



# COCHRANE RENAL GROUP

A REVIEW GROUP OF THE COCHRANE COLLABORATION

## 2008 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

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# Personnel

Our personnel at the editorial base in Sydney are:

**Coordinating Editor** – Prof Jonathan Craig,

**Deputy Coordinating Editor** - Dr Angela Webster

**Review Group Coordinator** – Ms Narelle Willis

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

**Research Assistant** – Sandy Matheson

**Administration Officer** – Ms Leslee Edwards

## Editorial Team

We have twelve 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 Risler (Germany)
- Dr Paul Roderick (UK)
- Dr Giovanni Strippoli (Italy)

In June of 2008, we welcomed Sandy Matheson to the Cochrane Renal Group. Sandy joined us as a Research Assistant supporting on-going research projects, including the updating of systematic reviews in the field of transplantation, methodological projects on outcome bias and on transparency of reporting of randomised trials, and trials of diagnostic test accuracy. Sandy is currently enrolled in a Master of Public Health (USYD).

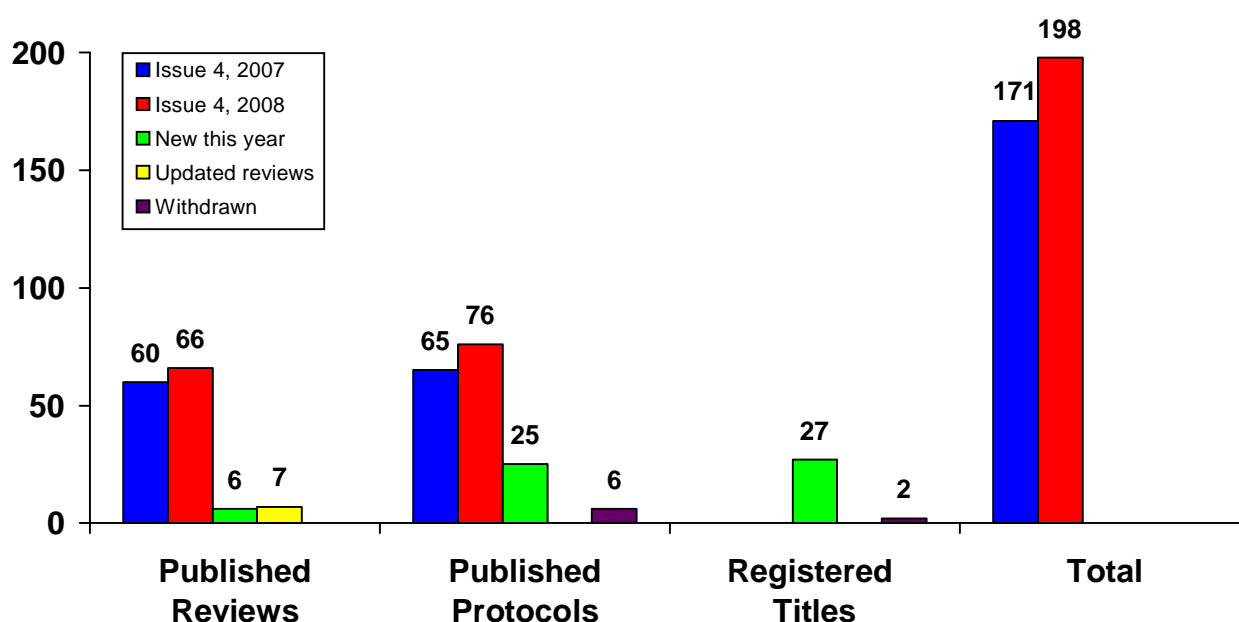
Also joining the Cochrane Renal Group as a part-time volunteer Research Assistant for six months in 2008, was Mbathio Dieng. Mbathio is enrolled in a Master of International Public Health (USYD) and her aim in volunteering at CRG was to increase her skills in literature searching and management, use of reference managing software and critical appraisal of health literature (particularly of randomised trials and of diagnostic test accuracy studies). Mbathio has now accepted a position as Research Assistant with the Centre for Perinatal and Reproductive Health at the University of NSW.

# The Cochrane Collaboration

Over the past 12 months our editorial staff have been actively contributing to the activities of The Cochrane Collaboration.

- **Cochrane Collaboration Steering Group (CCSG)** – Jonathan Craig continued to represent Co-ordinating Editors. Narelle Willis continued to represent the Review Group Coordinators until October 2008.
- **CCSG Executive Group** – Jonathan Craig is a member of this group responsible for making interim decisions on behalf of the full CCSG between the 2 biannual meetings.
- **CCSG Publishing Policy Group** – Narelle Willis is a member of this group which is responsible for providing advice on the contents of the Collaboration's products and setting the principles for the pricing, distribution and marketing arrangements for Cochrane products.
- **CCSG Colloquium Policy Advisory Group** – Jonathan Craig is a member of this group responsible for maintaining records of previous policy decisions about Cochrane Colloquia and move forward new policies after appropriate consultation.
- **Coordinating Editors Executive** – Jonathan Craig is a member of this group responsible for developing policy on issues like quality of reviews which may be implemented Collaboration-wide.
- **Diagnostic Test Accuracy Studies register** – Ruth Mitchell is developing the template for use across the Cochrane Collaboration.
- **Diagnostic Tests Methods Working Group** - Jonathan Craig is a member of the executive, which is responsible for the development of methods and processes to support systematic reviews across the collaboration.
- **CENTRAL Interim measures Liaison** – Gail Higgins is in charge of liaising with Wiley and Sons and the Cochrane Review Groups to publish the review groups specialised registers on the Cochrane Library.
- **Handbook Advisory Group** – Ruth Mitchell is a member of this group involved in updating the searching for studies section of the '*Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of interventions*' and the '*Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Diagnostic Test Accuracy Studies*'.
- **Quality Advisory Group** – Ruth Mitchell and Narelle Willis are both members of the Collection Procedures Working Party developing forms and documents aimed at streamlining editorial processes. Narelle Willis is also the CCSG representative on this group.
- **Review Group Coordinator (RGC) regional mentor** – Narelle Willis is the Australasian regional mentor for new RGCs and is responsible for supporting and assisting new RGCs in their role.
- **RGC Executive Group** – Narelle Willis is co-convenor of this group responsible for liaising with the CCSG and the Editor in Chief of *The Cochrane Library* on issues of relevance to the RGCs.
- **Trials Search Coordinators (TSCs) Executive Group** – Gail Higgins is a member of this group. The group consult with TSCs on issues relating to their role and function within the organisation; provide communication channel between the TSCs and CCSG and its various subgroups and advisory groups; advise the Cochrane Collaboration Steering Group (CCSG) on all aspects relating to the TSC function within Cochrane entities.
- **Workflows Working Group** – Narelle Willis is part of this group which is preparing workflows for all stages of the editorial process. These workflows will enable tracking of each review and provide essential monitoring information for the new Cochrane Collaboration editorial board.

