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#### 4. NIVA Course: The evidence-based approach for OSH professionals

In March 2010 we will organise the second EBM course for OHS professionals again in Kuopio, Finland. The course was well received by the participants of the first course in 2006. We chose to have the course in Kuopio in March because this is the best time to enjoy winter in Finland. Kuopio has many possibilities for skating and skiing, both down hill and cross-country. More information about the course will be made available at the NIVA website [here](#). For more information about Kuopio see Kuopio Tourist Services' pages [here](#).

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#### 5. Current status of the COHF databases

There are presently 1342 references of occupational health and safety intervention studies (1185 original research studies and 157 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 generalisability, and gaining additional knowledge about a particular intervention. The BA studies should NOT be used to draw inferences about effectiveness.

We currently have 622 references of EBM studies and 563 references of BA studies.

We have also submitted our randomised trials and controlled trials (556 references) to the Cochrane Collaboration's central register of trials which you can search [here](#) (if you have a prescription to the Cochrane Library). Cochrane Central is a database that combines relevant records from MEDLINE, EMBASE with all Cochrane entities' specialised registers and hand-search results. The number of trials thus increases with every update of the Cochrane Library.

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#### 6. Workshop on systematic reviews of Public and Occupational health in Bahrain

The global coverage of the Cochrane Collaboration as an organisation was illustrated by a workshop held in the Persian Gulf State of Bahrain on the 2nd and 3rd of June this year. The meeting was organised by the Bahrain Branch of the UK Cochrane Centre. The participants were enthusiastic about the many reviews on public and occupational health already in the Cochrane Library. We discussed the many problems inherent in getting the results of reviews implemented in occupational health practice by the many stakeholders involved. You can read more about the workshop in the Bahrain Medical Bulletin [here](#).

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#### 7. Strategic Review of the Cochrane Collaboration

The CC is undergoing a thorough review of its function and position in the 'market' for systematic reviews. The review is an inclusive and internally conducted assessment of the Collaboration as a whole, looking at structures, processes, and governance, and making and implementing recommendations to assist in taking the organisation wisely forward over the next 10 years. The consensus emerging thus far seems to be a generally felt wish to concentrate more on systematic review production. The review has also sparked discussion about the role of the 15 fields, such as the Occupational Health Field, in the CC and how they could be better integrated into the collaboration. More information about the strategic review can be found [here](#). We welcome any thoughts you might wish to share on this.

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#### 8. Next issue of the COHF news bulletin

Issue 4 will be posted in August

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: [jani.ruotsalainen@ttl.fi](mailto:jani.ruotsalainen@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 web site, at the discretion of the editors. Please consider the environment before printing this newsletter.

Kind regards,  
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