



COCHRANE NIGERIA INFO SHEET

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



January 2009

Welcome to 2009

Welcome to 2009. This year promises to be packed with activity at the Nigeria Branch of the South African Cochrane Centre (NBofSACC). A number of workshops have been planned for the year which will take place at different locations in Nigeria. Please take a look at the Calendar for the year and see which workshops you can take advantage of. We also hope that in 2009 more Nigerians will register Cochrane Review Topics and that those who have registered topics will make significant progress. As usual, the staff at NBofSACC and other experienced Cochrane Review authors across the country are available to assist you.

The last issue of the *Cochrane Nigeria Infosheet* was published in December 2008 and as such, the next issue should have come out in March 2009. Due to the fact that we wish to change the months of publication we are publishing our first issue this year in January and plan to stick to this arrangement. The *Infosheet* will still be published quarterly as originally stated.

We hope you find this issue highly informative.

Happy Reading!

Collaboration News

- **The Cochrane Handbook is now available in all formats**
Browseable online, commercial book and printable PDF format (PDF format is only available to members of the Collaboration). For more information see: <http://www.cochrane.org/resources/handbook>
- **Development of the New Cochrane Register of Controlled Trials**
The Cochrane Collaboration has invited Oakleigh Consulting to finalize user requirements and invitation to tender for the new Cochrane Register of Controlled Studies. The register will contain all the specialized registers from Cochrane Review Groups and Fields as well as handsearched records from all Cochrane entities. It will also include records sourced from MEDLINE, EMBASE and other databases. Over the next few weeks, Oakleigh will be conducting interviews with a cross-section of the Collaboration's members to get their views and expertise on what is needed from the Register. It is expected that the invitation to tender for parties interested in developing the Register will be released in early April 2009.
- **Cochrane Library Issue 1, 2009:** some software problems have been detected on the CD ROM version of the 2009 Issue of the Cochrane Library. Wiley InterScience has issued a notice to this effect stating that they are producing a 'patch' (software fix) to correct the errors. For additional information or assistance contact Jeni Coates (cs-cochrane@wiley.com).

- **The Croatian Branch of the Italian Cochrane Centre (CBICC) was officially registered with the Collaboration on 9 December 2008.**
- **The Sexually transmitted Diseases Group is being re-established.**
The group was adopted as satellite group of the HIV/AIDS group in 2006 after it faced some difficulties.

Cochrane Protocol Development/RevMan 5 Workshop in University College Hospital, Ibadan – Nigeria’s first University

During a mid-day telephone chat in 2008, Professor Martin Meremikwu, (Director, Nigeria Branch of South African Cochrane Centre), broached the idea, of conducting a Cochrane Protocol Development/RevMan 5 Workshop in the south west of Nigeria in January 2009, with me. Within a few days the idea gathered momentum and definite dates were agreed upon. The twin goals of the workshop were to increase the critical mass of authors of systematic reviews from Nigeria and support individuals who are preparing protocols.

Our first challenge was how to attract enough participants for the workshop. A notice of the workshop was spread through personal contacts, e-mail invitations and posters in almost all tertiary health institutions in the south west. To our pleasant surprise, more than 60 individuals applied to participate in the workshop. Participant selection thus became another challenge.

The second challenge we faced was to secure a venue with adequate internet access for all participants.

Prof. Adeyemi Adekunle, Head of Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology at the University College Hospital graciously made the venue in his department available for us to host the workshop. The Information Technology Unit of the College of Medicine, University of Ibadan also reassured us that internet access would be extended to the venue.

The workshop held in the Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, University College Hospital, Ibadan on 15th and 16th January, 2009. Forty-three participants drawn from many tertiary institutions in the south west attended the workshop which was facilitated by Prof. Meremikwu, Dr. Afolabi Lesi, Dr. Emmanuel Effa and Dr. Bukola Fawole. The participants were from diverse disciplines in health care practice including Nursing, Physiotherapy, Community Medicine, Pathology, Paediatrics, Ophthalmology, Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Cardiology, General Surgery, Orthopaedic Surgery and Clinical Pharmacology and formed a rich mix of young and senior academics. There was even a participant from the private sector. A determined participant also joined the workshop all the way from Enugu (in the south east).



Group Photo of Participants and Resource Persons

Some of the topics covered included formulating a review question and title; developing a background for a systematic review, developing criteria for selecting studies for inclusion, statistical issues in systematic reviews, critical appraisal of randomized controlled trials and systematic reviews. Other topics were assessment of methodological quality, demonstration of the Cochrane Library, developing a search strategy, introduction to RevMan 5: texts/references and data/risk of bias table.

