



# The Cochrane Renal Group

## 2006 Report



**Endorsements:** Asia-Pacific Society of Nephrology, Australian and New Zealand Society of Nephrology, International Pediatric Nephrology Association, International Society of Nephrology, National Kidney Foundation

# Table of Contents

<b>PERSONNEL</b> .....	<b>3</b>
EDITORIAL TEAM .....	3
<b>REVIEWS, PROTOCOLS AND TITLES</b> .....	<b>4</b>
PUBLISHED REVIEWS (7).....	4
UPDATED/UP-TO-DATE REVIEWS (5).....	4
REVIEWS CO-PUBLISHED IN PRINT JOURNALS .....	5
<i>American Journal of Kidney Diseases</i> .....	5
<i>Transplantation</i> .....	5
PUBLISHED PROTOCOLS (17) .....	5
NEW TITLES REGISTERED (22) .....	6
CONFERENCE ABSTRACTS .....	7
<b>TRIALS REGISTERS</b> .....	<b>8</b>
PROSPECTIVE TRIALS REGISTER .....	8
SPECIALIST TRIALS REGISTER .....	9
DIAGNOSTIC TEST REGISTER.....	10
<b>GROUP INVOLVEMENT</b> .....	<b>11</b>
<b>DISSEMINATION</b> .....	<b>12</b>
WEBSITE .....	12
NEWSLETTERS .....	13
<b>REVIEWER SUPPORT AND TRAINING</b> .....	<b>14</b>
REVIEWER SUPPORT .....	14
TRAINING.....	14
<b>ADVISORY BOARD</b> .....	<b>15</b>
<b>FUNDING</b> .....	<b>15</b>
<b>TITLES REGISTERED FROM 1997 TO 2006</b> .....	<b>16</b>
<b>CONTACT AUTHORS' COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE</b> .....	<b>16</b>
<b>AUTHORS AND CO-AUTHORS</b> .....	<b>17</b>
<b>REFEREES</b> .....	<b>17</b>
<b>TIME TAKEN BY REFEREES</b> .....	<b>18</b>
<b>COMPLETE EDITORIAL PROCESS</b> .....	<b>18</b>
<b>MEAN TIME TO PUBLICATION</b> .....	<b>19</b>

# Personnel

Our personnel at the editorial base in Sydney are:

**Coordinating Editor** – A/Prof Jonathan Craig

**Review Group Coordinator** – Ms Narelle Willis

**Trials Search Coordinators** – Ms Ruth Mitchell and Ms Gail Higgins

**Administration Officer** – Ms Leslee Edwards

We have thirteen international editors:

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

## Editorial Team

Angela Webster recently joined CRG's Editorial Team, and will have particular responsibilities for transplantation. Angela graduated from the medical school of Newcastle upon Tyne, in the North East of England, in 1995, and moved to Scotland to continue clinical training, gaining membership of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh in 1998.

She moved to Australia in 2001 to continue training as a renal physician. Whilst in Sydney, she completed a Masters degree in Clinical Epidemiology at the University of Sydney, and was awarded a PhD in 2006 for her thesis "Immunosuppression and malignancy in End Stage Kidney Disease". Her PhD projects involved a series of systematic review and meta-analysis of trials of treatments for kidney transplantation and analysis of cancer epidemiology and risk in people with End Stage Kidney Disease using the Australia and New Zealand Dialysis and Transplant Registry (ANZDATA).

During her PhD, Angela became familiar with the critical exploration of randomized trial methodology, the application of advanced statistical concepts in meta-analysis, the manipulation and analysis of large datasets, the methods and application of linkage of large national databases, and design and interpretation of cohort studies. She is currently back in Edinburgh completing her training as a Specialist Renal and Transplant Physician, continues as a distance learning tutor in Epidemiology for the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and also teaches clinical medicine to both undergraduates and postgraduates. Her ultimate aim is to divide her work between clinical practice in transplantation and continuing research, but she is not quite sure which continent that will be on.

# Reviews, protocols and titles

Summary of Reviews, protocols and updated/up-to-date reviews published in *The Cochrane Library* (issues 1-4 2006).

## Published reviews (7)

- 1) **Angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitors and angiotensin II receptor antagonists for preventing the progression of diabetic kidney disease.** Strippoli GFM, Bonifati C, Craig M, Navaneethan SD, Craig JC  
*Number of included studies: 44*
- 2) **Calcimimetics for secondary hyperparathyroidism in chronic kidney disease patients.** Strippoli GFM, Tong A, Palmer SC, Elder G, Craig JC  
*Number of included studies: 8*
- 3) **Haemodiafiltration, haemofiltration and haemodialysis for end-stage kidney disease.** Rabindranath KS, Strippoli GF, Daly C, Roderick PJ, Wallace S, MacLeod AM  
*Number of included studies: 20*
- 4) **Polyclonal and monoclonal antibodies for treating acute rejection episodes in kidney transplant recipients.** Webster A, Pankhurst T, Rinaldi F, Chapman JR, Craig JC  
*Number of included studies: 21*
- 5) **Pre-emptive treatment for cytomegalovirus viraemia to prevent cytomegalovirus disease in solid organ transplant recipients.** Strippoli GF, Hodson EM, Jones CJ, Craig JC  
*Number of included studies: 10*
- 6) **Quinolones for uncomplicated acute cystitis in women.** Rafalsky V, Andreeva I, Rjabkova E  
*Number of included studies: 11*
- 7) **Target of rapamycin inhibitors (TOR-I; sirolimus and everolimus) for primary immunosuppression in kidney transplant recipients.** Webster AC, Lee VW, Chapman JR, Craig JC  
*Number of included studies: 33*

