



CSzG Flier 2017-8

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Clive Adams

- Co-ordinating Editor -

Rebecca Syed



It has been a while since the last newsletter. Sorry....but now there really is lots of news.

The Schizophrenia Group thrives with >320 reviews/protocols (in 2017 - 21 new reviews/updates, 17

protocols). There are now 1300 reviewers in 21 countries. In 2017 we have had new reviewers from all over the world - for example from China, Iran, Mexico and Syria. The logistics of this are considerable but our Group's productivity is going up across time. In the centre of the group **Claire Irving** sits [calm and serene](#) providing support and juggling the systems necessary to get reviews to the highest standard and **Farhad Shokraneh** - provides the best searches faster, better and more precise than a [Louis Hamilton tyre change!](#)

Many things are set to change across 2018 - but what will not change is the need for high-quality reviews on all aspects of care, and the support we will continue to give to your production of these.

Clive

Forthcoming events in 2018

June 19th-22nd

[Nottingham Systematic Review Course](#)

September 16-18th

[Cochrane Colloquium](#) - Edinburgh, Scotland

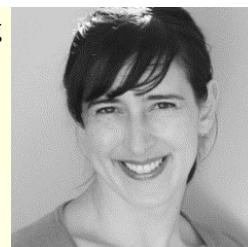


It seems (and is) a very long time since I first spoke to Clive, from a telephone exchange opposite Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, in Bogota, Colombia.

I contacted the Schizophrenia Group, and that very day received an email with Clive's number, and, after a brief interval, heard Clive's lilting tones at the other end of the line....So I was reeled into the world of evidence - as an evidence synthesiser, reviewer, editor and now co-Co-editor. All whilst getting married, having five overseas moves, three children and acquiring board certification in both the UK and Australia .

I know how Cochrane Schizophrenia is a precious thing, made up of volunteers worldwide with the central gems of Claire and Farhad supporting and maintaining output and quality. I look forward to my increasing role and exciting times to come.....

Rebecca



Claire - Managing Editor

Not sure about the "calm and serene"! ... but definitely sitting up in a 'wee' room in Scotland processing high-quality reviews submitted by so many volunteers from all around the world. As ever, we are humbled by the enthusiasm and willingness of you all to give up your spare time to help us create this important evidence base.

We have registered 11 new titles - and one Overview - just in the last month. We are continuing with our strategy of registering more specific simple titles with a view to building up 'families' of reviews around a topic area.

This year has been busy for me with editorial meetings in Cape Town, Edinburgh, London, Ox-

ford and Nottingham. Our group has also welcomed a healthy number of new authors, peer reviewers and three new editors who all attended our Editor's meeting in June - their enthusiasm was infectious. However, be warned, that they all have EAGLE eyes.

Both new and established editors continue to give time to edit reviews and provide advice on template text, new titles and general direction of our group. They are always gracious and wise - helping the group navigate the editorial process and keeping our spirits up. Huge thanks again.

We are building up groups of peer reviewers who are also doing a great job of ensuring

the quality of reviews. There is now a new checklist designed to help with peer reviewing - helping novice peer reviewers through the process. As ever, more are needed, *particularly consumers* - if you know anyone please [contact me](#).

To help authors meet the standards required by Cochrane ([MECIR](#)), we are now fully 'templated' up... with both the protocol and review stages uploaded with template text. There are also guide notes explaining how to meet both the MECIR standards and the CSzG layout.

Clive and I are finding skype sessions with new volunteers and established authors an invaluable way of encouraging and teaching. [Online training](#) via

the Cochrane website is also now available for both editors and authors - free for those with a Cochrane Author account.

Finally it has been a pleasure to work more closely with **Rebecca** this year, our weekly meetings are now firm fixtures and the merging of Co-eds is proving to be a very smooth process (she also kept up CSzG tradition and rocked the dance floor in Cape Town).

Hope you all have a very turn of the year and looking forward to all those lovely reviews in 2018.

