

People – All change at Airways Group HQ!



There have been some changes afoot in the Airways office here at St George's University London, UK. **Toby Lasserson** has left us after ten years of sterling work as managing editor and I'm sure you will all join me in wishing him luck in his new position at the Cochrane Editorial Unit. He joins David Tovey and the team in London Bridge to support the Cochrane Review Groups in improving the quality of [The Cochrane Library](#). Further details available at www.editorial-unit.cochrane.org/



London Bridge - not as inspiring as Tower Bridge!

New managing editor

I am delighted that I have been given the opportunity of working with you all to produce high quality, relevant and timely systematic reviews of airways interventions. My background is in chemistry and drug design, and I have a passion for helping the public make sense of science and evidence which I hope to put to use within the collaboration. I have met some of you already via email and hope to meet others in due course. I am your point of contact for issues to do with the editorial process or if you need any help or training to write your protocol, review or

update, so please get in touch with **Emma Welsh** at ewelsh@sgul.ac.uk

A note from **Susan Hansen**: Hello and goodbye.

From a cosy office at St George's, I have enjoyed contact with you all from different parts of the world and all working towards the same goal. I was introduced to Cochrane when working as a Medical Librarian in New Zealand so I was thrilled to see an opportunity to work for the Collaboration when we came to the UK in 2006. This was as maternity cover as Trials Search Coordinator - although I hasten to add that Liz has not been on maternity leave for four years! I just couldn't tear myself away. Of course it hasn't been all desk-sitting as there have been wonderful opportunities to combine work and travel.

I have completed two stints as TSC & worked on a studies based register and I continue to be impressed with the knowledge, enthusiasm & dedication of all those involved. There is considerable effort invested in the ever-expanding Airways Specialised Register and it is worthwhile knowing that the database searches are appreciated.

As I prepare to move back home, I'd like to thank all of you for your support and collaboration. Being involved with Cochrane has been an enriching experience for me, both personally and professionally.

All the best to you all, Susan.



Susan at our hotel in Singapore for the 2009 Colloquium

Cochrane Airways Group Newsletter

July 2010



We also welcome a new research assistant to the editorial base. **Charlotta Karner** joins us for three months to work on a suite of reviews comparing tiotropium with other treatments for COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease). Charlotta has a PhD in physiology during which time she investigated Transient Receptor Potential channels in contraction of healthy and asthmatic human airway smooth muscle cells.

Liz Arnold, our trials search co-ordinator is back from maternity leave and is your point of contact for information on searching our register and elsewhere and sourcing references. earnold@sgul.ac.uk

Chris Cates is also still with us, providing guidance and statistical expertise as coordinating editor.

Impact factor for our reviews

The Airways Group published 38 reviews in 2007 or 2008 that were cited 191 times in 2009. This gives the Airways Group reviews an impact factor of 5.026. Congratulations to Yang et al who wrote the most cited review (ICS for stable COPD) and Lacasse et al who wrote the most accessed review (pulmonary rehabilitation for COPD).

Clinical answers for patients –help needed!

The CAG will be working together with the Child Health Field to produce a series of “clinical answers” documents in the area of respiratory child health. These will be short documents based on the PICO framework aimed at clinicians and the public. We will be canvassing paediatricians for clinical questions that have arisen in this area. If you would like to be involved with this exciting project please contact Emma.

Consumers*

We would love to increase consumer involvement in our reviews. If you know of any consumer groups or people that would be willing and able to read and comment on protocols and reviews or get involved on other projects as they arise please contact Emma.

*consumers is how Cochrane refers to people that could otherwise be called; the public, users, lay people, patients, carers, people who use services etc.

Cochrane Journal Club

Each month the editorial unit produce a journal club which is free to download for use in your own journal clubs. Why not try Chris’ journal club on [serious adverse events](#) in treatment of asthma with formoterol and inhaled corticosteroids?

Cochrane Colloquium



Liz and Emma are attending the annual [Cochrane Colloquium](#) 2010 in Keystone, Colorado in October. We will be at “meet the entities” so do come along to say Hi if you can!

Lancet recommends systematic reviews of health care alongside published trials

[The Lancet](#) recommends that all clinical trials published amongst its pages should place their results within the context of a systematic review of the literature. Trialists should conduct and report, or cite, systematic reviews so that people making healthcare decisions are better informed and able to base decisions on the best available evidence. The Lancet said it is not necessary to conduct a full meta-analysis, but authors should be able to show if their trial really is the first one in a given area.

NICE guidelines

NICE published an update of the 2004 [guidelines](#) for the diagnosis, treatment and care of adults with COPD in June 2010. In addition to recommendation for treatments, this update brought the classification of the severity of airway obstruction in the UK into line with the rest of the world and emphasises basing treatment decisions on symptoms rather than spirometry.

Invitation to contribute

If you would like to contribute a news item either for the newsletter or to our website, please email ewelsh@sgul.ac.uk.