



The Cochrane Renal Group

2005 Annual Report



Endorsements: Asia-Pacific Society of Nephrology, International Pediatric Nephrology Association, International Society of Nephrology, National Kidney Foundation
Industry sponsors: Amgen Australia, Janssen-Cilag, Novartis Pharmaceuticals, Wyeth Australia

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Personnel

Our personnel at the editorial base in Sydney are:

Coordinating Editor - Jonathan Craig

Review Group Coordinator - Narelle Willis

Trials Search Coordinators - Ruth Mitchell and Gail Higgins

Administration Officer – Leslee Edwards

We have twelve international editors:

- Cecile Couchoud (France)
- Denis Fouque (France)
- Elisabeth Hodson (Australia)
- Les Irwig (Australia)
- Bertram Kasiske (USA)
- Petra Macaskill (Australia)
- Alison MacLeod (UK)
- Sir Peter Morris (UK)
- Giuseppe Remuzzi (Italy)
- Teut Risler (Germany)
- Paul Roderick (UK)
- Giovanni Strippoli (Italy)

Giovanni Strippoli, who was appointed as the Cochrane Renal Group's Regional Coordinator for Italy/Europe in late 2004, has been actively working in his role organizing training courses in systematic review methodology. He has also been an invited speaker at 20 conferences during 2005.

In 2005 the Cochrane Renal Group welcomed back **Gail Higgins** as one of our Trials Search Coordinators. Gail previously worked with the Cochrane Renal Group from 2001 to 2003. She went to work with Cochrane Haematological Malignancies Group in Cologne (Germany) and the Cochrane Cancer Network in Oxford (UK). We would like to welcome back Gail and thank **Linda Heslop** for her contribution to our group during her two year secondment from The University of Sydney.

Sharn Gokalp, Cochrane Renal Group's Administration Officer, left in early 2005 to pursue her studies full time at The University of Sydney. We thank Sharn for her contribution and wish her well in her studies. We welcomed **Leslee Edwards** as Administration Officer in May 2005. Leslee previously worked with the CARI Guidelines group.

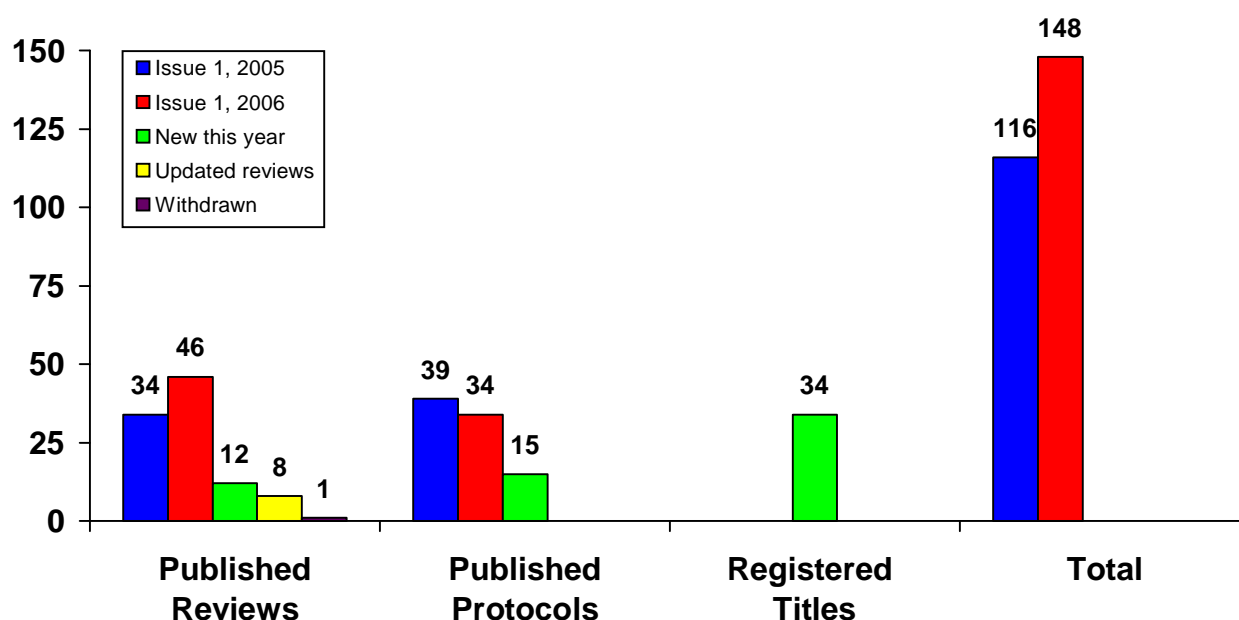
During the last 12 months we have had three overseas visitors here at the editorial base. **Tanya Pankhurst** from Birmingham (UK), **Giorgina Piccoli** from Torino (Italy) and **Paul Roderick** from Southampton (UK).

