

# **Annual report 2017**

**Cochrane Sweden**

**Associate Centre - Nordic Cochrane Centre**



**Cochrane**  
Sweden

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# Introduction

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## Background

Sweden had positive interactions with the Cochrane Collaboration in the very beginning. The website of the Cochrane Collaboration 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 till 2012.

A Cochrane entity has never been established in Sweden, although this country is well known for its high-quality scientific studies in most fields of medicine. Of note, the lack of “Cochrane Sweden” might have negatively impacted on the number of Cochrane reviews 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).

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 reviews 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 often enough encouraged to prepare systematic reviews for their thesis; some national funders discriminate against systematic reviews, as basic research and primary studies are preferred; and teaching on using and preparing systematic reviews is not normally provided to students of medicine.

Alongside this development there has been and is a strong move for evidence based medicine at all levels of Swedish health care management. Sweden has a deeply rooted tradition since decades for using national systematic reviews through 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 "Strategy to 2020" defined by the Cochrane Collaboration, 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

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### Research

The research activity is limited to the production of systematic reviews. Once the staff at Cochrane Sweden will be enlarged, it will be possible to develop specific research lines at our centre. Of note, at the end of 2017 additional funding has been identified with the purpose of hiring a Cochrane Sweden Fellow during 2018.

Eleven Cochrane reviews have been published between 2015 and 2017, and 14 protocols and reviews are under preparation. Of these 25 records, 21 are reviews of interventions and 4 are overviews of Cochrane reviews.

The most common research area (11 published reviews; 13 protocols in preparation) is neonatology, focusing mainly on respiratory and neurological morbidities in the newborn. The other topics are epilepsy (one protocol in preparation) and rheumatology (one protocol in preparation).

One of the published full reviews might be soon transformed into a Living Systematic Review. To this purpose, Cochrane Sweden joined the Living Systematic Reviews Network and is attending webinars on updating meta-analyses, organised by the Cochrane Statistics Methods Group. In addition, Cochrane Sweden aims to attend the research meetings which are regularly held at the Nordic Cochrane Centre.

### 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:

- June 2017, a 3-hour workshop at Lund University Library.

- June 2017. Guest discussant at international webinar, in collaboration with the Cochrane Neonatal Review Group (<http://neonatal.cochrane.org/web-seminars>).
- September 2017. 8-hour workshop on Cochrane reviews preparation in Lund, attended by 29 participants coming not only from Skåne (<http://training.cochrane.org/introduction-systematic-reviews-basic-concepts-and-cochrane-tools-workshop-lund-sweden>). Two new Cochrane reviews have been registered by people who attended this event.
- October 2017. Together with Cochrane Austria, contribution to a 2-day course at Cochrane Russia, in Kazan (<http://www.cochrane.org/news/participants-across-russia-and-beyond-gather-third-cochrane-workshop-kazan>).
- November 2017. Successful (funded) application at Lund University for establishing a PhD student course on Cochrane reviews (fully booked). The course will be run twice, in April and September 2018).
- During 2017, two 8-hour workshops have been scheduled for 2018, i.e. in Uppsala in March 2018 (40 registered participants) and at Karolinska Institute in April 2018 (60 registered participants).

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

- August 2017: 3-hour presentation on Cochrane methodology at international agriculture meeting “Interventions for preventing injuries in the agricultural industry”, Malmö.
- September 2017: Presentation on Cochrane evidence at scientific meeting with obstetricians and neonatologists, Lund.
- September 2017: Meeting with general practitioners’ association in Skåne to organise an event on Cochrane evidence in the autumn 2018.
- October 2017: presentation on Cochrane evidence at Scientific Day, Kristianstad.
- October and November 2017: presentation at course for PhD students at Lund University Library, Lund.
- October 2017: presentation at national physiotherapy congress (“Introducing Cochrane Sweden and Cochrane Work – Opportunities for conducting and implementing effectiveness research”), Stockholm.
- October 2017: presentation at national conference of obstetricians and neonatologists on subgroup analysis of a systematic review, Stockholm.
- November 2017: presentation of a Cochrane review at Neonatal European meeting (“Sustained versus standard inflations during neonatal resuscitation to reduce mortality and improve respiratory outcomes: a systematic review and meta-analysis”), Venezia.
- November 2017: conference call and face-to-face meeting on systematic reviews at Stockholm Environment Institute.
- November 2017: presentation of Cochrane at pre-clinical researchers group at Lund University, BioMedical Centre.
- November 2017: presentation “Cochrane Sweden: getting involved as researchers and clinicians in psychiatry”, Stockholm.
- November 2017: meeting in Malmö with regional HTA.
- November 2017: presentation at Scientific Day, Ystad.

Thanks to professor Ingemar Petersson, Skåne University Hospital, additional resources have been identified in 2017 to fund a new position at Cochrane Sweden. A larger staff will allow to further develop the training we will offer during late 2018.

## Other initiatives related to training and education

One of the the most fruitful collaborations has been established during autumn 2017 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](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, actively engaged with Cochrane Sweden in 2017 and during spring 2018, will receive 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.