## Updated/up-to-date reviews (5)

- 1) **Interventions for idiopathic steroid-resistant nephrotic syndrome in children.** Hodson EM, Habashy D, Craig JC.  
*Number of included studies: 11*
- 2) **Low protein diets for chronic kidney disease in non diabetic adults.** Fouque D, Laville M, Boissel JP.  
*Number of included studies: 8*
- 3) **Growth hormone for children with chronic kidney disease.** Vimalachandra D, Hodson EM, Willis NS, Craig JC, Cowell C, Knight JF.035.4.8 (24 May, 2006)  
*Number of included studies: 17*
- 4) **Long-term antibiotics for preventing recurrent urinary tract infection in children.** Williams GJ, Wei L, Lee A, Craig JC.  
*Number of included studies: 8*

- 5) **Haemoglobin and haematocrit targets for the anaemia of chronic kidney disease.** Strippoli GFM, Navaneethan SD, Craig JC  
*Number of included studies: 22*

## Reviews co-published in print journals

### American Journal of Kidney Diseases

- 1) Strippoli GF, Palmer S, Tong A, Elder G, Messa P, Craig JC. **Meta-analysis of biochemical and patient-level effects of calcimimetic therapy.** *American Journal of Kidney Diseases* 2006 47(5): 715-26.

### Transplantation

- 1) Strippoli GF, Hodson EM, Jones C, Craig JC. **Preemptive treatment for cytomegalovirus viraemia to prevent cytomegalovirus disease in solid organ transplant recipients.** *Transplantation* 2006 81(2):139-45.
- 2) Webster Ac, Lee VWS, Chapman JR, Craig JC. **Target of rapamycin inhibitors (TOR-I; sirolimus and everolimus) for primary immunosuppression in renal transplant recipients.** *Transplantation* 2006;81(9):1234-48.
- 3) Webster A, Pankhurst T, Rinaldi F, Chapman JR, Craig JC. **Polyclonal and monoclonal antibodies for treating acute rejection episodes in renal transplant recipients - a systematic review.** *Transplantation* 2006 81(7): 953-65.

## Published protocols (17)

- 1) **Advanced glycation end product (AGE) inhibitors for preventing the progression of diabetic kidney disease.** de Lemos AL, Pinto de Lemos Jr, H, Atallah AN
- 2) **Alpha blockers for ureteral calculi.** Philipraj SJ, Bhat S, Thomas J
- 3) **Antibiotics for preventing urinary tract infections in kidney transplant recipients.** Alkatheri AM, Hajeer A, Al Kadri H, Al-Jeraisy M, Alsayyari A
- 4) **Atrial natriuretic peptide for preventing and treating acute renal failure.** Nigwekar S, Hix JK
- 5) **Cephalosporins for treating acute uncomplicated pyelonephritis in adults.** Ferwana M, Khateeb B, Gelban K
- 6) **Dietary interventions for preventing complications in idiopathic hypercalciuria.** Pagone F, Balaguer A, Escribano J, Feliu A, Roqué i Figuls M
- 7) **Endoscopic treatment with or without stenting for the management of ureteric calculi.** Subramonian K, Anson K
- 8) **Extra-corporeal shock wave lithotripsy (ESWL) versus ureteroscopic management of ureteric calculi.** Nabi G, Downey P, Keeley F, Watson G, McClinton S
- 9) **Glycosaminoglycan for preventing and treating diabetic kidney disease.** Wu HM, Jun L, Strippoli GF, Cao L, Zhu B, Dong BR
- 10) **Interventions for preventing thrombosis in adults and children with nephrotic syndrome.** Kulshrestha S, Grieff M, Navaneethan SD
- 11) **Laparoscopic versus open nephrectomy for live kidney donors.** Sanni A, Rix DA, Soomro N, Wilson C

- 12) **Methods for collecting urine samples in adults and children with suspected urinary tract infection.** Thomas J, Kurien A, Philipraj SJ
- 13) **Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) and non-opioids for acute renal colic.** Afshar K, MacNeily AE, Marks AJ
- 14) **Phosphate binders for preventing and treating bone disease in chronic kidney disease patients.** Navaneethan SD, Chaukiyal P, Strippoli GF, Palmer SC, Craig JC, Elder G
- 15) **Steroid avoidance or withdrawal for kidney transplant recipients.** Pascual Santos J, Quereda C, Zamora J
- 16) **Tacrolimus for simultaneous kidney-pancreas transplant recipients.** Huang SS, Duan X, Li S, Li Y, Long D
- 17) **Vitamin D analogues for treatment and prevention of bone disease in chronic kidney disease.** Palmer SC, McGregor DO, Craig JC, Elder G, Strippoli GF

