THE COCHRANE ANAESTHESIA REVIEW GROUP
Annual report 2011
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Preface

Welcome to the 2011 CARG annual report.

This has been a particularly busy year for both The Cochrane Collaboration, and for the Cochrane Anaesthesia Review Group (CARG). The Cochrane Library is published on-line 12 times a year instead of quarterly. This frequency of publication has brought new challenges, such as an increased number of deadlines, but also advantages such as more frequent publications and a shorter delay between approval of a protocol or review for publication and its appearance on-line. We published 4 new reviews, 7 updated reviews and 21 protocols in 2011. The total number of CARG reviews and protocols in The Cochrane Library is now 74 reviews and 76 protocols.

In 2011 we started to use workflows to help organize our work. This electronic system will speed up both communication between the Editorial Base and authors and publications. The workflow system helps us track where each protocol and review is in the editorial process, communicate directly with authors, peers and editors and to store all files. Like any new system it will take a while to get used to but the advantages are beginning to show.

We continued, in 2011, to receive many expressions of interest from developing country authors in registering titles in anaesthesia, emergency medicine and intensive care. In 2012 we will hold a CARG editorial meeting. At time of press the location is still unconfirmed. If possible we hope to combine this meeting with master classes and workshops. However that depends on the location.

We attended the Cochrane Colloquium in Madrid, Spain and held very successful Editorial Board and CARG contributors’ meetings.

There have been changes to the group. CARG’s associated PhD student successfully defended his thesis and has now joined us as an editor. In addition we have a new Emergency Medicine Editor. All of these changes and others are detailed further on in this addition of the annual report.

We would like to thank CARG’s worldwide contributors who have put a great deal of effort into this review production. Without authors, editors, peer reviewers, translators, consumers and everyone else, there would be no CARG. So thank you for your tremendous work.

Finally, we would like to acknowledge and thank our main funder “Region Hovedstaden”, and our other funders, who supported us in 2011. Without their important support it would not be possible to continue the work of CARG.

Ann M. Møller (Co-ordinating Editor)
Nathan Pace (Co-ordinating Editor)
Jane Cracknell (Managing Editor)

Copenhagen, February 2012
The Cochrane Anaesthesia Review Group (CARG)

CARG conducts systematic reviews of randomized controlled trials (RCTs) and other controlled Clinical Trials (CCTs) of interventions and diagnostic test accuracy evaluating outcomes in:

- Anaesthesia
- Emergency medicine
- Perioperative medicine
- Prehospital medicine
- Intensive care medicine
- Resuscitation

We try to avoid any possible duplication of work by closely collaborating with other Collaborative Review Groups, which have overlapping scopes, such as the Cochrane Pregnancy and Childbirth Group, the Cochrane Injuries Group and the Cochrane Pain, Palliative Care and Supportive Care Group. We ask the Cochrane Child Health Field to provide peers for all reviews that include children. We are committed to collaborating on topics that are on the borderline between Groups, both in performing the reviews as well as in the editorial process. If a CARG review potentially overlaps with another Cochrane Group, then that Group is asked to contribute to our editorial process by providing a peer-reviewer.

CARG Editorial Office

The CARG Editorial Office is located in Panum Institute, Rigshospitalet, Copenhagen, Denmark.

Ann M Møller, MD, DMSc, Associate Professor of Anaesthesiology
Co-ordinating Editor

Nathan Pace MD, MSTAT Professor of Anesthesiology
Co-ordinating Editor

Jane Cracknell, RN, BA, MSc
Managing Editor

Karen Hovhannisyan, MD, MSc
Trials Search Co-ordinator

Tom Pedersen, MD, DMSc
Editorial advisor and treasurer
CARG Editors

In 2011 Martha Beatriz Delgado Ramirez resigned as a CARG editor.

Two new editors, Arash Afshari and Ronan O’Sullivan, joined CARG Editorial Board in 2011. Arash has been affiliated with CARG during the last 3 years as a PhD student. He is working as a paediatric Anaesthetist in Copenhagen and also has a part time research position at the University of Geneva, Switzerland, Department of Infectious Disease Control. Ronan has been affiliated with CARG (and other review groups) for several years as an author and reviewer. He works as a Consultant in Paediatric Emergency Medicine at Ireland’s largest tertiary children’s hospital, clinical trials and health services research. They will both be a great asset to our team.

- Arash Afshari, Denmark and Switzerland
- Michael Bennett, Australia
- John Carlisle, UK (Feedback Editor)
- Harald Herkner, Austria
- Stephan Kettner, Austria
- Anna Lee, Hong Kong
- Ann M. Møller, Denmark
- Mark Neuman, USA
- Ronan O’Sullivan, Ireland
- Nathan Pace, USA (Senior Statistical Editor)
- Tom Pedersen, Denmark
- Nicola Petrucci, Italy
- Andrew Smith, UK
- Marialena Trivella, (Statistical Editor) UK
- Cathal D Walsh (Statistical Editor) Ireland
- Mathew Zacharias, New Zealand

CARG Members

We have a broad membership of individuals, many of whom are active and contribute to our work by performing systematic reviews, editing, peer refereeing, handsearching, translating or extracting data.

Publication in medical journals and in The Cochrane Library; the CARG website, the CARG newsletter, and intense recruitment at conferences have all contributed to our rapid growth.
Publications in *The Cochrane Library*, 2011

We published 4 new reviews, 7 updated reviews and 21 protocols in 2011.

![Graph showing publications from 2000 to 2011](image)

**New reviews**


**Updated reviews**


**New protocols**


Peer reviewers

We would like to thank all the peer reviewers who have contributed to the CARG peer review process.

