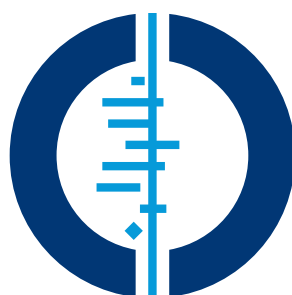


Annual report 2018

Cochrane Sweden

Associate Centre - Nordic Cochrane Centre



Cochrane
Sweden

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Introduction

Background

Sweden has been one of the first contributors to the establishment of Cochrane since 1992. Cochrane's website reports that in November 1992 there were "additional funds to promote the mission of the Cochrane Centre pledged by the Nuffield Provincial Hospitals Trust and the Swedish Council on Technology Assessment in Health Care." In the following years, the role of the Cochrane Collaboration has been frequently discussed in the main Swedish journals for medical doctors, e.g. in 2000 in the article "Cochranesamarbetets betydelse för evidensbaserad medicin" ("the meaning of the Cochrane Collaboration for evidence-based medicine"). In January 2005, national access to The Cochrane Library in Sweden was provided. However, the national subscription to the Library lasted only up to 2012.

Even though Sweden is well-known for its high-quality scientific studies in most fields of medicine, Sweden did not gain its own Cochrane entity until May 2017. The lack of "Cochrane Sweden" might have negatively impacted on the number of Cochrane reviews produced by Swedish authors. The discrepancy in Sweden between the low number of Cochrane reviews and the high number of randomised clinical trials was described in an article in 2011 (Gøtzsche PC, Tendal B, Clarke M. Review production in The Cochrane Collaboration – where is it happening and why? *Cochrane Methods. Cochrane DB Syst Rev* 2011 Suppl 1:16-9).

Like its neighbours Finland and Denmark, Sweden is highly active in publishing randomised trials, but not as productive in publishing Cochrane reviews. Together with Denmark and Finland, Sweden is highly active in publishing randomised trials, but not in publishing Cochrane reviews.

A lower rating of Cochrane activities and, more generally, any kind of systematic review has long been observed in the Swedish academic world. For example, in some Swedish universities, the application to become associate professor does not allow inclusion of systematic reviews in the list of publications that are to be considered; PhD students are not oftenly encouraged to prepare systematic reviews for their thesis and PhDs very rarely include systematic reviews. Some of the major national funders do not fund systematic reviews, but only basic research and primary studies; and teaching on using and preparing systematic reviews is not normally provided to students of medicine.

Alongside the limited academic recognition of systematic reviews in Sweden, there is and has been a strong move for evidence based medicine at all levels of Swedish health care management. For many decades, Sweden has a deeply rooted tradition for using national systematic reviews from the Swedish Council on Technology Assessment in Health Care (SBU) as a basis for the decision and priorities on new methods. Further, there is a national HTA Network coordinated by SBU with strong impact on national, regional and local health care guidelines. Also, the Swedish National Board for Health and Welfare (Socialstyrelsen) has a continuous process in developing evidence based national guidelines in a wide variety of medical conditions and areas.

Launch of Cochrane Sweden

Cochrane Sweden is an associate centre to the Nordic Cochrane Centre. It was launched in May 2017 in Lund, where the centre is located. Cochrane Sweden is supported by Skåne University Hospital, Region Skåne and Lund University.

Cochrane Sweden has two main priorities:

- To introduce review authors and other contributors to Cochrane methods, and support Swedish authors to prepare, publish and maintain their Cochrane reviews
- To advocate for evidence-informed practice in Sweden, particularly through promoting access to Cochrane content and facilitating the use of Cochrane reviews to inform decision making

Cochrane Sweden's strategic plan was approved in April 2017 and encompasses the goals of the Cochrane "Strategy to 2020", i.e.

Goal 1: Producing evidence

Goal 2: Making our evidence accessible

Goal 3: Advocating for evidence

Goal 4: Building an effective and sustainable organisation

Activities at Cochrane Sweden

Research

The research activity is limited to the production of systematic reviews. Since September 2018, Minna Johanson (Cochrane Sweden Fellow) and Dina Muscat Meng (Communications Consultant) are part of the staff.

Eleven Cochrane reviews have been published between 2015 and 2018, and 18 protocols and reviews are under preparation. Of these 29 records, 25 are reviews of interventions and 4 are overviews of Cochrane reviews.

