

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

Contents:

1. Slidecasts from the Cochrane Colloquium in Freiburg
2. The Economic Dimension of Occupational Safety and Health
3. Recent reviews with COHF involvement
4. Problems with the COHF database of intervention studies and reviews
5. Improvements in basic Cochrane products: The Handbook and the Cochrane Library
6. Satellites of the Cochrane Occupational Health Field?

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1. If you couldn't attend the Cochrane Colloquium in Freiburg in Germany in early October then a nice alternative is having a look at the Virtual Colloquium! The following link takes you to a list of the plenaries in various formats. You can listen to audio only, just read the slides or watch a slidecast movie of slides combined with the speaker's own voice. The topics range from patient-reported outcomes to globalisation and much else. See for yourself at:

[http://www.cochrane.org/multimedia/colloquium\\_2008/?BTN1=Info&BTN2=Virtual\\_Colloquium](http://www.cochrane.org/multimedia/colloquium_2008/?BTN1=Info&BTN2=Virtual_Colloquium)

We thought Stephen Senn's talk was especially provocative and funny.

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2. 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. For registration and information go to [www.ecosh.eu](http://www.ecosh.eu) or e-mail [marjo.pullianen@ttl.fi](mailto:marjo.pullianen@ttl.fi).

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3. In the most recent issue of the Cochrane Library there were no new occupational health reviews but two new protocols:

- Health and functional assessment examinations to prevent occupational injuries and disease by Shikin Mahmud et al. from Australia.
- Prevention of percutaneous exposure incidents with risk of hepatitis B, hepatitis C, or other viral infections for health-care workers by Annika Parantainen et al. from Finland

Both protocols are written by a team of international collaborators from Europe, Australia and the United States.

Two COHF reviews were republished as peer-reviewed articles:

- Prevention of injuries in the construction industry in the American Journal of Preventive Medicine
- Stress management in health care personnel in the Scandinavian Journal of Work Environment and Health

Additionally, two titles were accepted by the appropriate review groups:

- Interventions for respiratory symptoms in buildings damaged by dampness and moulds by Riitta Sauni et al. from Finland
- Interventions to enhance return to work in cancer survivors by Angela de Boer et al. from the Netherlands

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4. We apologise for the fact that our database of intervention studies and reviews has not been 100% accessible lately. The acute technical problems have now been solved and the database should function as intended. Thinking of the longer term, we are currently looking into upgrading the platform on which our database is run. We currently have upwards of 400 registered users who we would not like to disappoint on a regular basis. So

