



COCHRANE RENAL GROUP

A REVIEW GROUP OF THE COCHRANE COLLABORATION

2009 annual report



Endorsements: Asian-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

Managing Editor – Ms Narelle Willis

Trials Search Coordinators – Ms Ruth Mitchell and Ms Gail Higgins

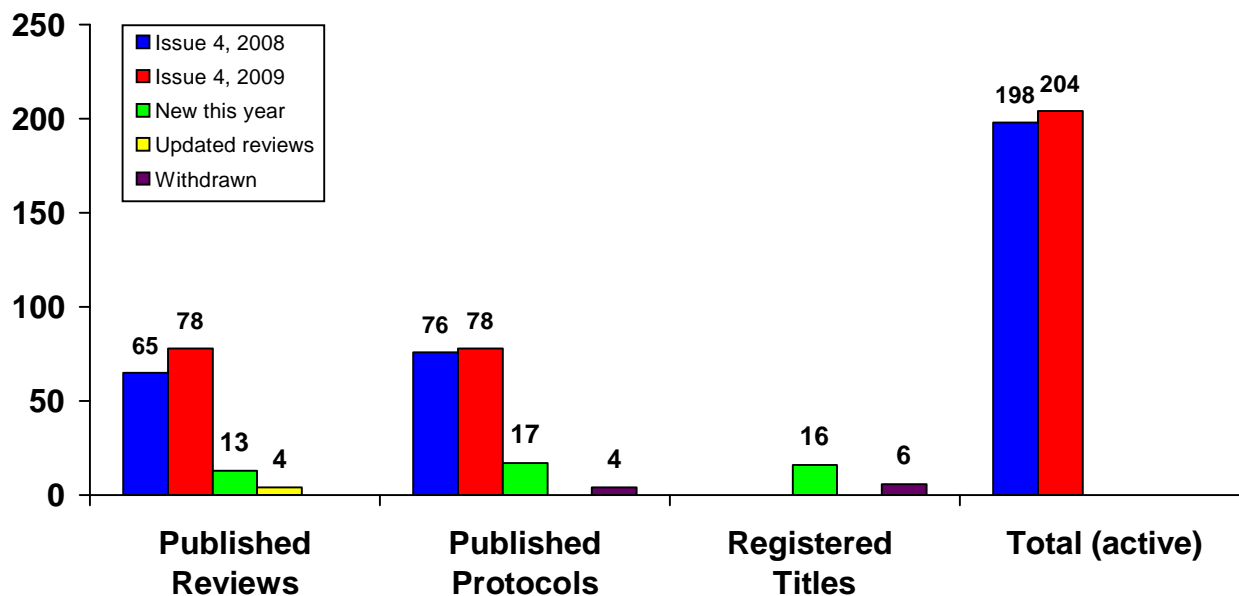
Administration Officer – Ms Leslee Edwards

Editorial Team

We have twelve international editors:

- Dr Hashim Uddin Ahmed (UK)
- Dr Elisabeth Hodson (Australia)
- Prof Vivekanand Jha (India)
- Prof Les Irwig (Australia)
- Prof Bertram Kasiske (USA)
- Dr Petra Macaskill (Australia)
- Prof Sir Peter Morris (UK)
- Dr Giovanni Strippoli (Italy)
- Dr Marcello Tonelli (Canada)

Reviews, protocols and titles



Summary of reviews, protocols and updated/up-to-date reviews published in *The Cochrane Library* (issues 1-4 2009).