### **New Titles registered (22)**

- 1) **Altered dietary salt intake for preventing and treating diabetic kidney disease.** Rebecca Suckling
- 2) **Antibiotics for treating asymptomatic urinary tract infection in children.** Anita Fitzgerald.
- 3) **Antibiotics for treating uncomplicated urinary tract infection in children.** Anita Fitzgerald
- 4) **Bicarbonate versus lactate buffered haemodialysis solutions for acute renal failure.** JH.Tian
- 5) **Calcineurin inhibitor withdrawal or tapering for kidney transplant recipients.** Krishna Karpe
- 6) **Chinese medicinal herbs for diabetic kidney disease.** Xie Xisheng
- 7) **Insulin-sensitising therapies for preventing the progression of diabetic kidney disease.** Huai-Sheng Chen
- 8) **Human albumin for intradialytic hypotension in haemodialysis patients.** Patricia Fortin
- 9) **Interventions for erythropoietin-resistant anaemia in dialysis patients.** Sha Liang
- 10) **Interventions for preventing infectious complications in haemodialysis patients with central venous lines.** Margaret McCann
- 11) **Low molecular weight heparin for diabetic kidney disease.** Taixiang Wu
- 12) **Nutritional interventions for adult kidney transplant recipients.** Karen Fry
- 13) **Nutritional support for adults with end-stage kidney disease on renal replacement therapy.** Annemarie Visser
- 14) **Pentoxifylline for diabetic kidney disease.** Hongmei Wu
- 15) **Pidotimod for preventing recurrent urinary tract infection.** Rohit Bharadwaj
- 16) **Prostaglandin E1 for preventing the progression of diabetic kidney disease.** Wang Han

- 17) **Protein restriction for children with chronic kidney disease.** Swasti Chaturvedi
- 18) **Single dose antibiotics for treating urinary tract infection in children.** Rohit Bharadwaj
- 19) **Sodium bicarbonate supplements for acute renal failure.** Kushma Nand
- 20) **Thyroxine for acute renal failure.** Sagar Nigwekar
- 21) **Tidal versus continuous equilibrating peritoneal dialysis for acute renal failure.** L Jiang
- 22) **Ureteric access sheaths for ureterorenoscopy for treating kidney and ureteric stones.** Nick Brook

## Conference abstracts

- 1) Bonifati C, Pansini F, Torres DD, Navaneethan SD, Craig JC, Strippoli GF. **Antimicrobial agents and catheter-related interventions to prevent peritonitis in peritoneal dialysis: Using evidence in the context of clinical practice.** *International Journal of Artificial Organs* 2006;29:41-9.
- 2) Braun N, Schmutzler F, Lange C, Perna A, Remuzzi G. **Immunosuppressive treatment for focal segmental glomerulosclerosis in adults.** (Abstract SP142) *Nephrology Dialysis Transplantation* 2006;21 Suppl 4:iv62.
- 3) Navaneethan S, Craig J, Strippoli G. **High versus low hemoglobin for patient level outcomes in anemia of chronic kidney disease patients: update of a Cochrane review.** (Abstract SP452). *Nephrology Dialysis Transplantation* 2006;21 Suppl 4:iv167.
- 4) Navaneethan SD, Pansini F, Strippoli GFM. **Statins in patients with chronic kidney disease: Evidence from systematic reviews and randomized clinical trials.** *Public Library of Science* 2006;3(5):e123.
- 5) Rabindranath K, Macleod A, Muirhead N. **Continuous versus intermittent renal replacement therapy for acute renal failure: A systematic review of RCTs.** (Abstract SP274). *Nephrology Dialysis Transplantation* 2006;21 Suppl 4:iv105.

# Trials registers

## 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>.

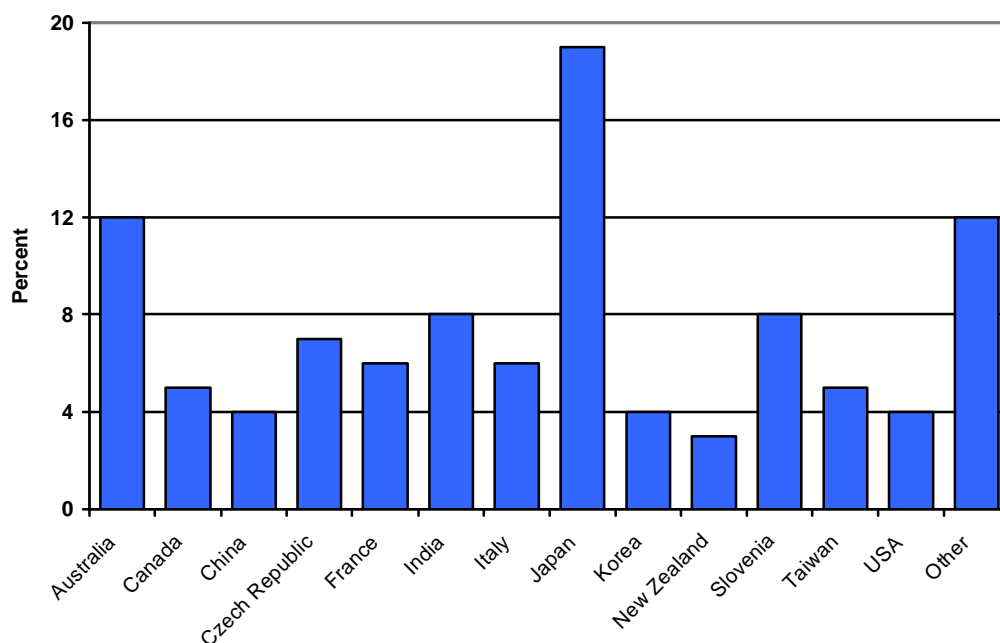
Nephrology trials can be registered in accordance with the criteria recommended by the International Committee of Medical Editors and the WHO International Clinical Trials Registry Platform (ICTRP) Initiative.