## Reviews, protocols and titles



Summary of reviews, protocols and updated/up-to-date reviews published in *The Cochrane Library* (issues 1-4 2008).

### Published reviews (6)

1. **Chinese herbal medicine Huangqi type formulations for nephrotic syndrome.** Wei Yuan, Juan Wang, Taixiang Wu  
Number of included studies: 3
2. **Immunosuppressive treatment for focal segmental glomerulosclerosis in adults.** Norbert Braun, Frank Schmutzler, Catalina Lange, Annalisa Perna, Giuseppe Remuzzi, Narelle S Willis  
Number of included studies: 4
3. **Interventions for minimal change disease in adults with nephrotic syndrome.** Suetonia C Palmer, Kushma Nand, Giovanni FM Strippoli  
Number of included studies: 3
4. **Interventions for renal vasculitis in adults.** Giles Walters, Narelle S Willis, Jonathan C Craig  
Number of included studies: 13
5. **Oestrogens for preventing recurrent urinary tract infection in postmenopausal women.** Carla Perrotta, Mireya Aznar, Raul Mejia, Xavier Albert, Cheen Werne Ng  
Number of included studies: 9

6. **Treatment for peritoneal dialysis-associated peritonitis.** Kathryn J Wiggins, Jonathan C Craig, David W Johnson, Giovanni FM Strippoli  
Number of included studies: 36

### Updated/up-to-date reviews\* (7)

1. **Antibiotic duration for treating uncomplicated, symptomatic lower urinary tract infections in elderly women [updated].** Monika Lutters, Nicole B Vogt-Ferrier  
Original review 13 studies; review update: 15 studies
2. **Antibiotics for acute pyelonephritis in children [up-to-date].** Elisabeth Hodson, Narelle S Willis, Jonathan C Craig
3. **Antiviral medications for preventing cytomegalovirus disease in solid organ transplant recipients [updated].** Elisabeth M Hodson, Jonathan C Craig, Giovanni FM Strippoli, Angela C Webster  
Original review 32 studies; review update: 34 studies
4. **Biocompatible hemodialysis membranes for acute renal failure [updated].** Alvaro Alonso, Joseph Lau, Bertrand L Jaber  
Original review 13 studies; review update: 16 studies
5. **Cranberries for preventing urinary tract infections [updated].** Ruth G Jepson, Jonathan C Craig  
Original review 4 studies; review update: 10 studies:
6. **Cranberries for treating urinary tract infection [up-to-date].** Ruth G Jepson, Lara Mihaljevic, Jonathan C Craig
7. **Non-corticosteroid treatment for nephrotic syndrome in children [updated].** Elisabeth M Hodson, Narelle S Willis, Jonathan C Craig  
Original review 18 studies; review update: 26 studies:

\* Updated – new studies identified and included  
Up-to-date – no new studies identified

### Published protocols (25)

1. **Adjunctive therapies for HIV-associated nephropathy.** Ismail Yahaya, Abdulrahman Olalekan Uthman, Muhammed Mubashir B Uthman
2. **Aldosterone antagonists for preventing the progression of chronic kidney disease.** Sankar D Navaneethan, Sagar U Nigwekar, Giovanni FM Strippoli
3. **Amphotericin B deoxycholate versus liposomal amphotericin B: effects on kidney function.** Jason M Cota, James N Barnes, Bradi Frei, Christopher R Frei, Nathan P Wiederhold
4. **Androgens for the anaemia of chronic kidney disease in adults.** Xi Tang, Rui Gu, Xi Sheng Xie, Taixiang Wu
5. **Antimicrobial agents for treating uncomplicated urinary tract infection in women.** Anca Zalmanovici, Hefziba Green, Mical Paul, John Yaphe, Leonard Leibovici

