



THE NORDIC
COCHRANE CENTRE

Annual report

2008



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Introduction

We report here the achievements of The Nordic Cochrane Centre and its branches for 2008 in relation to the Strategic Plan 2006-2008 and include a brief section about the review groups and fields in the Nordic region. General information about The Cochrane Collaboration, The Nordic Cochrane Centre and its branches, the Strategic Plan and past annual reports can be found on the Centre's home page www.cochrane.dk.

The Nordic Cochrane Centre opened on 13 October 1993. It is the reference Centre for Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden in the Nordic region, and for Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Estonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Mongolia, Poland, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. There are national branches of the Centre in Finland and Norway and national contact persons in Iceland, Poland and Sweden. The branches perform similar work as the Centre but have less formal obligations. The Centre is responsible for evaluating the work in its branches. The work of the Centre and branches is evaluated by The Cochrane Collaboration Steering Group. The Centre and branches are guided by an advisory board that meets once a year.

The Nordic Cochrane Centre and branches contribute substantially to The Cochrane Collaboration, for example by developing the Cochrane Information Management System, including Review Manager and the Collaboration's central server that facilitates publication of Cochrane Reviews; by convening The Methodology Review Group; by producing Cochrane Reviews and methodological research; by contributing to the Information Management System Group (which is responsible for overseeing software development in The Cochrane Collaboration) and its advisory groups; by contributing to the Publishing Policy Group (which is responsible for providing advice on the contents of the Collaboration's products and overseeing pricing, distribution and marketing arrangements); and by contributing to the Quality Advisory Group and other advisory and working groups in The Cochrane Collaboration.

Cochrane reviews are indexed in MEDLINE when they are first published and when major updates of existing reviews are published. In 2008, the impact factor of Cochrane reviews was 4.7, and the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews ranked 14 out of 100 journals in the ISI category Medicine, General & Internal.

Summary of selected achievements in 2008

Citizens in Iceland, Norway, Poland and Sweden, almost all physicians in Finland, and some health professionals in Denmark have free access to The Cochrane Library on the Internet. This is undoubtedly one of the major reasons that The Cochrane Library is often consulted in these countries. In Denmark, all citizens also had free access from late 2004 to early 2007. Subsequent restriction of the access to health professionals had disastrous consequences (see below), and the Minister of Health has declared that the government will finance free access for all Danes, starting in 2009.

The Nordic Cochrane Centre

Lack of free access to The Cochrane Library in Denmark

When the Danish contract with the publisher, John Wiley and Sons, Inc., was renewed in early 2007, access in Denmark was restricted to hospitals, universities and other institutions and organisations that contributed to the licence. It was believed that very few non-professionals used The Cochrane Library. This belief proved to be wrong and the decision had disastrous consequences. Following strong arguments put forward to leading health politicians and the Minister of Health, the government has declared that it will finance full access to The Cochrane Library. Indeed, this is the only reasonable way forward, as full access for everyone will not be more costly for Denmark than the seriously restricted access we currently have.

According to data we have received from the publisher, the number times a Dane accessed full text (pdf or html files) from April to October 2007 were:

	April-October	Change
2005	16,676	
2006	23,431	40.5%
2007	12,776	-45.5%

For comparison, the numbers for Norway from January to October were:

	January-October	Change
2005	26,266	
2006	35,287	34.3%
2007	50,117	42.0%

The decision made in early 2007 to prevent the citizens of Denmark from having the same rights as doctors to use knowledge from healthcare research meant that nearly 8,000 attempts to access this knowledge failed. That is equivalent to one person of every hour of 2007 asking a question about health care and being told that they cannot have the answer because they do not belong to the right profession or work in the right hospital. It is even far worse than that because, not surprisingly, many people who get this type of answer to a question, will not ask again.

It is a fundamental asset of democratic countries that information that is important to the citizens is transparent and available. Few things are more important than having access to reliable information about the benefits and harms of interventions for preventing and treating diseases. This is the reason why half the world's population, about 3 billion people, currently have free access to The Cochrane Library.

We hope that our experience will deter other countries from limiting access to The Cochrane Library.