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)

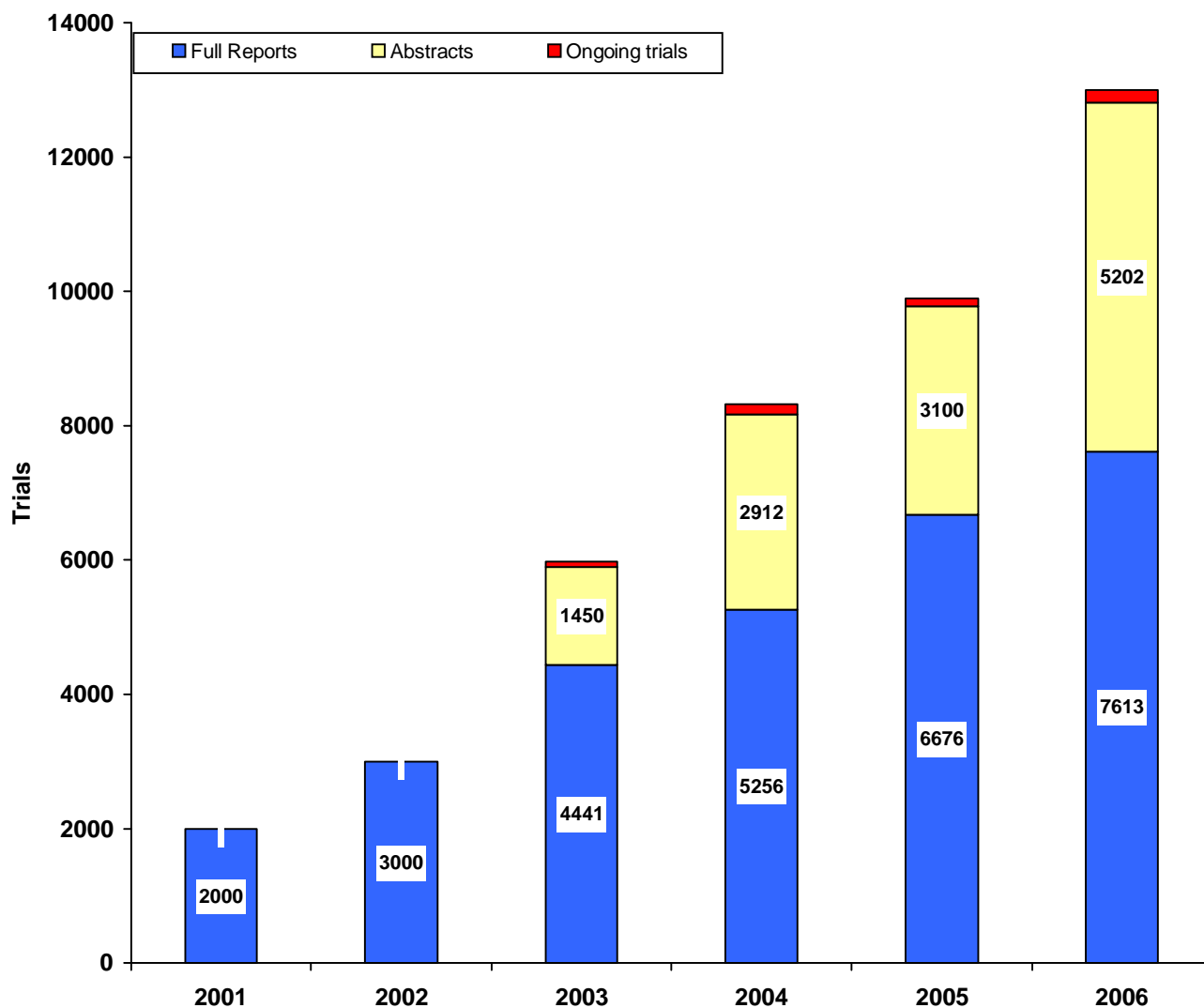
Once a completed registration form is submitted, a unique registration number, e.g. CRG00001, is emailed to the registrants. The unique ID is based on the month & year of registration followed by a sequential number.

Since June 2005, 105 studies have been registered covering areas such as acute kidney failure (3), diabetic nephropathy (3), haemodialysis (27), transplantation (13), nephritic syndrome (4) and peritoneal dialysis (6).