Published reviews (13)

- 1) **Aldosterone antagonists for preventing the progression of chronic kidney disease.** Sankar Navaneethan (USA)
Number of included studies: 10 (845 patients)
- 2) **Antihypertensive treatment for kidney transplant recipients.** Nicholas Cross (NZ)
Number of included studies: 60 (3802 patients)
- 3) **Atrial natriuretic peptide for preventing and treating acute kidney injury.** Sagar Nigwekar (USA)
Number of included studies: 19 (1861 patients)
- 4) **Extracorporeal shock wave lithotripsy (ESWL) versus percutaneous nephrolithotomy (PCNL) or retrograde intrarenal surgery (RIRS) for kidney stones.** Attasit Srisubat (Thailand)
Number of included studies: 3 (214 patients)
- 5) **HMG CoA reductase inhibitors (statins) for kidney transplant recipients.** Sankar Navaneethan (USA)
Number of included studies: 16 (3229 patients)

- 6) **HMG CoA reductase inhibitors (statins) for people with chronic kidney disease not requiring dialysis.** Sankar Navaneethan (USA)
Number of included studies: 26 (25,017 patients)
- 7) **Interventions for haemolytic uraemic syndrome and thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura.** Mini Michael (USA)
Number of included studies: 13 (795 patients)
- 8) **Interventions for HIV-associated nephropathy.** Ismail Yahaya (Nigeria)
Number of included studies: 0
- 9) **Interventions for preventing and treating kidney disease in Henoch-Schönlein Purpura (HSP).** Wattana Chartapisak (Thailand)
Number of included studies: 10 (1230 patients)
- 10) **Pharmacological interventions for preventing complications in idiopathic hypercalciuria.** Joaquin Escribano (Spain)
Number of included studies: 5 (316 patients)
- 11) **Steroid avoidance or withdrawal for kidney transplant recipients.** Julio Pascual (Spain)
Number of included studies: 30 (5945 patients)
- 12) **Vitamin D compounds for people with chronic kidney disease not requiring dialysis.** Suetonia Palmer (NZ)
Number of included studies: 16 (894 patients)
- 13) **Vitamin D compounds for people with chronic kidney disease requiring dialysis.** Suetonia Palmer (NZ)
Number of included studies: 60 (2773 patients)

Updated/up-to-date reviews* (4)

- 1) **HMG Co-A reductase inhibitors (statins) for dialysis patients [updated].** Sankar Navaneethan (USA)
Original review: 6 studies (357 patients)
Review update: 14 studies (2086 patients)
- 2) **Interventions for preventing infection in nephrotic syndrome [up-to-date].** Hong Mei Wu (China)
- 3) **Low protein diets for chronic kidney disease in non-diabetic adults [updated].** Denis Fouque (France)
Original review: 7 studies (1494 patients)
Review update: 10 studies (2000 patients)
- 4) **Short versus standard duration oral antibiotic therapy for acute urinary tract infection in children [up-to-date].** Elisabeth Hodson (Australia)

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

Published protocols (17)

- 1) **Angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitors and angiotensin receptor blockers for adults with early (stage 1-3) non diabetic chronic kidney disease.** Corri Black (UK).
- 2) **Antihypertensive agents for dialysis patients.** Cesar Loza Munarriz (Peru)
- 3) **Antioxidants for chronic kidney disease.** Vlado Perkovic (Australia)
- 4) **Biocompatible dialysis fluids for peritoneal dialysis.** Kate Wiggins (Australia)
- 5) **Calcium dialysate concentration for peritoneal dialysis.** Ma Bin (China)
- 6) **FTY720 as immunosuppression for kidney transplant recipients.** Jiyong Tan (China)
- 7) **Hydroxyethyl starch (HES) versus other fluid therapies: effects on kidney function.** Allison Dart (Canada)
- 8) **Interventions for lowering plasma homocysteine levels in dialysis patients.** Sagar Nigwekar (USA)
- 9) **Interventions for lowering plasma homocysteine levels in kidney transplant recipients.** Meg Jardine (Australia)
- 10) **Interventions for treating sexual dysfunction in patients with chronic kidney disease.** Mariacristina Vecchio (Italy)
- 11) **Mycophenolic acid versus azathioprine as primary immunosuppression for kidney transplant recipients.** Angela Webster (Australia)
- 12) **Oral adsorbents for preventing or delaying the progression of chronic kidney disease.** Hong Mei Wu (China)
- 13) **Parenteral versus oral iron therapy for adults and children with chronic kidney disease.** Elisabeth Hodson (Australia)
- 14) **Rheum officinale (a Chinese medicinal herb) for chronic kidney disease.** Han Wang (China)
- 15) **Sodium ferulate for preventing the progression of diabetic kidney disease.** Xiang Yan (China)
- 16) **Steroid avoidance or withdrawal for pancreas and kidney transplant recipients.** Julio Pascual (Spain)
- 17) **Ultrasound use for the placement of haemodialysis catheters.** Emma Vaux (UK)