6. **Bicarbonate versus lactate solutions for acute peritoneal dialysis.** Ke Hu Yang, Zheng Gang Bai, Jin Hui Tian, Bin Ma, Ya Li Liu, Lei Jiang, Ji Ying Tan, Tian Xi Liu
7. **Blood pressure control strategies for autosomal dominant polycystic kidney disease.** Swasti Chaturvedi, Colin Jones, Harley Powell, Rowan Walker
8. **Calcium channel blockers for ureteral stones.** Andrew S Worster, David Rauchwerger, Crispen G Richards
9. **Dietary interventions for preventing complications in idiopathic hypercalciuria.** Albert Balaguer, Joaquin Escribano, Albert Feliu, Marta Roqué i Figuls
10. **Donor organ preservation techniques for kidney transplantation.** Colin H Wilson, John F Asher, David Talbot
11. **Early referral to specialist nephrology services for preventing the progression to end-stage kidney disease.** Neil A Smart, Thomas Titus, Liz Dooley
12. **Education programmes for people with diabetic kidney disease.** Hong Mei Wu, Feng Wang, Chang Quan Huang, Ming Yang, Bi Rong Dong, Guan Jian Liu
13. **Extracorporeal shock wave lithotripsy (ESWL) for kidney stones.** Attasit Srisubat, Somkiat Potisat, Bannakij Lojanapiwat, Vasun Setthawong, Malinee Laopaiboon
14. **Fluid and diuretic therapy for preventing cisplatin-induced nephrotoxicity.** Florian Buchkremer
15. **Growth factors for chronic kidney disease in adults.** Ghazwan Altabbaa, Brenda R Hemmelgarn, Vinay Deved
16. **Intensive versus standard haemodialysis water treatment for preventing low grade mineral intoxication in chronic haemodialysed patients.** Marcelo S Chaves, Agustín Ciapponi, Vanda Jorgetti
17. **Interventions for covert bacteriuria in children.** Anita Fitzgerald, Rintaro Mori, Monica Lakhanpaul
18. **Interventions for dialysis patients with hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection.** Ravindra A Prabhu, Naresh K Goyal, N S Nair, Ganesh Pai, Tarun Wadhwa
19. **Interventions for preventing clotting of extracorporeal circuits during continuous renal replacement therapy.** Suzi Robertson-Malt, Gillian J Ingram, Craig Lockwood
20. **Interventions for preventing infectious complications in haemodialysis patients with central venous lines.** Margaret McCann, Zena EH Moore
21. **Preoperative vascular access evaluation for haemodialysis patients.** Charmaine E Lok, Louise Moist

22. **Prostaglandin E1 for preventing the progression of diabetic kidney disease.**  
Han Wang, Jue Lin Deng, Jirong Yue, Jun Li, Yan Bin Hou
23. **Recombinant human insulin-like growth factor I for acute kidney injury.** Y  
Jin, Jing Rong Song, Ke Hu Yang, Jin Hui Tian, Ya Li Liu, Bin Ma, Ji Ying Tan,  
Tian Xi Liu
24. **Teicoplanin versus vancomycin for proven or suspected infection.**  
Alexandre B Cavalcanti, Anderson R Goncalves, Claudia S Almeida, Diogo B  
Gomes, Eliezer Silva
25. **Tidal peritoneal dialysis for acute renal failure.** Lei Jiang, Ke Hu Yang, Deng  
Hai Mi, Ya Li Liu, Jin Hui Tian, Bin Ma, Zheng Gang Bai, Tian Xi Liu, Ji Ying Tan

### **New titles registered in 2008 (27)**

1. **Angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitors and angiotensin II receptor blockers for preserving residual kidney function in peritoneal dialysis patients** Ling Zhang
2. **Angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitors and angiotensin receptor blockers for adults with early (stage 1-3) non diabetic chronic kidney disease** Corri Black
3. **Antioxidants for chronic kidney disease** Vlado Perkovic
4. **Calcium dialysate concentration for peritoneal dialysis** Ma Bin
5. **Continuous renal replacement therapy (CRRT) for rhabdomyolysis** Ping Fu
6. **Cordyceps sinensis (a Chinese medicinal herb) for treating chronic kidney disease** Hongwei Zhang
7. **Dialysate temperature control for haemodialysis** Jinhui Tian
8. **Dopamine for acute kidney injury** Kehu Yang
9. **FTY720 as maintenance immunosuppression for kidney transplant recipients** Jiying Tan
10. **Haemodialysis duration and frequency for end-stage kidney disease** Vlado Perkovic
11. **Human albumin infusion for nephrotic syndrome** Zainal Darus
12. **Hydroxyethyl starch (HES) versus other fluid therapies: effects on kidney function** Allison Dart
13. **Interventions for lowering plasma homocysteine levels in kidney transplant recipients** Meg Jardine
14. **Interventions for treating hypertension in adults and children with acute post infectious glomerulonephritis** Thara Basavaiah
15. **Interventions for treating sexual dysfunction in patients with chronic kidney disease** Mariacristina Vecchio
16. **Loop diuretics for acute kidney injury in adults and children** Watanyu Parapiboon
17. **Low molecular weight heparin (LMWH) versus unfractionated heparin (UFH) for haemodialysis anticoagulation** Xi-Sheng Xie

18. **Oral absorbents for preventing or delaying the progression of chronic kidney disease** Hong Mei Wu
19. **Percussion, diuresis and inversion therapy for the passage of lower pole kidney stones after shock wave lithotripsy** Liang Ren Liu
20. **Radix astragali (a Chinese medicinal herb) for chronic kidney disease** Hongwei Zhang
21. **Single dose antibiotics for treating uncomplicated urinary tract infection in women** ZhiPing Wang
22. **Single dose antibiotics for treating urinary tract infection in children** Siavash Jafari
23. **Single versus simultaneous-double pediatric donor organs for adult kidney transplant recipients** Qing Yuan
24. **Sodium ferulate for preventing the progression of diabetic kidney disease** Xiang Yan
25. **Treatment of BK virus nephropathy in renal transplant recipients** Sree Krishna Venuthurupalli
26. **Tubeless versus standard percutaneous nephrolithotomy for treating kidney stones** Hong Li
27. **Vitamin D compounds for people with chronic kidney disease not requiring dialysis** Suetonia Palmer