Claire



Changed people



As you see from Page 1, within our group, the people have changed a bit. **Rebecca Syed Sheriff** (Thailand) and I are now co-Co-editing and that really has been a huge improvement across this last year. We also have additional editors. **Marina Dieterich** (Italy), **Edoardo Ostinelli** (Italy) and **Javier Ortiz** (Mexico) provide long-needed new energy to the group. **Prathap Tharyan** in Vellore, India, has retired. Prathap, now Emeritus Schizophrenia Group Editor, is our friend, supporter and protector - we will not say goodbye to him. **Lorna Duggan**, our Comments Editor in Australia, also has decided to step down after many years. We are so grateful to Lorna for her support. We will miss but not forget her solid clinical sense and skill and humanity.

Changed organisation



There have been lots of changes within the wider Cochrane organisation that have implications for us all. There is a new Cochrane structure which aims for the closer working of review groups with common interests or themes. For example, Schizophrenia Group has been put within a '**Brain, Nerves and Mind**' network. Neither the restructuring nor the name was our choice! However, we have had a first meeting of the Network - in London, hosted by **Michael Lunn** of Neuromuscular group. This was very positive with lots of ideas for future collaboration. The Cochrane central management team are planning to, and may already have appointed, a Senior Editor for this network. We do not yet know who this person is or how this role will impact on working. This post could have positive implications but time will tell....

Changed priorities in interesting times

寧為太平犬，莫做亂離人



Cochrane is now a very large organisation. Balancing the needs of a volunteer workforce, (consisting of thousands of people, worldwide) those of the funders, health services, and the Central Editorial Unit is ever more problematic. As with the NHS, this has led to ever-more managerial oversight, which whilst well-intentioned, reduces the autonomy of the individual groups, who know their subject area and resources. There are dangers of levelling of quality, addition of unnecessary complexity or contradiction and pulling in directions that are more self-serving than likely to meet needs of most patients or clinicians. None of us know where this is going in the next years, but it's never going to be dull! We live in interesting times.....

No border for science - Poland



[Systematic Review Solutions](#), amongst many other things, runs courses for anyone interested in evaluation of health



care. This year SRS has undertaken courses in Mexico, UK,

China and Poland. These courses are general but are a great showcase for what can come out of our group.

No border for science - Iran and Syria



The Nottingham Systematic Review Course runs every year. But we also run courses over **Skype**. We have held a 5-day (3-part) workshop for Iran for the past two years. Before the workshop, five titles are registered for 20 workshop participants from Kerman University of Medical Sciences. With the help of our colleagues in Iran, the venue, registration and IT infrastructure was set up. We simply connected and it worked. Thank you

Iran IT Department! The first part (2 days), involved sessions on protocol writing, Review Manager ([using our web teaching links](#)) and data-extraction. On day 2, Claire also joined us from Scotland on Skype, to explain the CSzG processes. Where necessary, Farhad or a colleague from Iran, translated. The second part (2 days) was about problem-solving and writing-up reviews. The last part (1 day) involved further sessions on problem-solving and Summary of Findings tables. All went well, protocols are published and reviews are on their way. Then, working with Adib (Syrian editor) and students in Damascus, we ran a similar workshop for Syria. Reviews regarding treatment of people with schizophrenia, in times of war or disaster, are under-way from this group.

Syria-Skype-Selfie

from Fatima and the crew



Reviews about treatment of people with schizophrenia in times of war or disaster are underway from this group in Syria. Hopefully all will be possible to disseminate within [Evidence Aid](#) open access.



Warning - searching the Cochrane Library

Most of the time searching the Cochrane Library works fine - but when searching *by our group's output*, it really does not work at all. We think this is why some of your reviews are not as cited as they should be, and we have alerted relevant people to this problem (about a year ago). ALL of your reviews can be found on PubMed and, currently, this is the best way to search for Cochrane evidence. This bug should be fixed after a new version of the Library is constructed in 2018.