New titles registered in 2009 (16)

- 1) **Alpha-blockers as medical-expulsive therapy for ureteral stones.** Yefang Zhu (Netherlands)
- 2) **Antibiotic prophylaxis for preventing post solid organ transplant tuberculosis.** Bappa Adamu (Nigeria)
- 3) **Antibiotic prophylaxis for transurethral endo-urological procedures.** Basim Alsaywid (Australia)
- 4) **Antibiotics for preventing recurrent urinary tract infection in men.** Clive Graham (UK)
- 5) **Antiplatelet agents for people with chronic kidney disease not requiring dialysis.** Vlado Perkovic (Australia)
- 6) **Cardiac testing for potential kidney transplant recipients (DTAR).** Louis Wang (Australia)
- 7) **HMG CoA reductase inhibitors (statins) for preventing acute kidney injury after surgical procedures requiring cardiac bypass.** Patrick Murray (Ireland)
- 8) **Intervention for pelvi-ureteric junction (PUJ) obstruction in children.** Basim Alsaywid (Australia)
- 9) **Interventions for nephropathic cystinosis.** Marco Zaffanello (Italy)
- 10) **Interventions for preventing intradialytic hypotension in haemodialysis patients.** Murali Gangadharan Komala (Australia)
- 11) **Interventions for pruritis in chronic kidney disease.** Timothy J Pianta (Australia)
- 12) **Loop diuretics for patients receiving blood transfusions.** Aaron Tejani (Canada)
- 13) **Pidotimod for preventing recurrent urinary tract infection.** Xiao dong Guo (China)
- 14) **Sodium bicarbonate supplements for acute kidney injury.** Jonathan Hewitt (UK)
- 15) **Tripterygium wilfordii (a Chinese medicinal herb) for nephrotic syndrome.** Yizhi Chen (China)
- 16) **Upper limb exercise for haemodialysis fistulae surgery.** Susanne Heiwe (Sweden)

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 journals¹, 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.

In view of the changes, we decided to collaborate with the ANZCTR 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 of the trials registered with the CRG-PTR.

In February 2009, all registrants were notified by email and sent an agreement form for the transfer of their trial data to the ANZCTR. We contracted a programmer from the University of Sydney Information Technology Department to help with the conversion of the data into the format required by the ANZCTR.

