



COCHRANE NIGERIA INFO SHEET

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



December 2008

Welcome to our maiden issue!

Welcome to the maiden edition of the *Cochrane Nigeria Info Sheet*. The *Cochrane Nigeria Info Sheet* is published by the Nigeria Branch of the South African Cochrane Centre. The aim of the info sheet is to keep Nigerian Cochrane Contributors up-to-date with happenings in the Cochrane Collaboration within and outside Nigeria, and to serve as a source of information on other opportunities for training and support.

Before now the information on the work of the Cochrane Collaboration in Nigeria was incorporated into the Newsletter of the Effective Health Care Research Programme run by the Institute of Tropical Diseases Research and Prevention here in Calabar. While we continue to use the EHCAP Newsletter to disseminate information from Cochrane reviews to the wider audience that includes policy makers, researchers and health care practitioners spread over the 36 States of Nigeria, the *Cochrane Nigeria Information Sheet* will be (as it were) the in-house news-sheet of the Cochrane Family in Nigeria.

The info sheet will be published quarterly. We hope that readers will help us to improve on the scope and quality of the contents as we strive to meet your information needs.

Martin Meremikwu
Director, NBofSACC

Collaboration News

- **South Asian Cochrane Centre registered**
The South Asian Cochrane Centre was officially registered with the Cochrane Collaboration on the 15th of July 2008 with Prathap Tharyan, *MD, MRCPsych*, as the director. We congratulate Prathap and his team in Vellore!
- **Public Health Review Group registered**
A Public Health Review Group has been registered with the Cochrane Collaboration and was officially launched on 22nd May 2008 at the Australasian Cochrane Symposium held in Hobart, Tasmania.
- **Updated Version of Revman 5 Released**
An updated version of the Review Manager Software, Revman 5.0.15, used for preparing and maintaining Cochrane Systematic Reviews has recently been released. To download this latest version of Revman, a user guide, style guide, and other relevant information about the software, visit <http://www.cc-ims.net/Revman>.
- **Cochrane Manual and Handbook Updated**
The Cochrane Manual, the Cochrane Collaboration's principal procedural resource, was updated on August 14, 2008. The updated version can be accessed at

<http://www.cochrane.org/admin/manual.htm>. The *Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions*, was also updated earlier this year in February. (<http://www.cochrane-handbook.org/>). It describes in detail the process of preparing and maintaining Cochrane Systematic Reviews on the effects of healthcare interventions.

National Strategic Working Group meets to Strengthen Work of Cochrane Collaboration in Nigeria

At the meeting of the Nigerian Cochrane Contributors held in Abuja earlier this year, a National Strategic Working Group (NSWG) was constituted to map out ways to strengthen the work of the Cochrane Collaboration in Nigeria. The NSWG held its first formal meeting in Calabar from 31st July - 2nd August 2008 at the Institute of Tropical Diseases Research and Prevention, University of Calabar Teaching Hospital. Prior to this time the group had held a telephone conference and been in contact by email.



L-R Prof Meremikwu, Dr. Aja, Dr. Oyo-Ita, Dr Fawole, Dr. Nwagbara, Mr. Eke, Dr. Lesi

During the 3-day meeting, the NSWG among other things, looked at ways to increase support to reviewers in Nigeria and West Africa and the possibility of establishing a Nigerian Cochrane Centre.

The group will continue to meet to work towards the development of Cochrane activities in Nigeria

Nigerian Cochrane Contributors Meeting (NCCM 2008)

Nigerian Cochrane Contributors converged at the Transcorp Hilton and Bolton White Hotels in Abuja from the 4th-5th February 2008 for the Nigerian Cochrane Contributors Meeting (NCCM). Forty three participants were in attendance from within and outside the country. The opening ceremony was chaired by the Chief Medical Director of the National Hospital Abuja, Dr Ajuwon. The Minister of Health was represented by Dr. Mobolaji Lawal (Special Assistant to the Minister of Health) while Chief John Odey, Information and Communication Minister, was represented by a Deputy Director in the Federal Ministry of Information. Professor Paul Garner, the Coordinating Editor of the Cochrane Infectious Diseases Group based at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, UK, and Dr Taryn Young (Deputy Director, South African Cochrane Centre) also graced the occasion.



Group Photo of Participants

The meeting, which featured addresses by the representatives of the Minister of Health and the Minister of Information and Communication, presentations by participants, plenary sessions, round-table and group discussions, offered the participants opportunities to interact, network and exchange ideas. The heads of the health departments of the Nation's top media houses, Moji Makanjuola of the Nigerian Television Authority and Ben Ukwuoma of The *Guardian* presented papers on issues and challenges to evidence-based health reporting.

A one-day workshop for Consumers was held on the 6th of February in collaboration with the Cochrane Consumer Network and with support from the Cochrane Collaboration. The workshop was attended by consumers and consumer advocates from different parts of the country. It was very interactive.

Cochrane Protocol Development and Revman Workshop

The Nigeria Branch of the South African Cochrane Centre recently held a 3-day workshop from 20th-22nd November 2008. The workshop which took place at the Institute of Tropical Diseases Research and Prevention, Calabar was organized to assist reviewers in various stages of Cochrane protocol development. Nineteen participants attended the workshop.



Photo of Participants

The aim of the workshop, among other things, was to teach participants how to formulate a review question, develop a Cochrane Protocol, develop a search strategy and to use Revman 5 (the software used for preparing and maintain Cochrane Systematic Reviews). At the end of the workshop a lot of the participants indicated that the workshop had benefited them a good deal.

Courses, Workshops and Fellowships

❖ International PhD Fellowship for African Scientists

The Malaria Capacity Development Consortium (MCDC) has initiated a new PhD programme for African Scientists who are interested in research relevant to the prevention or control of Malaria.

To apply go to: <http://www.Mcdconsortium.org/fellowship/index.php>

Application Deadline: 12th December 2008

❖ 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>

❖ 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, most of which are authored by Nigerians and which were published or updated in 2008, may be of interest to the reader:

- Azithromycin for Treating Uncomplicated Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever
- Reminder Systems and Late Patient Tracers in the Diagnosis and Management of Tuberculosis
- Oral Zinc for treating Diarrhoea
- Antimotility Agents for Chronic Diarrhoea in People with HIV/AIDS.
- Handwashing for preventing diarrhoea
- Chemoprophylaxis and Intermittent Treatment for Preventing Malaria in Children (Updated Review).

Announcements

- *SCT/ImpACT Clinical Trial of the Year*

The Society for Clinical Trials is calling for nominations for the SCT/ImpACT Clinical Trial of the year. Outstanding trials from any country presented or published in 2008 which meet certain criteria may be nominated. For more details or to nominate a trial go to: <http://www.projectimpact.info/sct/>

Deadline for Nominations- January 31, 2009

- *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

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