Achievements

We have increased our research collaboration with colleagues internationally, primarily with researchers in Canada, Norway, UK, and USA. We co-author guidelines that are setting standards for good reporting: CONSORT for trials, STROBE for observational studies, PRISMA for systematic reviews (submitted for publication) and SPIRIT for protocols (in development).

Since 1996, The Nordic Cochrane Centre has managed and developed the entire Cochrane Information Management System (IMS) as one of its core contributions to the Collaboration, including the Review Manager software, which is used by authors preparing Cochrane reviews. In 2007, we completed the development of RevMan 5.0, which is a major update of this software. RevMan 5 was piloted in the first two months of 2008 and was rolled out to all 52 editorial bases of Cochrane Review Groups (CRGs) and their authors between March and November 2008. The IMS team at the Nordic Cochrane Centre coordinated the overall transition from RevMan 4 to RevMan 5 to ensure that all Reviews published in issue 1, 2009 of The Cochrane Library are in the new and improved format. The IMS team has also worked on development of a workflow component that will support the editorial work at editorial bases of CRGs. This was piloted with eight CRGs from October 2008 and will continue to be developed and rolled out in 2009.

Our scientific productivity continues to increase (see publication list below) and our research is often published in high-profile journals, e.g. by the end of 2008, we had four papers in press in the BMJ, and the Norwegian Branch published 6 papers in BMJ and one in The Lancet, and had one in press in the BMJ.

Since 1996, The Nordic Cochrane Centre has selected reviews from each new issue of the Cochrane Library for possible comments in general medical journals written by content area specialists. This collaboration involves staff from other Cochrane centres as well. The comments are very popular, e.g. in the Danish Medical Association Journal (Ugeskrift for Læger) there were 17 such comments in 2008.

Norwegian Branch of The Nordic Cochrane Centre

We have prepared and updated several reviews. We have also helped to improve the quality, accessibility and use of Cochrane reviews through providing training and support for risk of bias and summary of findings tables, and ongoing developing and testing of plain language summaries. We contributed to five chapters in the new Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions, published in 2008. We contributed to the establishment of the Editorial Board, which was established in 2008, with the central aim of improving the quality of the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews, the creation of an Editor-in-Chief Office, and the appointment of an Editor-in-Chief of The Cochrane Library.

We continue to coordinate the GRADE (grading quality of evidence and strength of recommendations) Working Group, which works jointly with the Cochrane Applicability and Recommendations Methods Group. The GRADE Working Group met twice in 2008 and has continued to develop the methods used to make judgments about the quality of evidence and the strength of recommendations, as well as summary of findings tables. The GRADE profiler software is now being used to produce Cochrane summary of findings tables that can be imported into Review Manager 5. A growing number of guideline developers are using the GRADE approach

and the Working Group continues to organise workshops for these groups, as well as workshops for Cochrane review authors. A series of 5 articles describing the GRADE approach was published in BMJ in 2008 and a series of detailed guides for applying the GRADE approach will be published in the Journal of Clinical Epidemiology beginning in 2009.

We have continued to work with the WHO in 2008 to improve the use of systematic reviews in WHO recommendations, through the Evidence-Informed Policy Network (EVIPNet), which is supporting the development of units in low and middle-income countries to facilitate the use of research evidence by managers and policy makers, and through the WHO Guidelines Review Committee. Other ongoing contributions include: support for users of The Cochrane Library, which is available to everyone in Norway through a national subscription; hosting the editorial base for the Methodology Review Group and submitting four updates of the Cochrane Database of Methodology Reviews, which includes 12 completed methodology reviews and 12 reviews in progress, and 8 newly registered titles; hosting the editorial base for the Cochrane Effective Practice and Organisation of Care (EPOC) Review Group's Norwegian satellite, which provides support to review authors in low and middle-income countries, and providing editorial support for 15 completed reviews, 3 of which are currently being updated, 7 reviews in progress, and 3 newly registered titles; working with the SUPPORT Collaboration to prepare summaries of reviews for policymakers (www.support-collaboration.org) and overviews of reviews (Lancet 2008; 372:928-39); and preparing mass media reports for selected reviews for each new issue of The Cochrane Library. In 2008, we provided training in Colombia, Germany, India, Italy, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Uganda, the UK and the US, as well as in Norway. We provided stipends to 4 review authors who came to Oslo to work on their reviews and hosted a workshop on how to prepare structured summaries of reviews with participants from Africa and South America.

