



Cochrane Skin Group



“Just 3 from the CSG”

1. 20th Anniversary of The Cochrane Collaboration

Mark Wilson, the new CEO of The Cochrane Collaboration writes to say: “On behalf of The Cochrane Collaboration, I would like to thank you for your support as we celebrate our 20th year as a not-for-profit organization helping healthcare providers, policy-makers, patients, their advocates and carers, make well-informed decisions about health care.

Your continued support has allowed our work to influence guidelines, change practice and ultimately save lives. You can view many examples of this in our 20th Anniversary Video Series about the ideas, achievements and people that have contributed to the Collaboration’s growth. Biweekly throughout 2013 we are releasing one in the series of 24 short videos (3-10 minutes each) compiled from nearly 100 interviews with Cochrane contributors from around the world. You can view the videos [here](#).



Thank you again for your continued support. We look forward to the next 20 years.”

2. MECIR (Methodological Expectations of Cochrane Intervention Reviews)

The Cochrane Collaboration has created a set of standards for the **conduct** and **reporting** of Cochrane Intervention Reviews referred to as ‘MECIR’ (Methodological Expectations of Cochrane Intervention Reviews). They are available to download from the Cochrane Editorial Unit website: www.editorial-unit.cochrane.org/mecir. The **Iberoamerican Cochrane Centre** has also translated the **conduct** and **reporting** standards into Spanish.

The **reporting** standards complement work that has already identified standards for the **conduct** of our reviews. Although the **reporting** standards are not *officially* intended to apply to protocols or updated reviews at this point, it is quicker to consult the MECIR standards than it is to read the latest version of the *Handbook*!

As with the standards for conduct, each reporting item has been designed to be either mandatory or highly desirable. A rationale is also provided for each standard, and any relevant conduct standards/locations in the *Cochrane Handbook* have been indicated.



3. People like Shirley

It is with sadness that we announce the death of Shirley Manknell to our Cochrane Skin Group community. Shirley suffered a fatal stroke on Wednesday June 19th 2013.

Shirley joined our group in 2002 as a “consumer” or public and patient representative and became more and more involved in contributing to our organisation and endeavour to produce high-quality reviews that could be widely understood by a wide range of readers. Shirley came to several of our annual Cochrane Skin Group meetings, and although she was always nervous about being asked to speak on consumer issues, she always delivered and made some excellent points that we acted on.

Shirley was not afraid to speak out if she thought we were doing things wrong, and she helped other consumer members develop their skills and understanding of Cochrane and the Skin Group. She worked very hard behind the scenes as consumer referee on many of our protocols and reviews – and really did read the reviews through thoroughly and made lots of good suggestions that resulted in improvement in our plain language summaries and readability of our reviews. Shirley suffered from severe atopic eczema herself

and was able to comment with authority on our eczema reviews.

It is people like Shirley that make The Cochrane Collaboration. It is people like Shirley that have made the Cochrane Skin Group what we are today, and she has played a key role in cementing our commitment to working with patients and carers.

In her honour, we have decided to re-name our consumer stipend, which is offered to our consumer members – when we have the funds – to enable them to attend the CSG meetings and colloquiums, the ‘**Shirley Manknell Consumer Stipend**’.

Our sympathies go to Shirley’s family and friends. Long may her legacy of high-quality consumer input into our Skin Group reviews last.

Hywel

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