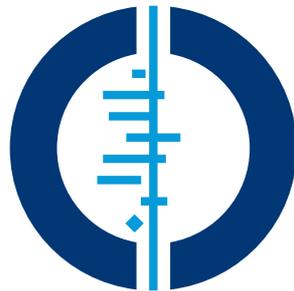


# **Annual report 2021**

**Cochrane Sweden**



**Cochrane**  
Sweden

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# Introduction

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## 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 often 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 was launched as an associate centre to the Nordic Cochrane Centre in May 2017 in Lund, where the centre is located. Cochrane Sweden, which became a full Centre in 2020, is

supported by Skåne University Hospital, Region Skåne and Lund University; since 2020, also by Region Västra Götaland.

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

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### Research

The research activity is mainly focused on the production of systematic reviews. Since September 2018, Minna Johanson (Cochrane Sweden Fellow) and Dina Muscat Meng (Communications Consultant) have been part of the staff; however since December 2019 they are Director and Coordinator of Cochrane Sustainable Health Care, respectively, which is a Field supported by Cochrane Sweden and Cochrane Denmark. In January 2020, Martin Ringsten joined as a Project Coordinator at Cochrane Sweden and Katarina Persson as administrative support.

Twenty-five Cochrane reviews have been published between 2015 and 2021, and more than 20 protocols and reviews are under preparation.

The most common research area is neonatology, focusing mainly on respiratory and neurological morbidities in the newborn. The other topics include rheumatology (two protocols published in 2020), Covid-19 (two protocols published in 2021), pain (one protocols published in 2021) epilepsy (full review published in 2020), skin cancer (full review, published in 2019).

In addition, staff at Cochrane Sweden have published a number of systematic reviews in pediatric Journals.

### 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 Cochrane Denmark, and, from 2018, of Minna Johansson, Director of Cochrane Sustainable Health Care and Claire Glenton, Director of Cochrane Norway.

Here is a list of the training events held during 2020:

- April: two-day workshop in Lund for medical doctors in Region Skåne
- May: 40-hour PhD student course on Cochrane methodology for systematic reviews, attended by more than 20 people
- June: webinar on transparency of clinical studies, attended by more than 200 people
- September: a 5 week advanced-level-course for master-students on Cochrane methodology and critical appraisal.
- October: two-day workshop on meta-analysis, attended by more than 20 people
- November: 40-hour PhD student course on Cochrane methodology for systematic reviews, attended by more than 20 people

## **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](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. Following these positive experiences, Cochrane Sweden launched Cochrane International Mobility, which has become an official project of Cochrane.

An additional project consists of 40-hour PhD student courses where CIL usage is integrated with face to face training, in collaboration with Cochrane Denmark (two editions yearly).

Worldwide, one of the largest group of CIL users 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 in the last years, especially through involvement of medical students. Since late 2020, staff and students at Lund University have free access to Cochrane.

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 published on Läkartidningen (<http://lakartidningen.se/Opinion/Debatt/2019/01/Dags-att-hoja-statusen-for-systematiska->

[översikter-i-Sverige/](#)). 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. Indeed, the academic recognition of systematic reviews has increased in the last years.

## Cochrane Sweden in the media

Since December 2019, Dina Muscat Meng works as Coordinator of Cochrane Sustainable Health Care and therefore not anymore officially part of the staff of Cochrane Sweden as Communications Consultant. Martin Ringsten is responsible of the monthly newsletter and updating the website. Information about Cochrane Sweden has been reported in the national media also in 2021, e.g.,

- Article [Söker svar i 14 000 artiklar – hur har insatser på arbetsplatserna påverkat smittspridning under covid-19?](#), Vetenskap och Hälsa, December 2021
- Article [Misslyckande att rapportera forskningsresultat – hot mot folkhälsan](#), Vetenskap och Hälsa, January 2021
- Article [Stora brister i rapportering av kliniska studier](#), Tidningen Curie, January 2021
- Article [Misslyckande att rapportera forskningsresultat - hot mot folkhälsan](#), Lund University, January 2021
- Article [Granskning exponerar brister i studierapportering](#), Dagens Medicin, January 2021
- Article [Resultat saknas för över 200 avslutade studier](#), Läkemedelsvärlden, January 2021

In 2019 we produced a video on our activities: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TqMtIoqw27I>

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

- Website [www.sweden.cochrane.org](http://www.sweden.cochrane.org) where main activities are described, thanks to Martin Ringsten and Katarina Persson.
- Twitter account @CochraneSweden
- Official LinkedIn page (<https://www.linkedin.com/company/cochrane-sweden/>)
- Instagram page [https://www.instagram.com/cochrane\\_sweden/](https://www.instagram.com/cochrane_sweden/). 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

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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, however significantly higher than a few years ago. To date, 31 full reviews have been published by contact authors with a current Swedish address. Five new review protocols and eight reviews (of these, two are updates) have been published during 2021.

The precise figures of Cochrane registered titles are not reported in this document. However, an increased activity has been observed in 2020, including titles in neonatology and new titles by participants in the Cochrane workshops held in Sweden in the last years.

