



# CMSG Newsletter

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## The Cochrane Musculoskeletal Review Group

The Cochrane Musculoskeletal Review Group (CMSG) is one of 50 groups that are part of the Cochrane Collaboration. Cochrane is an international organization that aims to help people make well informed decisions about health care by preparing, maintaining and promoting reviews of the effects of health care treatments.

The CMSG editorial base is in Ottawa, Canada, and Melbourne, Australia, and has members who are health care professionals, researchers and consumers from around the world.

Reviews produced by the CMSG cover many areas of musculoskeletal conditions, such as gout, lupus, fibromyalgia, osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, paediatric rheumatology, soft tissue conditions, spondyloarthropathy, systemic sclerosis and vasculitis.

### Cochrane Musculoskeletal Review Group

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## The CMSG Team

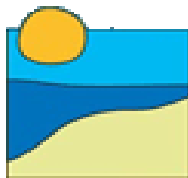
### Editors:

Rachelle Buchbinder (Coordinating Editor)  
Peter Tugwell (Coordinating Editor)  
Angela Busch  
Ann Cranney  
Rob de Bie  
Peter Jüni  
Zulma Ortiz  
Beverley Shea  
Maria Suarez-Almazor  
George Wells  
Gustavo Zanoli

### CMSG Editorial Base Support:

Lara Maxwell (Review Group Coordinator, Canada)  
Renea Johnston (Review Group Coordinator, Australia)  
Elizabeth Ghogomu (Assistant Review Group Coordinator, Canada)  
Nancy Santesso and Tamara Rader (Knowledge Translation Specialists)  
Louise Falzon (Trial search Coordinator)  
Anne Lyddiatt (Consumer Coordinator)  
Jessie McGowan (Library Scientist)  
Doug Coyle (Health Economist)

## XV COCHRANE COLLOQUIUM



“Evidence based health care for all”

When: October 21-25, 2007

Where: Sao Paolo, Brazil

Please join us at the Cochrane Musculoskeletal group open meeting at the Brazil Colloquium– a great opportunity to meet the editorial staff and members of the Musculoskeletal Group and learn about our activities and plans for the future.

When : Thursday October 25, 2007 from 12:30 to 1:30 pm in the Dubai Room.

# WHAT'S NEW AT THE CMSG

## New CMSG Staff



### Tamara Rader – Knowledge Translation Specialist

Before joining the University of Ottawa in various capacities in 2004, Tamara lived in London, U.K. working for the BMJ Publishing Group on Clinical Evidence and their evidence-based patient information service, BestTreatments.org. She has also worked in several Montreal hospitals as an Information Specialist, providing customized library services to clinicians and health researchers alike. Tamara has a Masters degree in Library and Information Studies from McGill University and a Bachelors degree in English Literature from the University of Guelph.



### Elizabeth Ghogomu – Assistant Review Group Coordinator

Elizabeth Tanjong-Ghogomu obtained her MD degree from University of Yaoundé I, Cameroon. She practiced as a general practitioner and public/community health physician in Cameroon for 13 years, during which she participated in public health and clinical research on childhood cancer. She then moved to Oxford, UK, where she did an MSc in Public Health at Oxford Brookes University. Her MSc dissertation was "A Review on the therapeutic impact of nutrition in HIV/AIDS patients". From Oxford, she moved to Canada and recently joined the CMSG Group as Assistant Review Group Coordinator.

## New and Updated CMSG Reviews & Protocols - 2007

### REVIEWS

#### Issue 4, 2007

Dehydroepiandrosterone for systemic lupus erythematosus  
 Aquatic exercise for osteoarthritis  
 Bisphosphonates for osteoporosis in children  
 Balneotherapy for osteoarthritis  
 Exercise for fibromyalgia (updated)  
 Braces for osteoarthritis (updated)  
 Paracetamol vs non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs for osteoarthritis (updated)  
 Balneotherapy for rheumatoid arthritis (updated)

#### Issue 3, 2007

Osteotomy for knee osteoarthritis (updated)

#### Issue 1, 2007

Effects of glucocorticoids on radiological progression in rheumatoid arthritis  
 Exercise for acutely hospitalised older medical patients

### PROTOCOLS

#### Issue 4, 2007

Custom-made foot orthoses for the treatment of foot pain  
 Dynamic exercise for treating rheumatoid arthritis  
 Statins for osteoporosis in postmenopausal women  
 Traction for hip osteoarthritis

#### Issue 3, 2007

Assistive technologies for rheumatoid arthritis

#### Issue 2, 2007

Ibandronate sodium for osteoporosis in postmenopausal women  
 NSAIDs, analgesics and opioids agents for fibromyalgia syndrome  
 Rehabilitation after surgery for Dupuytren's Contracture