## Conference abstracts

- Cross N, Webster A, Masson P, O'Connell P, Craig J. Antihypertensive therapy for kidney transplant recipients: A systematic review and meta-analysis. [Abstract 008]. *Nephrology* 2008 13(Suppl 3):A101
- Cross NB, Webster AC, Masson P, O'Connell P, Craig JC. Antihypertensive therapy for kidney transplant recipients: A systematic review and meta-analysis. [Abstract 605]. *Transplantation* 2008 86(2S):212.
- Maione A, Navaneethan SD, Nicolucci A, Strippoli GF. Angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitors (ACE-I), angiotensin receptor blockers (ARBs) and their combination in patients with micro-macroalbuminuria and cardiovascular risk factors: a systematic review [Abstract F-PO1958]. *Journal of the American Society of Nephrology* 2008 19:553A
- Navaneethan SD, Palmer SC, Strippoli GF. Phosphate binding agents in chronic kidney disease: A meta-analysis and meta-regression of clinical trials [Abstract F-PO1808]. *Journal of the American Society of Nephrology* 2008 19:517A
- Nigwekar SU, Navaneethan SD, Hix JK. Role of natriuretic peptides in prevention of post-operative acute kidney injury: A systematic review [Abstract SA-PO3008]. *Journal of the American Society of Nephrology* 2008 19:793A

## Reviews co-published in print journals

### BMJ

- Strippoli GF, Navaneethan SD, Johnson DW, Perkovic V, Pelligrini F, Nicolucci A, et al. Effects of statins in patients with chronic kidney disease: Meta-analysis and meta-regression of randomised controlled trials. *BMJ* 2008;336(7645):645-51

# Trials registers

## Prospective trials register

The Cochrane Renal Group's Prospective Trial Registry [CRG-PTR] was set up in July 2005 amid initiatives by the World Health Organisation, the International Committee of Medical Journal editors [ICMJE], the editors of the major kidney journals, and others, for the prospective registration of all clinical trials. The CRG-PTR is recognised by the major kidney journals<sup>1</sup>, and conforms to the 20 item trial registration data set established by the WHO International Clinical Trials Registry Platform [ICTRP].

Since 2005, the trial registration process has evolved & requirements for trial registries have increased and changed. The International Committee of Medical Journal Editors [ICMJE] now has a select list of recognised registries which includes the ANZCTR, ClinicalTrials.gov, ISRCTN Register, the Japanese UMIN Clinical Trials Registry (UMIN-CTR) and the Netherlands Trials Register as well as any of the WHO Primary Registries & their Partner Registries.

We are currently making arrangements for the CRG-PTR to become a Partner Registry with the Australian & New Zealand Clinical Trials Registry [ANZCTR]. A partnership with the ANZCTR will provide recognition by the ICMJE & the WHO International Clinical Trials Registry Platform. Partner Registries meet the same criteria as WHO Primary Registries for content, quality and validity, etc but they can be limited to trials in a particular condition (e.g. nephrology).

Over the next few months, the study registration data on the CRG-PTR will be transferred to the ANZCTR. We have contracted with the University of Sydney Information Technology Department to convert the CRG-PTR data at our cost into the correct format required by the ANZCTR. Work will begin on the conversion in mid-January 2009. Once the transfer of data transfer is complete, the CRG-PTR will close, though the registration data currently on the CRG-PTR site will remain.

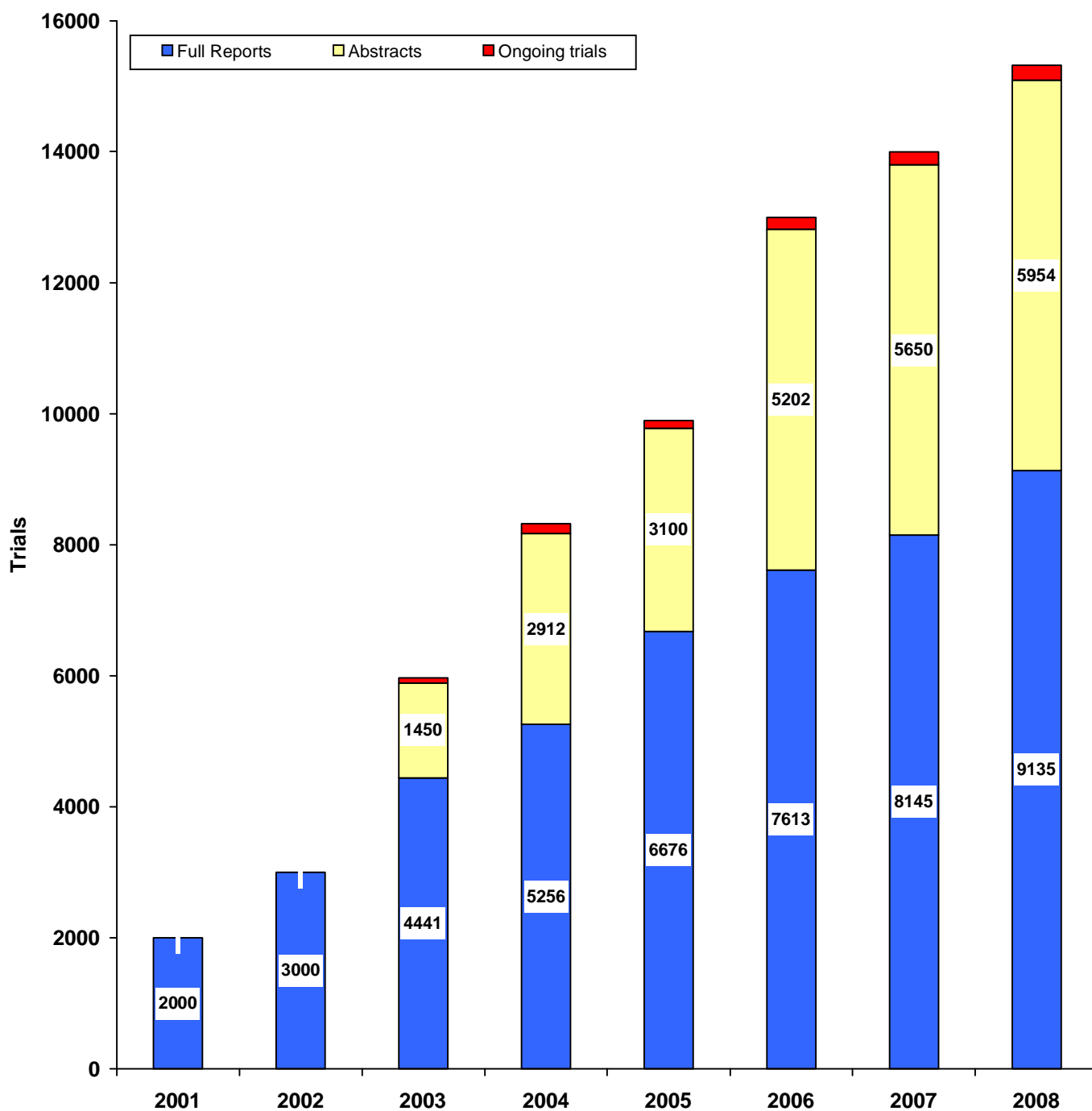
There are currently 155 trials (both randomized & non-randomized) registered with the Cochrane Renal Group's Prospective Trial Registry.