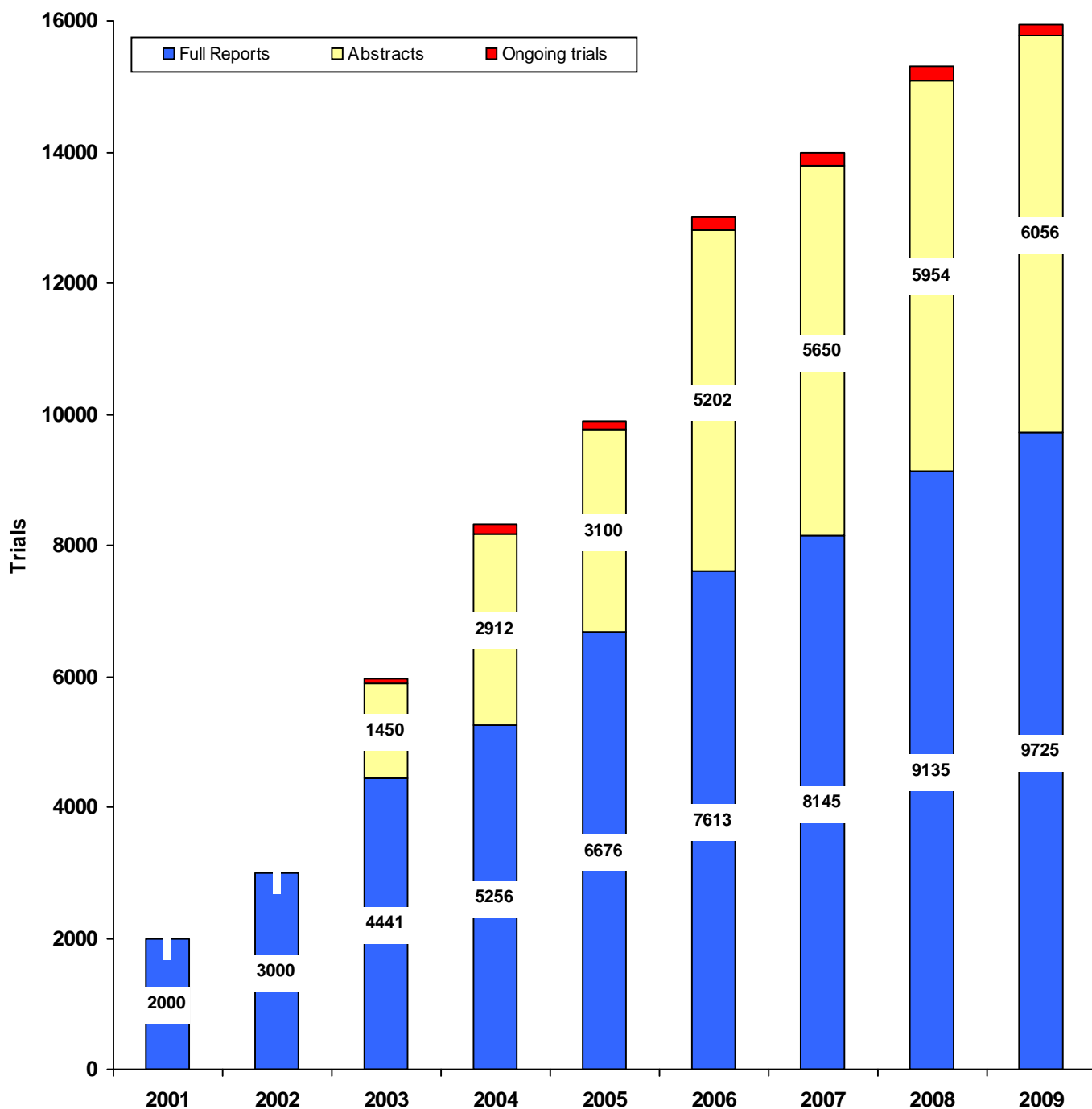
All data from the trials registered with the CRG-PTR has been successfully imported into ANZCTR, and an email advising all registrants of the completion of this data transfer and their new ANZCTR login will be sent by the ANZCTR in the next few days.

The CRG-PTR is now closed, though the original registration data remains on the website. Once the ANZCTR has completed all their work, we will set up links from the current registration data to their registry.

CRG-PTR	No.
No. of studies registered	155
No. that agreed to transfer of data	121
No. that did NOT agree to transfer of data	15
No. that did not respond to request (notified 3 times)	19
No. of studies with ID pending [registration data incomplete; no response to request for additional data]	9
TOTAL	164

Specialised trials register

We currently have 15,781 reports of randomised controlled trials (RCTs) and 10,237 studies on our register; approximately two thirds of these reports are held as full-text copies. Handsearching of the proceedings of the major renal conferences (American Society of Nephrology, European Renal Association, European Dialysis and Transplantation Association) has identified over 6,000 reports of abstracts of RCTs, which have now been included in our register. This represents 40% of our register.



Diagnostic test register

At the end of 2009 the register contained over 3,000 reports of diagnostic test accuracy (DTA) studies, sourced from non-Cochrane systematic reviews, screening of MEDLINE searches, and some from handsearching. Over 800 of these are renal-related studies, including major topics such as accuracy of tests for UTI, tests for renal artery stenosis, tests for estimating GFR and tests for various conditions in kidney transplant recipients (BK virus, CMV virus, acute rejection etc.). The remaining studies include topics such as accuracy of tests for acute kidney injury, and for detecting albuminuria or proteinuria.

