch of the South African Cochrane Centre (NBofSACC), and the Effective Health Care Research Programme (EHCAP) Nigeria held a 6-day workshop on 'Research Methods and Statistics for the Health Sciences' from the 16<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> of March 2009. The workshop which took place at the Institutes' Conference Hall covered a variety of statistical topics. These included biostatistics, quantitative research methods, hands-on-training in statistical software (SPSS and Epi info) and research proposal development.



**Group Photo of Participants with Chief Medical Director, University of Calabar Teaching Hospital ( Prof Etetim Asuquo) and Director of the Institute (Prof Emmanuel Ezedinachi)**

Resource persons included Dr. Samson Adebayo (PhD Biostatistics), Tunji Adeboye (World Health Organization), Professor Emmanuel Ezedinachi (Director, ITDR&P), Professor Martin Meremikwu (Director, NBofSACC), Dr. Angela Oyo-Ita (Department of Community Medicine, University of Calabar), Mr. I.E. Igiri (Federal College of Education Obudu) and Mr. O.N. Opie (Federal College of Education, Obudu).

The workshop drew together thirty-seven participants from various states/countries, some coming from as far as Ogun State in the West, and Cameroon. The participants also cut across age groups and various fields ranging from students in Public and Allied Health, to Officers in the Health Records Department (University of Calabar) and Doctors and Consultants from various medical specialties.

At the end of it all the participants indicated that they had learned a great deal from the workshop.

A Cochrane Review workshop was to have held back to back with the Statistics Course but could not take place as planned.

## **All about the Mentorship Programme**

The Branch has recently initiated a mentorship programme. The programme is particularly important at this time because an increasing number of Nigerian authors require one-on-one assistance with their reviews. It takes advantage of the fact that the mentors and mentees are in the same locations and as such accessibility is much better. It also allows the Review authors receive one-on-one assistance tailored to their specific needs.



Up to five authors have been successfully paired with mentors and the pairing of others is still in progress. A number of experienced Cochrane Review Authors have been chosen to serve in the capacity of mentors. These include Dr. Afolabi Lesi, Dr. Bukola Fawole, Professor Martin Meremikwu, Dr. Angela Oyo-Ita, and Dr. Emmanuel Effa among others.

As more reviewers register titles, it is expected that, they will also be paired with mentors to give them more specific assistance. We believe that this will improve the completion and progress of reviews.

### *How can Nigerian Cochrane Review Authors benefit from the Mentorship Programme?*

Nigerian Authors that register topics and need one-on-one assistance with their reviews can benefit from this programme by contacting the Nigeria Branch of the South African Cochrane Centre. To do so, email [cochranenigeria@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:cochranenigeria@yahoo.co.uk).



## **Cochrane Colloquium Update Applications for Developing Country Stipends and Consumer Stipends Now Open**

Every year, the Cochrane Collaboration makes available some stipends to assist Cochrane contributors/consumers or consumer advocates attend the Cochrane Colloquium. These stipends, namely the Developing Country Stipends and Consumer Stipends, are to help cover travel costs and some other expenses associated with attending the Colloquium.

The Developing Country Stipends is open to permanent residents in developing countries (according to World Bank definition) who have been contributing to the work of the Collaboration as review author, editor, trials search co-ordinator, Cochrane peer reviewer or co-ordinator of Cochrane activities locally. Applicants must have been actively involved in the Collaboration from no later than October 08. To download the application form and for complete information on this stipend please go to:

[http://www.colloquium09.com/stipends\\_country.shtml](http://www.colloquium09.com/stipends_country.shtml)

The Consumer Stipends, on the other hand, is open to consumers and consumer advocates from both developing and developed countries. Applicants must have been actively involved as consumers or consumer advocates with the Cochrane Collaboration from no later than October 08. To download the application form and obtain full details for Consumer Stipends go to:

[http://www.colloquium09.com/stipends\\_consumer.shtml](http://www.colloquium09.com/stipends_consumer.shtml)

**The deadline for applications for both stipends is Monday 1 June 09.**

## Other Upcoming Courses, Fellowships and Workshops



### ❖ EDCTP - Senior Fellowship

The European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP) has put out a call for a Senior Fellowship. The aim of the fellowship is to support senior researchers capable of building and leading research groups at sub-Saharan African Institutions. For full details and to apply see:

[http://www.edctp.org/Current\\_Call.410+M59e6e524a28.0.html](http://www.edctp.org/Current_Call.410+M59e6e524a28.0.html)

**Deadline for applications:** 1 June 2009

### ❖ 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:** 15 May 2009 and 25 September 2009

### ❖ TDR – Research Leadership Training Grant

These grants are for 3-year post-graduate (doctoral) training in health research in an academic institution in a developing country. For full details see:

<http://www.who.int/tdr/svc/grants/calls/lrg-call>

**Deadline for applications:** 12 May 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 2, 2009 of the Cochrane Library were either published by Nigerian authors or are relevant to developing countries like Nigeria.

- 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.*

### Other Recent Reviews (Issue 1, 2009 and Issue 4, 2008)

- 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 2, 2009 of the Cochrane Library is out.**
- **Applications are open for Developing Country Stipends and Consumer Stipends. Deadline for applications is 1 June 09.**
- **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)

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