## Specialist trials register

We currently have 12996 reports of randomised controlled trials (RCTs) and 8949 studies on our register; approximately one third of these reports are held as full-text hard copy. Handsearching of the proceedings of the major renal conferences (American Society of Nephrology, European Renal Association, European Dialysis and Transplantation Association) has identified 5205 reports of abstracts of RCTs, which have now been included in our register. This represents 40% of our register.



## **Diagnostic test register**

In 2006 we successfully submitted a proposal to the Cochrane Collaboration Steering Group for two-year funding to develop a Cochrane-wide study-based register of reports of diagnostic test accuracy. This exciting initiative will ultimately lead to better support for authors and review groups doing Cochrane systematic reviews of diagnostic test accuracy, by providing a clean and comprehensive register of potential studies for their reviews

Searching for diagnostic test accuracy studies is more difficult and time consuming than for reports of randomised controlled trials. This is due both to poor reporting by the authors of these studies, and inconsistent indexing in Medline and other databases, making it difficult to develop search strategies that are both sensitive and specific i.e. that will retrieve all relevant studies without too many irrelevant records. This adds an extra burden of time for systematic review authors, who often have to screen thousands of records to find a few relevant to their reviews.

Our objectives for the next two years include:

- setting up a database to house the register
- developing and implementing search strategies and protocols for retrieving relevant studies from Medline
- developing coding to enable accurate retrieval of studies from the register
- developing and implementing a training package for trials search coordinators in how to search for these studies on Medline and screen search results.
- providing support in search strategy development for the authors and trials search coordinators of pilot reviews
- providing a mechanism for re-tagging studies with a searchable field name in Medline e.g. diagnostic accuracy.pt.

We would like to acknowledge the Screening and Test Evaluation Programme (STEP), School of Public Health, University of Sydney, for supporting the development of the register proposal.

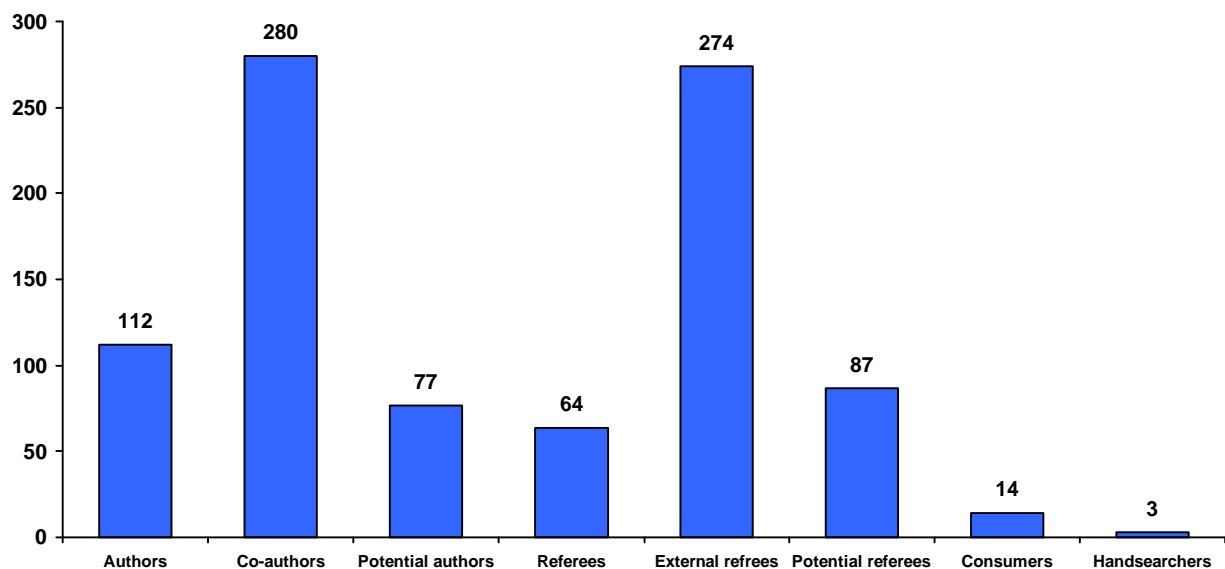
# Group involvement

Our membership continues to expand. At the end of December 2006 our total number of Members has increased to 506.

We also have a large non-member list (744). 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:

- 112 primary authors
- 280 co-authors
- 77 members who would like to undertake a review in the future
- 64 peer referees
- 87 possible peer referees
- 274 external referees
- 14 consumers who assist us in refereeing our protocols and reviews
- 3 members who handsearch journals for RCTs.