Other activities undertaken during 2009 included:

- facilitating workshops to train Cochrane review group members in searching for DTA studies at the Australasian Cochrane Centre Symposium in March, and the Cochrane Colloquium in Singapore in October
- providing assistance to other review groups in developing search strategies for DTA reviews, and in searching the register for relevant studies (5 CRGs assisted)
- developing search strategies for Renal Group DTA reviews (2 reviews)
- providing search strategy assistance for projects undertaken by STEP (the Screening and Test Evaluation Program) in the School of Public Health, University of Sydney (5 projects assisted)
- developing a decision tree and support materials for a trial of handsearching journals for DTA studies, in collaboration with other members of the Cochrane DTA reviews working group
- Developing submissions to the National Library of Medicine (producers of MEDLINE) and Elsevier (producers of EMBASE) for the introduction of indexing terms to identify DTA studies as a specific study type (ongoing)
- Continuing the coding of studies in the Register with Index Test and Target Condition

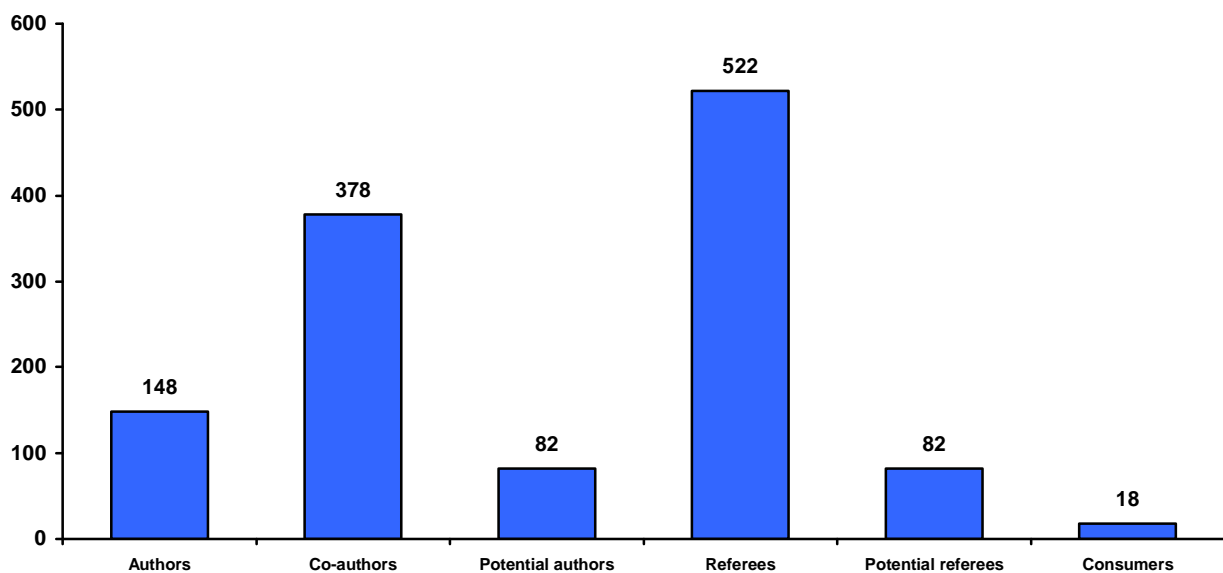
During 2010, as well as continuing with the above activities, a major project will be the development of online training materials for Cochrane trials search coordinators in searching for and identifying DTA studies. It is planned to pilot these during a two-day DTA searching workshop for trials search coordinators to be held in early July.

Group involvement

At the end of December 2009 the Cochrane Renal Group has a mailing list of 1,647. 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:

- **148** primary authors
- **378** co-authors
- **82** members who would like to undertake a review in the future
- **522** referees
- **82** potential referees
- **18** consumers who assist us in refereeing our protocols and reviews



Dissemination

Website

Our website is located at 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)
- 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.

