

# Annual Report

October 2012-September 2013



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: Lisa Hartling (Edmonton, Canada), Katrina Williams (Melbourne, Australia) and Ricardo Fernandes (Lisbon, Portugal). The Field's Coordinator, Denise Thomson; Project Coordinator, Aileen Wingert; and Research Assistant, Megan Sommerville; are all based at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, Canada.

Here is our news from the past year:

## **Transitions**

We welcomed Dr. Ricardo Fernandes as a Co-Director of the Child Health Field in May 2013.

Dr. Fernandes a thoughtful and conscientious early-career researcher whose insights will be invaluable in helping to shape the Field's direction and strategy over the coming years. He has a long history of working with the Child Health Field. He has been a member of the Editorial Board for the Field's journal since 2011, and has recently taken on the role of podcast editor for the journal. He has worked on numerous Field projects, including two published overviews of reviews and another one in progress, and has also been actively involved in other methods work led by the Field and related initiatives to improve the quality of reviews and trials in child health.

Dr. Fernandes is experienced within Cochrane; he has been an author on two published systematic reviews and also holds the post of Methodological Editor with the Movement Disorders Group. As well, he is well-connected in the wider pediatric research community, being a member of groups such as the Pediatric Emergency Research Networks, European Paediatric Emergency Medicine and the Star Child Health Initiative. His perspective as a European clinician and researcher will be an excellent complement to those of Drs. Williams (Australia) and Hartling (Canada).

## **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.

*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.

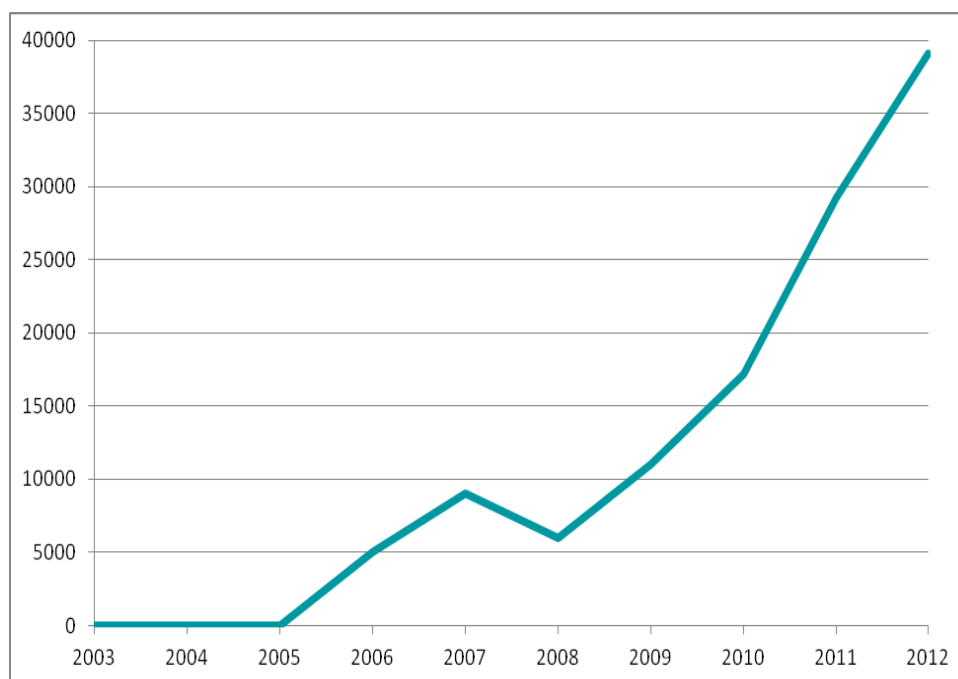
*Editorial Board meeting*

In May, the Evidence-Based Child Health Editorial Board met in Washington for a full-day discussion of new directions for EBCH as it enters its ninth year of existence. EBCH is part of the Field's mandate to move child-relevant Cochrane evidence into practice. The question for our editors was, "What are the most appropriate and effective ways of carrying out that mandate in the current, rapidly changing, publishing environment?"

