



# The 2003 CSG flier

Seasons greetings from the Cochrane Schizophrenia Group's editorial base in Leeds, UK. We are a big and busy group. In the editorial base we now have **Gill Rizzello** (Co-ordinator), **Tessa Grant** (Assistant Co-ordinator), **Clive Adams** (P/T Co-ordinating Editor), **John Rathbone** (Research Assistant), **Judy Wright** (P/T Trial Search Co-ordinator) and **Suki Kaur** (P/T Database Programmer). In addition, working from home are **Mark Fenton** (P/T Trial Search Co-ordinator), **Drew Davey** (P/T Finder of Hard Copy) and **Claire Joy** (P/T Research Assistant).

## The UK team (no photo of Claire)



Gill, Drew, Jason, Judy, Mark, Suki, Kathy, John, Clive

In the editorial base we also have **Julie Kitcheman** working on Leeds PROMPTS (see below) and a host of reviewers every week. **Kathy Illingworth** (Secretary) and **Jason Heppell** (Research Assistant) have now moved on to other jobs and are greatly missed. The editorial base is a busy place but we can always find room for visitors to come and work on reviews.

## The Editors



Clive Gill Manit Prathap John  
Lorna Simon Stefan Evandro

## A bad year, unclear future

Although we have some incredible achievements in 2003 (see below) it has been a bad year for the Cochrane Schizophrenia Group (CSG).

Overall the editorial base's workload has increased considerably. New reviews and updates – of which there were many (thank you) are now backing up. Some of you have noted delay to publication creeping in. Sorry. We try to keep this to a minimum but have not been successful and now delays do happen. We have new editors but it takes

some time for everyone to be up to speed so a heavy load falls on Gill and myself.

Unimaginative/rigid University/Departmental administration has resulted in a considerable proportion of our funds disappearing in overheads. This is not a consistent approach within the UK, even within the same University.

The core funds of CSG come from the Department of Health UK (DoH). The DoH, whilst supporting more Cochrane groups than any other funder worldwide, has seen fit to ensure that all Cochrane groups now get the same level of funds. Previously, more productive groups were rewarded with necessary additional funds. This short sighted administrative decision results in smaller groups now having a ~25% funding increase (often much needed) and the three more productive groups (Airways, Pregnancy & Childbirth, CSG) having a 25-33% decrease in income! Lost and decreased revenue means less people in the editorial base - combined with increasing workload this threatens the future viability of CSG.

Clive

## ...but there was good news

As I say, our productivity has proved our undoing but it still is great, and we encourage it – if it is our undoing, let's undo more! CSG has had a great influx of new reviewers. Many enthusiastic reviewers in Leeds are helping update and do new reviews but CSG also now has 255 reviewers in 25 countries. We have 80 reviews published and 22 protocols. Our register now contains 7265 full copy papers, 5467 studies, 26% used in reviews. 203 studies were included in reviews in 2003.

The hard copy register is being scanned into PDF files as we speak and hopefully by the end of 2004 CSG will have full copy on a CD/DVD.

Clive

## ....and there was great news

Talking about productive years **Claire Joy** (Research Assistant) had **Georgie** in March, **Judy Wright** (Trial Search Co-ordinator) had **George** in July, **Karla Soares-Weiser** (Reviewer) has just had **Adam** and **Gill Rizzello** (Co-ordinator) is going to have a baby in April 04.

CSG also has had some offspring. The randomised trial, [TREC-Rio](#) (haloperidol+promethazine vs midazolam) was published in the BMJ. This truly pragmatic trial was a CSG Brazil-UK collaborative effort and is the biggest of its kind, randomising 301 people with 99% follow up for clinically relevant outcomes. This is a triumph and a natural progression for the work of CSG. [TREC-India](#) (haloperidol+promethazine vs lorazepam) is hot on its heels with 200 randomised and also 99% follow up (submitted BJPsych). A second [TREC-Rio](#) has been started (haloperidol+promethazine vs haloperidol, n=600) and a movement disorder study is in the late stages of design. See

below for details of the Leeds Prompts study. This evolution of CSG work is proving again that systematic reviews are the natural grounding for trials, and that we collectively have the skills to undertake large collaborative studies. Roll on more!