Newsletters

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

- Renal Group and Collaboration news
- Upcoming international nephrology meetings
- Abstracts 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 2009 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.

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.

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.

Advisory board

The Advisory Board met in March and November in 2009. The minutes of these meetings are available on request.

Members of the Advisory Board are:

- Prof Robert Atkins, Chair (Kidney Disease Prevention Unit, Monash Medical Centre)
- Prof Gavin Becker (Kidney Health Australia)
- Mr John Bernardinis (Consumer representative)
- Prof Steve Chadban (TSANZ 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;

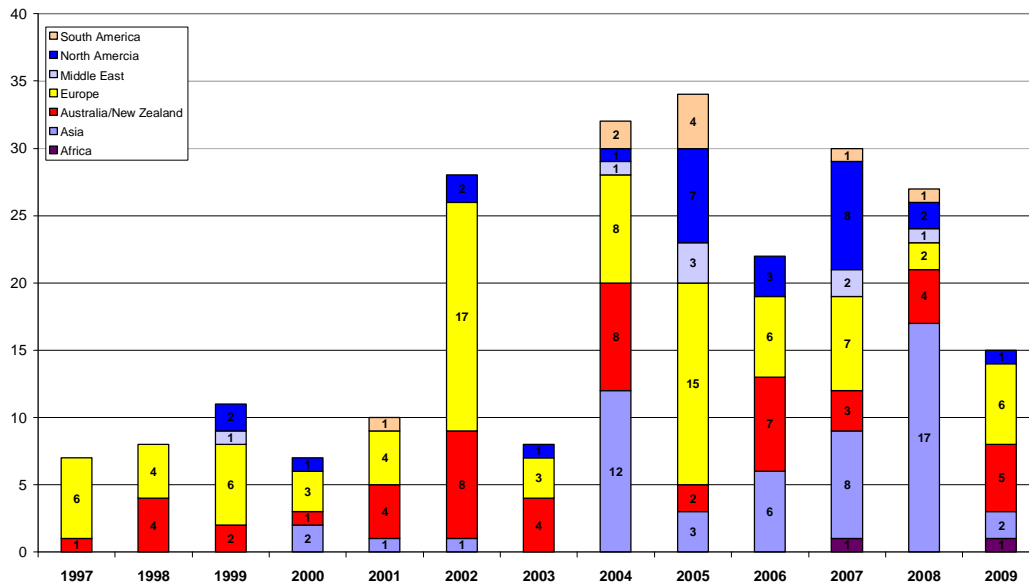
Major sponsors

- 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

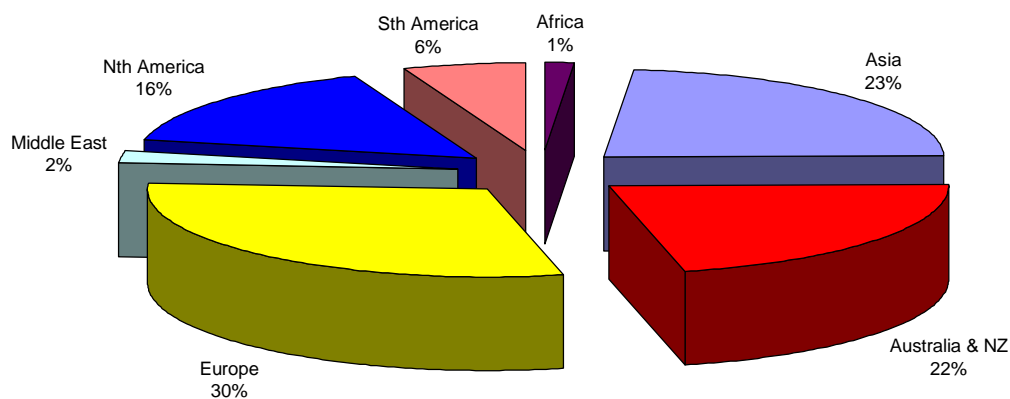
- Asian-Pacific Society of Nephrology
- Australian and New Zealand Society of Nephrology
- International Pediatric Nephrology Association
- International Society of Nephrology
- National Kidney Foundation

