

The CSG December '99 flier

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<http://www.psychiatry.ox.ac.uk/csg/intro.html>

Into the sunshine

Well, I hope that it has not been as dreadful a year for you as it has been for us at the CSG editorial base - just the sheer quantity of work was too much. This resulted from a cascade of deadlines. There were major changes in software that need every review/protocol to be reformatted, and substantial updates of all information relating to the background, scope and topics of the CSG. Introduction of the software did not go entirely smoothly but all deadlines were met and, hopefully, the final product, your reviews, will be more accessible and even more beautiful - see what you think on the new-look Cochrane Library 2000.

If response from the editorial base has been slow, I am sorry, next year should be better. By now you should all have your completed reviews/protocols in RevMan 4.0 format. Those of you working within RevMan 3.1 on work that we have not yet converted to RevMan 4.0 - do not worry. When you send it in we will ask if you want to upgrade to 4.0. The look of RevMan 4.0 is quite different but it contains all the old familiar sections. **At the end of this document is a list of the changes within version 4.0.** If you have any difficulties with this just let us know.

The CSG's productivity has been remarkable. We are now one of the largest and most productive groups in the Collaboration. Just have a look at **the list of reviews/protocols**. All the depots have been reviewed, zotepine and ziprasidone are in Issue 1 of 2000. The review on the effects of seclusion and restraint came out earlier this year as did the one on the value of holding ones own records. There also have been major updates in some reviews - perhaps, most notably of the olanzapine review - unpublished and inaccessible data being provided by the company.

Clive Adams

Changes ...

Paul White (Australia) stepped down in his role as editor in May due to pressure of work. The support Paul gave me (CEA), and the Group at a crucial time in our development helped this group fly and not flounder. When the work eases up, perhaps we will re-cement the CSG connection with Queensland Centre for Schizophrenia Research.

As had been on the cards for some time, Leanne left her role as co-ordinator to start studies for ministry within the Anglican Church. Leanne arrived, stuck with us, and brought us from cottage industry to where we are now. Everyone misses her but the move is going well and happily. Nancy Owens is now CSG co-ordinator/administrator. This is a very happy coup for the CSG (see on).

Other new additions to the editorial base in Oxford are Nicola Howson and Sharon Cure. Nicola's job is to identify and supply trials to reviewers (see on) and Sharon is working on a specific project identifying all trials of the management of violent/aggressive people. Also in the office part time are Drew Davey - Jack-of-all-trades-and-acquirer-of-trials-extraordinaire and Elaine Smith providing secretarial support.

POINTS TO PONDER

31 Reviews, 12 protocols, 10 updates

- The first Cochrane Library issue of 1999 has over 30 reviews from the CSG and this is despite two going off to the new Cochrane Psychosocial Developmental and Learning Problems Group.
- There have been 12 new reviews and 10 updates in 1998.
- All abstracts are free on the Internet (<http://cochrane.co.uk/info/abstracts/abidx.htm#G06@>).

The CSG Register

- The Register now contains about 4000 hard copies of trials relevant to schizophrenia - far more than you will find on any database other than the Cochrane Controlled Trials Register.
- Forget MEDLINE for finding schizophrenia trials - we can get every citation you want with a minimum number of false hits.

Database indexing

- Authors, titles and abstracts are now indexed on CINAHL and are to go on to MEDLINE in mid 1999.

The New Oxford Textbook of Psychiatry

- This major textbook is in the process of being written. Oxford University Press has given advice to authors as follows: "Contributors may wish to use the current disc issue of The Cochrane Library (available at all good medical libraries). A search of [this] will yield many systematic reviews and a large database of references".

CSG dates for 1999

24 February	-	Module deadline	Issue 2, 1999
22-23 March	-	Contributors Meeting, Oxford	
5-7 May	-	STM, Stratford, UK (see on)	
26 May	-	Module deadline	Issue 3, 1999
14 July	-	Module deadline	Issue 4, 1999
6-9 October	-	Cochrane Colloquium, Rome, Italy	
27 October	-	Module deadline	Issue 1, 2000

Comments and criticisms

I work in a large hospital in Northampton, UK, as a forensic psychiatrist with a special interest in Learning Disabilities. Perhaps it was because of my wit and tact that I was asked, over a year ago, to become Comments editor for the CSG. My job is to agree a summary of the comment with the commentor, give this to the reviewer and contact editor, and agree a response. The comment and reply then appear on the Cochrane Library.

