



CSzG Flier 2009

Bringing news of the
Cochrane Schizophrenia
Group since 1994

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2009 - where *did* it go?

There have been a few changes this year—one thing is the **abbreviation** of our name (CSG now is **CSzG**). Nottingham University has two CSzGs, no less - the Cochrane Skin Group and us - and as we only arrived recently it seemed reasonable to add the 'z' into our abbreviation - this should be it settled now.

Another thing that has changed is the arrival of **Lindsey** at the editorial base - see on for further details - BUT Lindsey really has helped us work much more efficiently - sorting, ordering, organizing things for us - a really great change.

There have been a few new exciting projects - working with colleagues in **Chicago** to see if there can be some means of efficiently searching the FDA for additional data for reviews, and in **Swansea** to try and disseminate the results of CSzG reviews more widely. Also it has been lovely working with **Gisele Huf** and **Evandro** again in **Rio de Janeiro** developing a real world trial and also an investigation of outcome of people with tardive dyskinesia.

Another project was providing



summary of finding tables for **WHO guidelines** from your reviews. These data were well received and should shortly appear in guidance world-wide.

All the work we do is based on the core quality product of our group - the best reviews that can be done. There are many more reviews still to do so do not think that we will be lost for more titles to do! Other things may be in recession but not CSzG.

Thank you for your support this year.

Clive

Forthcoming events in 2010 January

South Asian Cochrane Network & Centre, Christian Medical College, Vellore, India - 11th-13th

February

Introduction to Evidence-Informed Healthcare - Vellore, India - 8-12th

March

UK & Ireland Contributors Meeting, Cardiff, Wales 2-3rd

May

Nottingham Systematic Review Course 18th -21st

June

Damascus systematic review course - exact dates to be set

July

The CSzG Editors meeting early in the month??

October

Colloquium Cochrane & Campbell Collaborations 18-22nd - Keystone, Colorado, USA

Systematic Review Course, Shanghai, China - exact dates to be set

ME and ME ~~too~~ two!

This year has been a really busy one for me as Managing Editor (ME - formerly Review Group Co-ordinator - RGC) of the Cochrane Schizophrenia Group. The editing and co-ordinating work took up a large amount of time - we are nearly 500 reviewers now with around 180 reviews/protocols. This year I have also been focussing on getting many more peer reviews and consumer-written plain language summaries. CSzG has made great progress in those areas.

Also, you may have been contacted by me this year if your review is more than 2 years out of date - I have been offering assistance with RevMan 5 and additional co-authors if required - to get more updates done. If your review is due for an update - please do get in touch - we can help.

The office has been a hive of activity with lots of visits from authors working on reviews - and editors in May - for a week-long meeting which was both enjoyable and productive. We also expanded and developed the team with the addition of Lindsey Air (see below) and changing role of Claire (see right).

My little team has expanded too. I am writing this from the warmth of my dressing gown at home as I left the office at the end of August for maternity leave! I had my second son, Soren, at the end of September. In my absence Claire is covering but and I will be back at work around Easter.

Seasons Greetings - look forward to working with you all soon.

Beth



Get those updates in!

Hello,

I am Managing Editor (ME) for the group while Beth is on maternity leave. I am based in sunny, sunny Scotland (see homestead photo) but, with the wonders of modern technology, keep in close contact with the team in Nottingham. I have been with the group for ten years, but in the summer Beth began my induction to this post. Beth showed me what was involved - but nothing prepares you for the real thing!

Then there was the Colloquium in Singapore. This really helped me understand more about the wider world of the Collaboration and see how the CSzG fits into all this, with the added bonus of getting to know Sam and Lindsey better. We had a fabulous time and managed to do some important networking [on the dance floor]!

November arrived too quickly and my first Cochrane Library



deadline loomed. I got through it with the help of everyone and, this time round, we have five new reviews, three new protocols and two updates published.

Now I am busy welcoming all our many new authors and setting them up with reviews.

I look forward to using the workflow functions of Cochrane's Information Management System in the near future - all that tracking with one click of the mouse!

So - regards from the lovely Scottish Borders - and look forward to working with you in the New Year.