Tanya worked with **Angela Webster** on two reviews "*Polyclonal and monoclonal antibodies for treating acute rejection episodes in kidney transplant recipients*" and "*Polyclonal and monoclonal antibodies for induction therapy in kidney transplant recipients*".

Giorgina continued her work on the review "*Dialysis and transplantation for end-stage renal disease in adults*".

Paul was here on sabbatical for six months and completed the review "*Correction of metabolic acidosis for chronic kidney disease patients*", worked on a pilot diagnostic test accuracy study on GFR and participated in our weekly editorial meetings.

Reviews, protocols and titles



New reviews

- 1) Antihypertensive agents for preventing diabetic kidney disease. Giovanni Strippoli (Italy)
- 2) Antiviral medication for preventing cytomegalovirus disease in solid organ transplant recipients. Elisabeth Hodson (Australia)
- 3) Biocompatible haemodialysis membranes for acute renal failure. Bertrand Jaber (USA).
- 4) Duration of antibacterial treatment for uncomplicated urinary tract infection in women. Gai Milo (Israel).
- 5) Emergency interventions for hyperkalaemia. Catherine Clase (Canada).
- 6) Fluids and diuretics for acute ureteric colic. Andrew Worster (Canada)
- 7) Interventions for preventing bone disease in kidney transplant recipients. Suetonia Palmer (New Zealand).
- 8) Intraoperative ureteric stenting for preventing urological complications in kidney transplant recipients. Colin Wilson (UK).
- 9) Physical measures for treating depression in dialysis patients. Kannaiyan Rabindranath (UK).
- 10) Pre-emptive treatment for cytomegalovirus viraemia to prevent cytomegalovirus disease in solid organ transplant recipients. Elisabeth Hodson (Australia).
- 11) Psychosocial interventions for treating depression in dialysis patients. Kannaiyan Rabindranath (UK).
- 12) Tacrolimus versus cyclosporin as primary immunosuppression for kidney transplant recipients. Angela Webster (Australia).

Updated* or up-to-date† reviews

- 1) Cellulose, modified cellulose and synthetic membranes for haemodialysis of patients with end-stage renal disease. Alison MacLeod (UK).

* New studies identified and included

† Search strategy rerun – no new trials included

- 2) Corticosteroids for nephrotic syndrome in children. Elisabeth Hodson (Australia).
- 3) Double bag or Y-set versus standard transfer systems for continuous ambulatory peritoneal dialysis in end-stage renal disease. Conal Daly (UK).
- 4) Frequency of recombinant human erythropoietin (rH EPO) for dialysis patients. June Cody (UK).
- 5) Interventions for preventing infection in nephrotic syndrome. Hongmei Wu (China).
- 6) Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) versus opioids for acute renal colic. Anna Holdgate (Australia).
- 7) Recombinant human erythropoietin for chronic renal failure anaemia in pre-dialysis patients. June Cody (UK).
- 8) Short versus standard duration oral antibiotic therapy for acute urinary tract infection in children. Elisabeth Hodson (Australia).