#### Issue 1, 2007

Dietary interventions for rheumatoid arthritis  
 Homeopathy for osteoarthritis  
 Percutaneous vertebroplasty for osteoporotic vertebral compression fracture  
 Processed versus fresh frozen bone for impaction bone grafting in revision hip arthroplasty  
 Topical glyceryl trinitrate for lateral elbow pain  
 Topical glyceryl trinitrate for rotator cuff disease

## New Editors

We are delighted to announce two new additions to the CMSG editorial team: Angela Busch and Peter Jüni are our newest editors. In addition to joining as editors, Angela is responsible for the fibromyalgia subgroup and Peter is responsible for the osteoarthritis subgroup.

Angela is based at the University of Saskatoon and has recently completed a substantive update for the "Exercise for fibromyalgia" review. Peter is based at the University of Bern and in addition to authoring many systematic reviews, is an editor with the Cochrane Methodology Review Group. Both bring important content and methodological expertise to the CMSG editorial team.

Please join us in welcoming Angela and Peter to our team!

## INFORMATION FOR AUTHORS

### RevMan 5

The new version of The Cochrane Collaboration's RevMan 5 software is currently in beta testing, which means a trial version of the software is now available ahead of the official release. The new software includes a more user-friendly interface, new statistical methods, new tables, and new formatting functions.

CMSG authors will be required to install and use RevMan 5 from February 2008 (although remember that we won't be able to accept documents in RevMan 5 format before that date). If you'd like to get to know the software now, you can read about what's new and download the beta version from [www.cc-ims.net/RevMan/RevMan5/](http://www.cc-ims.net/RevMan/RevMan5/). A training tutorial is available from the RevMan 5 Help menu.

## Top 50 Accessed Reviews

The Cochrane Top 50 Accessed Articles list was formulated by Wiley and published on the Cochrane website. The following CMSG reviews have made the list:

- Glucosamine therapy for treating osteoarthritis (2005) Towheed TE, Maxwell L, Anastassiades TP, Shea B, Houpt J, Robinson V, Hochberg MC, Wells G
- Acupuncture for shoulder pain (2005) Green S, Buchbinder R, Hetrick S
- Surgery for thumb (trapeziometacarpal joint) osteoarthritis (2005) Wajon A, Ada L, Edmunds I
- Diacerein for osteoarthritis (2005) Fidelix TSA, Soares BGDO, Trevisani VF M
- Tramadol for osteoarthritis (2006) Cepeda MS, Camargo F, Zea C, Valencia L
- Physiotherapy intervention for shoulder pain (2003) Green S, Buchbinder R, Hetrick S

## New Cochrane methods in 2008

The new edition of the *Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions* will soon be published, bringing with it some exciting new improvements to Cochrane review methodology. All Cochrane authors should be ready to incorporate these methods in their new and updated reviews. Some of the key changes include:

- **Literature searching:** there is a new version of the 'highly sensitive search strategy' to identify RCTs, and new advice to reduce duplication of searching between CENTRAL, MEDLINE and EMBASE.
- **Risk of bias:** new standard tables will be introduced to all Cochrane reviews, providing detailed information on aspects of the included studies that may increase their risk of bias, including random sequence generation, allocation concealment, blinding, incomplete outcome data, and selective outcome reporting. This will replace current CMSG advice on quality appraisal.
- **Summary of findings:** new standard tables will also be introduced to summarise the statistical results of all Cochrane reviews. These tables will replace the current CMSG Clinical Relevance Tables.
- **Reviews of diagnostic test accuracy:** currently in the pilot stage, soon Cochrane authors will be able to undertake reviews of diagnostic test accuracy. Note that review teams must include experienced authors and a statistician, due to the complexity of these methods. If you have an idea for a topic and would like to conduct a diagnostic test review, contact CMSG.
- **Overviews of reviews:** a new format and methods will also be available for authors to conduct overviews of multiple Cochrane reviews relevant to the same condition. If you have an idea for an overview and would like to learn more about these methods, contact CMSG.

Keep an eye out for more information. The Handbook will be available free of charge online, and for authors in some locations there will be opportunities for training workshops. Workshop schedules will be posted at

[www.cochrane.org/news/workshops.htm](http://www.cochrane.org/news/workshops.htm).