The advantages of being registered with the ANZCTR is that as the ANZCTR is a WHO primary registry, all study details will be publicly searchable and accessible on the WHO Clinical Trials Search Portal at <http://www.who.int/trialsearch/>

1. Couser W, Drueke T, Halloran P, Kasiske B, Klahr S, Morris P. Trial registry policy: common editorial statement a uniform clinical trial registration policy for journals of kidney diseases, dialysis and transplantation. *Nephrol Dial Transplant*. 2005 Apr;20(4):691 PMID: 15772264

## Specialist trials register

We currently have 15,089 reports of randomised controlled trials (RCTs) and 9796 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 5650 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.

At the end of 2008, we successfully submitted a proposal to the Cochrane Collaboration Steering Group for a further three years of funding for the development of the register.

Our objectives for the next three years include:

- transferring the Register to a relational database
- continuing to screen Medline records for inclusion in the Register, and to source records from Cochrane and non-Cochrane reviews of diagnostic accuracy
- developing coding for test names and target conditions to enable accurate retrieval of studies from the register
- continuing to develop training materials for trials search coordinators in searching for DTAS and screening search results.
- providing support in search strategy development for the authors and trials search coordinators of pilot reviews
- submitting a proposal to the National Library of Medicine for introducing a diagnostic test accuracy study Medline publication type e.g. diagnostic accuracy.pt.

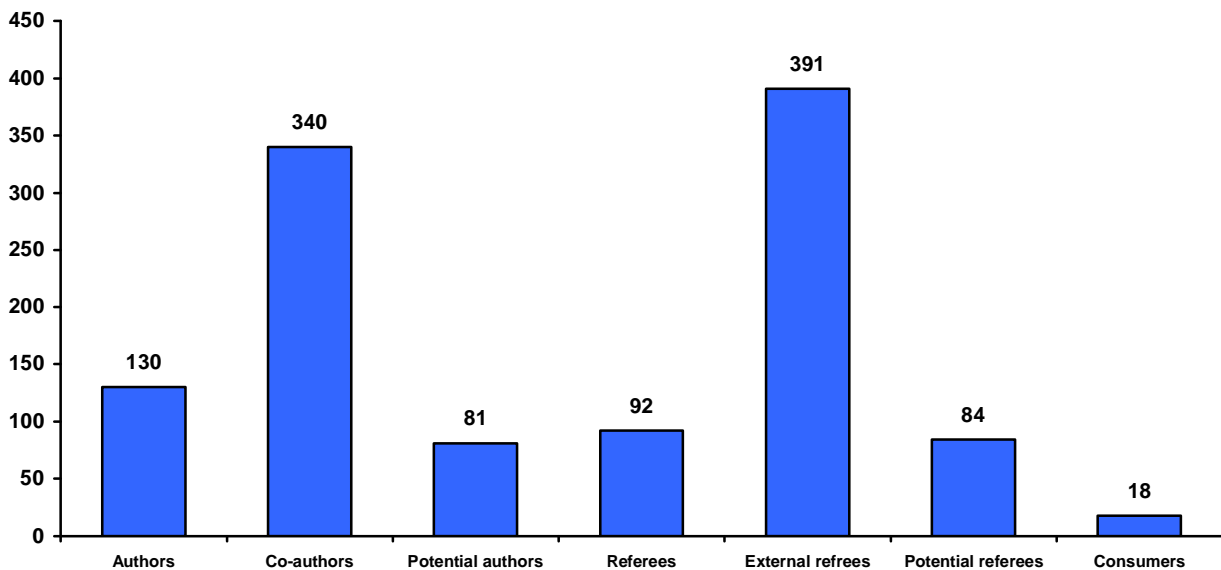
A more detailed description of the Register can be found in Chapter 7 Section 7.3.1.3 of the Cochrane Handbook for Reviews of Diagnostic Test Accuracy at <http://srdata.cochrane.org/en/authors.html>

# Group involvement

At the end of December 2008 the Cochrane Renal Group has a mailing list of 1,554. A large number of these are happy to just receive our newsletter and be kept up to date with the Group and the Cochrane Collaboration's activities.