New protocols

- 1) Fish oil for kidney transplant recipients
- 2) Ultrasound use for the placement of dialysis catheters
- 3) Endoscopic treatment with or without stenting for the management of ureteric calculi
- 4) Treatment for peritoneal dialysis-associated peritonitis
- 5) Chinese medicinal herbs for urinary calculi
- 6) Pharmacologic interventions for uraemic pruritis in dialysis patients
- 7) Blood pressure control strategies for autosomal dominant polycystic kidney disease
- 8) Antibiotic prophylaxis for transurethral endo-urological procedures
- 9) Lipid-lowering agents for nephrotic syndrome
- 10) Nutritional supplements for acute renal failure
- 11) Angioplasty and/or stenting for arteriovenous fistulae and graft stenoses in haemodialysis patients
- 12) Vitamin D or analogues for preventing and treating bone disease in chronic kidney disease
- 13) Glycosaminoglycan for preventing and treating diabetic kidney disease
- 14) Alpha blockers for ureteral calculi
- 15) Steroid avoidance or withdrawal for kidney transplant recipients

New titles

- 1) Advanced glycation end product (AGE) inhibitors for preventing the progression of diabetic kidney disease
- 2) Antibiotics for preventing urinary tract infections in kidney transplant recipients
- 3) Anticoagulation for continuous renal replacement therapy in patients with acute renal failure
- 4) Atrial natriuretic peptide for preventing and treating acute renal failure
- 5) Cephalosporins for treating acute pyelonephritis in adults
- 6) Chinese herbal medicine Hungqi type formulation for nephrotic syndrome
- 7) Chinese medicinal herbs for diabetic kidney disease
- 8) Continuous ambulatory peritoneal dialysis versus automated peritoneal dialysis for end-stage renal disease
- 9) Continuous renal replacement therapies for acute renal failure in critically ill patients
- 10) Cyclosporin target values in the immediate post-operative period for kidney transplant recipients
- 11) Dialyser reuse for chronic haemodialysis patients
- 12) Diuretics for nephrotic syndrome
- 13) Donor organ preservation techniques for kidney transplantation

- 14) Extracorporeal shockwave lithotripsy (ESWL) versus ureteroscopic retrieval for ureteric stones
- 15) Hydration and diuretic therapy for preventing cisplatin-induced nephrotoxicity
- 16) Insulin-like growth factor (IGF) for chronic kidney disease (Growth factors for chronic kidney disease in adults)
- 17) Intermittent versus continuous renal replacement therapy for acute renal failure
- 18) Interventions for lowering plasma homocysteine levels in kidney transplant recipients
- 19) Interventions for lowering plasma homocysteine levels in pre-dialysis patients
- 20) Interventions for minimal change disease in adults with nephrotic syndrome
- 21) Interventions for preventing hepatitis C virus infection in haemodialysis units
- 22) Interventions for preventing thrombosis in adults and children with nephrotic syndrome
- 23) Interventions for treating haemodialysis access blockage
- 24) Iron supplements for patients with end-stage renal failure receiving erythropoietin
- 25) Keto acid supplements for patients with chronic kidney disease
- 26) Laparoscopic versus open nephrectomy for live kidney donors
- 27) Phosphate binders for preventing and treating bone disease in chronic kidney disease patients
- 28) Routine biopsies for kidney transplant recipients
- 29) Short versus standard duration haemodialysis for end-stage renal disease
- 30) Standard versus high Kt/V or creatinine clearance for chronic haemodialysis patients
- 31) Steroid avoidance or withdrawal for kidney transplant recipients
- 32) Tacrolimus for simultaneous kidney-pancreas transplant recipients
- 33) Topical corticosteroids for treating phimosis in children
- 34) Vitamin E bonded membranes for maintenance haemodialysis patients

Prospective trials register

In mid 2005, the Cochrane Renal Group set up a Prospective Trial Register accessible via the Group's website at <http://www.cochrane-renal.org/trialsubmissionform.php>.

Trials that conform to the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) definition i.e. "Any research project that prospectively assigns human subjects to intervention and comparison groups to study the cause and effect relationship between a medical intervention and a health outcome" ...and have at least one prospectively assigned concurrent control or comparison group" [1, 2] within the area of nephrology are eligible for registration.