Titles registered: 1997 to 2009



Contact authors' country of residence

Author numbers: 148



Africa – Nigeria

Asia – China, India, Malaysia, Thailand

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

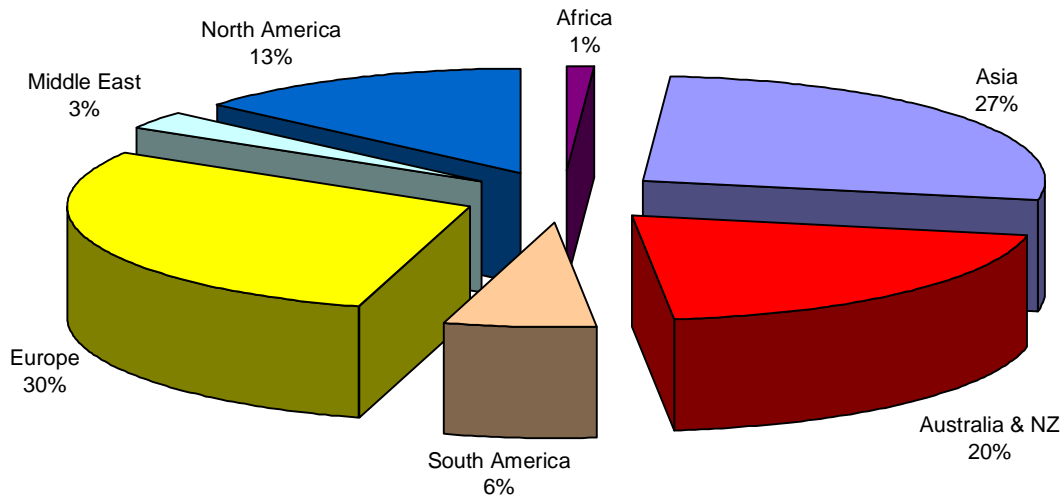
Middle East – Israel, Qatar

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, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, UK, Ukraine, USA

