

Annual Report

November 2008–October 2009



The Child Health Field contributes to the work of The Cochrane Collaboration by ensuring that children are appropriately represented in Cochrane reviews, and by working to increase the use of Cochrane evidence in child health decisions. We carry out this role through building and maintaining networks for knowledge transfer and research collaboration.

Drs. Terry Klassen (Edmonton, Canada) and Katrina Williams (Sydney, Australia) are the Field Co-ordinators. For the past several years, the Field has had two sites: one in Canada, and one in Australia. Unfortunately this year the funding for our Australian site was not renewed, and the site wound down operations in June, with our Field Research Manager, Danielle Wheeler, moving on to new opportunities.

Here are some of the things we've worked on this year:

Supporting child-relevant Cochrane reviews

The Child Health Field staff and Advisory Board have spent considerable time this year discussing how the Field can best support the production of more child-relevant Cochrane reviews. Currently we work with Cochrane Review Groups in a number of ways, such as helping to find peer reviewers. However, we see that in some cases, child-relevant review topics do not fit into the Collaboration's review group structure. It has been suggested that the Field should support the establishment of a new Cochrane Pediatrics Review Group. We are interested to hear what our members think of this idea.

Evidence-Based Child Health: A Cochrane Review Journal

The Child Health Field and the European Paediatric Association have concluded a partnership whereby our journal, *Evidence-Based Child Health: A Cochrane Review Journal* (EBCH), is now the Association's official journal. As a result, a print copy of each issue of EBCH is now distributed to all the Association's members, who are distributed throughout Europe and the Middle East. We are very excited about this new opportunity to connect with child health practitioners.

Training

Our partnership with the European Paediatric Association offers us a new venue for carrying out its mandate to instruct child health professionals in evidence-based practice. This year we were involved in two EPA workshops and conferences:

- Dr. Hanneke van der Lee, "Cochrane Collaboration Child Health Field," Panhellenic Congress of Paediatrics, Greece, June 2009.
- Drs. Mike Smith and Kent Stobart, three iterations of a workshop on evidence-based paediatrics, Europaediatrics conference, Moscow, July 2009.

Lisa Tjosvold, Field Trials Search Coordinator, taught a Cochrane Library "Train the Trainer" workshop at the Canadian Health Libraries Association in June 2009.

*Systematic
Reviews
register*

The Field has initiated a register of child-relevant systematic reviews. In 2009, we supervised three students who spent the summer screening and extracting descriptive characteristics about child-relevant Cochrane reviews. Our data identify some variations in conduct and reporting across SRs. This information will serve to inform the conduct and focus of future SRs and primary research in child health. Moreover, this register will serve as a basis for methodological research to understand biases in reviews and primary studies.

*StaR Child
Health:
International
Forum for
Standards
on Research
with
Children*

StaR Child Health is a group of methodologists, clinicians and policy makers who seek to enhance the quality, ethics and reliability of paediatric clinical research by promoting the use of evidence-based standards or guidance for clinical studies with children. Dr. Terry Klassen, Field Coordinator, and Advisory Board member Dr. Martin Offringa have been heavily involved in establishing this group.

There will be an article in the October 17 issue of *The Lancet*, "StaR Child Health: an initiative for RCTs in children," by Terry P Klassen, Lisa Hartling, Michele Hamm, Johanna H van der Lee, Jennie Ursum and Martin Offringa.

We invite all interested people to the StaR Child Health Summit: "Reaching for the Stars," on 26 and 27 October in Amsterdam. The summit is open to anyone involved in the design, conduct and reporting of child health clinical trials, and wanting to improve the quality and safety of these trials.

*Child-
relevant
reviews links
project*

This project aims to increase the uptake of the findings of Cochrane Reviews by sending out links to child-relevant reviews newly published or updated in each issue of the Cochrane Library. During 2007, a successful pilot of this strategy was carried out at Sydney Children's Hospital, Australia, where a list of new and updated reviews was sent to Staff Specialists, Visiting Medical Officers and Heads of Department in Allied Health, Nursing and Pharmacy. The project is now in its third year. A new list is sent to coincide with the release of each new issue of the Cochrane Library. If you would like to be included in the mailing list, please contact the Child Health Field.

*Evidence for
Clinicians*

The Child Health Field coordinates a 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. You can link to the published columns from our website.

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