The registration process requires data about the study or trial to be submitted under the following headings:

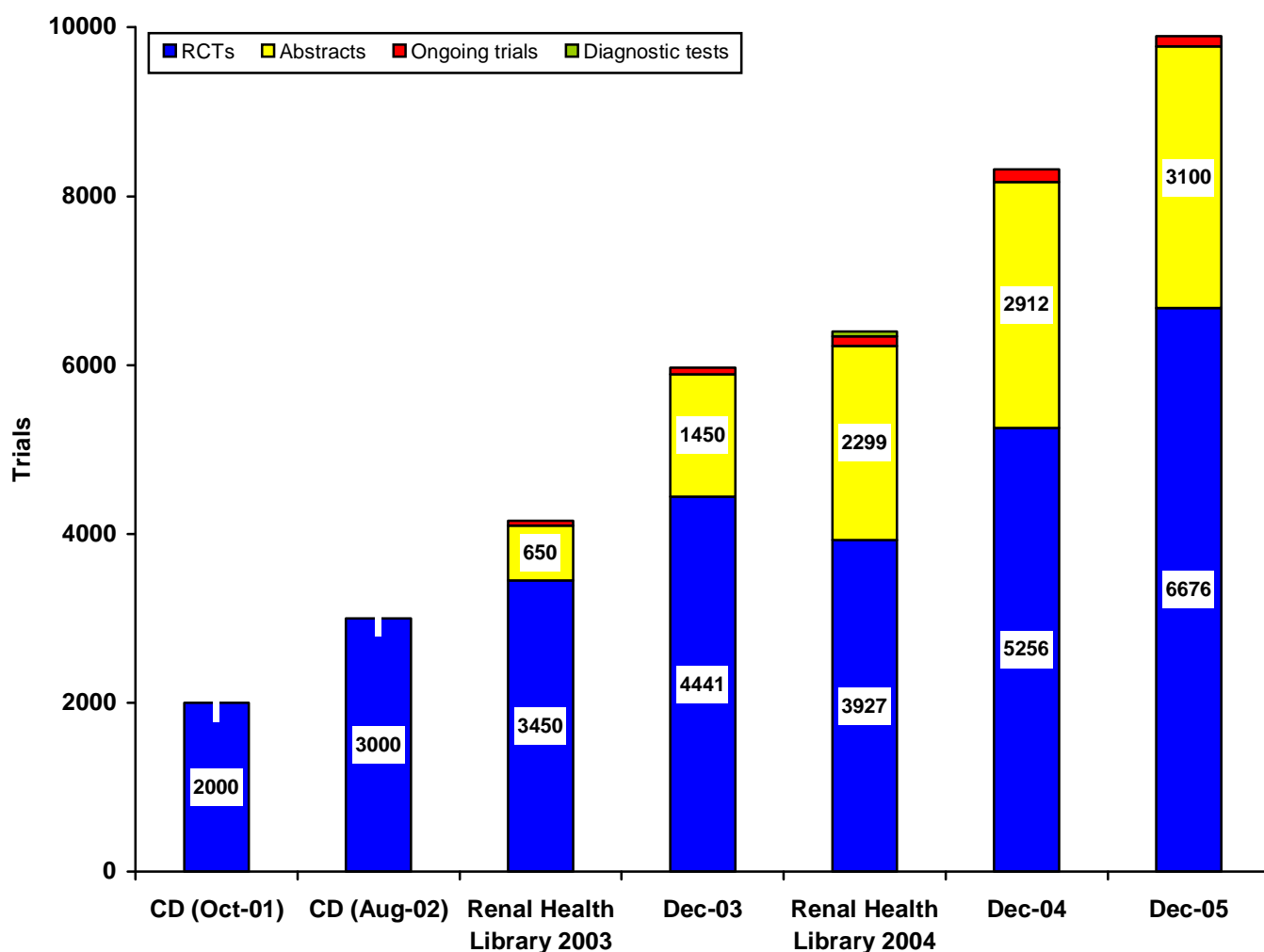
- Study title which includes an acronym or a web site for further information
- Lead Investigator [position and contact details]
- Study contact or Study coordinator [position and contact details]
- Sources of funding
- Study design [study design, group assignment, blinding, start and completion dates both proposed and actual, whether the study is multi-centre and multi-national]
- Study description [research question in plain English, status of study, health care condition, interventions, participants, recruitment, inclusion & exclusion criteria, primary and secondary outcomes]
- References [reports generated by study]