We started our discussion with a review of what we know about the response to EBCH's content. Two things stood out:

- Products which synthesize evidence to support decision-making, such as the Overviews of Reviews and the Clinical Answers (featured in issues 7.1, 7.3 and 7.5), are very popular. The Overviews of Reviews are consistently by far our most-frequently downloaded content. Clinical Answers, which we have run in several issues, were very well received in a reader survey conducted in early 2012.
- There is an appetite for the material EBCH publishes. There has been a considerable increase in the number of people finding and downloading our material each year since we started publication in 2006. This steady increase in demand is very encouraging.

*Full-text downloads of EBCH content (2006- 2012)*



We will be developing and testing a number of new products and formats for EBCH content in the coming months. Stay tuned!

### *New content*

Cochrane in Context. We introduced a new companion piece for each of the reviews highlighted in a particular issue. The new 'Cochrane in Context' piece has four components. First, we reprint in full the abstract of the review and include a commentary from one or more of the review's authors, explaining why they felt it was important to carry out this synthesis. Then there are two sections intended to place the review's findings in the context of current guidance and research: excerpts from relevant guidelines from the Canadian Paediatric Society, American Academy of Pediatrics and the National Institute for Care and Excellence (UK), as well as a brief list of recent systematic reviews published on the same topic. A sample Cochrane in Context column is attached to this report.

Eco-Paediatrics. Harm in paediatrics consists of not only suggesting remedies that result in adverse events but also advising parents or the health-care system to spend their limited, hard-earned cash on remedies that have no efficacy. It is vital to educate health-care workers about therapies that have been proven to not be worthwhile. Thus, we have introduced a new column titled, "Eco-Paediatrics Reducing waste in child health one intervention at a time." A sample Eco-Paediatrics column is attached to this report.

### *Overviews of reviews*

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:

- Cates, C. J., Stovold, E., Wieland, S., Oleszczuk, M., Thomson, D. and Becker, L. (2012), The Cochrane Library and safety of regular long-acting beta2- agonists in children with asthma: an overview of reviews. *Evid.-Based Child Health*, 7: 1798–1806. doi: 10.1002/ebch.1889
- Freedman, S. B., Ali, S., Oleszczuk, M., Gouin, S. and Hartling, L. (2013), Treatment of acute gastroenteritis in children: an overview of systematic reviews of interventions commonly used in developed countries. *Evid.-Based Child Health*, 8: 1123–1137. doi: 10.1002/ebch.1932

### *Podcasts*

We have started producing podcasts highlighting the findings and clinical relevance of our overviews of reviews. Our podcast editors, Drs. Eyal Cohen and Ricardo Fernandes, have to date produced four podcasts. They are accessible via the EBCH website ([www.evidence-basedchildhealth.com](http://www.evidence-basedchildhealth.com)).

### *Updates of systematic reviews in child abuse*

We have been pleased to publish updates of systematic reviews by the Cardiff Child Protection Systematic Reviews (CORE INFO) group. Their work on physical abuse and neglect in children is all too relevant to clinical practice and hence of great interest to our readership. We published the first update, "Systematic reviews of bruising in relation to child abuse—what have we learnt: an overview of review updates," in our March 2013 issue, and the second update, "What does the recent literature add to the identification and investigation of

fractures in child abuse: an overview of review updates 2005-2013," will appear in our September 2013 issue.

#### *New editors*

We welcomed four new members to our editorial board: Gary Emmett (general pediatrician from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania), Linda Fu (general pediatrician from Washington DC), Jennifer Read (pediatric infectious diseases physician from Washington DC), Mike Steiner (general pediatrician from Chapel Hill, North Carolina) and Charles Woods (pediatric infectious diseases physician from Louisville, Kentucky).

**Conferences and training** (This space intentionally left blank).

**Evidence for Clinicians** The Child Health Field coordinates an occasional 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.

We have developed a new format for the Evidence for Clinicians columns, which will more directly highlight child-relevant Cochrane reviews. We have formed a small informal advisory group to direct the selection of these reviews, and production of the new-format columns will begin later this year.

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