## Plain Language Summaries Project

The Cochrane Opportunities Fund provides entities with an opportunity to obtain core Collaboration funds to undertake project work of their own initiative. The CMSSG is very pleased to be a collaborator on the successful application for the **Developing and evaluating a plain language summary template for Cochrane Reviews project**, led by Claire Glenton from the Norwegian Branch of the Nordic Cochrane Centre, and in collaboration with the Iberoamerican Cochrane Centre (ICC), the Centro Colaborador Argentino de la Red Cochrane Iberoamericana (AICC), the Cochrane Consumers and Communication Review Group (CCRG), and the Cochrane Consumers Network. Evaluations of Plain Language Summaries of Cochrane Reviews have reported that these sometimes contain errors and misrepresent facts. The Cochrane Handbook 4.2.5 provides new guidance for Plain Language Summaries. These guidelines are, however, still relatively loose, and leave room for inconsistent and imprecise reporting of results. A standard template to extract and present data from Cochrane reviews in an accessible, useful and precise format is therefore needed. A template has been developed over the past five years from work of two Cochrane entities and in collaboration with the developers of Summary of Findings tables. Systematic testing of the template is now underway to ensure that it provides readers with an understandable and precise representation of the results of the review.

## Dissemination & collaboration in Australia

The Australian Editorial Base of CMSSG has been working hard to increase dissemination of the evidence from Cochrane reviews through health professional and consumer groups. Rheumatologists, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, podiatrists and consumers are represented on our Advisory Board, ensuring that we collaborate with all these important stakeholder groups, and helping us to make our work relevant.

Review summaries in different formats and other information are increasingly available through newsletters, publications and websites:

- Plain language summaries of Cochrane reviews on arthritis and other conditions are available free from the website of Arthritis Victoria, a consumer organisation: [www.arthritisvic.org.au](http://www.arthritisvic.org.au) (under the 'Arthritis explained' heading). Arthritis Victoria also publishes summaries in their regular newsletter.
- A series of summaries and patient scenarios for general practitioners is currently being published in the journal *Australian Family Physician*. Starting in June 2007 and running over eight months, the series has to date included articles on calcium supplements for children, colchicine for gout, corticosteroid injections for osteoarthritis of the knee, strontium for osteoporosis and non-pharmacological interventions for rheumatoid arthritis. These articles are available free of charge online at [www.racgp.org.au/afp](http://www.racgp.org.au/afp).
- Information about new and updated Cochrane reviews appears regularly in the newsletter of the Australian Rheumatology Association.
- An article on the role of occupational therapists in The Cochrane Collaboration will shortly be published in the *Australian Occupational Therapy Journal*.

If you would like to see information of this kind in your organisation's newsletter, journal or website, no matter which country you're in, contact us at [cmssg@uottawa.ca](mailto:cmssg@uottawa.ca) to let us know.

Publication! Systematic Reviews from the Cochrane Musculoskeletal Group. Santesso, Maxwell, Tugwell, et al. *J Can Chiropr Assoc* 2006; 50(4)

## Journal of Rheumatology

We are happy to report that the following review was published in *The Journal of Rheumatology*:

Tramadol for Osteoarthritis: A Systematic Review and Metaanalysis. M. Soledad Cepeda, Francisco Camargo, Carlota Zea, and Lina Valencia. *J Rheumatol* 2007;34:543-55

At the 5th Annual Canadian Cochrane Symposium held in Ottawa from February 12-13, 2007 Nancy Santesso conducted a pre-symposium workshop for consumers entitled: Patients' perspective in systematic reviews: critical appraisal and peer reviewing. Consumers learned to critically appraise and peer review systematic reviews and protocols. Members of the Canadian consumer community had an opportunity to meet after the workshop to connect with one another and discuss common issues. We are grateful to CIHR's Institute of Musculoskeletal Health and Arthritis for sponsoring this event.

## CMMSG Consumer Update

### Sad News

Ann Qualman, CMMSG Consumer Coordinator, passed away on June 25, 2007. She played a pivotal role in the Cochrane Musculoskeletal Review Group and chaired the consumer group between 2001 and 2007. She was ideal for this with her innumerable connections throughout the consumer community - where she held other major positions such as President of Canadian Alliance of Patients with Arthritis (CAPA). She was one of the first consumers to be formally named as a co-investigator on a Canadian Institutes of Health Research Grant – on the development of a measure to assess the impact of educational and behavioural programs to empower the consumer, the 'Effective Consumer'. Ann also was key in our knowledge translation activities, co-authoring a paper entitled 'Consumer-driven health care: Building partnerships in research' that was published in 'Health Expectations' and was also one of the leading consumers for a book published by the British Medical Association entitled 'Evidence Based Rheumatology'. She was a very special person to us.

