

Annual Report

November 2010-October 2011



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 directed by three Co-Directors: Terry Klassen (Winnipeg, Canada), Katrina Williams (Sydney, Australia) and Lisa Hartling (Edmonton, Canada). Field staff members, Denise Thomson (Coordinator), Iva Seto (Research Coordinator), and Marta Oleszczuk (Project Coordinator), are all based at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, Canada.

Here is our news from the past year:

Paediatric patient safety

The Field has been working with the Paediatric International Patient Safety and Quality Collaborative (PIPSQC) to identify the particular vulnerabilities to harm faced by children receiving health care treatments. Three posters from our work to date are being presented at this Colloquium:

- Paediatric patient safety: the distinctive nature of childhood must be part of the equation, Thomson D, Rickard S, Matlow A, Scanlon M, Ali S, Williams K.
- Safe care for children: a protocol for a scoping review of what we know, and what we need to find out, Thomson D, Seto I, Stang A, Ali S, Hartling L, Scanlon M.
- The building blocks of safety: creating multi-disciplinary micro-systems and departmental PSOs as the foundation for a successful patient safety program, Shaw K, Rickard S, Reay T, Thomson D.

Cochrane Handbook

The Child Health Field has been working with the Health Equity Methods Group, the Health Care of Older People Field, and the Consumers and Communication Review Group to develop a chapter for the revised Cochrane Handbook on “Addressing equity and sub-populations.” This chapter will discuss issues around disadvantaged populations, children, older people and people with multi-morbidity. We anticipate that this chapter will be completed later this year.

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.

In November, 2010, MDLinx released a list of the Fifty Most Accessed Articles in Pediatrics, on which an Evidence for Clinicians column, "Are oral antibiotics equivalent to intravenous antibiotics for the initial management of pyelonephritis in children?," by Dr. Jeffrey Hom, ranked #3. This shows that our efforts are meeting with a wide audience!

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. Drs. Michael (Mike) Smith (Belfast, Northern Ireland) and Joan Robinson (Edmonton, Canada) are the Editors-in-Chief. EBCH is the official journal of the European Paediatric Association.

EBCH has experienced a tremendous increase in readership in the past year and half. In 2010, full text versions of EBCH articles were downloaded 17,300 times. This compares with 10,950 in 2009, an increase of 58%. From January 2011 to July 2011, full text versions were downloaded 16,356 times. This compares with 7,383 from January to July 2010; an increase of 221%.

Overviews of reviews

The Child Health Field is at the forefront of a new form of research synthesis within Cochrane – the overview of reviews. We publish one overview in each issue of EBCH, synthesizing 2 or more Cochrane reviews on related interventions with the goal of providing the busy reader with a short synopsis of the Cochrane evidence around a few key outcomes for a particular condition.

Overviews published during this period were on treatment for:

- Croup
- Bronchiolitis
- Attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (non-pharmacological treatments only)
- Sore throat
- Chronic abdominal pain
- Eczema

In the eczema overview, which was co-produced with the Cochrane Skin Group, we incorporated non-Cochrane evidence for the first time. Some of the experiences from this are described in a poster presentation at this Colloquium, "Mixing with the unclean: Including non-Cochrane reviews alongside Cochrane reviews in overviews of reviews."

www.cochranechildhealth.org

*Opportunities
Fund funding
for evidence-
based
answers in
respiratory
child health*

Field Co-Coordinator Dr. Terry Klassen and Katrina Williams initiated a successful application to the Cochrane Opportunities Fund to do work in knowledge translation in the area of respiratory child health. The project developed evidence-based answers to PICO-form questions submitted by clinicians about treatment, diagnosis and prognosis. The Cochrane Editorial Unit and the Cochrane Airways and Acute Respiratory Infections Groups, along with external partners Wiley Blackwell and the European Paediatric Association, were partners in this project. The final report from this project was submitted in October 2011.

*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 Co-Director, and Field Advisory Board member Dr. Martin Offringa are among the founders of this group. Dr. Lisa Hartling leads the Risk of Bias Standards Group, and Dr. Katrina Williams leads the Standards Group on Age-Based Subgroups.

The Standards Groups have been working hard to finalise guidance in their respective areas, which will be published in a special supplement of *Pediatrics* later this year.

*Conferences
and webinars*

Field Co-Directors Drs. Terry Klassen and Lisa Hartling taught at the University of Alberta/Alberta Health Services Evidence-based Practice Center conference, "Putting Evidence into Practice," which trains participants in systematic review and critical appraisal techniques, in February, 2011.

At the 2011 annual meeting of the Pediatric Academic Societies, Field Advisory Board members Drs. Virginia Moyer, Martin Offringa and Tonse Raju were three of the presenters for the workshop, "An Introduction to the Cochrane Collaboration's Methods for Conducting Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses." The Field has co-sponsored an abstract for a similar workshop for the 2012 meeting.

Field Co-Directors Drs. Terry Klassen and Lisa Hartling taught a session on systematic reviews at the 2011 Europaediatrics conference, put on by the European Paediatric Association (EPA) in June. EBCH Editor-in-Chief Dr. Michael Smith also led a session on evidence-based medicine at the same conference. Dr. Smith was deeply involved in the needs assessment, planning, delivery and evaluation of the evidence-based portions of both Europaediatrics and that of the EPA's Excellence in Paediatrics conference in December 2010. The Field's involvement is aimed at increasing the uptake and use of systematic review evidence among EPA's members: paediatricians in Europe and the Middle East.

Child Health Field Coordinator, Denise Thomson, along with Michelle Foisy and EBCH editor Dr. Lorne Becker, presented a Cochrane Canada webinar, “A primer to Cochrane overview of reviews,” in June. This was based on the Child Health Field’s extensive experience in preparing overviews of reviews.

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 fifth 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.

Bias in child health trials

Dr. Lisa Hartling, Field Co-Director, received \$83,634 in funding from CIHR as an operating grant for the project, “Quantifying bias in randomized controlled trials in child health.” This project began in October 2011.



**COCHRANE
Child Health Field**

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