

Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, University of Auckland

## The New Zealand Branch of the Australasian Cochrane Centre

### GREETINGS

Greetings from the NZ Cochrane office. We would like to update you with what has been happening in our office so far this year as well as some international Cochrane news. The Cochrane Collaboration had a high profile review (see below - Cochrane Tamiflu review) published earlier this year which generated a lot of media attention. We have also had one of our own staff recognised in the New Year's honours list. Later this year we will be hosting a visit by one of the co-chairs of the Cochrane Collaboration, Lisa Bero. During this visit Lisa will be leading a half day symposium exploring the effect of industry on healthcare

<http://nz.cochrane.org/symposium>



Branch Co-Director  
Professor Cindy Farquhar

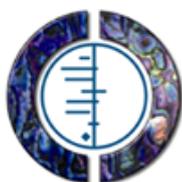


Branch Co-Director  
Dr Mark Jeffery



New Zealand Cochrane Fellow  
Dr Vanessa Jordan

### SAVE THE DAY!



**Industry influence in healthcare and research: does it matter?**

**Monday 24th, November 2014**

**Grafton Campus, University of Auckland, Auckland**

### COCHRANE NEURAMINIDASE INHIBITORS IN INFLUENZA REVIEW



Oseltamivir (Tamiflu) is one of the anti-viral medications that has been promoted as a treatment for influenza. During the 2009 influenza pandemic, countries within the developed world spent over a billion dollars stockpiling this medication. Since 2009 researchers have been aware that Roche, the company that manufactures Tamiflu, has withheld clinical trial data. Tom Jefferson and his Cochrane co-authors involved in the review "[Neuraminidase inhibitors for preventing and treating influenza in healthy adults and children](#)"

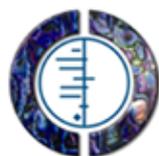
have been trying to access the data from these clinical trials for the last four years. At the end of 2013 Roche finally released this data. The Cochrane review has now been updated to include these trials and was published in April of this year. The new review looks at the effect of Tamiflu on the transmission and amelioration of the influenza virus. This review shows there is no evidence to suggest that Tamiflu reduces the serious complications of influenza nor does it prevent its transmission. It may aid resolution of symptoms by up to half a day. The story of Tamiflu and the monetary gain made by the company by the suppression of the clinical trial data has been covered widely by the media and we will feature in the symposium on the influence of industry on healthcare later this year. Please see the upcoming events section to learn more about this symposium.

## PROFESSOR LISA BERO'S VISIT



Some of you will know that one of our current co-chairs of the Cochrane Collaboration Steering group, Lisa Bero, is moving “down under” to take up the chair in Medicines Use and Health Outcomes (Faculty of Pharmacy) at The University of Sydney. What you may not know is Lisa has agreed to “cross the ditch” to pay us a visit. Lisa’s professorial visit to Cochrane NZ will take place towards the end of November. During her visit Lisa will be speaking in both Auckland and Christchurch (see upcoming events for dates). In Auckland we are utilising Lisa’s presence to host a half day symposium on Industry influence in Healthcare. The symposium will be held on the 24th of November at the Auckland Medical School, Grafton, Auckland. As well as the keynote address by Lisa, we will also be hearing from other researchers about their views on industry’s influence within the biological sciences, media and healthcare itself. Attending the symposium will be free of charge but as we have limited space you must register your interest. Please visit the symposium’s webpage to see the programme and register <http://nz.cochrane.org/symposium>

### Industry influence in healthcare and research: does it matter?



Industry influence in healthcare and research: does it matter?

Monday 24th, November 2014

Grafton Campus, University of Auckland, Auckland

1:00 - 1:05	Prof Cindy Farquhar - Welcome and introduction
1:05 - 2:00	Prof Lisa Bero – Taming the beast: managing conflicts of interest in research
2:00 - 2:20	Peter Griffin – ProPublica and Sunshine Act- International perspective
2:20 - 2:40	Cindy Farquhar – Why NZ needs a sunshine act?
2:40 - 3:00	Prof Chris Bullen – Clinical trials and industry: a perspective from NIHI
3:00 - 3:30	<b>Afternoon Tea</b>
3:30 - 3:50	Prof Shaun Hendy – Can we trust our scientists
3:50 - 4:10	Dr Sarah Hetrick – Cochrane antidepressant review the role of industry in the research
4:10 - 4:30	Dr Vanessa Jordan – Cochrane Tamiflu review and the All Trials campaign
4:30 - 5:00	Nikki MacDonald interviewing Dr Mark Jeffery, Dr David Menkes, Dr Mark Webster, Dr Don Mackie and Dr Stewart Jessamine
	Panel interview with clinicians and policy makers about industry funding
5:00 - 5:15	Final thoughts – Lisa <u>Bero</u>
5:15 - 6:00	Drinks and conversation

## NEW YEAR'S HONOURS

We were delighted to hear at the start of the year that one of our own, Prof Cindy Farquhar was to receive one of the NZ's highest honours as part of the New Year's honours list. In March of this year Cindy was presented with the CNZM (Companions of the Order) for Services to Women's Health. It was a thoroughly well-deserved honour. Those of us who work with Cindy know the dedication she shows to women's health through her clinical work and research, her involvement with the perinatal and maternal mortality review committee, all her Cochrane work not to mention also running primary research trials in the area of subfertility. Congratulations Cindy!!!!