Also included are:

- **130** primary authors
- **340** co-authors
- **81** members who would like to undertake a review in the future
- **92** internal referees
- **391** external referees
- **84** possible referees
- **18** consumers who assist us in refereeing our protocols and reviews



# Dissemination

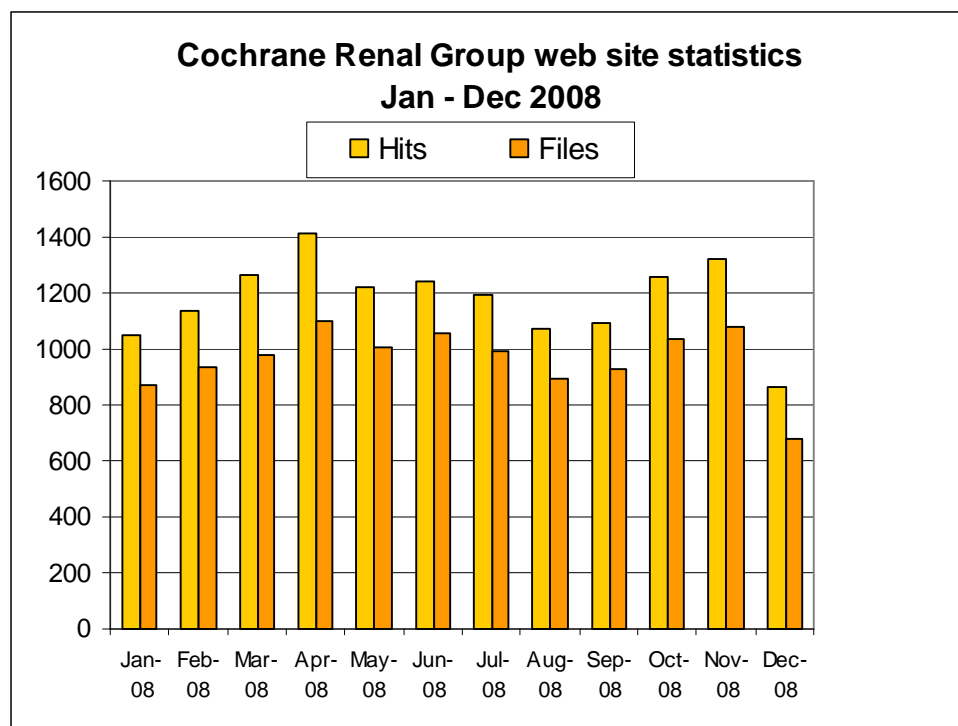
## Website

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 2008 and ongoing trials, (with links to PubMed abstracts or other full-text links)
- Resources for authors and referees on writing a review
- A Prospective Trial Register for kidney disease
- Our current and past newsletters
- Online membership form, workshop details, and a selection of information brochures.

The most frequently visited pages were:

1. Reviews
2. What's new
3. Trial submission form
4. CRG Newsletter October 2008
5. Trials ongoing



**Hits:** represent the total number of requests made to the web site during the given time period.

**Files:** represent the total number of hits (requests) that actually resulted in something being sent back to the user. Not all hits will send data, such as 404-Not Found requests and requests for pages that are already in the browsers cache.

## 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
- Cochrane protocol and analysis workshop dates for around the world

# Author support and training

## Author 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.

## Training

In July and December 2008 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.

An additional training day was set aside on July 16 for an Introduction to New Cochrane Handbook Methods and RevMan 5 for existing review authors. This workshop was held at the University of Sydney for authors of existing reviews to use the new RevMan 5 software.

## Conference workshop

This year in conjunction with the XXII International Congress of The Transplantation Society (August 2008), we held a half day workshop on systematic reviews – ***Cochrane Workshop: Fundamentals of systematic reviews (meta-analysis) of randomised trials and diagnostic test accuracy applied to Transplantation.***

Topics covered were

- Fundamental concepts of meta-analysis
- How to search for meta-analyses (where to look)
- Critical appraisal of meta-analyses (telling the good from the bad)
- Understanding diagnostic test accuracy reviews
- Interpreting sub group analyses and meta regression (the bells and whistles)
- Finding answers and applying results for your patients

## Advisory board

The Advisory Board met in April and September in 2008. The minutes of these meetings are available on request.

Members of the Advisory Board at December 2008 were:

- Prof Robert Atkins, Chair (Kidney Disease Prevention Unit, Monash Medical Centre)
- Prof Gavin Becker (Kidney Health Australia)
- Mr John Bernardinis (consumer representative)
- Prof Jonathan Craig (Cochrane Renal Group)
- Prof Sally Green (Australasian Cochrane Centre)
- Dr Elisabeth Hodson (Nephrology, The Children's Hospital at Westmead)
- Dr Tony Penna (The Children's Hospital at Westmead)
- Dr Matthew Roberts (ANZSN)
- Dr Angela Webster (Cochrane Renal Group)
- Ms Narelle Willis (Cochrane Renal Group)