The screenshot shows the Cochrane Library search page. Annotations include: 1. A red circle around the 'Search All Text' button. 2. A red circle around the 'Search Manager' tab. 3. A red circle around the search input field containing 'schizophrenia'. 4. A red circle around the 'Go' button. 5. A red circle around the 'All Results (0)' link. 6. A red circle around the 'Cochrane Groups (0)' link. 7. A red circle around the text 'in Cochrane Groups, with Schizophrenia Group in Review Groups (Word variations have been searched)'. 8. A red circle around the 'Clear limits' link. 9. A red circle around the 'Add to Search Manager' link. 10. A red circle around the 'Search Limits' link. 11. A red circle around the 'Search Help' link. 12. A red circle around the 'Medical Terms (MeSH)' tab. 13. A red circle around the 'Browse' tab. 14. A red circle around the 'Log in / Register' link. 15. A red circle around the 'Trusted evidence. Informed decisions. Better health.' tagline. 16. A red circle around the 'Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews : Issue 12 of 12, December 2017' text. 17. A red circle around the 'Issue updated daily throughout month' text.

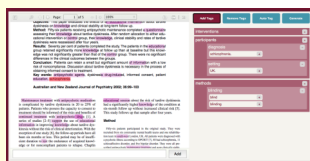
The future

There's nothing wrong with a bit of creative heterogeneity



We have been working with colleagues to help automate the process of finding, selecting, data extracting, writing up and disseminating the findings of reviews. Everything is in the pilot stage and others around the world also have come up with really neat software to help the process. This is now being formalised into the International Collaboration for Automation of Systematic Reviewing ([ICASR](#)).

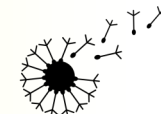
For example, **Jacob, Muna and Selin** each were able to auto-populate the included studies tables with data that hyperlinked back to the source PDF.



For example, **Mercedes** rewrote [RevManHAL](#) that can auto-populate the Abstract, Results and Discussion sections of the text—in English, or German, Spanish or Mandarin.



For example **Lena and Johannes** created, presented and published [SEED](#) a tool to take your Summary of Findings table and auto-create a Wikipedia-compatible table out of it.



Currently **Umit** is working on a system to auto-detect the same study from multiple reports.

THE FUTURE IS MORE AUTOMATION

Social media news

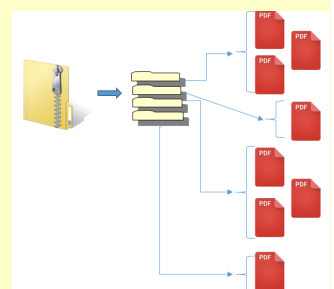
In the last two years we have undertaken two trials evaluating the effects of Twitter/ Weibo (China). The first trial is [published](#) – the second being written up. We have also had a really productive working relationship with Wikipedia and have been seeding pages with a type of Summary of Findings table from your reviews with a reference to your review. Have a look (half way down [the page](#) - an embedded expandable table)



So....please follow us @CochraneSzGroup.

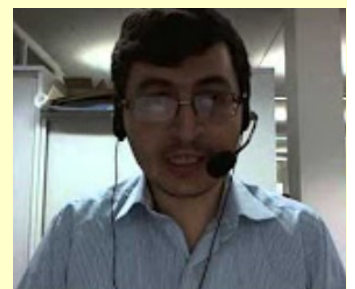
Report from your Information Specialist

We hold a Study-Based Register (23,000 reports in full text, 17,000 studies). This is built through searches of over 70 major databases. You do not have to run a search, we have been there before you. We try to have pieced together the full study record (sausage) from the multiple reports (salami) and supply the already sorted studies - in a zip file containing each study in a folder and each report of each study within that folder - to you to save time.



I also extract information from each report and add it to the study record. This PICO information allows me to run more accurate searches – reviewers get smaller searches of high relevance. We have the full texts of almost all randomised studies. This can also help reviewers.

Currently we know there have been around 5000 interventions tested in trials for people with schizophrenia. We need lots of systematic reviews to be done to provide comprehensive evidence for better healthcare of people with schizophrenia and related disorders.