Finnish Branch of The Nordic Cochrane Centre

In 2008, we participated in the update of four Cochrane reviews and funded two reviews. We trained critical appraisal and systematic review skills for physicians, dentists, nurses, statisticians and clinical researchers on 21 occasions in Finland and internationally. There are 75 members on our mailing list involved with Cochrane activities. Overviews of 25 Cochrane reviews were published in five Finnish journals. We continued hand searching Finnish medical journals. The methods used in the Cochrane Back Review Group have been incorporated in systematic reviews of other fields than back pain, e.g. in several systematic reviews published within the Managed Uptake of Medical Methods program.

The Finnish Branch participated in the development of a joint assessment and reporting model for the European health technology assessment (HTA) community. As a lead partner for Work Package 4 of the EUnetHTA project, FinOHTA developed the HTA Core Model and its two applications: one for medical and surgical interventions and the other for diagnostic technologies.

We contributed to the work of the Cochrane Back Group's editorial board, Cochrane Occupational Health Field, the Board of Guidelines International Network, the Board of Health Technology Assessment International, and EUnetHTA. We participated in the meetings of the Cochrane Nursing Network. Being hosted by the Finnish Office for Health Technology Assessment (FinOHTA), the co-operation between Finnish HTA activities and Cochrane work is secured.

Iceland

The Icelandic government makes The Cochrane Library freely available for all Icelandic citizens and there are no plans to discontinue this. Teaching the use of The Cochrane Library to medical students, residents and physicians continued in 2008. Promotion of summaries of reviews continues, both to health care workers and policy makers. Available Cochrane reviews are used in all Icelandic clinical guidelines work. Iceland does not have a national HTA institution, and the use of the Cochrane resources is therefore mostly promoted via the EUnetHTA project. In this project, Sigurður Helgason is a collaborating partner and is involved in Work Packages 4, 5 and 8, currently working on developing the Core HTA for Diagnostics (MSCT coronary angiography in coronary artery disease) (WP4) and finishing a draft of the Handbook on HTA capacity building (WP8).

The Icelandic Medical Journal (www.laeknabladid.is) is receiving selected Cochrane reviews for possible comments, but is still unable to provide any comments or create a forum for debate or discussion. Selected Cochrane reviews are sent regularly to key decision makers in the health care system.

There is no funding for Cochrane activities in Iceland but the value of The Cochrane Library in decision making is firmly established with politicians and decision makers and the use of Cochrane reviews increases steadily.

Sweden

Since 2005, The Cochrane Library has been freely available for all Swedish citizens through the Swedish Council on Technology Assessment in Health Care (SBU) thanks to financial support from the Swedish government.

In 2008, SBU initiated a new programme aimed to highlight and increase the implementation of important results from Cochrane reviews and systematic reviews from Health Technology Assessment organisations in other countries. The findings are summarized in Swedish and local experts comment on the reports and the results and relate the findings to the Swedish context and health care system.

Poland

Citizens in Poland still have free access to the internet version of The Cochrane Library. We trained critical appraisal and systematic review skills for medical students. Structured summaries of relevant Cochrane reviews are published each month in the largest Polish medical journal, *Medycyna Praktyczna*. One Cochrane review was published in Issue 1, 2008, another Cochrane review was finished and submitted to the review group.

Results in relation to goals for 2006-2008

Goal 1. To ensure high quality, Cochrane Reviews are available across a broad range of health care topics

The methods used in preparing and maintaining systematic reviews are under constant development to ensure high quality. Improving quality of reviews, and of research studies in general, are major concerns for The Cochrane Collaboration and for The Nordic Cochrane Centre. The Centre is globally responsible for developing and maintaining the Cochrane Information Management System (IMS) on behalf of The Cochrane Collaboration. The system is partly internet-based and consists of software and processes that supports the preparation and publication of Cochrane reviews. More information about software development by The Nordic Cochrane Centre can be found at www.cc-ims.net.