Once a completed registration form is submitted, a unique registration number, e.g. CRG00001, is emailed to the registrants. The unique ID is based on the month & year of registration followed by a sequential number.

Since June 2005, 39 studies have been registered.

Specialist trials register

We currently have 9897 randomised controlled trials (RCTs) on our register, and hold approximately one third of these in full-text hard copy. A major effort in handsearching of the conference proceedings of the American Society of Nephrology, European Renal Association, European Dialysis and Transplantation Association and other transplantation meetings has identified 3100 RCTs, which have now been included in our register. Further RCTs are being identified from early issues and supplements of Kidney International by our team of volunteer handsearchers in Canberra.



Diagnostic test register

The Cochrane Renal Group is currently piloting systematic reviews of diagnostic test accuracy studies, and is a member of the Collaboration's Diagnostic Test Working Group. The Working Group has decided that a register of reports of diagnostic test accuracy, similar to the Cochrane register of controlled trials (CENTRAL), would be a valuable resource. The aim is to develop a clean and comprehensive register of reports of diagnostic test accuracy studies to provide:

- support for review groups conducting Cochrane reviews of diagnostic test accuracy
- a mechanism to re-tag studies of diagnostic test accuracy with a searchable field name in Medline e.g. diagnostic accuracy.pt
- a tool for methodological research of diagnostic test accuracy studies

The Renal Group has obtained some funding for this project, and is currently working on objectives and outcomes for the development of the register during 2006. These will include:

- setting up a database to house the register
- developing search strategies and protocols for retrieving relevant reports from Medline
- developing coding to enable accurate retrieval of reports from the register

Renal health library*

In addition to the trials register, the RHL contains Cochrane reviews, non-Cochrane systematic reviews, and a diagnostic test register.

The third issue of the Renal Health Library was launched in Singapore at the World Congress of Nephrology meeting in June 2005 and distributed

- to all our members
- as an insert with the November 2005 issue of the *American Journal of Kidney Diseases (AJKD)* and *Nephrology*
- at the American Society of Nephrology meeting in November 2005 at the AJKD stand
- through the ANZSN newsletter
- website requests
- in total about 15,000 copies have been distributed.

Future plans:

- Agreement for circulation through Kidney International (10,000 copies)
- Expansion of the diagnostic test register
- More systematic reviews, including diagnostic test reviews