## Funding

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

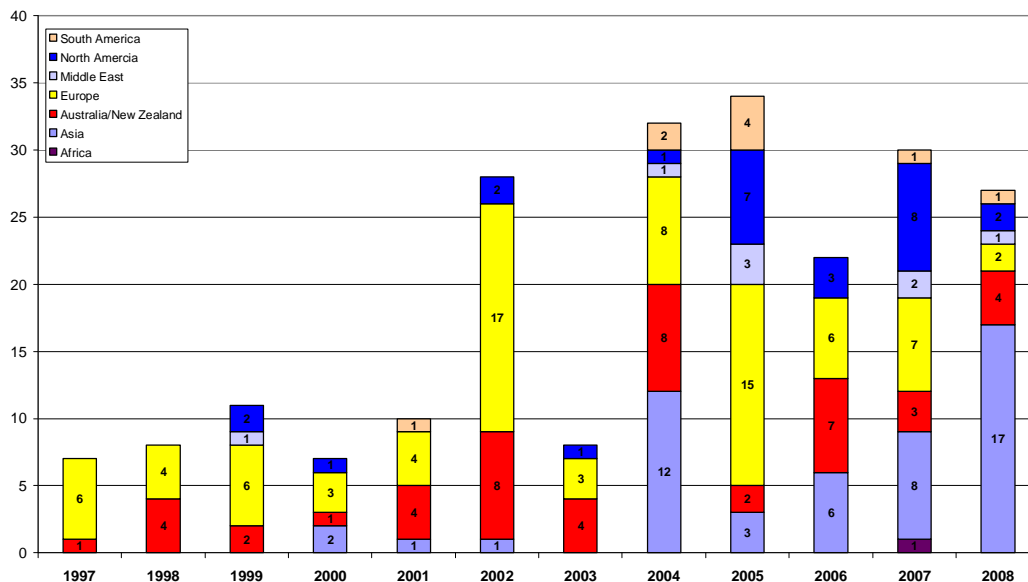
### Major sponsors

- Australian Department of Health and Ageing
- The Cochrane Collaboration
- Kidney Health Australia
- STEP (Screening and Test Evaluation Program), The University of Sydney
- The Children's Hospital at Westmead
- Centre for Kidney Research

### Endorsements

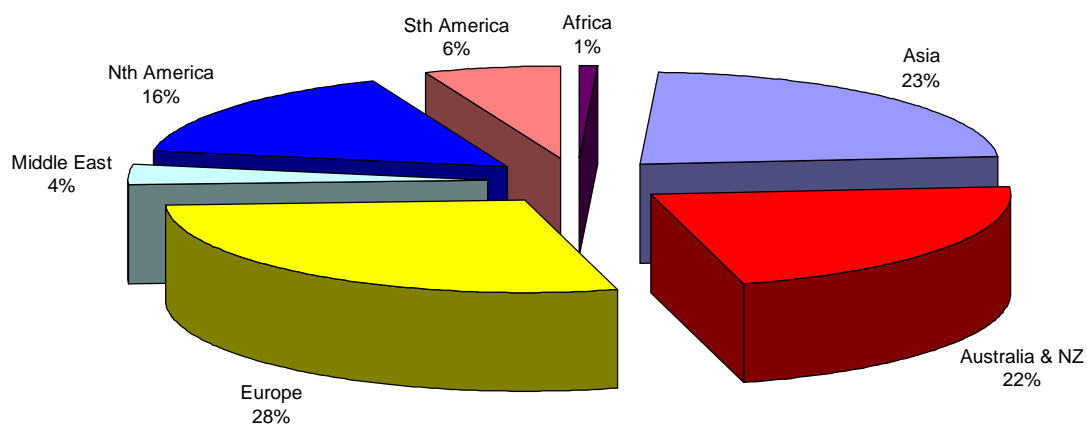
- Asia-Pacific Society of Nephrology
- Australian and New Zealand Society of Nephrology
- International Pediatric Nephrology Association
- International Society of Nephrology
- National Kidney Foundation

## Titles registered from 1997 to 2008



## Contact authors' country of residence

Author numbers: 130



**Africa** – Nigeria

**Asia** – China, India, Malaysia, Thailand

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

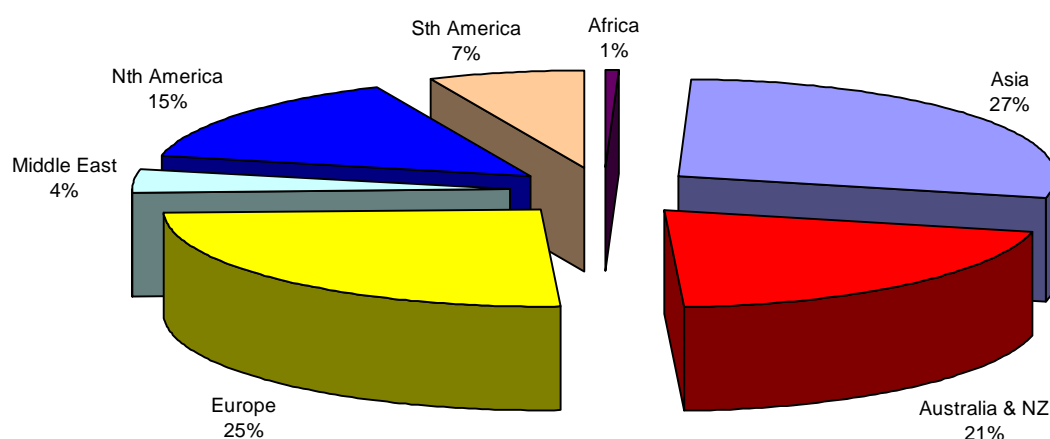
**Middle East** – Israel, Saudi Arabia

**South America** – Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Peru

## Authors and co-authors

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

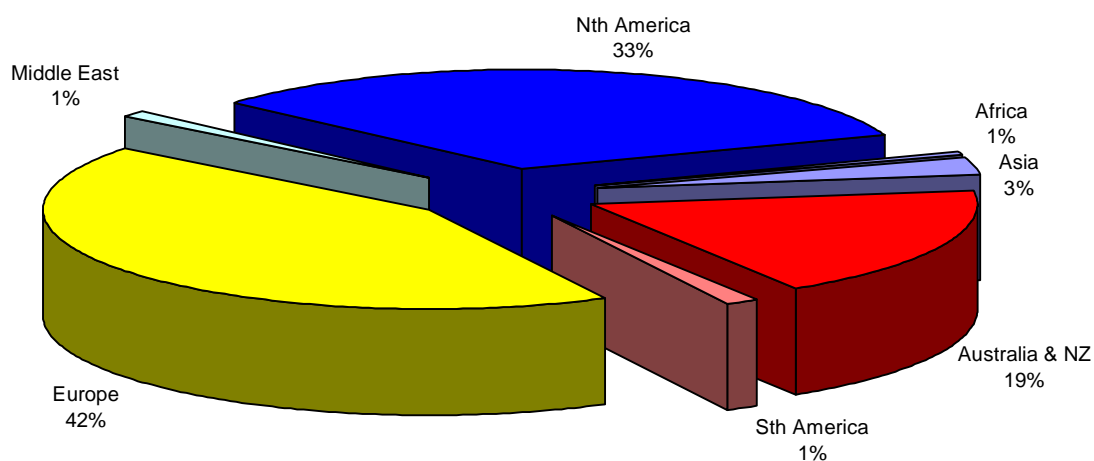
**Number of authors and co-authors - 470**



