

Equity Update

Cochrane Health Equity Field and Campbell Equity Methods Group

March 3, 2009

Volume 3, Issue 1

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Letter from our team

Dear Equity Colleagues,

Thank you for reading our fourth newsletter! This issue includes an update from the 2008 Cochrane Colloquium, an introduction to a future MA/PhD program in health policy

and equity, and a welcome to the new Croatian Branch of the Italian Cochrane Centre, which has a focus on conflict medicine. Thank you to our contributors!

We're looking for-

ward to the Canadian Cochrane Symposium next week; see page 2 for an outline of our presentations. We hope to see you there!

Best regards,

The Equity Team

Equity-Oriented Toolkit Update: Open Consultation

As part of the activities undertaken by the WHO Collaborating Center for Knowledge Translation and Health Technology Assessment in Health Equity, we are updating the Equity-Oriented Toolkit for Health Technology Assessment,

The Equity-Oriented HTA Toolkit is based on a needs-based model for health technology assessment. It provides tools that explicitly consider health equity at each step of health technology assessment.

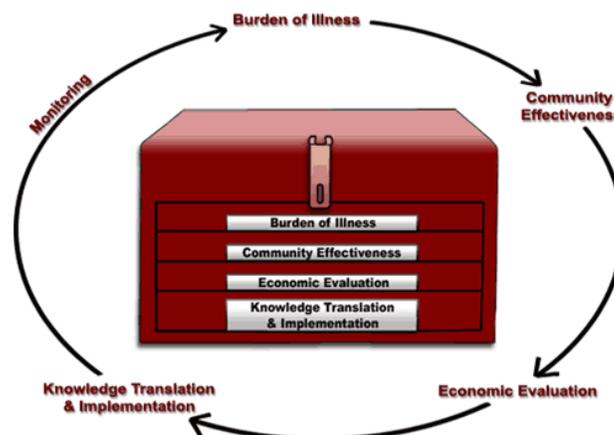
We are seeking your expertise to suggest validated and widely disseminated HTA tools that explicitly consider health inequalities or health equity implications and are rele-

vant to one or more of the following areas covered in the toolkit: 1) Burden of illness; 2) Community effectiveness; 3) Economic evaluation; and 4) Knowledge translation and implementation. As we are aiming for a prompt update, we would greatly appreciate a

response by **April 6th, 2009**. Many thanks for your kind assistance! Please send your suggestions to Maria Benkhalti at maria.benkhalti@uottawa.ca.

Contact information:

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http://www.cgh.uottawa.ca/whocc/projects/eo_toolkit/

Canadian Cochrane Symposium, March 2009

The Cochrane Health Equity Field and Campbell Equity Methods Group

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*We welcome your contributions—
please contact us to join our mailing
list or get involved!!*

www.equity.cochrane.org

The Equity Team has three presentations at the Symposium this year in Halifax, Canada (March 11-12, 2009). We invite you to join us for the following on **Thursday, March 12:**

11:00-12:30PM

Ueffing E, Tugwell P, Welch V, Petticrew M, Kristjansson E. The Equity Checklist: a tool for systematic review authors. (Workshop)

1:30-3:00PM

Tugwell P, Kelly M, Robinson

V, Bonnefoy J, Petticrew M, Morgan A, Kristjansson E, Ueffing E, Doull M, Stewart E. Implications of WHO Commission on Social Determinants of Health for Cochrane and Campbell Reviews. (Oral session)

1:30-3:00PM

Welch V, Tugwell P, Petticrew M, McGowan J, Ueffing E, Benkhalti M, Kristjansson E, Wells GA. When and how are effects on health equity assessed in systematic reviews of effectiveness: a Cochrane Methodology Systematic Re-

view. (Oral session; same room as above session)

We'd also like to draw your attention to an exciting workshop on gender-based analysis being offered by Madeline Boscoe, Marion Doull, Vivien Runnels, and Sari Tudiver. Their workshop is entitled "Gender-based analysis: Relevance to Cochrane systematic reviews. A discussion workshop on a sex & gender appraisal tool" (**Wednesday, March 11, 1:30-3:00PM**).