The most common research area (11 published reviews; 14 protocols in preparation) is neonatology, focusing mainly on respiratory and neurological morbidities in the newborn. The other topics are rheumatology (two protocols in preparation), epilepsy (one protocol in preparation), skin cancer (full review, submitted).

In addition, staff at Cochrane Sweden have published a study on the quality of Cochrane reviews in collaboration with professors Christian Gluud (Cochrane Hepato-Biliary Group - Copenhagen Trial Unit) and Lorenzo Moja (Cochrane Italy; WHO Geneva).

Cochrane workshops

Interest and participation in our Cochrane workshops have been excellent.

Following Cochrane Sweden's launch in May 2017, the most relevant courses and workshops have been organised with the qualified support of Karsten Jørgensen, Deputy Director of the Nordic Cochrane Centre.

Here is a list of the events held during 2018:

- March: one-day workshop at Uppsala University Hospital (Akademiska)
- April: one-day workshop at Karolinska Institute
- April: 40-hour PhD student course on Cochrane methodology for systematic reviews
- September: one-day workshop at Umeå University
- September: 40-hour PhD student course on Cochrane methodology for systematic reviews
- November: two-day workshop on GRADE and GRADE CERQual in Oslo, in collaboration with Cochrane Norway and Cochrane Nordic

In addition, the following workshops and seminars have taken place:

- January: "Kunskapsbaserad vård och kunskapsutveckling för läkare", Sjukhusläkarna i Lund
- January: "gran debat" in Gothenburg; presentation on quality of research
- January: meeting at HTA network, at SBU, Stockholm
- February: Lecture on EBM at a course for residents in Vänersborg
- February: Lecture on EBM at a PhD course in Trollhättan
- February: presentation of Cochrane Interactive Learning to medical students, Lund
- February: 3-hour workshop for "Research support Library ICT" (researchers, research students and clinicians)
- February: joint meeting HTA-Skåne – Cochrane Sweden on potential collaborations
- February: planning meeting with Martin Garwicz and Maria Björklund – including Cochrane tools for medical students teaching at Lund University
- March: presentation on Cochrane at clinicians and researchers in Pediatrics at Lund University
- April: Presentation on EBM and open data for dermatologists from the region of Västra Götaland
- April: Presentation on Medical Library Conference 2018 in Gothenburg
- April: presentation on Cochrane at conference "När forskning blir verklighet" - Arbets- och miljömedicinskt vårmöte, Linköping
- May: seminar and planning meeting on Cochrane activities at Örebro University
- September: Presentation on Cochrane at Koch-conference in Trelleborg
- October: Seminar for rheumatologists, Lund University
- October: Cochrane workshop for residents in pediatrics, Lund University
- December: Presentation on EBM and open data at a meeting for Swedish College for General Practice in Luleå
- December: Presentation on EBM for residents in primary care in Vänersborg

Other initiatives related to training and education

In February 2018, a fruitful collaboration has been established with Martin Garwicz (who coordinates students' training towards Scientific Scholarship at the Medical Degree Programme) and Maria Björklund (Lund University Library), as reported in press releases in English (<http://www.cochrane.org/news/new-learning-opportunities-evidence-based-health-care-medical-students-sweden-0>) and Swedish (https://www.med.lu.se/nyheter/180221_cochrane).

The initiative consists of providing training in Cochrane methodology to medical students at Lund University. The training and the assessment of the students include the use of the “Cochrane Interactive Learning” (CIL) platform. The CIL modules match the learning objectives of Scientific Scholarship for each semester. Lund University is the first institution in the world to provide unlimited access, free at point-of-use to CIL. Also, thanks to this initiative, more medical students, in particular at Lund University, are now aware of the possibility to develop research projects on Cochrane evidence. One of them, Petter Brattström, received a 4-week training period at Cochrane Austria and then 16 weeks at Cochrane Sweden for the preparation of a systematic review as part of his Master thesis, which has also been published in Acta Paediatrica journal in September 2018. Similarly, Kevin Bengtsson, has spent three weeks at Cochrane Netherlands and 17 weeks at Cochrane Sweden. His systematic review (including more one hundred trials) has been completed on December 2018 and presented on January 2019.

An additional project consists of 40-hour PhD student courses where CIL usage is integrated with face to face training, in collaboration with the Nordic Cochrane Centre (two editions, April and September 2018).