## Referees

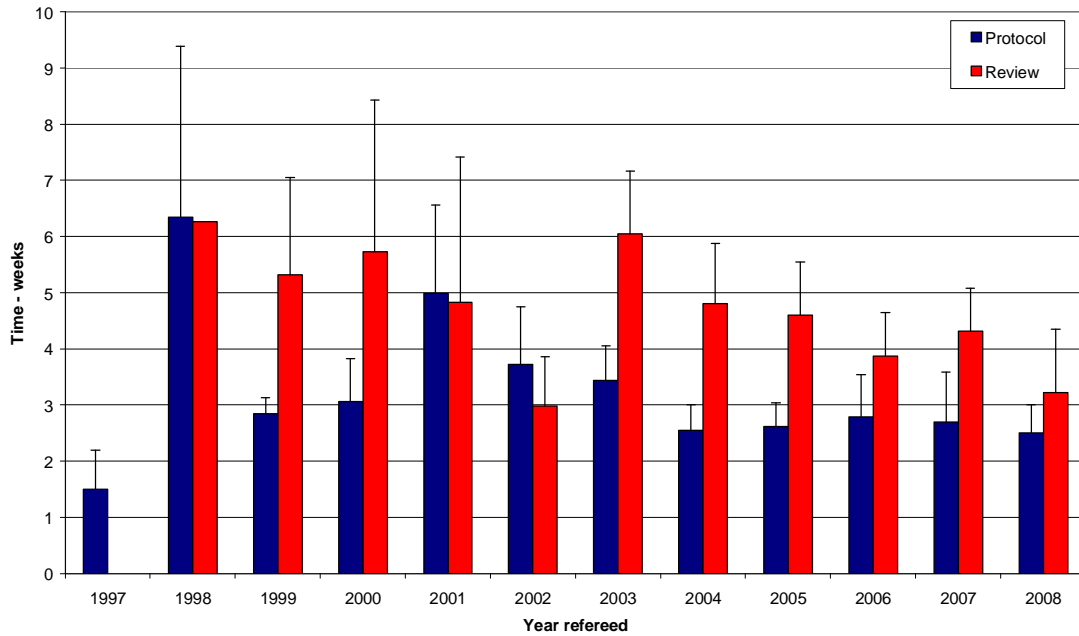
Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Russia, Singapore, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland,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

**Number of referees - 483**



# Time taken by referees

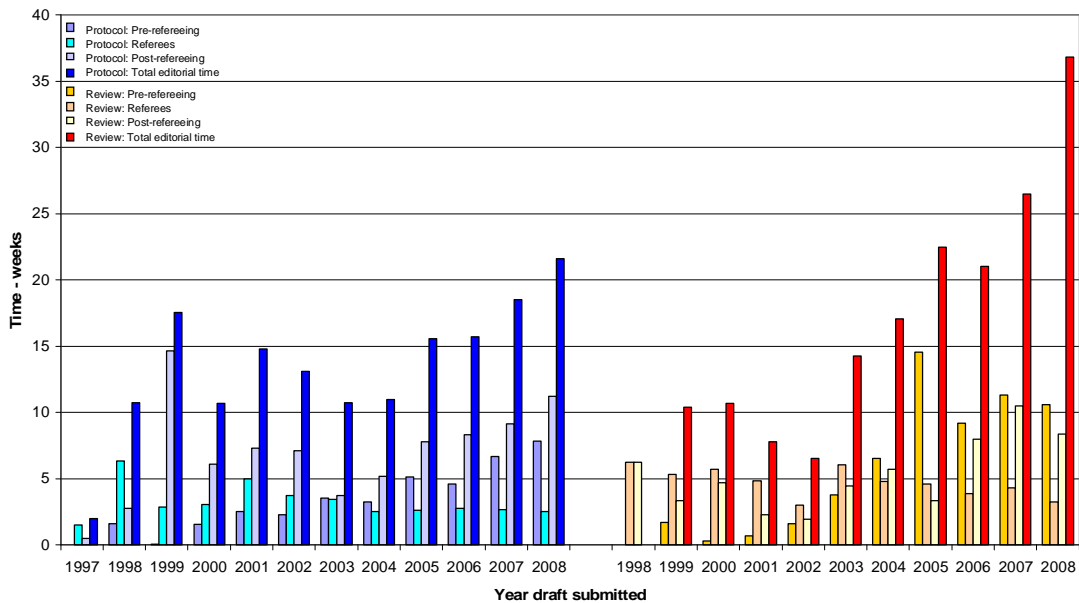
Mean time taken (weeks  $\pm$  95% CI) to referee a protocol or review from sending documents to referee until comments received – sorted by year draft sent for peer review.



# 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.

Stages of the editorial process - sorted by year draft approved or submitted for refereeing



# Mean time to publication

Time (months, mean and 95%CI) taken from;

1. Title registration to protocol inclusion in *The Cochrane Library*
2. Time from protocol inclusion until review inclusion in *The Cochrane Library*
3. Time from title registration until review inclusion in *The Cochrane Library*

