Electronic news bulletin of the Cochrane Occupational Health Field:
December 2008

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1. All Cochrane systematic reviews now listed according to topic
The listing of reviews by topic is still ongoing in the Cochrane Library. On the Cochrane Collaboration's web pages however you can access summaries of all reviews listed according to topic, i.e. by review groups or by fields. The Cochrane Occupational Health Field also maintains its own up-to-date list of reviews listed according to production phase (title, protocol, or review). For all reviews have a look at:

http://www.cochrane.org/reviews/en/topics/118_reviews.html

For occupational health and safety intervention titles, protocols and reviews see: www.cohf.fi

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2. Workshop on Productivity
We are organising a workshop in Helsinki on the 23rd and 24th of January 2009 as part of our EU FP7 project the Economic Dimension of Occupational Safety and Health. The theme of the workshop is "OSH interventions and productivity, linking practice and evidence". We are looking for a new consensus on the influence of OSH interventions on productivity and on the business case for OSH-interventions. The workshop will consist of keynote lectures, small group discussions and free contributions. Stakeholders and researchers are welcome to participate equally.

The other two workshops will be about the economic evaluation of OSH interventions (Amsterdam, The Netherlands, September 2009) and about economic incentives to promote the uptake of OSH measures (Lodz, Poland, November 2009).

For registration and further information go to www.ecosh.eu or e-mail marjo.pulliainen@ttl.fi.

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3. Course on basic Cochrane reviewers' skills
On the 12th and 13th of March we will give an introductory course on how to conduct Cochrane reviews, in Helsinki, Finland. The course covers both the structure as well as the process common to all Cochrane reviews of intervention studies. We will especially highlight 1) systematic searching of studies in electronic databases, 2) study inclusion, 3) data extraction and management, and 4) the pooling of results.
The course fee is 400 euros, which covers all materials, lunches and coffee/tea during the course. We can also help in reserving accommodation.

The full program and details of registration will soon go up on our web pages at: www.cohf.fi

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4. Current status of the COHF reference databases

There are presently 1216 references of occupational health and safety intervention studies (1060 original research studies and 156 reviews) in our database. We have separated studies that have employed a

reasonably high quality methodology (randomised controlled trials, controlled clinical trials, and interrupted time-series) from less rigorous studies (uncontrolled before-after measurement only). The adequately rigorous EBM studies can be used to facilitate decisions in patient care and policy making. The BA studies should only be used for hypothesis generation, learning about efficacy, understanding the limitations of generalizability, and gaining additional knowledge about a particular intervention. The BA studies should NOT be used to draw inferences about effectiveness.

We currently have 550 references of EBM studies and 510 references of BA studies.

If you haven't already used the database, it is accessible free of charge through our website at www.cohf.fi after a short registration procedure. There is also a user manual provided at the website. Remember that we provide only reference data and not full text articles because of copyrights reasons. We do however categorise the studies according to study type and outcomes measured so that you can look, for example, for RCTs about back pain (search: rct-study/All non-indexed text fields AND "back pain" All indexed text fields). There are currently 35 of those. All references gathered from MEDLINE are linked to PubMed where some, but not all, have a link to full text versions. If you have trouble with accessing our database then please do not hesitate to let us know. We will always do our best to effect a rapid remedy.

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5. Increased number of news bulletin issues

Due to popular demand we have decided to increase the pace in which we send out new issues. In 2009 we aim to publish altogether six issues. We thank you for your continued interest.

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If you would like to inform the recipients of this newsletter about important matters (e.g. conferences, publications, job vacancies, etc.) please submit your items to the editor at: COHFnewsbulletin@ttl.fi and include "COHF Newsletter" on the subject line. Unless you request otherwise, your submissions to the COHF Newsletter may be duplicated in other regular Cochrane Collaboration news channels such as Cochrane News and the Cochrane Collaboration website, at the discretion of the editors. Please consider the environment before printing this newsletter.

Kind regards,
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