Claire [Irving]



The Group's Specialized Register (in MeerKat)

During the year we (Sam & Julie - photo left) have been able to study-fy lots of our register using the data in all of our reviews. This process will continue with every new Library publication. Merging the reports together from the same study (what we call study-fying) has really improved the service we can offer. It has, however, also brought to light some bugs in our system. To rectify these we have been working closely with **Lois Sims** (photo above) a software developer who is familiar with MeerKat. In 2010 we are looking at changing the way we supply information for reviews. Our aim is to improve accuracy of search results and ultimately provide reviewers with studies already in Revman in the awaiting classification section. So watch this space..... *Sam*



Julie Monalisa, Assistant Trial Search Co-ordinator at the CSzG Satellite at the South Asian Cochrane Centre worked with Samantha Roberts through the year to update and maintain the specialized trials register. Julie also retrieved trials from clinical trials websites and Ovid databases and imported, coded & put them into MeerKat. The register currently contains over 13,000 coded trial reports. So far this year Julie coded 720 trials & made 1300 entries. Julie, Sam & Lindsey had a blast at the Singapore colloquium, dancing 'till the wee hours of the morning.



The Nottingham Systematic Review Course 2010

Where: University of Nottingham **When:** 18th – 21st May 2010

What: This course will appeal to all interested in completing Cochrane-style reviews. Experienced tutors give practical and individual advice. After attending participants should be able to understand search strategies, extract data, manage the results of systematic searches, understand data syntheses, apply methods and conduct reviews.

Who: All people wishing to undertake reviews of randomised studies.

How: Small group teaching, workshops, library-based interactive tutorials with hands on practical work at computer stations and group work.

How much: £675. All learning materials, lunch and refreshments are included.

Contact: Lindsey Air on Lindsey.Air@nottingham.ac.uk

FREE
OFFER

One fully-funded place is available on the course



for a person from a low/middle income country (includes flight, modest expenses, hotel)

Read the opinions of a former delegate on the Nottingham Systematic Review Course published in August 2009 - [BMJ Careers](#).



Jun is back!



Back to work.

My baby - Tian Tian 恬天 - is now 8 months old. She has just given me permission to get back

to work full-time now. In addition to my usual work, [helping reviewers, producing Journal Club additions to CSzG reviews, helping with Chinese data] I have protected time fostering collaborative links between Nottingham's Institute of Mental Health [in which the CSzG sits] & the Shanghai Mental Health Centre. In 2010 I will become involved with the organisation of the Shanghai Systematic Review Course.

Jun [Xia]

Plain Language Summaries

I have been writing the plain language summaries for nearly two years now, and for the last few weeks I've been working on trying to get them onto the [Rethink](#) (a large mental health charity) website and trying to get this more widely available. To this end **press the first button:** The summaries themselves suffer a bit from the way the website programme is built (I could do without big pink letters) but there is nothing I can do about it. They are attached to a blog I'm writing around them, which also appears on the Rethink Facebook page - go on, try the **second button**. I have also tried to provide plain language information about how a systematic review is written. The Consumers in Cochrane crowd think this is all cool. And Rethink has had one request from the face book page of someone wanting to use the summary on aripiprazole in a local newsletter. *Janey*



PA to the Group!

Hi, I'm Lindsey!

The good-looking one in the photo - or for those of you without taste - the person at the far left. For those of you I have not met yet, I joined the group in March 2009 as assistant to both Clive and CSzG and it already feels like I have been here a lifetime!!! 😊

My background is ...

Before joining the CSzG I decided to do something totally different and went into teaching British Sign language to over 100 parents and children per week to help them communicate before they could talk! Before this I am originally from an admin/finance background. I have settled in fast and in October was able to go to Singapore to find out more about Cochrane. It was a wonderful experience. I gained a lot - and found out all about pod casting - so watch out as I will be calling on you for this in 2010!

Should you have any queries of any kind, please do not hesitate to contact me. *Lindsey*



James Lind Alliance



The Cochrane Schizophrenia Group are involved in an exciting project to identify and prioritise uncertainties about the effects of treatments for people with schizophrenia. Any priorities to arise from a prioritisation will be submitted to UK funders of research as a shared list of priorities between patients, carers and clinicians of research questions.

