



# The 2004 CSG flier



## CSG is 10 years old

In only one decade we have constructed one of the most sophisticated registers of trials ever seen (see on), helped undertake and maintain nearly 100 reviews relevant to the care of people with schizophrenia, carried out a swathe of methodological research, and begun to undertake pragmatic randomised trials of clinical relevance. We have only just turned 10....and still have so much to do.

## Staff

**Gill Rizzello** (Co-ordinator) was off for some of this year having **Evie** but has now returned from maternity leave. **Julie Kitcheman** (Prompts trial Co-ordinator) had Daisy and is due back from maternity leave next March. **Tessa Grant** (Assistant Co-ordinator) did a great job holding everything together in Gill's absence and now, along with many other things, continues to build an efficient system of peer review. **Clive Adams** (Co-ordinating Editor), **John Rathbone** (Research Assistant, helping update reviews), **Judy Wright** (Trial Search Co-ordinator) and **Suki Kaur** (Database Programmer) all work in the office full or part time and **Mark Fenton** (Trial Search Co-ordinator), **Drew Davey** (Finder of Hard Copy) and **Claire Joy** (Research Assistant) continue to work from home.



Judy, Clive, Martin, John  
Tessa, Michaela, Ajit, Jutta, Katrin  
Gill Suki

## Visitors

Over the past ten years we have been lucky enough to have many visitors at the Editorial base. For the first part of 2004 we had **Roger Gibson** with us from [Jamaica](#). It was good to hear that his house did not suffer too much damage in the hurricanes of the autumn. **Evandro**, and his family, **Katia** and **Leo**, from Rio, made too brief a visit later in the year. We have had lots of students from the University of Applied Sciences in Ulm, Germany, who help us maintain our register and gain practical work experience in return. This year we have **Martin de Souza**, who has been with us since September 2004 and **Jutta**, **Katrin** and **Michaela** who are staying with us through December. Jutta, Katrin and Michaela are coding and evaluating trials found in a Chinese database.

**Ajit Kumar** from India via the Ukraine has also spent time with us this year. Ajit has been invaluable in searching Ukrainian, Russian and other eastern European medical databases for trials.

## 2004 and funding

One of the difficult jobs of this year has been negotiating funding. The **Department of Health** (England & Wales) decided to level-fund all Cochrane Editorial bases in the UK.

When we pointed out that this gives disincentive to big productive groups they did revise their decision and the CSG editorial base has had only a modest cut for the next three years. This, you can imagine, took time and effort to resolve.

## Reviews and protocols and trials

Currently we have **89** reviews and **24** protocols. We have published **10** new reviews and **8** new protocols this year and **10** substantial updates of older reviews.

We have also been working in close collaboration with reviewers from other review groups and have helped complete no less than **8** reviews relevant to the scope of the **Cochrane Developmental, Psychosocial and Learning Problems Group**.

随机分配

双盲

随机分配

双盲

Our register has increased in size by **918** citations and **569** studies this year (total **8113** citations, **6105** studies). In parallel with the [PraCTiHC](#) project (see below) we have been looking round for other databases that may hold relevant trials. We have found them in [Hungary](#), the [Ukraine](#), [India](#), [Latin America](#), [Korea](#) and, oh, how we have found them in [China](#)! There are hundreds for schizophrenia and we have identified thousands for other groups. These should enter **CENTRAL** of the Cochrane Library next year.

двойного слепого

Рандомиз

плацебо

By April 2004 we managed to convert all reports on our register into electronic (pdf) form - thanks **Sebastian!**

**Clive Adams**

## MeerKat news

The CSG register is in a sophisticated MS Access programme, MeerKat. Over the past year I have been working on two things. Firstly there is Meerkat. We have fixed bugs and have since released the MeerKat v1.3 with enhanced functionality. **Martin de Souza** from Ulm in Germany has been helping me upgrade to MeerKat v1.4 which is nearly ready for release. It will have optional new features allowing swift identification of hard copy sources and link-to-PDF functions. Secondly, we are migrating MeerKat to SQL Server. This is experimental but should ensure improved performance and better multi user and web compatibility - release early 2005.

**Suki Kaur**

## Trials

As you know, for some time CSG has been pushing for more real world randomised trials involving participants recognisable to routine clinical care, every day interventions and outcomes that are of real meaning to everyone concerned. [TREC-Rio-I](#) was the first and closely followed this year by [TREC-Vellore-I](#). Recent [national guidelines](#) said of these trials "unlike most of the other studies [...] both these were large studies of a high methodological quality" (p 138). But there's more. [TREC-Rio-II](#) is finished (see below) [TREC-Vellore-II](#), randomising haloperidol + promethazine against

IM olanzapine is about to start and **TREC-Kingston** is being planned. The Leeds **PROMPTS** study involved randomising first attendees at psychiatric outpatients to receiving/not receiving a gentle prompt letter. The largest study preceding ours included 180 participants, but **Julie Kitcheman** and her voluntary team closed recruitment at **764**. The results of the trial will be out next year. We have three other trials ongoing. All are randomising different means of detoxing people using illicit opiates. **LEEDS-GP** compares dihydrocodeine with buprenorphine and has finished recruiting. **LEEDS-ARMLEY** is doing the same in a local prison and we have just got funding to extend this to other prisons. **Clive Adams**