* supported by an unrestricted educational grant from Amgen Australia

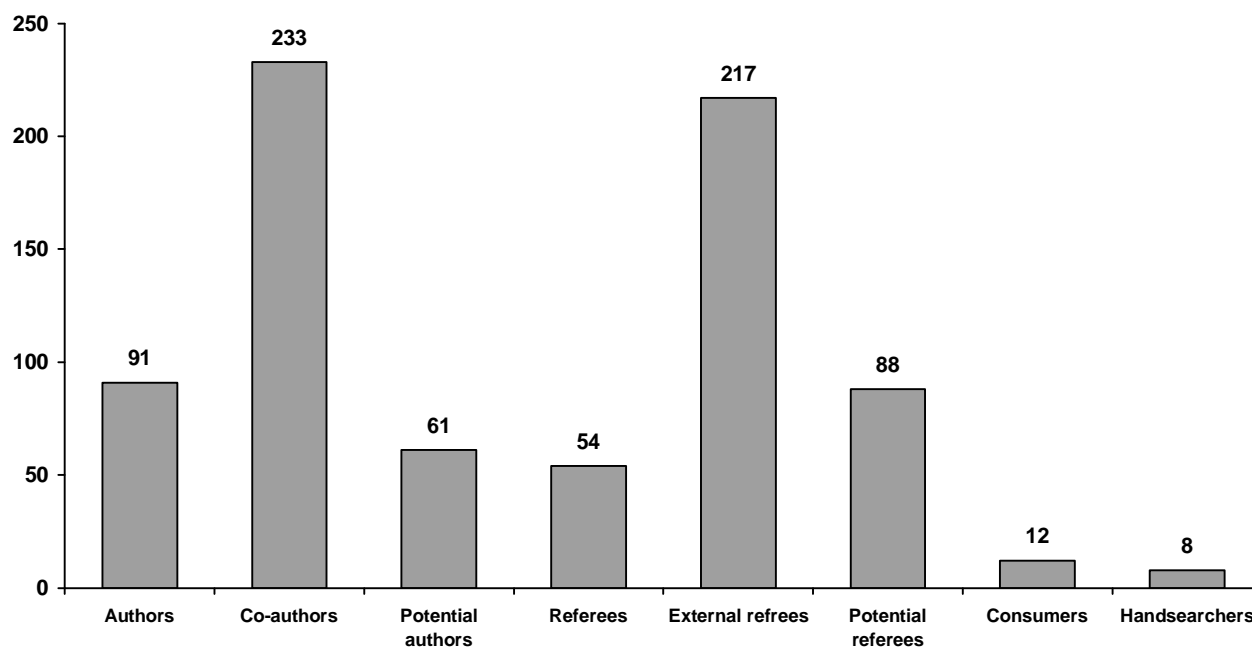
Group involvement

Our membership continues to expand. At the end of December 2005 our total number of Members has increased to 489.

We also have a large non-member list (514). Most are happy to just receive our newsletter, CD-ROM and be kept up to date with The Cochrane Collaboration, while others are peer and potential peer referees.

The Cochrane Renal Group includes:

- 91 primary authors
- 233 co-authors
- 61 members who would like to undertake a review in the future
- 54 peer referees
- 88 possible peer referees
- 217 external referees
- 12 consumers who assist us in refereeing our protocols and reviews
- 8 members who handsearch journals for randomised controlled trials.



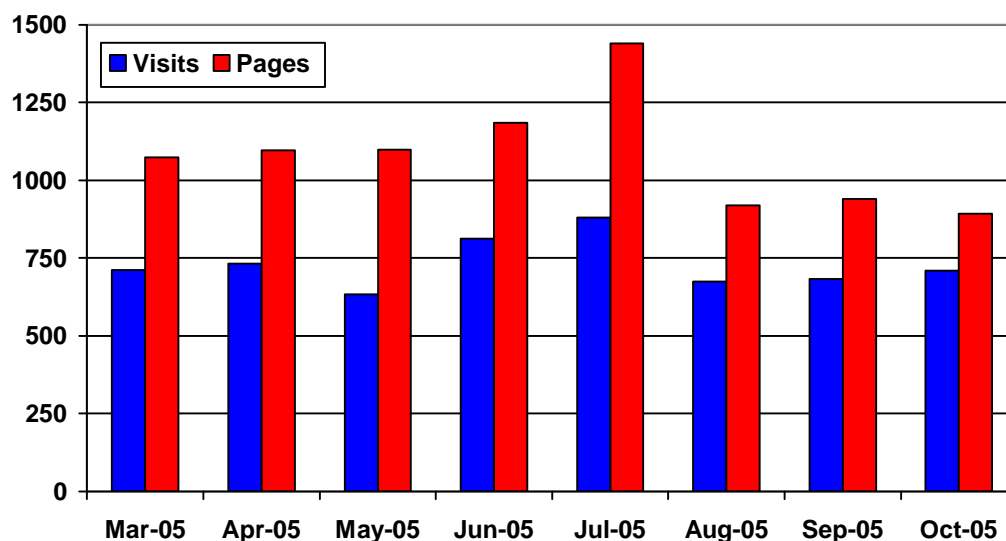
Dissemination

Website

Our website, located at www.cochrane-renal.org was given a new look in March 2005.

