



## *Annual Report – October 2005-October 2006*

The Child Health Field contributes to the Collaboration's work by ensuring that children are appropriately represented in Cochrane reviews, and working to increase the use of Cochrane reviews in child health decisions. We carry out this role by building and maintaining networks for knowledge transfer and collaboration. Through this work, the Field benefits four groups of people: consumers (children and their families), health care practitioners, researchers, and health care policy-makers and administrators.

The Child Health Field is currently organized as a two-site model based in Edmonton, Canada and Sydney, Australia. In Edmonton, Canada are Terry Klassen, Field Coordinator; Denise Thomson, Field Administrator; Lisa Tjosvold, Field Librarian and Trials Search Coordinator; and Krystal Harvey, Field Program Officer. At the Sydney Children's Hospital and University of New South Wales in Australia is Katrina Williams, Australian Coordinator while Danielle Wheeler, Field Research Manager, works at the Children's Hospital in Westmead, Australia.

Highlights of the year include:

**2006 Bursary Scheme.** We are pleased to announce that the following reviews will receive funding through our Child Health Field Bursary Scheme:

- The impact of tuberculosis preventive therapy on tuberculosis and mortality in HIV-infected children, Gray, Zar and Cotton (HIV/AIDS Group)
- Vaccines for preventing hepatitis B in new-born infants, Brok and Mathew (Hepato-Biliary Group)
- Interventions for reducing medication errors in children in hospital, Soe, Apampa, Fernando and Thayyil (Effective Practice and Organisation of Care Group)
- Kangaroo mother care to reduce morbidity and mortality of low birth weight infants (update), Conde-Aguedelo, Rossello and Belizan (Neonatal Group)
- Antiretrovirals for reducing the risk of mother-to-child transmission of HIV infection (update), Volmink, Brocklehurst, Siegfried and van de Merwe (HIV/AIDS Group)

***Evidence-Based Child Health: A Cochrane Review Journal (EBCH)***. This new journal, published by the Child Health Field in partnership with Wiley Interscience, was launched in early 2006. The journal is published quarterly, online at [www.evidence-basedchildhealth.com](http://www.evidence-basedchildhealth.com).

Each issue of the journal highlights four to six child-relevant Cochrane reviews, selected according to the clinical relevance of the topic, interest level, implications for practice and the maturity of the available evidence. The selected reviews will be reprinted in full in the journal, thereby increasing their accessibility to interested readers. To highlight the findings and the clinical implications of the results, for each review the editors will also commission a two-page summary, a table of the key findings, and an expert commentary.

To increase the value of the journal to readers, each issue will include a methodology piece, and an umbrella review, prepared in close collaboration with the new Cochrane Umbrella Review Working Group. These umbrella reviews will focus on a condition or health problem for

which there are 2 or more potential interventions, highlight the results of the Cochrane reviews that address these interventions, and compile the evidence from these reviews into one accessible and usable document. The first three issues of EBCH included umbrella reviews on nocturnal enuresis, nephrotic syndrome and chronic cough; umbrella reviews on bronchiolitis and mother-to-child transmission of HIV are currently in progress.

**Research on Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).** The Child Health Field's Canadian and Australian sites worked closely together on a successful funding application for a systematic review on "The Behavioural/Developmental Continuum of Interventions for Autism Spectrum Disorder". Work on this project is now underway, with an expected completion date of March 31, 2007.

**Web Site.** We redesigned and launched a new Child health Field web site in February 2006. Features include a list of new and updated child-relevant Cochrane Reviews from the most recent issue of the Cochrane Library, a section on Review Methodology including methods relevant to systematic reviews in children, links to our online journal, and there's even a section for parents. See the site at [www.cochranechildhealth.org](http://www.cochranechildhealth.org).

**Trials Register.** In April 2006, our trials search coordinator updated the Child Health Trials Register. A search of Central from 2002 to 2006 yielded approximately 18,000 records of which 8,000 were eligible for inclusion in the register. Currently, the register contains approximately 28,000 pediatric trials. Plans are underway to make the register available on our web site in 2007.

**Evidence for Clinicians.** The Child Health Field coordinates a regular column, "Evidence for Clinicians", which is published in the Canadian journal *Paediatrics & Child Health*. The columns review the evidence related to a specific clinical question, and provide a summary of its relevance for clinical decisions. In so doing we not only address a particular clinical issue, but also educate clinicians about the nature of evidence-based practice.

**Priorities Project.** A multinational effort by Nicole Boluyt, Lisa Tjosvold, Carol Lefebvre, Terry Klassen, and Martin Offringa, the purpose of this project is to evaluate the effectiveness of eight existing search strategies in locating systematic reviews of healthcare interventions in children using the PubMed interface. Results will be presented at the 2006 Colloquium in Dublin.

**Survey: Children in Cochrane Reviews.** To determine CRG policies for inclusion and handling of child health data in reviews, all CRGs were surveyed. Response rate was 74% (37/50). Thirty CRGs reported that their reviews were relevant to children. Full results are presented in Appendix A. There is wide variation in how child health data is included, both within and between CRGs. The results of this survey show that CRGs would benefit from clear recommendations about how best to include, analyse and present child health data and that CRGs would like the Child Health Field to provide more assistance in the form of peer review and methods advice.

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