In particular we would like to thank the following peer reviewers who contributed to the editorial process of a protocol or review published in 2011:


Publishing agreement with Anesthesia and Analgesia (A&A)

The Cochrane Anaesthesia Review Group has a publishing agreement with A&A. All newly published CARG reviews can be submitted to A&A if the authors wish. (Please be aware that authors do not have to submit their abstracts to A&A, they are entitled to
seek publication in a journal of their choice. (Each individual republication is of course subject to Cochrane Library approval). Authors are made aware that the editors’ of A&A may either decide to publish their Cochrane abstract in a new Cochrane Corner or the full review. (If the editor in chief accepts the full review then it will need to be edited in accordance with A&A’s style guidelines and will enter A&A’s editorial process.)

**Impact Factor**

Note that 2010 impact factors are actually published in 2011; they cannot be calculated until all of the 2010 publications have been processed by the indexing agency; similarly Wiley are able to inform us in 2011 which of our 2010 publications were most assessed or cited.

The impact factor of the *CDSR* for 2010 rose to 6.186. The Impact Factor increased by 9.4%. In the last 4 years the Impact Factor for the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (CDSR) has increased by an average of 10% year on year. The CDSR is now ranked in the top 10 (of 151) in the Medicine, General & Internal category. The impact factor for CARG for 2009 was 4.654 (26 publications cited 121 times). A review published by the Anaesthesia Group in 2008 or 2009 was cited, on average, 4.654 times in 2010.

**Diagnostic test accuracy (DTA) reviews**

We now have four registered DTA titles of which one has been published, two are in the editorial process and one at title stage.

**Lectures, Conferences and Meetings**

We increased awareness and participation in CARG by representing CARG in the following ways:

- **Conferences and Meetings**
  - 19th Cochrane Colloquium Madrid, Spain (October 2011)

- **Cochrane Appointments 2011**
  - Nathan Pace was appointed to the Co-Ordinating Editors’ Executive
  - Jane Cracknell was appointed to the Handbook Advisory Editorial Panel
  - Karen Hovhannisyan was appointed to the RevMan Advisory Committee

**Cochrane Anaesthesia News**

Cochrane Anaesthesia News, the CARG Newsletter, is published on the CARG website once a year and distributed to CARG members and other interested parties worldwide.

**CARG website**
The CARG new web site was launched in February 2006. Since 2010 CARG uses the Cochrane Collaboration’s new web site builder based on Drupal platform. The web site is updated periodically.

The website [www.carg.cochrane.org](http://www.carg.cochrane.org) contains information about:

- The CARG editors and CARG editorial office
- The CARG activities
- CARG policies
- The scope of the CARG
- The topics addressed by the CARG
- The reviews, protocols and titles supported by the CARG
- The CARG membership
- Writing a systematic review (resources for Review Authors)
- Other information about the CARG, including Cochrane Anaesthesia News
- The Cochrane Collaboration and anaesthesia-related entities, through Web links as well as CARG publications
- Introduction to consumers and handsearchers

**Specialized Register (SR-ANAESTH)**

The CARG maintains a register of more than 33,000 RCTs and CCTs related to: anaesthesia, perioperative medicine, intensive care medicine, pre-hospital medicine, resuscitation and emergency medicine. The register is maintained on ProCite software, and searches for trials are executed quarterly. Trials included in the register are tagged SR-ANAESTH, and the tag term may be searched in the Cochrane Library. The register has now been submitted to CENTRAL. Access to the register is available to authors and other members of the CARG.

**Handsearching**

Members of the CARG are actively involved in handsearching anaesthesia journals in order to identify RCTs and CCTs for inclusion in systematic reviews, the Specialized Register, the Cochrane CENTRAL Register of Controlled Trials and The National Library of Medicine, CARG’s HS-ANAESTH results have been submitted to NECC@PCentral.

We currently have two active handsearchers. We are looking for new handsearchers to help us increase our handsearch activities.

**Consumer representation in CARG reviews**

We now have an active consumer panel consisting of: Suzanne Cunliffe, Ann Fonfa, Clare Jeffrey, Tracey Lloyd, Anne Lyddiatt, Anne Peticola, Janet Wale and Durhane Wong-Rieger.

Each Cochrane review contains a plain language summary (PLS). The PLS are now stand-alone documents and will be published in PubMed Health, a service from the US National Library of Medicine (NLM) aimed at the public. This has the potential to greatly increase the number of people reading the PLS and also clicking through to the abstracts and full-text reviews. It is important therefore that the PLS is consistent with
the review and readable. We have, therefore, asked our group of consumers to concentrate on helping us improve the quality of CARG’s PLS.

**We achieved the following goals in 2011**

- We recruited another anaesthesia editor (we also recruited an emergency medicine editor)
- We published 11 reviews (4 new and 7 updated) and 21 protocols
- We started planning for the editors’ meeting in 2012

**Our goals for 2012**

- To continuously improve the quality and the clinical relevance of CARG reviews
- To hold a successful 2012 CARG editors’ meeting
- To publish 10 reviews and 20 protocols

**Funders**

- Region Hovedstaden
- Sofus Carl Emil Friis og Hustru Olga Doris Friis’ Legat
- Wedell-Wedellsborg Fond
- Familien Hede Nielsens Fond
- Jakob Madsen Fond

**Budget**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Budget (in Danish Kroner)</th>
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<td>1.236.000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Expenditures</td>
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<tr>
<td>Balance</td>
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The Cochrane Anaesthesia Review Group, Annual Report 2011

CARG Annual Report is published by the Cochrane Anaesthesia Review Group (CARG). It is distributed by CARG worldwide. CARG is a part of The Cochrane Collaboration (UK registered Charity No. 1045921) For more information about CARG's International Newsletter please contact us Tel: (0045) 35 45 73 24 • Fax: (0045) 35 45 74 54

CARG Team after the successful board meeting, café in Madrid