On the site you can find:

- All our reviews, protocols and registered titles [with links to the full-text or abstract]
- Recently published studies for 2006 and ongoing trials, [with links to PubMed abstracts or other full-text links]
- Access to the online version of the Renal Health Library
- Resources for authors and referees on writing a review
- A Prospective Trial Register for kidney disease
- Our current and past newsletters
- List of potential review titles requiring authors, online membership form, workshop details, and a selection of information brochures.



The most frequently visited pages were:

1. The Home Page
2. "Search the registered trial" page
3. Reviews [lists all reviews]
4. Ongoing trials
5. CRG topic list
6. How to become involved with CRG
7. Recently published trials
8. Prospective Trials Registration form
9. Newsletters
10. Protocols

The Renal Health Library page was 13.

Newsletters

Our newsletter is produced twice a year, in April and October. Our newsletters contain:

- Renal Group and Collaboration news
- A list of recent and ongoing trials,
- Upcoming international nephrology meetings
- Abstracts and Consumer synopses of recently published Cochrane Renal Group Reviews
- List of titles needing reviewers
- Cochrane protocol and analysis workshop dates for around the world.

Abstracts 2005

Mitchell RL, Rinaldi FR, Craig JC. Performance of published search strategies for studies of diagnostic test accuracy (SDTAs) in Medline and Embase [abstract 001]. 13th Cochrane Colloquium, Program and Abstracts. 22-26 October, 2005: 33

Palmer S, McGregor D, Craig J, Strippoli G. Vitamin D analogues for bone disease in chronic kidney disease: A meta-analysis. [Abstract PS101]. Nephrology, 2005 10(Suppl 3): A406.

Strippoli G, Craig M, Craig J. Antihypertensive agents to prevent diabetic nephropathy: Meta-analysis. [Abstract PS88]. Nephrology, 2005 10(Suppl 3): A402

Strippoli G, Tong A, Palmer S, Elder G, Craig J. Impact of calcimimetics on secondary hyperparathyroidism (SHPT) ? A meta-analysis. [Abstract PS89]. Nephrology, 2005 10(Suppl 3): A402.

Webster A, Pankhurst T, Rinaldi F, Chapman J, Craig J. Mono- and polyclonal antibody therapy for treating acute rejection in kidney transplant recipients; a meta-analysis of randomized trials. [Abstract PS69]. Nephrology, 2005 10(Suppl 3): A397.

Wiggins K, Johnson D, Craig J, Strippoli G. A systematic review of trials of peritoneal dialysis-associated peritonitis treatment. [Abstract PS33]. Nephrology, 2005 10(Suppl 3): A388.

Wiggins KJ, Craig JC, Johnson DW, Strippoli GFM. A Systematic Review of Trials of Peritoneal Dialysis-Associated Peritonitis Treatment. [Abstract SA-PO706]. Journal of the American Society of Nephrology, 2005 16(October) 710A

Navaneethan S, Chaukiyal P, Craig J, Strippoli G. Phosphate Binders for Bone and Cardiovascular Disease in Chronic Kidney Disease: Meta-Analysis. [Abstract PUB480] Journal of the American Society of Nephrology, 2005 16(October) 886A

Palmer PC, McGregor DO, Craig JC, Elder GJ, Strippoli GFM. Calcitriol or an Analogue for Secondary Hyperparathyroidism? A Systematic Review. [Abstract PUB482]. Journal of the American Society of Nephrology, 2005 16(October) 887A

Strippoli GFM, Craig MC, Craig JC. Antihypertensive Agents for the Primary Prevention of Diabetic Nephropathy. [Abstract SA-PO373] Journal of the American Society of Nephrology, 2005 16(October) 639A.

Strippoli GFM, Tong A, Palmer S, Elder G, Craig JC. Patient-Level and Biochemical Effects of Calcimimetics for Secondary Hyperparathyroidism: Meta-Analysis.