The following CSG reviews have received comments: antiliberals, atypicals vs. clozapine, clozapine, CMHT, family interventions, prayer, quetiapine, risperidone and two of the tardive dyskinesia reviews. I have the same 3-monthly deadline as the rest of the editorial team, so please excuse my rudeness as deadline day approaches...

Often reviewers feel hacked off when comments are made (similar to being told that you have an ugly, untalented baby). However, comments should be viewed and dealt with positively, in order to improve the quality and accessibility of reviews.



Besides being Comments editor I am also a reviewer. If you have any queries regarding the above process, please contact me via email (106650.3245@compuserve.com) and I'll be happy to help.

Lorna

Free from the CSG

CSG Guide Review - updated

Powerpoint presentations - on the CSG, on searching, on the quality of schizophrenia trials

Advertisement sanctioned by CSG

Improvements: 1999 - a year of change

- RevMan 4.0, a new version is being tested, for release next year - this will further help the reviewing process but it will need a bit of getting used to. We hope to be able to supply you with RevMan 4.0 on CD along with your review/s imported onto a floppy.
- Studies should be even more accessible to reviewers, and, hopefully, supplied in a more orderly fashion.
- All reviews are currently being proof-read by a professional copy editor. This may well necessitate some changes - first in abstracts, and in the body of text thereafter ... but not too much.

Training

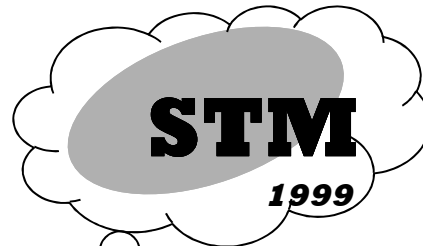
For details of dates and locations of all free protocol and RevMan training workshops please go to <http://www.update-software.com/ccweb/cochrane/workshop.htm> or contact Leanne.

From hassle-desk, HQ

Thanks so much to all of you who have contributed to our work in the past year, and put up with a steady stream of harassment from me about deadlines, workshops and other things essential to the smooth running of the Group. The CSG continues to go from strength to strength, and this would not be possible without your (mainly voluntary) efforts. Our next module deadline is 1st February 1999... if you have work that you wish to submit then, please let me know as far in advance as possible.

Our new-and-improved Guide Review will be winging its way to reviewers shortly. Do take some time to look at this carefully, as it gives a very clear example of the CSG 'style'. Please make special note of the reference section, as correct citations save a lot of time at this end.

I hope this finds you all well and happy. Keep in touch. Leanne



Schizophrenia Trials Meeting 5th- 7th May 1999, Stratford-upon-Avon, UK.

The CSG, in collaboration with NHS R&D and Powis (a charity), address the issue of why the majority of little clinical trials, many of which are too small, to which randomised outcomes are not used in everyday practice.¹ Large, simple trials are needed to begin to address the needs of those with schizophrenia, and their families, and clinicians. If you are interested in a stimulating, pleasant two days focusing on the quality of trials past, the clinical use of trials today, and planning for trials of the future, this meeting is for you.

Places are limited, brochure available from Leanne Roberts (CSG Editorial Base), or through the Internet site (<http://www.psych.ox.ac.uk/csg/intro.html>).

1. <http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/full/317/7167/1181>
As you see 1999 is going to be a busy year for everyone in the CSG. If, at any time, you are able to get to Oxford, please call in - it would be lovely to see you. If you want to come and work on a review or other research relevant to the CSG, you are most welcome. There is always a computer space for you. The Editorial base may even have a little funding to help with travel costs. Clive

ARE YOUR CONTACT DETAILS CORRECT?
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