Campbell Colloquium, May 2009

This year's Campbell Colloquium is being held in Oslo, Norway from May 18-20, 2009. A number of equity experts and colleagues—Margaret Whitehead and Julia Littell, for example—will be presenting.

Mark Petticrew will be leading a symposium on "Systematic reviews and health equity: the role and risks of subgroup analyses".

Vivian Welch will present her Cochrane Methodology Review addressing

equity in systematic reviews.

Open Equity Meeting

We are beginning plans for an Open Equity Meeting to be held at the Colloquium. Meeting details will be sent via our Equity Listserv; **please stay tuned!**

Information:

www.campbellcollaboration.org



Campbell Disability Subgroup Established

Volume 3, Issue 1

A new subgroup has been established in the Campbell Collaboration (C2). Within the Education Coordinating Group, the C2 Disability Subgroup has a cross-disability orientation across the lifespan of individuals with disabilities. It may become a new coordinating group if there is sufficient growth in interest and production of systematic reviews within the disability topic area over the next several years.

Objectives

The Disability Subgroup has established the following preliminary objectives:

- Undertake and maintain a series of high-quality and timely systematic reviews of interventions aimed at improving the quality of life and outcomes of individuals with disabilities. These reviews focus attention on substantive disability topics through the summary and analysis of the best available, high-quality research evi-

dence provided through randomized and non-randomized quasi-experimental designs.

- Establish and maintain a network of individuals with disability expertise or experience who are interested in developing and/or contributing to disability-related systematic reviews.
- Encourage involvement of consumers with disabilities, their family members, and other disability-oriented stakeholders in all steps of the systematic review development process, including the development and dissemination of appropriate user-friendly interpretations of review results.
- Provide training opportunities for interested systematic review authors in the production of C2 reviews in the disability area. Training will be offered in 2009 through SEDL's Na-

tional Center for the Dissemination of Disability Research, building on an online course offered in 2007-2008 (<http://www.ncddr.org/pd/courses/>); webcasts (<http://www.ncddr.org/webcasts/>); and workshops (<http://www.ncddr.org/pd/workshops/>). For additional information, please contact Joann Starks at joann.starks@sedl.org

Ralf Schlosser of Northeastern University and John Westbrook of SEDL are the coordinators of the subgroup. Individuals interested in conducting a C2 systematic review in the disability area are urged to contact John Westbrook at john.westbrook@sedl.org.

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Cochrane Colloquium 2008: Freiburg Report

- The minutes of the Open Equity Meeting held in Freiburg, Germany (October 7, 2008) are now posted on our website. Thank you to everyone who joined us at 7:30 AM for a lively and interactive discussion!
- Our workshop on Priority-Setting, offered in conjunction with the Cochrane Developing Countries Network and the Cochrane Public Health Review Group, was well-attended and productive. The slides from the workshop, along with a summary of the discussions, are posted online.
- We also gave a special session jointly with the Campbell & Cochrane Economics Methods Group on Economics and Equity in Healthcare. Thank you very much to Ian Shemilt for posting the slides from our excellent speakers.



Participants at the Open Equity Meeting, October 2008

- For meeting minutes, please visit www.equity.cochrane.org
- For presentations from the Economics and Equity Special Session, please visit http://www.med.uea.ac.uk/research/research_econ/cochrane/C&CEMG%20-%20Presentations.htm

Equity Events

March 11-12, 2009
Canadian Cochrane
Symposium (Halifax,
Canada)

May 19-21, 2009
Campbell Colloquium
(Oslo, Norway)

June 9-11, 2009
International Society for
Equity in Health Confer-
ence (Crete, Greece)

October 11-14, 2009
Cochrane Colloquium
(Singapore)

**November 16-20,
2009**
Global Forum for
Health Research
(Havana, Cuba)



Congratulations to the new Croatian Branch of the Italian Cochrane Center!