In collaboration with Chris Watts and Richard Hollis, the innovative use of CIL at Cochrane Sweden has been presented at the meeting of the Centre Directors Board at the Cochrane Governance Meeting (Lisboa, March 2018) and at Cochrane Colloquium (Edinburgh, September 2018), with an oral presentation and a workshop. In addition, Cochrane Sweden is testimonial in CIL website (<https://training.cochrane.org/interactivelearning/about/usecases>) and the Cochrane Youtube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q4ufiPUatw>). For the international press release:

https://sweden.cochrane.org/sites/sweden.cochrane.org/files/public/uploads/new_learning_opportunities_in_evidence-based_health_care_for_medical_students_in_sweden_cochrane.pdf

Worldwide, the largest group of CIL users (>200 people) is at Lund University, thanks to the collaboration between the Faculty of Medicine and Cochrane Sweden.

Of note, promoting the use of CIL implies also increasing the numbers of Cochrane accounts. Numbers of new Swedish Cochrane accounts have consistently increased during 2018, especially through involvement of medical students. Other initiatives have contributed to this result. For example, Cochrane Sweden has obtained access to free use of Covidence, the recommended tool by Cochrane for data screening and extraction. All the people in the Cochrane Sweden network have been informed about this opportunity to facilitate the preparation of systematic reviews. In addition, some authors have been involved in the testing phase of RevMan Web, mainly via teleconference with the Informatics & Knowledge Management Department (IKMD), in Copenhagen. Finally, Cochrane Sweden is the Centre which is collaborating the most for testing the new web-based version of RevMan, through active participation in the webinars and identification of new testers in Cochrane reviews with Swedish authors.

In 2017 and beginning of 2018, we had multiple contacts to explore how to restore national access to the Cochrane Library, for all citizens. We had meetings and teleconferences with Wiley, Inera, Kungliga biblioteket and others. We explored also if national institutions would be interested to fund this initiative. However in the last months, following better communication with other Cochrane Centers, we do not consider this as a priority anymore. Instead, we would prefer to accelerate the process to have open access to the Cochrane Library in all countries. We conducted a survey among the Swedish Universities to assess to which extent systematic reviews are recognised as part of PhD theses and in the applications to become associate professor. The findings have been accepted for publication on *Läkartidningen* (available on January 2019) and will possibly be reported in English as well. The aim was to map the current situation at each Swedish University and to develop targeted initiatives to address this issue in a constructive way.

Cochrane Sweden in the media

Since September 2018, Dina Muscat Meng is part of the staff of Cochrane Sweden (Communications Consultant).

Information about Cochrane Sweden has been reported in the national media, e.g.,

- Article "Fuskare och nobelpristagare granskas av Cochranes nätverk" (Cheaters and Nobel laureates are investigated by the Cochrane Collaboration) by Åsa Hansdotter in Lund's University Magazine on Cochrane
- Article "Satsa på Cochrane i Sverige" (Invest in Cochrane in Sweden) by Inge Axelsson et al in *Läkartidningen*
- Article "Med uppdrag att kvalitetsgranska forskning" (With the assignment to research quality assessment) by Åsa Hansdotter in *Vetenskap och Hälsa*

In addition, the following channels have been frequently used with consistent results:

- Website www.sweden.cochrane.org where main activities are described, thanks to the webmaster Carl Gornitzki (information specialist at Karolinska Institute – parental leave since February 2018) and Dina Muscat Meng.
- Twitter account @CochraneSweden
- Official LinkedIn page (<https://www.linkedin.com/company/cochrane-sweden/>)
- Facebook account has not been activated yet. However, several members of Cochrane Sweden promote most relevant activities in this social media as well.

Major articles about CS are listed on <https://sweden.cochrane.org/about-us/cochrane-sweden-media>.

Cochrane reviews by Swedish authors

We report here the reviews published by contact authors with a Swedish affiliation in Archie. Cochrane review production in Sweden is much lower than in other Nordic Countries. Only 23 full reviews have been published by contact authors with a current Swedish address (including those

by Huan Song though during 2018 her primary affiliation was Icelandic). Six new review protocols and two updates have been published during 2018. Of note, more than two thirds of these 23 reviews have been conducted by authors who learnt to prepare Cochrane reviews before they moved to Sweden, e.g. Huan Song (China), Alkistis Skalkidou (Greece), Giovanni Ferrara (Italy), Olga Romantsik (Italy) and Matteo Bruschetti (Italy).