## Advisory Board for Cochrane Sweden

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We created an Advisory Board in 2020: <https://sweden.cochrane.org/about-us/cochrane-sweden/cochrane-sweden-advisory-board> The Advisory Board met up twice during 2021.

## Acknowledgements

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The staff at Cochrane Sweden are grateful for the support from Karsten Jørgensen and Claire Glenton, Cochrane Denmark and Cochrane Norway, respectively.

Also, we acknowledge Stefan Jovinge at Skåne University Hospital for his wise guidance.

## Publications by staff at Cochrane Sweden

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### *New or updated Cochrane reviews*

1. Moresco L, **Bruschettini M**, Macchi M, Calevo MG. [Salbutamol for transient tachypnea of the newborn](#). Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2021, Issue 2. Art. No.: CD011878
2. Gupta N, **Bruschettini M**, Chawla D. [Fluid restriction in the management of transient tachypnea of the newborn](#). Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2021, Issue 2. Art. No.: CD011466.
3. Bellù R, Romantsik O, Nava C, de Waal KA, Zanini R, **Bruschettini M**. [Opioids for newborn infants receiving mechanical ventilation](#). Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2021, Issue 3. Art. No.: CD013732
4. Garegnani L, **Styrmisdóttir L**, Roson Rodriguez P, Escobar Liquitay CM, Esteban I, Franco JVA. [Palivizumab for preventing severe respiratory syncytial virus \(RSV\) infection in children](#). Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2021, Issue 11. Art. No.: CD013757

5. Galderisi A, Trevisanuto D, Russo C, Hall R, **Bruschettini M**. [Continuous glucose monitoring for the prevention of morbidity and mortality in preterm infants](#). Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews. 2021, Issue 12. Art. No.: CD01330

### ***New protocols***

1. Marques K, Roehr CC, **Bruschettini M**, Davis PG, Soll R. [Methylxanthine for the prevention and treatment of apnea in preterm infants](#). Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2021, Issue 1. Art. No.: CD013830. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD013830.
2. **Bruschettini M**, Brattström P, Russo C, Onland W, Davis PG, Soll R. [Caffeine dosing regimens in preterm infants with or at risk for apnea of prematurity](#). Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2021, Issue 2. Art. No.: CD013873. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD013873.
3. Kinoshita M, Stempel KS, Borges do Nascimento IJ, **Bruschettini M**. [Systemic opioids versus other analgesics and sedatives for postoperative pain in neonates](#). Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2021, Issue 4. Art. No.: CD014876. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD014876.
4. Kinoshita M, Borges do Nascimento IJ, **Styrnisdóttir L**, **Bruschettini M**. [Systemic opioids regimens for postoperative pain in neonates](#). Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2021, Issue 5. Art. No.: CD015016. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD015016.
5. Bäcké P, **Bruschettini M**, Sibrecht G, Thernström Blomqvist Y, Olsson E. [Pharmacological interventions for pain and sedation management in infants undergoing therapeutic hypothermia](#). Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2021, Issue 7. Art. No.: CD015023. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD015023
6. Pizarro AB, Persad E, Duraó S, Nussbaumer-Streit B, Garritty C, Engela-Volker JS, McElvenny D, Rhodes S, Stocking K, Fletcher T, Van Tongeren M, Martin C, Noertjojo K, Sampson O, Jørgensen KJ, **Bruschettini M**. [Workplace interventions to reduce exposure to SARS-CoV-2 infection outside of healthcare settings](#). Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2021, Issue 9. Art. No.: CD015112. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD015112.
7. Persad E, Engela-Volker JS, Noertjojo K, Pizarro AB, Mbeye N, Jørgensen KJ, Martin C, Sampson O, **Bruschettini M**. [Elimination, substitution, engineering, and administrative interventions to reduce the risk of SARS-CoV-2 infections in healthcare workers](#) Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2021, Issue 12. Art. No.: CD015113. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD015113
8. Kinoshita M, Olsson E, Borys F, **Bruschettini M**. [Opioids for procedural pain in neonates](#). Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews, 2021, Issue 12. Art. No.: CD015056. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD015056.

### **Journal articles and reports**

1. Lennart Van der Veeke L, Vergote S, Kunpalin Y, Kristensen K, Deprest J, **Bruschettini M**. [Neurodevelopmental outcomes in children with congenital diaphragmatic hernia: a systematic review and meta-analysis](#). Prenatal Diagnosis 2021.
2. Persad E, Sibrecht G, **Ringsten M**, Karlelid S, Romantsik O, Ulinder T, Borges do Nascimento IJ, Björklund M, Arno A, **Bruschettini M**. [Interventions to minimize blood loss in very preterm infants – a systematic review and meta-analysis](#). PLOS One 2021.
3. Jukema M, Borys F, Sibrecht G, Juhl Jørgensen K, **Bruschettini M**. [Antileukotrienes for the prevention and treatment of chronic lung disease in very preterm newborns: a systematic review](#). Respiratory Research 2021