Fahad

Tips and hints

Data from graphs

Sometimes you can get data from graphs - reading approximate data from greatly magnified photocopies can work - or free little online [programmes](#) can help.

RevMan issues



If you're not sure what to do in RevMan - do have a look at [this site](#) - it strings short YouTube clips together to show you almost everything you can do in RevMan.

SoF Central

We are trying to get ALL Summary of Findings (SoF) tables in the same place so we can help you with them. Sowhen you are doing one



1. Go to [the place](#) you can sign in online
2. Log in using our account
Login = cszg@nottingham.ac.uk - password = c4adams
3. You will see LOTS of SoF tables but make your new one and we can help you with it if you need it.

Wikipedia conference

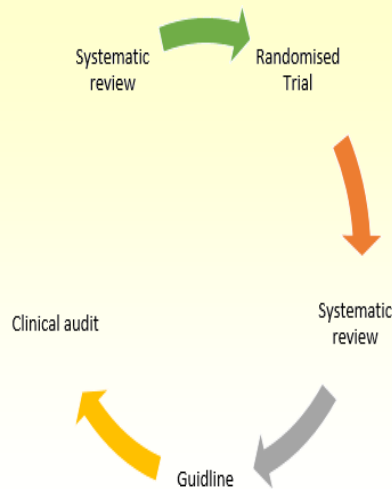


In March CzSG held a medical student conference on how to design a study to evaluate placement of best evidence into Wikipedia. Please see [here](#) for further details.

Study underway.

Clive - signing over

It has been a remarkable experience—one that I could never have predicted when I first met [Iain Chalmers](#) singing along - in French - to [Salif Keita](#) in a gig in Oxford. Like so many, Iain encouraged and supported in a set of life-changing choices. He, along with the team at the Cochrane Centre at the time—Jini Hetherington and Sally Hunt - and [Muir Gray](#) - supported the embryonic Schizophrenia Group - often in less than smooth waters - to grow into something that has changed the perception of evidence, and, hopefully the care, of people throughout the earth. There are now increasing examples of full cycles of evidence - where reviews trigger trials to really get answers, which, when added back into the review are enough to



provide practical evidence for guidance. There is much more to be done. Our Cochrane group can be an increasing part of that cycle well into the future.

Rebecca will be increasingly taking a lead in 2018 - I will not disappear but there are new jobs to be done and it has to be someone else that leads into those roles. In ten years, I hope what much of what we have done will be seen as dated - but I also know that the strong foundation that you have created puts schizophrenia ahead of much of medicine in synthesis of evidence and provides the best means of steering us into the future. Thank you.

Clive



CSzG list

Managing Editor

Claire Irving (UK - Scotland)

Editors

Clive E Adams (UK)
John M Davis (USA)
Marina Dieterich (Italy),
Lorna Duggan (Emeritus - Australia)
Adib Essali (New Zealand)
Mark Fenton (UK)
Vivek Furtado (UK)
Mahesh B Jayaram (Australia)
Chris Jones (UK)

Stefan Leucht (Germany)
Chunbo Li (China)
Javier Ortiz (Mexico)
Edoardo Ostinelli (Italy)
Marianna Purgato (Italy)
Rang Rattehalli (Australia)
Rebecca Syed (Thailand)
Prathap Tharyan (Emeritus - India)
Maritta Välimäki (Finland/Hong Kong)

Information Specialist

Farhad Shokraneh (UK)

Search volunteers

We always need volunteers to run searches in local databases - especially if the search should be in a non-English language.

We may also need you to send us any trial report related to schizophrenia which we have not got and which is not easy to find - I am sure I can think of a prize for the rarest find of 2018!

If you could speak another language, you could help us extract basic information from studies.

Contact Farhad.Shokraneh@nottingham.ac.uk



A peaceful and happy 2018. Stay safe and well and we look forward to working with you in the new year and well beyond.....

From CSzG Editorial base.