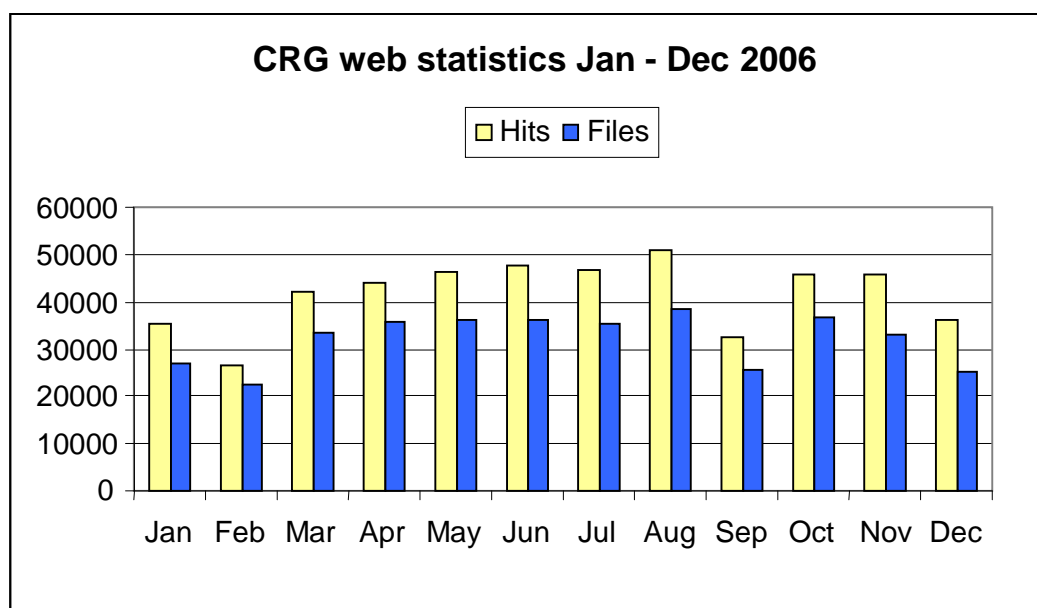


# Dissemination

## Website

Our website is located at [www.cochrane-renal.org](http://www.cochrane-renal.org). 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. Prospective Trials Registration form
2. Ongoing trials
3. Renal Health Library
4. CRG topic list
5. Potential reviews
6. Reviews (lists all reviews)
7. CRG Newsletters

## **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.

# 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 June and December 2006 CRG held training workshops in Sydney. Each 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 and September in 2006. The minutes of these meetings are available on request.

Members of the Advisory Board are:

- Prof Robert Atkins (Kidney Disease Prevention Unit, Monash Medical Centre)
- A/Prof Jonathan Craig (Cochrane Renal Group)
- Mr Jim Dellit (consumer representative)
- A/Prof Sally Green (Australasian Cochrane Centre)
- Prof David Harris, (Nephrology, Westmead Hospital)
- Dr Elisabeth Hodson (Nephrology, The Children's Hospital at Westmead)
- Dr Tony Penna (The Children's Hospital at Westmead)
- Prof Bruce Robinson (Faculty of Medicine, University of Sydney)
- Prof George Rubin, Chair (Centre for Health Service & Workforce Research)
- Ms Narelle Willis (Cochrane Renal Group)

During 2006 the following changes occurred;

- Prof Kim Oates replaced by Dr Tony Penna.
- Prof David Henderson Smart – stood down as Chairman – replaced by Prof George Rubin – March 2006
- Mr Steven Rich resigned from Advisory Board in March 06 (passed away in June 06)
- A/Prof Charlesworth resigned 21/9/06
- Prof Andrew Coats replaced by Prof Bruce Robinson

## Funding

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

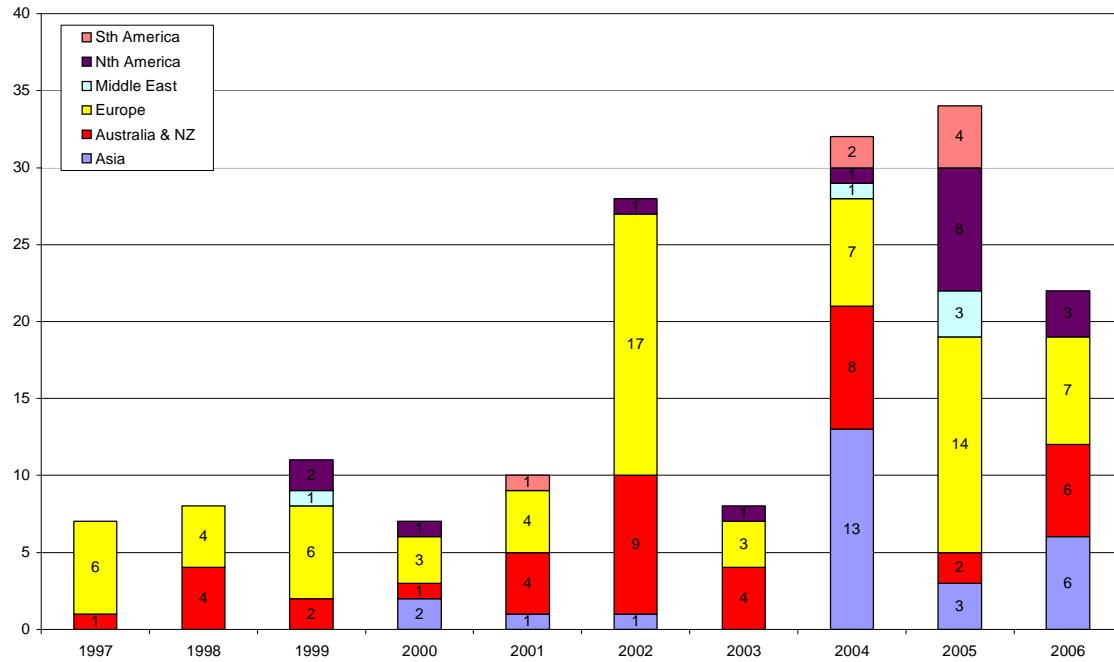
### Major sponsors

- Australian Department of Health and Ageing
- Kidney Health Australia (formerly Australian Kidney Foundation)
- National Health & Medical Research Council of Australia
- STEP (Screening and Test Evaluation Program)
- The Children's Hospital at Westmead
- The University of Sydney
- Centre for Kidney Research