Jim Davies, CMMSG Consumer Editor, passed away in January of this year. Jim was instrumental in the establishment of the consumer group of the CMMSG. He was a strong advocate of arthritis research and was very active in promoting research and development in Canada. After years of campaigning in Ottawa, he served as President of the Ontario Arthritis Society and also volunteered in many organizations associated with health care. Jim's greatest strength was his integrity which he combined with a terrific sense of humour. He is greatly missed by the CMMSG editorial board and staff.

### New Consumer Coordinator



The CMMSG is thrilled to have Anne Lyddiatt join our team as the Consumer Coordinator. Anne has provided comments on many CMMSG reviews and protocols over the past 7 years. She is a very active arthritis patient advocate, has strong and productive links to the arthritis community and gives useful advice for disseminating the results of Cochrane Reviews to consumers.

She also brings practical knowledge to the group for promoting evidence-based health care to health care professionals. She is the National Trainer for the programme 'Patient Partners in Arthritis'. This programme trains patients to use their own experiences with arthritis and best evidence to teach medical students about musculoskeletal examinations. The CMMSG is presently working with Patient Partners and Anne to incorporate the evidence from Cochrane reviews of arthritis interventions into the programme. Welcome Anne!

Many thanks to the following consumers who have looked at a review or protocol and given their thoughtful comments since May. Your support is much appreciated!!

Corrie Billideau

Jennifer Boyle

Mary Brachaniec

Giuliano Colombetti

Delia Cooper

Marg Elliot

Janet Gunderson

Jacqueline Lukas

Anne Lyddiatt

Colleen Maloney

Laurie Proulx

Janney Wale

Congratulations to consumer reviewer Laurie Proulx who had a baby girl recently. Claire Judith Kathleen Parsons was born on May 22nd at 4:11 p.m.

We wish Laurie and her family all the best!

### CAPA Voices—recent articles

Sept. 2007 Cochrane research summaries aid decision making and communicating with medical team By: Tamara Rader

June 2007 Cochrane Corner: Workshop provides resources for consumer participation in research. By: Nancy Santesso

Sept. 2006 Arthritis health care: Are you a player or are you standing on the sidelines? By: Anne Dooley & Nancy Santesso

These articles and others can be found at: <http://www.arthritis.ca/resources%20for%20advocates/capa/default.asp?s=1>

## Updates & Orphaned Reviews

The mandate of the Cochrane Collaboration is to provide the most up-to-date evidence for decision makers. The CMSG is systematically reviewing our out-of-date reviews. We have recently identified several reviews that are more than five years old and in need of updating, but the original authors are no longer able to take on this task. Would you be interested in updating one of these reviews? The CMSG will update and run the literature searches for you, as we do for all our authors, and we are happy to provide any support and advice.

- Electromagnetic fields for the treatment of osteoarthritis
- Interventions for psoriatic arthritis (excluding complementary therapies and anti-TNF drugs).
- Transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation for knee osteoarthritis (ideal for a rehab professional).

## Our Funders - Thank you!

- Canadian Institute of Health Research (CIHR) Knowledge Translation Branch
- Canadian Agency for Drug and Technologies in Health (CADTH)
- the CIHR Institutes of Health Services and Policy Research, Musculoskeletal Health and Arthritis, Gender and Health, Human Development, Child and Youth Health, Nutrition, Metabolism and Diabetes, and Infection and Immunity
- The Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing
- Cabrini Institute, Melbourne, Australia

## Priority Areas for New Systematic Reviews

Interventions for reactive arthritis:

- sulphasalazine
- methotrexate
- azathioprine

Interventions for osteoarthritis:

- telephone support

Interventions for primary systemic vasculitis:

- corticosteroids
- thermotherapy
- acupuncture
- biologics

Interventions for gout:

- surgery (removal of tophaceous masses).
- diet

The World Health Organization Essential Medicines Library recently updated their data sheets and the CMSG is using this list as a guide to prioritize updates of our systematic reviews.

The CMSG has been involved with the Overviews Working Group. The group is developing guidance for compiling evidence from multiple Cochrane reviews into one accessible and usable document - serving as a "friendly front-end".

Please contact us at [cmsg@uottawa.ca](mailto:cmsg@uottawa.ca) if you are interested in any of these topics. We would love to hear from you!

To tell us what topics you think should be reviewed please see: [www.cochranemsk.org/consumer/prioritysurvey](http://www.cochranemsk.org/consumer/prioritysurvey)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

# OMERACT9

We are pleased to announce that the OMERACT 9 conference on Outcome Measures in Rheumatology is going to be held 27 May - 31 May 2008 in Kananaskis, Canada.

Please see [www.omeract.org](http://www.omeract.org) for more details!