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.

Of note, promoting the use of CIL implies also increasing the numbers of Cochrane members. Numbers of new Swedish Cochrane accounts have consistently increased during 2017, as seen in the Cochrane database Archie (data not presented here). 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 & Technology (IT) Services, in Copenhagen.

## Cochrane Sweden in the media

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

- Press release on Cochrane Sweden launch <http://www.cochrane.org/news/cochrane-launches-cochrane-sweden>.
- Article ”Höj kvaliteten på sjukvården med en satsning på Cochrane” by professor Inge Axlesson and colleagues in the main Swedish newspaper <https://www.dn.se/debatt/hoj-kvaliteten-pa-sjukvarden-med-en-satsning-pa-cochrane/>.
- Article ”Så blir vi bättre på att delta i Cochranesamarbetet” by professor Inge Axlesson in the national journal for medical doctors: <http://lakartidningen.se/Opinion/Debatt/2016/11/Dags-att-forbatta-Cochranearbetet-i-Sverige/>.
- Article ”Cochrane Sweden” by professor Stefan Acosta in the national journal for surgeons: Svensk Kirurgi 2017; 75: 196–8. (<http://np.netpublicator.com/netpublication/n22557595/2>).

- Article "Kan jag vara säker på att min behandling är evidensbaserad?" by Minna Johansson on the journal of the Swedish network against gynecological cancer (<http://gyncancer.se/2017/05/kan-jag-vara-saker-pa-att-min-behandling-ar-evidensbaserad/>) .

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

- Website [www.sweden.cochrane.org](http://www.sweden.cochrane.org) where main activities are described, thanks to the webmaster Carl Gornitzki (information specialist at Karolinska Institute).
- Twitter account @CochraneSweden, with precious support from Carl Gornitzki.
- Official Linkedin and Facebook accounts have not been activated yet. However, several members of Cochrane Sweden promote most relevant activities in these social media as well.

## Cochrane reviews by Swedish authors

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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 22 full reviews have been published by contact authors with a current Swedish address (including those by Huan Song though during 2018 her primary affiliation is Icelandic). Two new reviews and one update have been published during 2017. Of note, more than two thirds of these 22 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 22 reviews are: Neonatal Group (11 reviews); Airways Group (2); Upper GI and Pancreatic Diseases 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 (1); Lung Cancer Group (1); Stroke Group (1); Tobacco Addiction Group (1).

There were 9 protocols in 2016. During 2017 two new protocols have been published (in neonatology) and one protocol published in 2016 is now a full review (lung cancer).

The precise figures of Cochrane registered titles are not reported in this document. However, an increased activity has been observed: 6 titles in neonatology registered during 2017; registration of new titles by participants in the Cochrane workshop held in Sweden in 2017.

## Advisory Board for Cochrane Sweden

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The Nordic Cochrane Centre has an Advisory Board and there are 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

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

## Publications by staff at Cochrane Sweden

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### *New or updated Cochrane reviews*

**Bruschettini M**, O'Donnell CP, Davis PG, Morley CJ, Moja L, Zappettini S, Calevo MG. Sustained versus standard inflations during neonatal resuscitation to prevent mortality and improve respiratory outcomes. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev.* 2017;7:CD004953.

Romantsik O, Calevo MG, Norman E, **Bruschettini M**. Clonidine for sedation and analgesia for neonates receiving mechanical ventilation. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev.* 2017;5:CD012468

Romantsik O, Calevo MG, **Bruschettini M**. Head midline position for preventing the occurrence or extension of germinal matrix-intraventricular hemorrhage in preterm infants. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev.* 2017;7:CD012362.

### *New protocols*

Romantsik O, **Bruschettini M**, Calevo MG, Banzi R, Ley D. Pharmacological pain and sedation interventions for the prevention of intraventricular hemorrhage in preterm infants on assisted ventilation - an overview of systematic reviews (Protocol). *Cochrane Database Syst Rev.* 2017;6:CD012706.

Moresco L, Calevo MG, **Bruschettini M**. Antibiotics for the management of transient tachypnea of the newborn (Protocol). *Cochrane Database Syst Rev.* 2017;11:CD012872.

### *Journal articles and reports*

Agyemang AA, Sveinsdóttir K, Vallius S, Sveinsdóttir S, **Bruschettini M**, Romantsik O, Hellström A, Smith LEH, Ohlsson L, Holmqvist B, Gram M, Ley D. Cerebellar Exposure to Cell-Free Hemoglobin Following Preterm Intraventricular Hemorrhage: Causal in Cerebellar Damage? *Transl Stroke Res.* 2017 Jun 10. doi: 10.1007/s12975-017-0539-1.

Jungner Å, Vallius S, **Bruschettini M**, Romantsik O, Gram M, Ley D. Cardiopulmonary bypass in the newborn: effects of circulatory cell-free hemoglobin and hyperoxia evaluated in a novel rat pup model. *Intensive Care Med Exp.* 2017;5(1):45.