By Livia Puljak, Branch Director

The Croatian Branch of the Italian Cochrane Center (CBICC) was founded on December 8, 2008. The CBICC was established by the University of Split School of Medicine, Croatian Center for Global Health and Croatian Medical Journal. The office of the CBICC is at the University of Split School of Medicine, its Director is Livia Puljak, MD, PhD, and Head of Office is Ms. Dalibora Rako.

Broadly, the aims of the CBICC are popularizing The Cochrane Library, encouraging production of systematic reviews in Croatia, and translating Croatian grey literature. The CBICC offers its services not only to Croatian healthcare workers and lay audience, but also to a neighboring region of South-East Europe.

The founding of the CBICC would not be possible without help of the Canadian Cochrane Network and Center and its enthusiastic staff, whose support and training of future CBICC staff, as well as introduction to the Italian Cochrane Center, led to this exciting new development in

The Cochrane Collaboration.

A major research interest of the CBICC group and affiliated researchers is conflict medicine. Croatia has recently been in a war, and Croatian researchers gathered a lot of experience from that unfortunate event.

Therefore, there is a lot of interest for summarizing evidence about conflict medicine among Croatian researchers. For now, the CBICC is busy with setting up its operations, establishing contacts in the region and providing edu-

cational services. Within a year, more intensive activities are planned for creation of systematic reviews on the subject of conflict medicine.

Contact Information

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tia



A symbol of the Canadian Arctic—an inukshuk, given by Canadian Cochranites—enjoys a view of sunny Split, from the balcony of the School of Medicine in Split, Croatia.

ATTENTION REVIEW AUTHORS:

Are you looking to incorporate equity into your review?

Our Equity Checklist is a tool that can help! Please visit www.equity.cochrane.org

and look under "Our Publications" to download.

Future MA/PhD Program in Health Policy and Equity at York University, Toronto, Canada

The School of Health Policy and Management at York University in Toronto intends to offer a MA and direct-entry PhD program in Health Policy and Equity beginning September 2009.

The program is still pending approval from the Ontario Council on Graduate Studies.

We are in the process of developing a web site and applications will soon be accepted.

* * * * *

The Program: Graduate Study in Health Policy and Equity

This proposal aims to establish the Health Policy and Equity field which stresses the achievement of equity in health through policies that are directed at the social causes of inequality in health and the organization and delivery of health care. This field will offer a unique perspective contributing to, and supported by, York's thematic strength in social justice.

In order to challenge assumptions that everyone accessing health care is treated equally, equity analyses must be addressed from a broad systems perspective incorporating health policy, programming, practice and outcomes. Equity discourse is concerned with disparities and inequalities amongst populations and indi-

viduals that are "avoidable, unfair and unjust". Such discourse recognizes that many approaches seldom take into consideration social conditions or gender differentials that create and sustain those injustices. Gender is a key determinant of health equity, intersecting powerfully with other determinants such as poverty, age, ethnicity and social exclusion. How these determinants impact on health and access to health will be addressed through interdisciplinary and equity frameworks in this field.

The CORE Faculty:

- Tamara Daly
- Joel Lexchin
- Dennis Raphael
- Marcia Rioux
- Mary Wiktorowicz

* Many other faculty members from within the School and across York will be involved in teaching in this program

The Degrees:

- MA
- Direct-Entry (no Masters required) PhD

Core Courses for the Graduate Program in Health (including the Equity Program):

1. HLTH 5010 3.0 Health and Science

2. HLTH 5020 3.0 Health and Economics
3. HLTH 5030 3.0 Health and Politics
4. HLTH 5040 3.0 Health, Law and Ethics
5. HLTH 5405 3.0 Research Methods Seminar

Master of Arts students: will take HLTH 5405 3.0 Research Methods Seminar, 2 of the remaining 4 core courses common to all students in the Graduate Program in Health, and one elective.