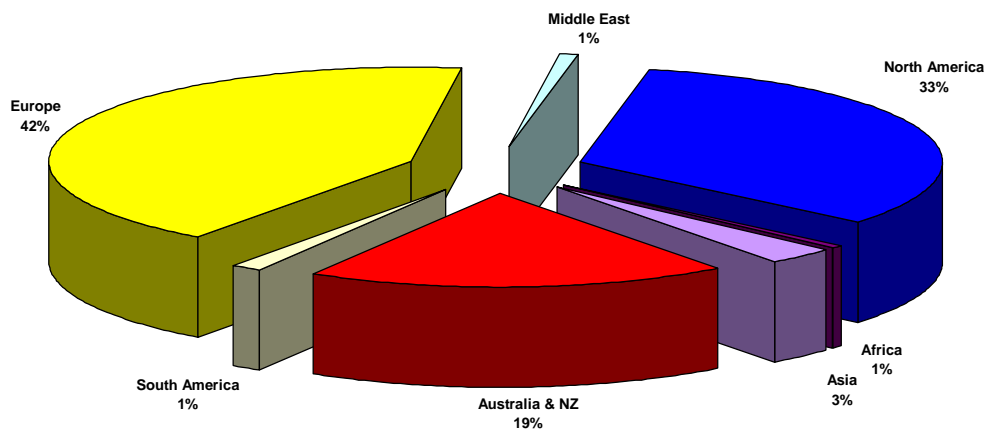
Number of authors and co-authors - 526



Referees

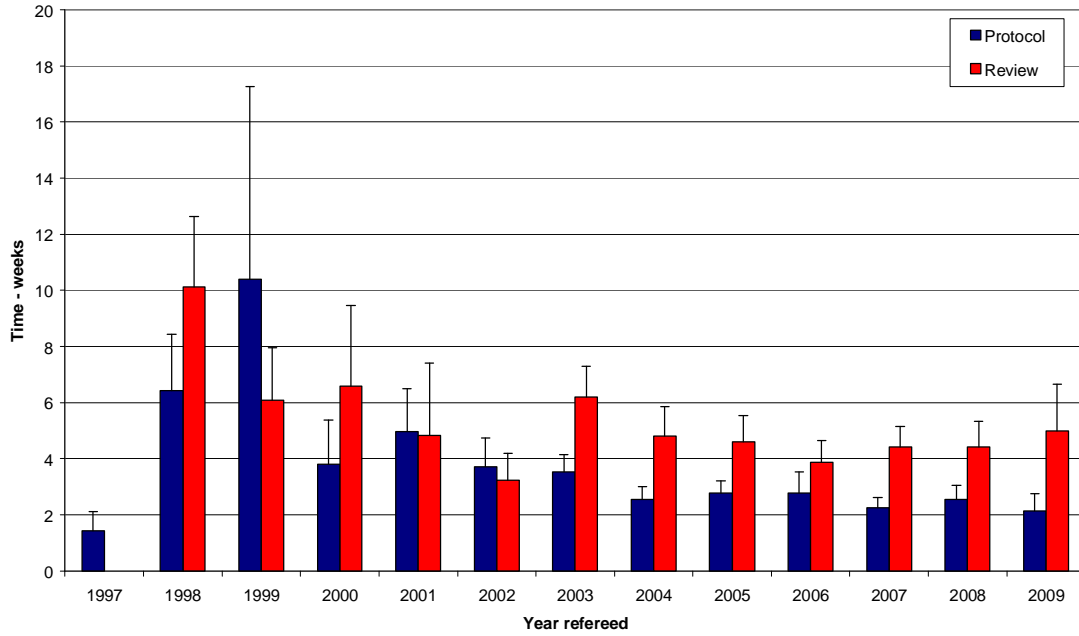
Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Chile, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Russia, Singapore, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland,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

Number of referees - 522



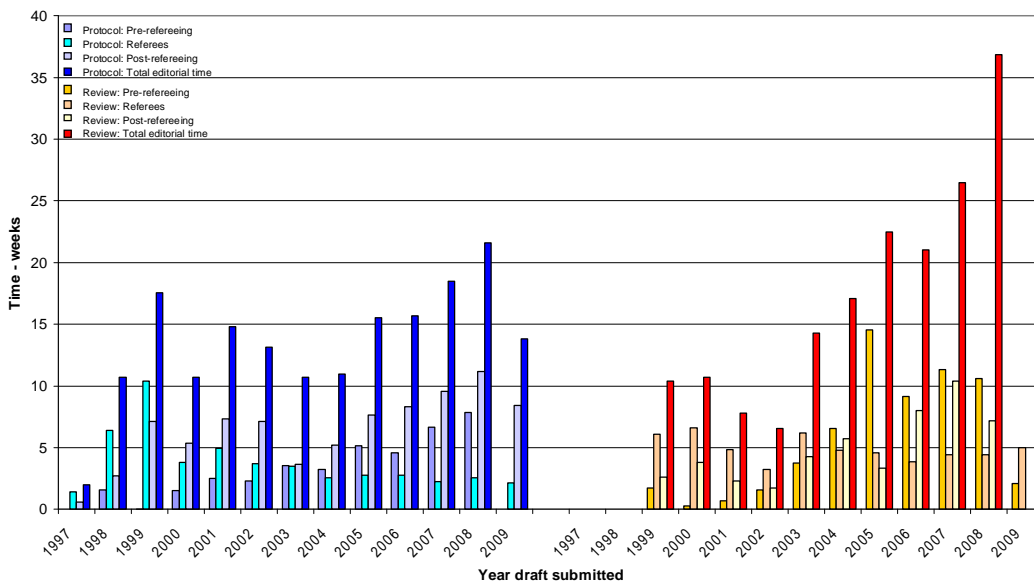
Time taken by referees

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 (sorted by year draft submitted or approved 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*