Clive

## Tracking and juggling

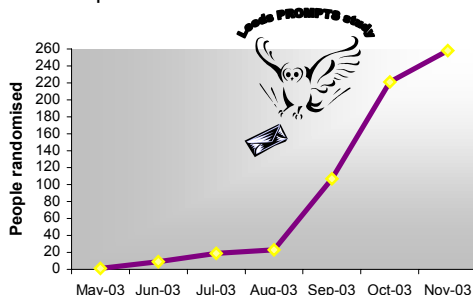
Within the editorial base there is an enormous need for information to be shared and tracked. We needed a system straight away because versions of reviews, updates, searches, permission to publish forms, peer review, editorial input, comments and criticisms all need to be juggled efficiently with minimum effort. Our previous system could not cope. I have been working within the CSG editorial base and have developed an MS Access database linking RevMan, MS Outlook and MeerKat. This links Co-ordinator to TSC, to Comments Editor and all their systems. Our easy-to-use system requires minimal data entry, eliminates duplication, produces reports and reminders and now we can keep track of everything. Contact me for more details

[Suki](#)

## Leeds Prompts Trial

This has now been recruiting for over 6 months with about 80 people being randomised each month. We are aiming to enter 2000 people into the study to really answer the question "does non-intrusive prompting encourage out patient clinic attendance?" This is a simple study running on minimal funds. If you'd like further information please contact me

[Julie](#)



## Introducing Tessa

Hi my name is **Tessa Grant** and I have just joined the CSG team as Assistant Review Group Co-ordinator and will be helping Gill with maintaining the CSG tracking system and updating the peer review process. Before joining this team I was working as a Personal Assistant to the General Manager of the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry, Psychology and Health.

Tessa

## The Leeds Systematic Reviewing Course

We have successfully run another systematic review training course here in Leeds this year. It was well-attended and received and helped fund our editorial meeting. We'll be running the next course 18-21 May 2004, anyone who's interested in practical systematic reviewing is welcome.

- Day 1: Protocol training
- Day 2: Searching and managing references
- Day 3: Extracting data & some stats
- Day 4: Some more stats and RevMan

Participants arrive with an idea for a systematic review of trials, and leave having had fun, and well on the way to completing their review. For details please contact [Gill](#)

## Some more losses

Another loss was a senior job in the Department of Psychiatry here in Leeds that we had hoped would provide someone to give us a hand with our workload - but this did not turn out to be possible. Also, **Simon Gilbody**, CSG Editor moved on due to shift in work emphasis. We were sorry to lose his input but wish him all the very best.

Clive

## The Mental Health Library

In 1996 some of us working within the CSG had the idea of a satellite Cochrane Library for mental health. With LOTS of hard work and collaboration, in 2003 the first issue of [The Mental Health Library](#) was published. This is piloting at present and it seems likely that John Wiley Ltd., the new publisher of the Cochrane Library, will support this product into the future.....but we shall see, all is being negotiated at this point.

Clive

## New project

The CSG is collaborating with **Practihc** ([Pragmatic Randomized Controlled Trials In Healthcare](#)), an EU funded initiative to help identify all randomised trials - not just schizophrenia trials - undertaken in low or middle income countries. This is a daunting task but fits well with the [interests](#) of the CSG and should give a powerful overview of trial activity in these parts of the world. Anyone interested please contact [Lelia Duley](#).

## Visitors

We have had a constant stream of visitors to the editorial Base this year. **Steffi** and **Marion** came from the University of Ulm, Germany, to work with us for three months refining our register, correcting coding and getting a great poster ready for an academic meeting. **Fabio Lawson** came from Pelotas, Brazil, for eight weeks. He worked on helping update a big review and then had the energy to move on to his own. We miss him in the office and so do many of the eligible young woman of Leeds! **Roger Gibson** is from Kingston, Jamaica and is working both on a review and also a protocol for a trial. He is a great addition to office life and it is exciting that he has got the trials bug. TREC-Kingston here we come.



## Up-coming Meetings

Several of us will be at the [12<sup>th</sup> Winter Workshop on Schizophrenia](#) (7-14 February 04).

The [UK Contributors Meeting](#) moves to Scotland with a meeting in Edinburgh (25-6 March 04).

The International Cochrane Colloquium is in Ottawa, Canada (2-6 October 04).

Do keep a look out on the [calendar](#) for events and [workshop](#) listings for training events.

## Ending note

The CSG team wish you all a happy, peaceful season and a productive, contented and fulfilled New Year.