Following a survey of patients, carers and clinicians and the inclusion of the research recommendations from the end of Cochrane Systematic Reviews and other sources of research recommendations, this project, involving Hafal, Re-think, and representative from clinical groups will be meeting in 2010 to negotiate which of the 300+ submissions will make it to a top 10. The collection of the uncertainties, led **Matteo Cello** and **Keith Lloyd** at Swansea University was assisted by **Mark Fenton** and Clive Adams.

The work is UK based, and the James Lind Alliance (<http://www.lindalliance.org/>) have now become involved, who will facilitate the drawing up of a short-list of treatment uncertainties' at a joint meeting between patients, carers and clinicians sometime in 2010. These uncertainties can be seen at <http://www.library.nhs.uk/DUETs>.

This is just one example Cochrane Systematic Reviews make an impact following completion.

For further details, please contact **Mark Fenton** at mfenton@lindalliance.org.

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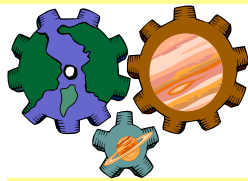
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Another Satellite In China!!!



Development of a Satellite of the CSzG in China.

It's progressing. More news next year.

Update from Mahesh



Mahesh continues to enjoy working in a busy community psychiatry unit and maintains his interest in teaching and research. He conducted a systematic review workshop in **Brisbane, Australia**, this year. He has encouraged more reviewers to join the team and his small research office is now established and in the process of securing some grants. He also continues to work in collaboration with his Trust and the **Zambia UK Workforce Alliance** to develop mental health infrastructure in Zambia.



Competition time!
Who is the devilishly handsome young man on the left *and* where was this taken?*

Next year free Cochrane Handbook to the first person who provides similar picture

Contact:
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Colloquium & UK meeting

Those of you who went to the 17th Annual Cochrane Colloquium in Singapore in October, or have been to previous Colloquia, will be aware of the benefits of attending Cochrane Collaboration events. As well as the valuable and varied programme of workshops, oral presentations and poster sessions, they present a great opportunity for networking with other review authors, editors and editorial base staff and for picking the brains of experienced statisticians and methodologists. The 18th Cochrane Colloquium will be held in Denver USA from 18-22nd October 2010 but for those who are UK based there is an opportunity to meet up even sooner at the 15th Annual Meeting of UK and Ireland-based Contributors to the Cochrane Collaboration which is being held in Cardiff, Wales on March 2-3rd 2010. Visit www.cochrane.org for more details.

Season's greetings



A peaceful and happy end to 2009 and a new year full of good things.

From CSzG Editorial base.

Some of this years visitors

This year the CSzG editorial base has had lots of visitors including the Editors - unfortunately **Prathap** and **Lorna** were unable to attend on this occasion and were greatly missed.



We were sad to wave goodbye to **Marina Dieterich** from Italy in June after she had spent several months with us at the editorial base. We really

look forward to her review!!



Manatsu & Miyuki

may you keep your Daddy with us!

$$se = \sqrt{\frac{n_1 + n_2}{n_1 n_2} + \frac{ES_{sm}}{2(n_1 + n_2)}}$$

Ichiro

Omori our long term visitor from Japan also had a baby girl this year - well, **Yuki** his wife did. Welcome, **Manatsu**, and long

Jijun Wang visited us from Shanghai in the middle of the year. Not only was he able to

undertake a full review [now published] but also set up other research collaborations and see a little of the country.



Evandro



Since I returned to Brazil after the CSzG meeting in June-2009, I started work on a new protocol for a pragmatic clinical trial following the experience of the TREC studies in Brazil and India. The main objective of this trial - TREC-SAVE - is to compare the safety, effects and acceptability of two wide applicable ways of managing aggressive or violent people with serious mental illness: physical restraints and seclusion. This proposal was very well received by the director of one of the main psychiatric public hospitals in Rio de Janeiro. In September Clive came to Rio to help Gisele Huf and I to write a proposal for WHO funding. Now we keep our fingers crossed waiting for the WHO decision.

Evandro