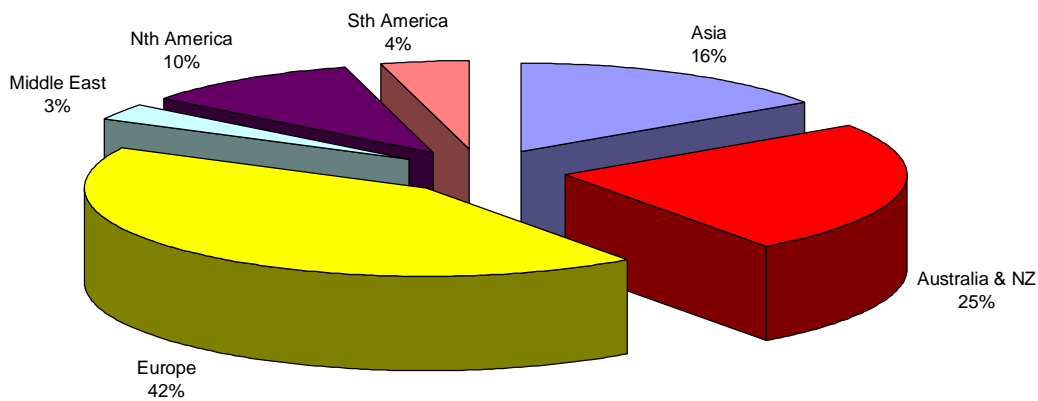
### Endorsements

- Asia-Pacific Society of Nephrology
- Australian and New Zealand Society of Nephrology
- International Pediatric Nephrology Association
- International Society of Nephrology
- National Kidney Foundation

## Titles registered from 1997 to 2006



## Contact authors' country of residence



**Asia** – China, India, Philippines, Thailand

**Europe** – Czech Republic, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Poland, UK

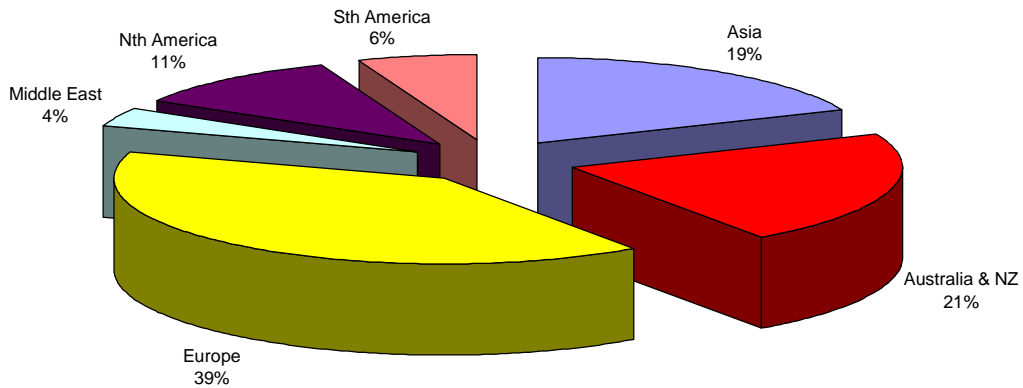
**Middle East** – Israel, Saudi Arabia

**South America** – Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Peru

# Authors and co-authors

Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Czech Republic, France, Germany, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, UK, Ukraine, USA

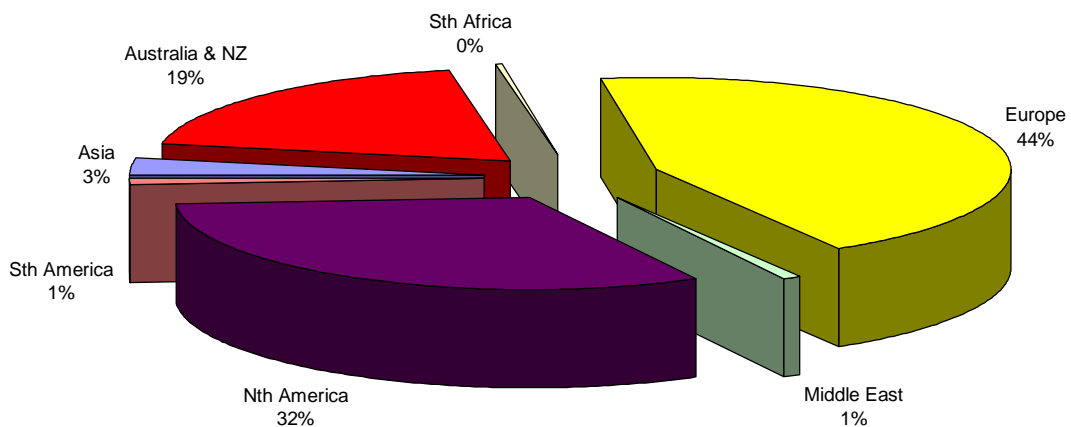
**Number of authors and co-authors - 340**