Direct-entry PhD students: will take HLTH 5405 Research Methods Seminar, and 3 of the remaining 4 core courses common to all students in the Graduate Program in Health.

Core Courses for the Field of Health Policy and Equity:

Health Policy and Equity students will take a minimum of 2 out of 3 of the following core Policy and Equity courses. These courses will prepare students for their comprehensive examinations.

1. HLTH 6210 3.0 Political Economy of Health Inequities
2. HLTH 6220 3.0 Human Rights and Health Equity
3. HLTH 6230 3.0 Health Equity Analytic Orientations

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Please update your bookmarks!

The Academic NGO Initiative—ACANGO—has a new website!

Please update your bookmarks with our new URL:

www.acango.uottawa.ca





Global Ministerial Forum for Research on Health: Bamako, Mali (November 2008)

Equity Evidence Aid Funded by CIHR

What works to reduce health inequities? The Cochrane Health Equity Field and Campbell Equity Methods Group has recently been funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research to build "Equity Evidence Aid": a database of what works to improve the health of the disadvantaged, both in Canada and internationally. This database is based on the Cochrane Evidence Aid that was developed in response to the Asian Tsunami in 2004. The work involves development of two methodologic tools for appraising the plausibility of different effectiveness and the likelihood that results of systematic reviews can be extrapolated to disadvantaged populations. We are also appraising methods of setting priorities that can be adapted to Cochrane and Campbell review groups, and applying these strategies with specific Cochrane entities to set

priorities with a focus on health equity, using a transparent process and engaging relevant stakeholders. Furthermore, we are developing structured, user-friendly summaries of the equity implications of systematic reviews with a focus on practitioners. - *Vivian Welch*

CanUSACLEN welcomes the University of the West Indies

INCLEN (International Clinical Epidemiology Network; www.inclen.org) is a unique global network of clinical epidemiologists, biostatisticians, health social scientists, health economists and other health professionals affiliated with key academic health-care institutions. It is dedicated to improving the health of disadvantaged populations, particularly in low- and middle-income countries, by promoting equitable health care based on the best evidence of effectiveness and the efficient use of resources.

The North American regional



Peter Tugwell and Rainford Wilks, Jamaica (February, 2009)

network of INCLEN, CanUSACLEN, held its 5th annual meeting in Kingston, Jamaica on February 19th and 20th, 2009. The meeting brought together health researchers from Canada, the USA, and Jamaica, as well as officials from the government of Jamaica and the Pan-American Health Organization to celebrate the launch of the new Clinical Epidemiology Unit (CEU) at the University of the West Indies (UWI), which is the first of its kind in the Caribbean. The events were received with much excitement and positivity on future projects and collaborations between the new CEU and other members of CanUSACLEN. Further, the network stressed its capacity building objective by suggesting the initialization of mentoring relationships between junior members of the new CEU and senior members of other CanUSACLEN groups. We are looking forward to new developments and once again, congratulations and welcome to our colleagues at the UWI! - *Maria Benkhalti*

Mette Denning new head of SFI Campbell



Mette Denning is the new head of the SFI Campbell, the first regional centre in the Campbell Collaboration. Mette is 41 years old and has a MA and PhD in economics from the University of Aarhus. She comes from a position as Senior Researcher at SFI – The Danish National Centre for Social Research where she was the director of the Family Research Programme. Mette has among other things worked with family economics, gender issues in the labour market and employment among immigrants. Mette stepped into the position February 1st.

Global Ministerial Forum for Research on Health

Erin Ueffing represented the Field in November, 2008 at the Global Ministerial Forum for Research on Health, held in Bamako, Mali. The Bamako 2008 Secretariat generously provided funding; thank you also to Ritu Sadana for kindly inviting the Field to attend.

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