

The Australasian Cochrane Centre (ACC) coordinates activities of the Cochrane Collaboration in Australia and the region by providing training and support to authors of Cochrane systematic reviews, working with policy makers, advocating on behalf of the Collaboration regionally and promoting the use and uptake of The Cochrane Library.

The region supported by the ACC encompasses East Asia, South East Asia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands. The Centre works closely with many Cochrane people in the region and has established branches in Korea, New Zealand, Singapore and Thailand, and supports networks in Malaysia, the Philippines and East Asia.

Training and Support of Review Authors

The Cochrane Collaboration continues to grow worldwide, and Australasian review authors are widely recognised as active and productive contributors to The Cochrane Library. Over 2,700 authors contribute to the Cochrane Collaboration from countries supported by the ACC, of whom 2000 are based in Australia.

In 2010, ACC conducted seven 'Introduction to writing a Cochrane review' courses around Australia and overseas, plus several review completion workshops. ACC's training team also has a leading role in the development and quality improvement of training internationally through the Cochrane Collaboration's Cochrane Training initiative.

Current Research

ACC has a program of research exploring effective ways to inform health care decisions through the uptake of evidence. It has projects investigating the synthesis, interpretation, dissemination and implementation of research evidence for clinical practice and policy.

SEA-URCHIN

SEA-URCHIN (South East Asia – Using Research for Change in Hospital acquired Infection in Neonates) is an NHMRC-funded collaborative project (2011-2015) between Thailand, Malaysia, the Philippines, Indonesia and Australia. The project aims to address whether neonatal infection rates can be improved by increasing the capacity for research synthesis and improving the implementation of effective interventions into practice.

From left: Visiting Fellow Charoonsak Somboonporn (Thailand), Co-Director Steve McDonald, Endeavour Fellow Kun Hyung Kim (Korea) and Systematic Review Trainer Miranda Cumpston.



PLI

The PLI (Policy Liaison Initiative) is an ongoing collaboration between the ACC and the Federal Department of Health and Ageing that aims to encourage and support evidence-based approaches to policy making. The initiative aims to address barriers to using research evidence, particularly Cochrane reviews, through the provision of policy-appropriate summaries of Cochrane reviews and a program of training and support in research use for Department officers.

CIPHER

In partnership with the SAX Institute in Sydney, CIPHER (Centre for Informing Policy in Health with Evidence from Research) is an NHMRC-funded project investigating ways to increase and measure research use in policy decisions.

ALIGN

Chiropractors and physiotherapists provide much of the care for acute low back pain in Australia. The development and publication of the NHMRC clinical practice guidelines for acute low back pain has provided recommendations with the potential to improve the quality of care and safety for people with acute low back pain. ALIGN (Acute Low-back pain Implementing Guidelines iNto practice) investigates the effectiveness of a targeted, theory-based implementation strategy developed to implement clinical practice guidelines in practice.

IRIS

IRIS (Investigating Research Implementation Strategies) investigates the care of people with dementia in general practice, and the effectiveness of a targeted, theory-based implementation strategy to implement evidence-based recommendations into clinical practice. IRIS explores ways of changing practice in line with recommendations and measuring the benefits to health outcomes of people with dementia.

NET

Scientific research continually produces new findings that improve health care. However, research cannot improve health outcomes unless health professionals and health services incorporate the findings into their practice and policies. Successfully changing practice and policy in line with new research relies on strategies that overcome specific barriers. NET (Neurotrauma Evidence Translation), funded by the Victorian Neurotrauma Initiative, develops and tests strategies to increase the uptake of research into policy and practice, facilitating improved outcomes for people after traumatic brain injury.

2010 Highlight

Simon French won the School prize for outstanding PhD thesis – Developing and testing complex interventions for improving the use of evidence in clinical practice: a case study of the management of acute low-back pain in general practice.

Postgraduate Students

3 PhD Students

Publications

16 Journal Articles

1 Book Chapter