[Abstract PUB474]. Journal of the American Society of Nephrology, 2005
16(October) 885A

Journal publications 2005

BMJ

Webster AC, Woodroffe RC, Taylor RS, Chapman JR, Craig JC. Tacrolimus versus ciclosporin as primary immunosuppression for kidney transplant recipients: meta-analysis and meta-regression of randomised trial data. *BMJ* 2005 331(7520):810-4.

Lancet

Hodson EM, Jones CA, Webster AC, Strippoli GFM, Barclay BG, Kable K, Vimalachandra D, Craig JC. Antiviral medications to prevent cytomegalovirus disease and early death in solid-organ transplant recipients: a systematic review of randomised controlled trials. *Lancet* 2005 365 (9477):2105-15.

American Journal of Kidney Diseases

Mitchell RL, Webster AC, Hodson EM, Craig JC. Cochrane Renal Group Report. *American Journal of Kidney Diseases* 2005 45 (4):775-9

Mitchell RL, Webster AC, Craig JC. Cochrane Renal Group Report. *American Journal of Kidney Diseases* 2005 46 (4):774-9

Palmer SC, Strippoli GF, MacGregor DO. Interventions for preventing bone disease in kidney transplant recipients: a systematic review of randomized controlled trials. *American Journal of Kidney Diseases* 2005 45(4) 638-49

Rabindranath KS, Strippoli GF, Roderick P, Wallace SA, MacLeod AM, Daly C. Comparison of Hemodialysis, Hemofiltration, and Acetate-Free Biofiltration for ESRD: Systematic Review. *American Journal of Kidney Diseases* 2005 45 (3) 437-47

Journal of the American Society of Nephrology

Strippoli GF, Craig M, Schena FP, Craig JC. Antihypertensive agents for primary prevention of diabetic nephropathy. *Journal of the American Society of Nephrology*. 2005 16(10):3081-91.

Transplantation

Wilson CH, Bhatti AA, Rix DA, Manas DM. Routine intraoperative stenting for renal transplant recipients. *Transplantation* 2005 80(7):877-82

Reviewer support and training

Reviewer support

Our information and resource booklets are constantly being refined. We have now prepared protocol and review templates, which we hope will speed up the review process. Data extraction forms and tables are also being collected and we have prepared an electronic form based on Excel.

We have identified 184 potential titles from our trials register. This list is posted on our website, is included in our information booklets and is sent to those who are interested in undertaking a systematic review.

Training

In December 2005 CRG held a training workshop in Sydney. The training workshop was held over two days and focused on writing a protocol and an introduction to analysis. The first day focused on:

- developing the question for a review,
- defining the population, the interventions and outcomes,
- developing a search strategy, and
- quality assessment.

This workshop was a mixture of lectures, small group activities and a computer workshop on searching MEDLINE.

Day two was dedicated to:

- Binary and continuous data,
- statistical methods used in a review (relative risk, risk difference, odds ratio, weighted mean difference and standardised mean difference),
- using the Review Manager programme (RevMan), and
- heterogeneity.

As for day one, there was a mixture of lectures, small group activities and hands on computer time.

Advisory board

The Advisory Board met in February, June and September in 2005. The minutes of these meetings are available on our website.

Members of the Advisory Board are:

- Robert Atkins
- John Charlesworth
- Andrew Coats
- Jonathan Craig
- Jim Dellit
- Sally Green
- David Harris
- David Henderson-Smart (Chair)
- Elisabeth Hodson
- Kim Oates
- Steven Rich
- Narelle Willis

Funding

We are most grateful for the support from the following organisations;

Major sponsors

- Australian and New Zealand Society of Nephrology
- Australian Department of Health and Ageing
- Kidney Health Australia (formerly Australian Kidney Foundation)
- National Health & Medical Research Council of Australia
- The Children's Hospital at Westmead
- The University of Sydney
- Centre for Kidney Research

Industry sponsors

- Amgen Australia
- Janssen-Cilag
- Novartis Pharmaceuticals
- Wyeth Australia

Endorsements

- Asia-Pacific Society of Nephrology
- International Pediatric Nephrology Association
- International Society of Nephrology
- National Kidney Foundation

A detailed statement of accounts is available upon request.