The corresponding Editorial Groups for these 23 reviews are: Neonatal Group (11 reviews); Airways Group (2); Upper GI and Pancreatic Diseases Group (2); Gynaecological, Neuro-oncology and Orphan Cancer Group (2); Back and Neck (1); Developmental, Psychosocial and Learning Problems Group (1); Effective Practice and Organisation of Care Group (1); Gynaecological, Neuro-oncology and Orphan Cancer Group (2); Lung Cancer Group (1); Stroke Group (1); Tobacco Addiction Group (1).

During 2018 five new protocols have been published (all in neonatology).

The precise figures of Cochrane registered titles are not reported in this document. However, an increased activity has been observed in 2018, including five titles in neonatology and two new titles by participants in the Cochrane workshops held in Sweden in 2017 and 2018.

Advisory Board for Cochrane Sweden

The Nordic Cochrane Centre has an Advisory Board and so far we have had no plans for having a separate Advisory Board for Cochrane Sweden. When advice was needed, the Director or Deputy Director of the Nordic Cochrane Centre has been contacted.

Acknowledgements

The staff at Cochrane Sweden are grateful for the support from the Nordic Cochrane Centre.

Also, we acknowledge Ingemar Petersson at Skåne University Hospital for his wise guidance.

Publications by staff at Cochrane Sweden

New or updated Cochrane reviews

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New protocols

Moresco L, Romantsik O, Calevo MG, **Bruschettini M**. Non-invasive respiratory support for the management of transient tachypnea of the newborn. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev*. 2018;12:CD013231

Bruschettini M, Moresco L, Calevo MG, Romantsik O. Postnatal corticosteroids for transient tachypnea of the newborn. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev*. 2018;12:CD013222

Romantsik O, **Bruschettini M**, Moreira A, Thébaud B, Ley D. Stem cell-based interventions for the prevention and treatment of germinal matrix-intraventricular haemorrhage in preterm infants. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev*. 2018;11:CD013201

Bruschettini M, Romantsik O, Moreira A, Ley D, Thébaud B. Stem cell-based interventions for the prevention of morbidity and mortality following hypoxic-ischaemic encephalopathy in newborn infants. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev*. 2018;11:CD013202

Moresco L, **Bruschettini M**, Calevo MG, Siri L. Pharmacological treatment for Continuous spike-wave during Slow Wave Sleep and Landau-Kleffner Syndrome. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev*. 2018;9:CD013132

Romantsik O, Calevo MG, Norman E, **Bruschettini M** Clonidine for painful procedures or conditions in infants. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev*. 2018;8:CD013104

Journal articles and reports

Brattström P, Russo C, Ley D, **Bruschettini M**. High versus low dose caffeine in preterm infants. [Response Letter] *Acta Paediatr*. 2018 Dec 11. doi: 10.1111/apa.14687

Brattström P, Russo C, Ley D, **Bruschettini M**. High-versus low-dose caffeine in preterm infants: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Acta Paediatr*. 2018 Sep 22. doi: 10.1111/apa.14586.

Brodersen J, Hansson A, **Johansson M**, Siersma V, Langenskiöld M, Pettersson M.

Consequences of screening in abdominal aortic aneurysm: development and dimensionality of a questionnaire. *J Patient Rep Outcomes* 2018;2:37.

Castellini G, **Bruschettini M**, Gianola S, Gluud C, Moja L. Assessing imprecision in Cochrane systematic reviews: a comparison of GRADE and Trial Sequential Analysis. *Syst Rev*. 2018 Jul 28;7(1):110. doi: 10.1186/s13643-018-0770-1

Gümüř HG, Agyemang AA, Romantsik O, Sandgren R, Karlsson H, Gram M, Vallius S, Ley D, van den Hove DLA, **Bruschettini M**. Behavioral testing and litter effects in the rabbit. *Behav Brain Res*. 2018;353:236-241. doi: 10.1016/j.bbr.2018.02.032

Frändberg J, Sandblom J, **Bruschettini M**, Marřál K, Kristensen K. Antenatal corticosteroids: a retrospective cohort study on timing, indications and neonatal outcome. *Acta Obstet Gynecol Scand*. 2018 97(5):591-597. doi: 10.1111/aogs.13301

Johansson M, Jørgensen KJ. Should we screen women for abdominal aortic aneurysm? *Lancet* 2018;392:454-6.

Jørgensen KJ, **Johansson M**. Drawing conclusions from the VIVA trial. *Lancet* 2018;391:1849.

Johansson M. Evaluating benefits and harms of screening – the streetlight effect? Doctoral Thesis. Gothenburg, Sweden, 2018. Available at: <https://gupea.ub.gu.se/handle/2077/55971>