# Referees

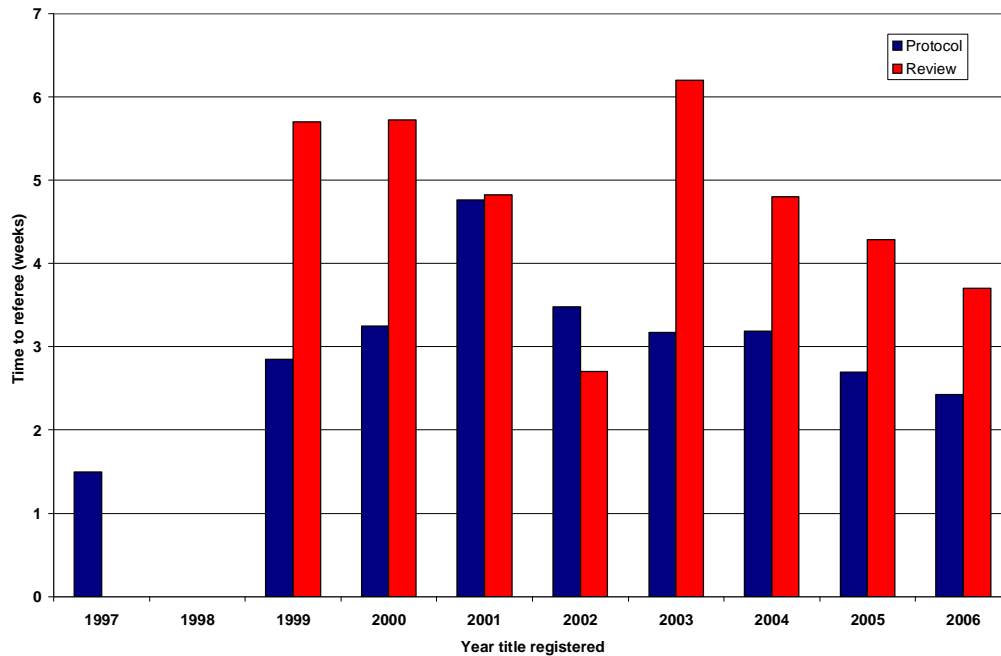
Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Hungary, Iceland, India, Israel, Italy, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, UK, USA

**Number of referees - 329**



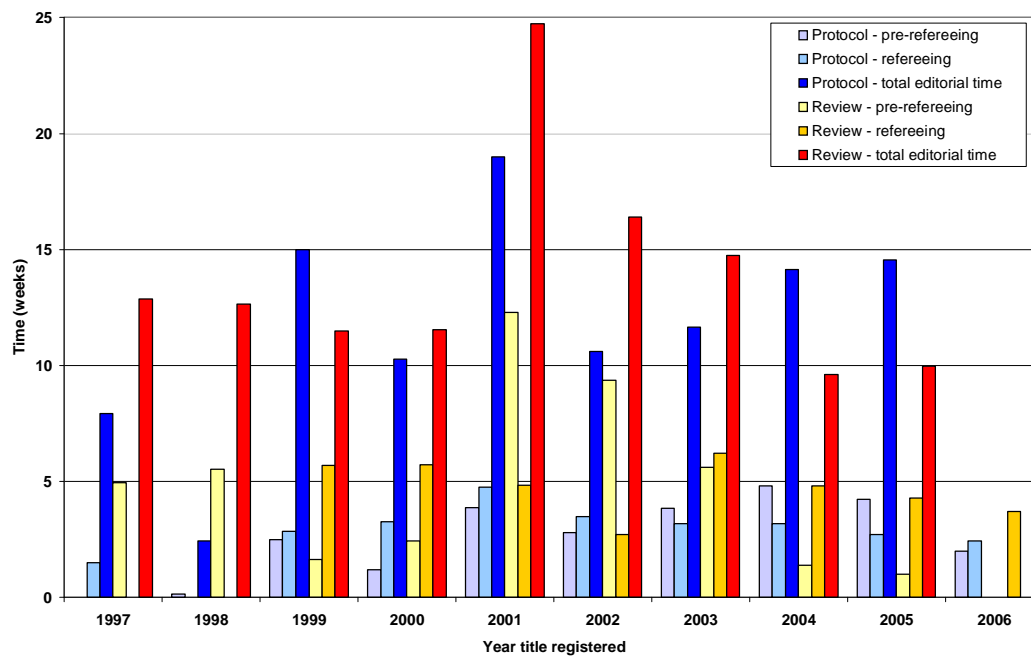
## Time taken by referees

Mean time taken (weeks) to referee a protocol or review from sending documents to referee until comments received.



## Complete editorial process

Mean time taken (weeks) from first submission of draft protocol or review to the editorial office, until comments are sent back to author.



# Mean time to publication

Time (mean and 95%CI) taken from;

1. Title registration to protocol included in *The Cochrane Library*
2. Date protocol included until review included in *The Cochrane Library*
3. Title registration until review included in *The Cochrane Library*

