

# The New Zealand Branch of the Australasian Cochrane Centre



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## Introduction

Welcome to the October, 2013 issue of the Cochrane newsletter. In this issue we feature Dr Suetonia Palmer a specialist from Christchurch who is carrying out some exceptional Cochrane work in renal medicine. Cochrane activity remains strong here with some newly registered review protocols and reviews by New Zealand teams as well as a newly published Cochrane review by an Auckland team that has generated worldwide interest. We would also like to promote the upcoming Australasian meeting in Melbourne as an opportunity to look at the new technological advances that are being made within the collaboration.

## Cochrane Profile: Dr Suetonia Palmer



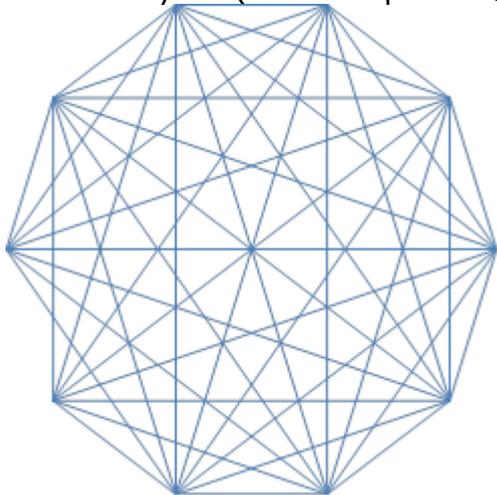
Suetonia is a kidney specialist who works at the Christchurch Campus of the University of Otago. She started doing meta-analyses during her training as a junior doctor in 2005, completing 2 systematic reviews for the Cochrane Library (back in the days when it came out each quarter on CDs!). She started out after attending a workshop in 2004 in Auckland taken by Cindy Farquhar and Vanessa Jordan – the workshop was instrumental in getting her started! She has since completed and published more Cochrane reviews than she can count. Highlights of her research have been showing (all in people who have chronic kidney disease)

there is little or no evidence for vitamin D treatment, that cholesterol lowering is effective for people with milder kidney disease, and that treating anaemia frequently does more harm than good.

Suetonia also does meta-analyses in study types other than randomised trials. As an example, her paper published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)* in 2011 showed (by using cohort studies), that the evidence base for many blood tests used to guide treatment in kidney disease is poor. She is now conducting meta-analyses in qualitative studies of patient perspectives with researchers at the University of Sydney and is using the new technique of network meta-analysis.

This meta-analysis type allows us to rank order numerous treatments for a single condition. She has registered a Cochrane protocol for a network meta-analysis on anaemia treatments in chronic kidney disease, under supervision of Dr Georgia Salanti at the University of Ioannina. She was awarded a Health Research Council grant and a Canterbury Medical Research foundation grant this year to conduct novel meta-analyses.

Suetonia is an editor with the Cochrane Renal Group in Sydney and is looking forward to this year's Colloquium in Quebec City in September. She is always interested hearing from students who may wish to approach her about doing research using meta-analysis. ([suetonia.palmer@otago.ac.nz](mailto:suetonia.palmer@otago.ac.nz)).





## What does the future hold for the systematic review?

Systematic reviews have become accepted in a way that Cochrane's founders could perhaps only have imagined 20 years ago, but they face unprecedented challenges. Most of those involved in writing, publishing, reading or using systematic reviews could attest to the need for radical change in the way reviews are produced and presented

This symposium will explore the possibilities for Cochrane reviews of innovations in technology and data, developments in methods, and ask what the challenges are for Cochrane and Cochrane Reviews if systematic reviews are to remain an essential part of decision making.

<http://www.cochrane.org.au/symposium>



### **New Zealand Cochrane review highlighted in the Cochrane Library: Antioxidants for female infertility**

In August 2013, Marian Showell and fellow authors from the University of Auckland in New Zealand published the Cochrane Review on the effects of antioxidants on female infertility, complementing an earlier review by the same group on male infertility. Marian describes the research and their conclusions in a podcast that is available on The Cochrane Library [click here](#)

## Recent New Zealand authored protocols in Issues 4-8, 2013 of The Cochrane Library

Ayeleke RO, Hay-Smith EJC, Omar MI. Pelvic floor muscle training added to another active treatment versus the same active treatment alone for urinary incontinence in women (Protocol). *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2013, Issue 6. Art. No.: CD010551. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD010551.

Pinkney TD, McCall J, Dumville JC, Edwards FJ, Gheorghe A, Bartlett DC, Fletcher BR, Calvert MJ. Wound-edge protection devices for preventing surgical site infection in abdominal surgery (Protocol). *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2013, Issue 6. Art. No.: CD010614. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD010614.

Palmer SC, Salanti G, Craig JC, Mavridis D, Strippoli GFM. Erythropoiesis stimulating agents for anaemia in adults with chronic kidney disease: a network meta-analysis (Protocol). *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2013, Issue 7. Art. No.: CD010590. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD010590.

Heslop R, Jordan V, Trivella M, Papastamopoulos V, Roberts H. Interventions for men and women with their first episode of genital herpes (Protocol). *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2013, Issue 7. Art. No.: CD010684. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD010684.

William JR, Srikantaiah S, Mani R. Cryotherapy for acute non-specific neck pain (Protocol). *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2013, Issue 8. Art. No.: CD010711. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD010711.

Ravani P, James MT, MacRae JM, Palmer SC, Quinn RR, Oliver MJ, Strippoli GFM. Pre-emptive correction for haemodialysis arteriovenous access stenosis (Protocol). *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2013, Issue 8. Art. No.: CD010709. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD010709.

## Recent New Zealand authored reviews in Issues 4-8, 2013 of The Cochrane Library

Showell MG, Brown J, Clarke J, Hart RJ. Antioxidants for female subfertility. *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2013, Issue 8. Art. No.: CD007807. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD007807.pub2.

Farquhar C, Rishworth JR, Brown J, Nelen WLD, Marjoribanks J. Assisted reproductive technology: an overview of Cochrane Reviews. *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2013, Issue 8. Art. No.: CD010537. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD010537.pub2.

Pega F, Carter K, Blakely T, Lucas PJ. In-work tax credits for families and their impact on health status in adults. *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2013, Issue 8. Art. No.: CD009963. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD009963.pub2.

Allersma T, Farquhar C, Cantineau AEP. Natural cycle in vitro fertilisation (IVF) for subfertile couples. *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2013, Issue 8. Art. No.: CD010550. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD010550.pub2.

Dong Z, Xu J, Wang Z, Petrov MS. Stents for the prevention of pancreatic fistula following pancreaticoduodenectomy. *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2013, Issue 6. Art. No.: CD008914. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD008914.pub2.

### Upcoming events



**Protocol and Analysis workshop 2nd and 3rd December, Auckland**

<http://www.cochrane.org.nz/Training/tabid/58/language/en-US/Default.aspx>



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