## TREC 2 – Rio – Just finished!

TREC2-Rio is a pragmatic trial comparing haloperidol IM with haloperidol + promethazine IM for rapid tranquillisation of agitated patients in psychiatric emergency rooms. The study started in January 2004 and was terminated in June 2004 after the steering and data monitoring committees concluded that there was already enough evidence to support the conclusion that the haloperidol and promethazine mix was more efficient and safe than haloperidol alone. TREC2 randomised 316 people, 99% follow up. At the moment Gisele, Evandro and Clive are reviewing the results and preparing them for paper publication. **Evandro Coutinho**

## A plea from Judy - please send us conference proceedings

Abstracts, papers and presentations from conferences - *no matter how old* - are invaluable and can be difficult to track down. We would appreciate any conference proceedings that could contain schizophrenia trials. Please send them to: **Judy Wright**, Trials Search Co-ordinator, at our Leeds address, or email [j.m.wright@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:j.m.wright@leeds.ac.uk) - Thank you. **Judy Wright**

## South Asian Cochrane Network

One of this year's exciting developments has been the formation of the [South Asian Cochrane Network](#) to cater for the training and support needs of people from all over South Asia (Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Maldives). Contributors so far include editors (**Meenu Singh** and **Sreekumaran Nair** from the Acute Respiratory Infections Group, **Sridharan Ramaratnam** from the Epilepsy Group, and me from the Schizophrenia Group) reviewers, peer referees, hand searchers and methodologists. We've already made a great start by running a well attended and received residential workshop on systematic reviews and meta-analysis at the Christian Medical College, Vellore over 3 days from 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> July 2004. An exploratory meeting was held in Goa earlier this month to formalise the structure and functions of the Network. Anyone from the region interested in joining the mailing list, please contact us at: [south-asian-subscribers@cochrane.de](mailto:south-asian-subscribers@cochrane.de). **Prathap Tharyan**

## RCTs conducted in developing countries

The CSG has been collaborating with an EU funded project ([PraCTiHC: Pragmatic Trials in Health Care systems](#)) to identify randomised trials, and possible randomised trials, conducted in low and middle income countries. Although 90% of the global health burden is in developing countries, it is estimated that only 10% of research is conducted in these countries. How much of that research is relevant to the needs of people living in poorer countries is unclear.

Our project aims to determine what proportion of citations listed on CENTRAL relate to studies which were at least partially conducted in a low or middle income country, and to

estimate how complete CENTRAL is as a source of trials conducted in low and middle income countries. We will describe in detail studies conducted over the decade 1991-2000, sampling from the years 1991, 1995 and 2000.

The initial search of 378160 citations in CENTRAL yielded about 32000 potentially eligible for our study. Of these, 605 were published in 1991, 1700 in 1995 and 1895 in 2000. With a range of additional databases also being searched for eligible studies we are now attempting to locate full text copies for over 5000 citations - an enormous task made possible by the fantastic tracking systems at CSG and **Drew Davey** - but we may call upon you to help find a few papers local to you. Thank you. **Lelia Duley**

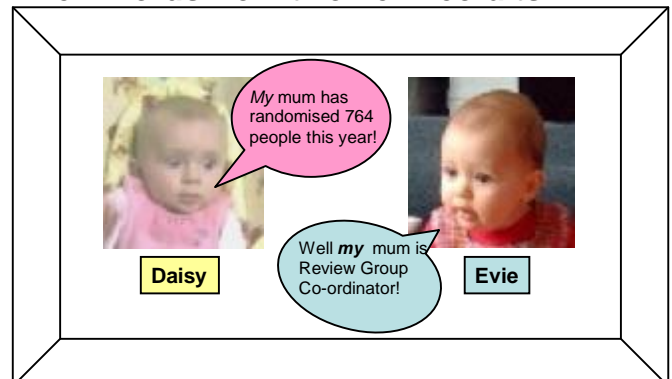
## Leeds Systematic Review Course 2005

Following the success of our two systematic review courses this year we are scheduling one for [10th – 13th May 2005](#). If you know of anyone who would benefit from this comprehensive four day course which gives practical, individual assistance to complete a Cochrane style systematic review please click the hyperlink or contact me. **Tessa Grant**

## 2005/6 CSG Symposium

We want to organise an international meeting in the UK, perhaps entitled 'Treating schizophrenia' with workshops on issues of reviewing and trial design, contributions from industry (but not just the usual propaganda) and presentations of results of systematic reviews and trials. Interested? Please let us know if this appeals. Thank you. **Clive Adams**

## A few words from two new recruits....



## And a bit of news from an old recruit.....

Our former RGC, Reverend Leanne Roberts, has just been appointed Chaplain of Hertford College, Oxford. **congratulations Leanne!**

## And finally.....

We'd like to wish all our colleagues and friends a very happy and peaceful holiday season! Look forward to working with you all in the New Year.

**Gill Rizzello**