Target 1.1: Continue to improve the Review Manager (RevMan) software by working closely with the RevMan Advisory Group and the Information Management Advisory Group (IMSG). *Following a successful pilot of RevMan 5 in the first two months of 2008, the software was released throughout the Collaboration between March and November 2008. RevMan 5 supports the development of four Cochrane review types: intervention reviews, methodology reviews, diagnostic test accuracy reviews and overviews of reviews.*

Target 1.2: Conduct methodological research, contribute to improving the quality of Cochrane reviews, recruit medical students for research at the centre, and collaborate with researchers nationally and internationally. *Done, have exceeded our expectations, see publications.*

Target 1.3: Prepare and update Cochrane reviews performed by staff members, provide training for authors of Cochrane reviews, and provide support to Cochrane Review Groups and other entities based in the Nordic region, contribute to recruitment of new authors, enhance updating of reviews, and increase Nordic participation in The Cochrane Collaboration. *Done, many Cochrane reviews were updated in 2008 (but only listed under publications when it was major updates that received a new entry in PubMed).*

Target 1.4: Contribute to the establishment of international trial registries and to ensuring that all results of all trials, and trial protocols, become publicly accessible. *Done.*

Target 1.5: Co-ordinate the editorial process for protocols and reviews in the Cochrane Methodology Review Group and update the Cochrane Methodology Register (register of articles on research methodology). *Done.*

Target 1.6: Contribute to relevant working groups, workshops and courses on research methodology, editing, evidence-based medicine, and initiatives for improving the relevance and quality of research (CONSORT for trials, GRADE for grading the evidence, SPIRIT for protocols, STARD for diagnostic tests, STROBE for observational studies, PRISMA for systematic reviews). *Done, resulted in several publications.*

Target 1.7: Handsearch general medical journals in the Nordic area for randomised trials, provide English titles and keywords for trials that are not indexed on PubMed, and provide help with

translations of research reports written in Nordic languages. *Done; handsearches now have low priority as indexing of Nordic journals is much improved.*

Target 1.8: Develop the software needed for producing Cochrane reviews of diagnostic tests. *Done.*

Goal 2. To promote access to Cochrane reviews and the other products of The Cochrane Collaboration

Target 2.1: Ensure continued funding for making The Cochrane Library freely available for all Nordic citizens. *Ongoing.*

Target 2.2: Provide support to patients and liaise with patient organisations, contribute to making the interface for The Cochrane Library more user-friendly, with better indexing and browsing systems, and improve the homepage that helps Nordic citizens use The Cochrane Library. *Done.*

Target 2.3: Improve the process of selecting interesting new Cochrane reviews for comments in journals of the Nordic national medical associations (the dissemination project). *Done, more volunteers recruited. In the Danish Medical Association Journal (Ugeskrift for Læger) there were 17 such comments in 2008.*

Target 2.4: Collaborate with the media to promote awareness and use of Cochrane reviews. *Done; the media contact us every week about the evidence-base for their stories.*

Target 2.5: Contribute to improving the readability and relevance of Cochrane reviews, and introducing summary of findings tables. *Done.*

Goal 3. To ensure an efficient, transparent organisational structure and management system for The Cochrane Collaboration

Target 3.1: Contribute to effective communication ensuring that key responsibilities and roles are described for all contributors to the Collaboration and are easily searchable. *Done. The Nordic Cochrane Centre has developed, maintains and operates the Collaboration's central server, Archie, for managing documents and contacts details. This includes support for assigning roles to contributors.*

Target 3.2: Contribute to ensuring that Nordic Cochrane entities adhere to the practices and policies of The Cochrane Collaboration, and that any conflicts of interest are declared for all contributors. *Done.*

Target 3.3: Contribute to resolving conflicts between individuals and entities. *Done; we have provided assistance to authors.*

Target 3.4: Maintain user-friendly web sites for pivotal projects. *Done.*

Target 3.5: Contribute to ensuring that all decision-making processes and relationships within The Cochrane Collaboration are transparent and explicit. *Done. In 2008, we raised important issues*

related to decision-making in the Steering Group and have gained support for our proposals, both in the centre directors' group and in the Steering Group.

