

# Annual Report

October 2011-September 2012



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.

The Child Health Field is led by three Co-Directors: Terry Klassen (Winnipeg, Canada), Katrina Williams (Melbourne, Australia) and Lisa Hartling (Edmonton, Canada). Field Coordinator, Denise Thomson, and staff Marta Oleszczuk, Megan Sommerville and Aireen Wingert are all based at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, Canada.

Here is our news from the past year:

## *Transitions*

Field Director Dr. Terry Klassen has announced he is stepping down from the Field in November 2012. Dr. Klassen was the founder and sole Director of the Field for many years and his vision and passion were instrumental to all the success we have enjoyed. Thank you, Terry!

Field Director Dr. Katrina Williams moved to Melbourne to take up a new role as APEX Australia Chair of Developmental Medicine at the University of Melbourne and Director of Developmental Medicine at the Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne, Australia.

## *StaR Child Health*

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. In June 2012, a special Supplement on Child Health Research Standards was published in *Pediatrics*, consisting of articles by Star Child Health members, including Field Directors Katrina Williams, Lisa Hartling and Terry Klassen. Field staff members Denise Thomson and Iva Seto coordinated the development of Standard 6, on the appropriate use of age-based subgroups in trials. Please see the last page of this report for a full list of the articles in this Supplement.

## *Child-relevant reviews links project*

This project aims to increase the uptake of Cochrane review evidence by sending out links to child-relevant reviews newly published or updated in each issue of the Cochrane Library (CLIB). The project is now in its fourth year. A new list is sent to coincide with the release of each new issue of CLIB. If you would like to be included in the mailing list, please contact the Child Health Field.

*Evidence-Based Child Health: A Cochrane Review Journal*

*Evidence-Based Child Health: A Cochrane Review Journal* (EBCH) is published by the Child Health Field in partnership with Wiley Blackwell. EBCH's mandate is to profile timely and topical Cochrane evidence to the child health community.

A regular feature of EBCH is our overviews of reviews. These synthesise data from two or more systematic reviews on interventions for a particular condition. In this period, we published the following overviews, with the goal of providing the busy reader with a short synopsis of the evidence around a few key outcomes for a particular condition:

Russell, K., Foisy, M., Parkin, P. and Macpherson, A. (2011), The promotion of bicycle helmet use in children and youth: an overview of reviews. *Evid.-Based Child Health*, 6: 1780–1789. doi: 10.1002/ebch.901

Oleszczuk, M., Fernandes, R. M., Thomson, D. and Shaikh, N. (2012), *The Cochrane Library* and acute otitis media in children: an overview of reviews. *Evid.-Based Child Health*, 7: 393–402. doi: 10.1002/ebch.1839

Harrold, J., Lacaze-Masmonteil, T., Hartling, L. and Oleszczuk, M. (2012), *The Cochrane Library* and treatment of patent ductus arteriosus: an overview of reviews. *Evid.-Based Child Health*, 7: 1185–1195. doi: 10.1002/ebch.1855

Curtis, S., Wingert, A. and Ali, S. (2012), *The Cochrane Library* and procedural pain in children: an overview of reviews. *Evid.-Based Child Health*, 7: 1363–1399. doi: 10.1002/ebch.1864

*Conferences*

The Child Health Field sponsored a workshop, An Introduction to the Cochrane Collaboration's Methods for Conducting Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses, at the 2012 Pediatric Academic Societies meeting. Field Advisory Board members Drs. Virginia Moyer and Tonse Raju, and EBCH Editorial Board member, Dr. Roger Soll, were three of the four teachers of this workshop.

Child Health Field Director Lisa Hartling led the planning for, and taught at, the Alberta Research Centre for Health Evidence's workshop, Putting Evidence into Practice, in June 2012.

*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. Our column: "In children with chronic suppurative otitis media, should one prescribe topical or systemic antibiotics?" was published in the August 2012 issue.

## *Funding*

The Child Health Field is supported by funding from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) (Knowledge Synthesis and Translation by Cochrane Canada, CON-105529). In addition to supporting the work of the Field, this funding also enables us to build networks and expertise that we can then leverage for additional funding. Field Director Lisa Hartling was extremely successful this year in this regard, as follows:

- Dr. Hartling's CIHR New Investigator Award from CIHR is titled, "Optimizing evidence synthesis for informed decision-making," and will examine methods for overviews of reviews. The research stems from work the Child Health Field has led in terms of producing overviews of reviews for Evidence-Based Child Health. The methods won't be restricted to overviews in child health, but will include a sample of 30 overviews covering both adult and pediatric topics.
- Dr. Hartling and Dr. Antonia Stang (University of Calgary, Alberta Children's Hospital) are principal investigators on a scoping review in the area of pediatric patient safety, funded by Alberta Innovates-Health Solutions. This builds out of work done by Field staff which was presented at the 2011 Colloquium in Madrid.
- Dr. Hartling and Dr. Stephen Freedman (University of Calgary, Alberta Children's Hospital) are principal investigators on a CIHR-funded systematic review, "Management of acute gastroenteritis: synthesizing evidence to inform North American practice."
- Dr. Hartling also received \$50,000 from CIHR for the project, "A Scoping Review of Social Media in Health Care." This review examined the use of social media in health care for both adults and children. The scoping review has resulted in a proposal for a more in-depth knowledge synthesis grant examining social media in the context of children and youth with mental health conditions.

## *Pediatrics: Supplement on Child Health Research Standards, June 2012*

Lisa Hartling, Kristy D. M. Wittmeier, Patrina Caldwell, Hanneke van der Lee, Terry P. Klassen, Jonathan C. Craig, Martin Offringa, and for the StaR Child Health Group. **StaR Child Health: Developing Evidence-Based Guidance for the Design, Conduct, and Reporting of Pediatric Trials.** *Pediatrics* 2012; 129:Supplement 3 S112-S117; doi:10.1542/peds.2012-0055C

Patrina H. Y. Caldwell, Leonila Dans, Martine C. de Vries, Jenny Newman BA Hons, Helen Sammons, Merle Spriggs, M Bioeth, Parag Tambe, William Van't Hoff, Kerry Woolfall, Bridget Young, and Martin Offringa. **Standard 1: Consent and Recruitment.** *Pediatrics* 2012; 129:Supplement 3 S118-S123; doi:10.1542/peds.2012-0055D

Lisa Hartling, Michele Hamm, Terry Klassen, An-Wen Chan, Martin Meremikwu, Virginia Moyer, Shannon Scott, David Moher, and Martin Offringa. **Standard 2: Containing Risk of Bias.** *Pediatrics* 2012; 129:Supplement 3 S124-S131; doi:10.1542/peds.2012-0055E

Susan Ellenberg, Ricardo M. Fernandes, Haroon Saloojee, Dirk Bassler, Lisa Askie, Ben Vandermeer, Martin Offringa, Ingeborg Van der Tweel, Douglas G. Altman, Johanna H. van der Lee, and for the StaR Child Health Group. **Standard 3: Data Monitoring Committees.** *Pediatrics* 2012; 129:Supplement 3 S132-S137; doi:10.1542/peds.2012-0055F

Ingeborg van der Tweel, Lisa Askie, Ben Vandermeer, Susan Ellenberg, Ricardo M. Fernandes, Haroon Saloojee, Dirk Bassler, Douglas G. Altman, Martin Offringa, and Johanna H. van der Lee. **Standard 4: Determining Adequate Sample Sizes.** *Pediatrics* 2012; 129:Supplement 3 S138-S145; doi:10.1542/peds.2012-0055G

Ian P. Sinha, Douglas G. Altman, Michael W. Beresford, Maarten Boers, Mike Clarke, Jonathan Craig, Ornella Della Casa Alberighi, Ricardo M. Fernandes, Lisa Hartling, Bradley C. Johnston, Andrew Lux, Amy Plint, Peter Tugwell, Mark Turner, Johanna H. van der Lee, Martin Offringa, Paula R. Williamson, and Rosalind L. Smyth. **Standard 5: Selection, Measurement, and Reporting of Outcomes in Clinical Trials in Children.** *Pediatrics* 2012; 129:Supplement 3 S146-S152; doi:10.1542/peds.2012-0055H

Katrina Williams, Denise Thomson, Iva Seto, Despina G. Contopoulos-Ioannidis, John P.A. Ioannidis, Sarah Curtis, Evelyn Constantin, Gitanjali Batmanabane, Lisa Hartling, and Terry Klassen. **Standard 6: Age Groups for Pediatric Trials.** *Pediatrics* 2012; 129:Supplement 3 S153-S160; doi:10.1542/peds.2012-0055I

Despina G. Contopoulos-Ioannidis, Iva Seto, Michele P. Hamm, Denise Thomson, Lisa Hartling, John P. A. Ioannidis, Sarah Curtis, Evelyn Constantin, Gitanjali Batmanabane, Terry Klassen, and Katrina Williams. **Empirical Evaluation of Age Groups and Age-Subgroup Analyses in Pediatric Randomized Trials and Pediatric Meta-analyses.** *Pediatrics* 2012; 129:Supplement 3 S161-S184; doi:10.1542/peds.2012-0055J

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