## ALL TRIALS

We have already discussed the Alltrials campaign within this newsletter but I just wanted to update you on the ongoing activity of this initiative. In March of this year the European parliament voted to enforce publication of results from any clinical trial that is being conducted within Europe. Researchers must publish within one year of the trial being concluded. This is a fantastic step forward for transparency of clinical data but unfortunately is prospective in nature only. The campaign continues to focus on all the trials that have already been run but have not reached the public sphere. There are currently 79,252 individuals and 485 organisations that have endorsed this campaign. If you have not already, please visit the Alltrials website to register your support <http://www.alltrials.net/>.



## WORKSHOPS

The New Zealand Branch continues to offer training to authors throughout New Zealand in the methods of systematic reviewing. In addition we have been involved in the Wellington summer school where hands on computer training with the software package RevMan was undertaken as part of a one day course on literature review and meta-analysis. We have also held the first of the biannual Cochrane protocol and analysis workshops in Auckland. Prof Peter Herbison helped with the statistical sessions on the second day as is pictured below. If you are interested in any of the future training opportunities please visit our training page on the Cochrane NZ webpage.



**RECENT NEW ZEALAND AUTHORED PROTOCOLS IN ISSUES 1-6, 2014 OF THE  
COCHRANE LIBRARY**

**Task-oriented interventions for children with developmental co-ordination disorder**

NZ author: Miyahara Motohide & Shinichi Nakagawa

**Oral dextrose gel for the treatment of hypoglycaemia in newborn infants**

NZ author: Philip Weston, Deborah Harris, Malcolm Battin, Julie Brown, Jo Hegarty, Jane Harding & Caroline Crowther

**Psychological and educational interventions for subfertile men and women**

NZ authors: Cindy Farquhar

**Thyroxine replacement for subfertile women with euthyroid autoimmune thyroid disease or subclinical hypothyroidism**

NZ author: Julie Brown

**Dehydroepiandrosterone for women in the peri- or postmenopausal phase**

NZ author: Sarah Armstrong & Cindy Farquhar

**Home versus hospital glucose monitoring for gestational diabetes during pregnancy**

NZ author: Caroline Crowther

**Intermittent inhaled corticosteroid therapy versus placebo for persistent asthma in children and adults**

NZ author: Jimmy Chong, Cheyaanthan Haran & Innes Asher

**Pharmacological treatment for antipsychotic-related constipation**

NZ author: Susanna Every-Palmer

**RECENT NEW ZEALAND AUTHORED REVIEWS IN ISSUES 1-6, 2014 OF THE  
COCHRANE LIBRARY**

**Aromatase inhibitors for subfertile women with polycystic ovary syndrome**

NZ author: Cindy Farquhar

**Darbepoetin for the anaemia of chronic kidney disease**

NZ authors: Suetonia Palmer

**Endometriosis: an overview of Cochrane Reviews**

NZ authors: Julie Brown, Cindy Farquhar

**Reminder systems for women with previous gestational diabetes mellitus to increase uptake of testing for type 2 diabetes or impaired glucose tolerance**

NZ authors: Caroline Crowther

**Written emotional disclosure for asthma**

NZ author: Alice Theadom

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### COCHRANE COLLOQUIUM



### PROFESSOR LISA BERO DATES

#### Auckland November 24th 2014

**Symposium keynote speaker** "Taming the beast: managing conflicts of interest in research"

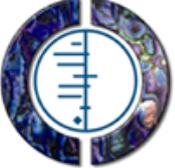
#### Auckland November 26th 2014

**Lunchtime Faculty presentation** "Hidden and not so hidden biases in drug trials"

#### Christchurch November 28th 2014

**Hospital Grand round 12:15-1:15** "Biases present in Industry studies"

## SYMPOSIUM - NOVEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup> 2014 SAVE THE DAY!

	<p><b>Industry influence in healthcare and research: does it matter?</b></p> <p>Monday 24th, November 2014</p> <p>Grafton Campus, University of Auckland, Auckland</p>
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This is an afternoon symposium which is open to all free of charge. You must however register to attend and spaces are limited. Please contact Ursula [u.foley@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:u.foley@auckland.ac.nz) to register your interest or visit the symposium web page for more information.

## META-ANALYSIS WORKSHOP

Dunedin August 26<sup>th</sup> 2014 9:00am to 5:00pm Hercus CAL, University of Otago

Meta-analysis of randomised controlled trials “slightly statistical, fully hands-on”

This is a free workshop, all attendees must be users of the Stata statistical package for more information see the flyer at the end of this newsletter. To register email [box.plot@otago.ac.nz](mailto:box.plot@otago.ac.nz).

### FLYER FOR THE META-ANALYSIS WORKSHOP

# Meta-analysis Workshop

**Prof. Peter Herbison**  
Dept of Preventive & Social Medicine, University of Otago  
Cochrane Collaboration

**Meta-analysis of randomised controlled trials  
“slightly statistical, fully hands-on”**

In this day-long workshop, Peter will give an overview of meta-analysis of randomised controlled trials. Talks will be interspersed with practical sessions using the Stata statistical package. Topics to be covered include effect measures for binary and continuous data, pooling for fixed and random effects, forest and funnel plots, small sample bias, heterogeneity, meta-regression and meta-epidemiology. If time allows, network meta-analysis will also be discussed.

**Tuesday, 26 August 2014  
9:00am to 5:00pm**

**Hercus CAL, University of Otago, Dunedin**

This is a free workshop, though lunch is not provided  
To register please email [box.plot@otago.ac.nz](mailto:box.plot@otago.ac.nz) with your name, organization and whether you will be bringing your own laptop with Stata 12 or higher