Target 3.6: By working closely with the IMMSG and its advisory groups, continuing to improve the Information Management System, including the internet-based server, Archie, which consists of a central review database, workflow management tools, systems for preparing modules of information from Cochrane entities and tools for providing Cochrane material to the publisher for publication. *Ongoing, important progress made in 2008.*

Goal 4. To achieve sustainability of The Cochrane Collaboration

Target 4.1: Contribute to ensuring support for the Nordic Cochrane entities. *Done.*

Target 4.2: Contribute to ensuring that the preparation and maintenance of Cochrane reviews receive full academic recognition. *Done, Cochrane reviews receive full academic recognition.*

Target 4.3: Contribute to the development of the Collaboration and its software by sales of licences to software to third-parties for commercial use. *Done, a few licences sold.*

Review Groups in the Nordic region

Cochrane Hepato-Biliary Group

Christian Gluud, Denmark, is Co-ordinating Editor. The group was registered on 29 March 1996. Issue 1 of The Cochrane Library 2009 contains 101 reviews and 96 protocols, which is a 20% increase of the reviews and 18% increase of the protocols, compared with 2008. In addition, 9 previously published reviews were published as updates. In 2008, two of the editors accepted to become editors of diagnostic test of accuracy reviews. The address database consists of more than 1400 people with an interest in the group's activities and one third of them contribute to the production of reviews.

Out of 37 registered specialist journals and conference proceedings, 36 have been actively searched for the period of registration. The group's specialised register contains 19,401 references, 11,185 of which report on randomised or controlled clinical trials. Abstracts of publications of possible interest are being evaluated regularly. For further information, see The Cochrane Library, or <http://ctu.rh.dk/chbg>, or contact:

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Cochrane Colorectal Cancer Group

Peer Wille-Jørgensen, Denmark, is Co-ordinating Editor and Rick Nelson, UK, is deputy Co-ordinating Editor. The group was registered on 27 January 1998 and now has 54 reviews and 55 protocols published in The Cochrane Library, 2009 issue 1. A specialised register of topic-related literature is established and contains more than 10,000 studies. The group has a full-time Trials Search Coordinator to support the authors. For further information, CCCG has developed a new webpage (see below) with information on ongoing activities and available titles. For further information, see The Cochrane Library, or www.cccg.dk, or contact:

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Cochrane Anaesthesia Group

Ann Møller, Denmark, is Co-ordinating Editor. The Anaesthesia Group (CARG) was registered in February 2000. The Group will have 48 systematic reviews and 67 protocols for systematic reviews published in Issue 1 of The Cochrane Library, 2009. The Group's specialised register of topic-related literature contains more than 26,000 references to trials. CARG has a part-time Trials Search Coordinator to support the authors and help coordinate the handsearch activities. In 2008, two PhD research students started working for CARG. For further information, see The Cochrane Library, <http://www.carg.cochrane.org> or contact:

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Norwegian Satellite of the Cochrane Effective Practice and Organisation of Care (EPOC) Group

A satellite of the EPOC Review Group was launched in Oslo in November 2006. The aim of the satellite is to support review authors in low- and middle-income countries (LMIC) and reviews relevant to LMIC, as well as supporting EPOC review authors in the Nordic area. The editorial base in Norway is staffed by Andy Oxman (Editor), Marit Johannsen (Trial Search Coordinator), Elizabeth Paulsen (Review Group Coordinator), Jan Ødgaard-Jensen (Statistician), Espen Movik (Health Economist), Simon Lewin (researcher), and Susan Munabi-Babigumira (researcher). The satellite collaborates with a number of international organisations, including the Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research (AHPSR), the Evidence-Informed Policy Network (EVIPNet), and the World Health Organisation. In 2008, the Satellite offered training in Colombia, India, Norway, South Africa, Switzerland, Uganda, and the U.S. (PAHO). It provided editorial support for 12 reviews that are in progress, 3 reviews that are being updated, and 3 newly registered titles. In 2008, with support from The Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad), the Satellite provided stipends to review authors from South Africa, Tanzania and India. During 2008, the Satellite has also worked together with the SUPPORT Collaboration to produce summaries of systematic reviews relevant to health systems questions in LMIC. Twenty of these summaries were recently published as part of an overview in *The Lancet* summarising the evidence from systematic reviews of health systems arrangements and implementation strategies, with a particular focus on evidence relevant to primary health care in low-resource settings. For further information, see The Cochrane Library or contact:

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Cochrane Methodology Review Group

Andy Oxman (Norway) and Mike Clarke (UK) are Co-ordinating Editors. The group prepares Cochrane methodology reviews (systematic reviews of empirical studies of methods used in systematic reviews and evaluations of health care). Preparations to establish the group started in 1996 and the group was formally registered as a review group in 2001. Twelve methodology reviews and 13 protocols appeared in the 4th issue of *The Cochrane Library* 2008 and the Cochrane Methodology Register contained 10,973 records. For further information, see *The Cochrane Library* or contact:

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Nordic editors in Cochrane Review Groups

There are 20 Nordic editors:

- Als-Nielsen, Bodil; Denmark (Hepato-Biliary Group – Editor)
- Axelsson, Inge; Sweden (Acute Respiratory Infections Group – Editor)
- Bell, Rae F; Norway (Pain, Palliative and Supportive Care Group – Editor)
- Berge, Eivind; Norway (Stroke Group - Editor)
- Christensen, Robin; Denmark (Musculoskeletal Group - Statistics Editor)
- Fredrikson, Sten; Sweden (Multiple Sclerosis Group - Editor)
- Glenton, Claire; Norway (Consumers and Communication Group - Editor)
- Gluud, Christian; Denmark (Hepato-Biliary Group – Co-ordinating Editor)
- Gluud, Lise Lotte; Denmark (Hepato-Biliary Group – Editor)
- Gøtzsche, Peter C; Denmark (Methodology Review Group - Editor)
- Lewin, Simon; Norway (Consumers and Communication Group – Editor)
- Malmivaara, Antti; Finland (Back Group - Editor)
- Møller, Ann.; Denmark (Anaesthesia Group – Co-ordinating Editor)
- Odgaard-Jensen, Jan; Denmark (Methodology Review Group – Statistician)
- Oxman, Andy; Norway (Methodology Review Group - Co-ordinating Editor; Effective Practice and Organisation of Care Group - Editor)
- Pedersen, Tom; Denmark (Anaesthesia Group - Editorial Advisor)
- Rask Madsen, Jørgen; Denmark (Inflammatory Bowel Disease Group - Editor)
- Specht, Lena; Denmark (Haematological Malignancies Group - Editor)
- Wahlbeck, Kristian; Finland (Depression, Anxiety and Neurosis Group - Editor)
- Wille-Jørgensen, Peer; Denmark (Colorectal Cancer Group – Co-ordinating Editor)

Fields in the Nordic region

The Occupational Health Field

The Occupational Health Field was registered in May 2004. Members of the field have produced eight Cochrane reviews, ten protocols and registered five new titles as of 2008. The reviews cover a wide range of interventions varying from hearing protection to return to work in depressed patients. Four reviews were funded by the Australian Safety and Compensation Council. With this funding we hired a first author who was an expert in the area and a researcher to support him. We also asked a group of international experts to join the project team, and all of them accepted. We feel that this is an interesting and novel approach to producing reviews. Authors were supported by the field by means of two-day workshops to stimulate the finishing of protocols and reviews. Our database with occupational health intervention studies now contains over 1000 studies. As part of the reorganization of the Finnish Institute of Occupational Health, the field is now incorporated in the Knowledge Transfer Team. For further information, see www.cohf.fi.