Presentations were interactive and special attention was also given to group work and practical work. Several participants promised to compose titles for their protocols and register with the respective Collaborative Review Groups as soon as possible. The group also agreed to maintain contact in order to facilitate exchange of ideas and facilitate mentoring by establishing a Yahoo mailing group.

We appreciate the contributions of Prof. Adeyemi O. Adekunle and other members of the Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, University College Hospital, Ibadan towards the success of the workshop. We also thank Mrs. Grace Ajuwon, Reference Librarian at the Olatunde Odeku Library, College of Medicine, University of Ibadan, Ibadan who led the session on Cochrane Library, HINARI and PubMed.

Dr. Bukola Fawole

Dr. Fawole is a Cochrane Review Author with the Cochrane Pregnancy & Childbirth Group and a Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist at the University College Hospital, Ibadan, Nigeria

Cochrane Nigeria

Calendar of Workshops/Training Programmes for 2009

- ❖ **15th-24th March 2009:** Research Methods and Statistics for the Health Sciences – Institute of Tropical Diseases Research and Prevention, Calabar, Nigeria
- ❖ **23rd-24th March 2009:** Cochrane Review Course*, Calabar, Nigeria
- ❖ **8th-9th June 2009:** Cochrane Protocol Development and RevMan 5 Workshop – National Eye Hospital, Kaduna, Nigeria
- ❖ **15th-19th September 2009:** Cochrane Review Completion Workshop – Calabar, Nigeria
- ❖ **12th November 2009:** Symposium on Evidence-Based Health Policy and Millennium Development Goals – Abuja, Nigeria
- ❖ **Consumer Workshops:** the Branch has received a grant from the Opportunities Fund of the Cochrane Collaboration to facilitate the dissemination of Cochrane information in Nigeria. Several Consumer workshops are planned as part of this grant programme. The details of these workshops will be announced in due course.

**This course will hold back to back with the Health Statistics Workshop by the Institute of Tropical Diseases Research and Prevention, Calabar.*

Other Upcoming Courses and Workshops

❖ **7th Annual Canadian Cochrane Symposium**

This event will bring together health researchers, health policy decision makers, clinicians and consumers to learn about the latest methodology in Systematic Reviews

among other things. Nigerian reviewers based in Canada or close to Canada may wish to take advantage of this symposium.

Date: 11-12 March 2009

Venue: Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada.

For more information visit: <http://www.ccn.cochrane.org/en/index.html>

❖ **14th Annual Meeting of UK and Ireland-based Contributors**

This meeting will provide UK and Ireland based members actively involved with the Cochrane Collaboration with the opportunity to get together to learn, debate and network.

Date: 18-19 March, 2009

Venue: Edinburgh Conference Centre, Herriot Watt University, Edinburgh

For more details: www.cochrane.co.uk

❖ **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

The following reviews in Issue 1, 2009 of the Cochrane Library were either published by Nigerian Authors or are particularly relevant to developing countries like Nigeria.

- 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 and Christy Okoromah*

Other Reviews (Issue 4, 2008)

- 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 Lazzarini, 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

17th Cochrane Colloquium



The 17th International Cochrane Colloquium will take place in Singapore, from 11-14 October 2009. For more details visit: www.colloquium.info/2009

- **Issue 1, 2009 of the Cochrane Library is out**
- **Cochrane Opportunities fund – Request for Proposals**
The Cochrane Collaboration Steering Group is requesting for proposals for the Cochrane Opportunities Fund. Cochrane entities are invited to make applications for projects that address any part of the Collaboration's Strategic Plan:
See <http://www.cochrane.org/admin/OPPSFUNDRFP20081708.pdf> for full details.
Deadline for submission of Proposals - 4.00 p.m. GMT, 23 February 2009
- **Dr. Chibuzor Odigwe, a Nigerian Reviewer, has won the Aubrey Sheiham Public Health and Primary Care Scholarship for 2009.**
The Aubrey Sheiham Public Health and Primary Care Scholarship is a 3 month Scholarship offered annually by the Cochrane Collaboration to health workers, researchers or consumers in developing countries. The scholarship will assist the recipient work on a public health/primary care review topic of significant importance to people living in middle or low income countries.
- **How can we serve you better?**
Please feel free to contact us and let us know how we can tailor the *Infosheet* to better meet your needs. Send your emails to cochranenigeria@yahoo.co.uk

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