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Nordic Cochrane Reviews

Nordic researchers participate in many Review Groups, Methods Groups and Fields (see The Cochrane Library). In the 4th issue of 2008 of The Cochrane Library, 113 reviews and 42 protocols were listed with a Nordic contact address:

Country	Reviews	Protocols
DENMARK	62	23
FINLAND	21	4
NORWAY	22	8
POLAND	1	3
RUSSIA	3	2
SWEDEN	4	2
Total	113	42

Advisory Board for the Nordic Cochrane Centre

The Advisory Board for the Nordic Cochrane Centre provides advice and support about the strategic direction for activities within the Centre. In 2008, the members were:

Dr Risto Roine, Helsinki University Central Hospital (chairman)
 Ms Sine Jensen, Danish Consumers' Council (consumer representative)
 Mr Henrik Grosen Nielsen, Danish Ministry of Health
 Dr Sigurður Helgason, Landlaeknisembaettið, Iceland
 Dr Atle Fretheim, Nasjonalt kunnskapssenter for helsetjenesten, Norway
 Dr Juliette Säwe, Swedish Council for Technology Assessment in Health Care

Acknowledgements

The Cochrane Collaboration is registered as a charity and it is the responsibility of all contributors to secure their own funding. The staff at The Nordic Cochrane Centre and branches are grateful for the financial support received from our funders and the voluntary help received from many people and institutions since the Centre was founded in 1993 (see annual reports and previous strategic plans). Currently, our funders are:

- Central Library for Medical Sciences, Finland
- Cochrane Collaboration, UK
- Danish Government
- Finnish Medical Journal
- Forskningsrådet for Sundhed og Sygdom
- Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad)
- Norwegian Knowledge Centre for the Health Services
- Nordic Council of Ministers
- Rigshospitalet, Denmark
- Stakes (National R & D Centre for Welfare and Health) /FinOHTA, Finland
- Sygekassernes Helsefond

We also wish to thank the members of the Advisory Board of the Centre and Medical Director Jannik Hilsted, Rigshospitalet, Copenhagen.

Staff at the centre and its branches

Nordic Cochrane Centre

Ahtirschi O, Test and Documentation Officer
Askham FA, Administrator
Cordoba Currea GC, Researcher
Dawood I, System Developer
Gøtzsche PC, Director
Hedegaard J, Centre Secretary
Hróbjartsson A, Senior Researcher
Jørgensen, AW, PhD Student
Jørgensen KJ, PhD Student
Kjeldstrøm M, Director of the Cochrane Information Management System
Lund A, PhD Student
Moustgaard R, System Developer
Nielsen M, PhD Student
Pandal M, Secretary
Rosati P, System Administrator
Riis J, Support Communication and Support Officer
Tendal B, PhD Student

Norwegian Branch of The Nordic Cochrane Centre

Glenton C, Director (on leave)
Johansen M, Research Librarian
Lewin S, Researcher
Movik E, Health economist
Munabi-Babigumira S, Researcher
Nilsen ES, Researcher
Odgaard-Jensen J, Statistician
Oxman AD, Acting Director

Paulsen E, Co-ordinator
Strømme Nilsen E, Researcher
Urdahl, A, Administrator
Vist GE, Researcher

Finnish Branch of The Nordic Cochrane Centre

Ahovuo-Saloranta A, Researcher
Grahm R, Librarian
Malmivaara A, Senior Researcher
Mäkelä M, Director
Ilonen T, Secretary
Pasternack I, Administrator

Publications in 2008

Publications by staff at The Nordic Cochrane Centre

New or updated Cochrane reviews and protocols

Gotzsche PC, Hrobjartsson A. Somatostatin analogues for acute bleeding oesophageal varices. Cochrane Database Syst Rev 2008; (3):CD000193.

Gotzsche PC, Johansen HK. House dust mite control measures for asthma. Cochrane Database Syst Rev 2008; (2):CD001187.

Johansen HK, Gotzsche PC. Vaccines for preventing infection with *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* in cystic fibrosis. Cochrane Database Syst Rev 2008; (4):CD001399.

Journal articles, books

Brodersen J, Hartling O, Nielsen M, Gøtzsche P. Det informerede samtykke ved screening for brystkræft. Månedsskr Prakt Lægegerm 2008;86 (maj):551-7.

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Awards received

Rasmus Moustgaard: Chris Silagy Price, XVIth Cochrane Colloquium, for an extraordinary contribution to the work of the Cochrane Collaboration.

Britta Tendal: Thomas C. Chalmer's Price as the principal author of the best poster presentation at the XVIth Cochrane Colloquium.

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