



South Asian Cochrane Network & Centre

- Advanced Centre for Treatment, Education & Research In Cancer, Mumbai, India
- Aga Khan University, Karachi, Pakistan
- All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, India
- Christian Medical College, Vellore, India (Coordinating Centre)
- Independent University, Dhaka, Bangladesh
- Lady Reading Hospital, Khyber Medical University, Peshawar, Pakistan
- Manipal University, Manipal, India
- Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, India
- Ramaratnam Epilepsy Research Foundation, Chennai, India
- University of Kelaniya, Ragama, Sri Lanka

STRATEGIC PLAN

AUGUST 2007 – DECEMBER 2009



SOUTH ASIAN COCHRANE
NETWORK & CENTRE

www.cochrane-sacn.org

STRATEGIC PLAN OF THE SOUTH ASIAN COCHRANE NETWORK & CENTRE

(AUGUST 2007-DECEMBER 2009)

BACKGROUND

The South Asian Cochrane Centre was registered as an independent Cochrane Centre on July 15, 2008. The Centre is located at the Prof. B V Moses and Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) Advanced Centre for Research and Training in Evidence-Informed Health Care at the Christian Medical College, Vellore, India. The Centre is part of the South Asian Cochrane Network and Centre (SACNC), a devolved network of sites situated at academic health-sciences institutions in India (5), Pakistan (2), Bangladesh (1), and Sri Lanka (1). The SACNC is looking for partners in Afghanistan, Bhutan, Nepal and the Maldives.

MISSION OF THE SOUTH ASIAN COCHRANE NETWORK & CENTRE

The South Asian Cochrane Network & Centre (SACNC) shares the mission of the Cochrane Collaboration in aiming to help people make well-informed decisions about health care by preparing, maintaining and promoting the accessibility of systematic reviews of the effects of healthcare intervention.

VISION OF THE SOUTH ASIAN COCHRANE NETWORK & CENTRE

The vision of the SACN is that all decisions regarding health care in the region should be informed by reliable and relevant evidence.

GOALS OF THE SOUTH ASIAN COCHRANE NETWORK & CENTRE

The Strategic Plan of the South Asian Cochrane Network & Centre has five Goals

GOAL 1: To increase awareness of The Cochrane Collaboration, The Cochrane Library and Evidence-Based Health Care in South Asia

GOAL 2: To train and support contributors to The Cochrane Collaboration in South Asia

GOAL 3: To increase the utilization of reliable evidence in healthcare decisions

GOAL 4: To represent and advocate for high quality research in South Asia

GOAL 5: To ensure a sustainable structure for the South Asian Cochrane Network & Centre and contribute substantially to the Cochrane Collaboration

GOAL 1: TO INCREASE AWARENESS OF THE COCHRANE COLLABORATION, THE COCHRANE LIBRARY AND EVIDENCE-BASED HEALTH CARE IN SOUTH ASIA

Theme 1: To increase awareness about Cochrane Systematic Reviews and Evidence-Based Practice

Activity 1.1: Conduct sessions at local, regional and national conferences and workshops on systematic reviews, the Cochrane Collaboration and evidence-based practice

Activity 1.2: Write articles in medical journals and related publications about Cochrane systematic reviews and the activities of the Cochrane Collaboration in the region

Activity 1.3: Involve the media in disseminating information on evidence-based practice and the Cochrane Collaboration

Activity 1.4: Encourage medical journal editors to include information about and links to the Cochrane Collaboration, the SACNC and evidence-based resources in their websites and journals

Activity 1.5: Hold an annual essay competition on evidence-based healthcare for undergraduates and postgraduates in the region

GOAL 2: TO TRAIN AND SUPPORT CONTRIBUTORS TO THE COCHRANE COLLABORATION IN SOUTH ASIA

Theme 4: To develop standard training resources and a pool of trained trainers

Activity 4.1: Develop standard methods and resources for sensitization workshops, protocol development and review completion workshops in the region

Activity 4.2: Conduct a train the trainers workshop/programme

Activity 4.3: Evaluate training programmes conducted in the region

Activity 4.4: Develop, implement and evaluate a standard operation manual for conducting workshops (registration forms, equipment, resources, and evaluation forms)

Theme 5: To conduct a series of workshops and mentoring activities for review authors throughout the region

Activity 5.1: Conduct an annual protocol development workshop and one review completion workshop at each Network site in the region

Activity 5.2: Conduct at least one workshop on the methods of research synthesis (advanced statistics) in one country in the region

Activity 5.3: Establish a mentoring programme for review authors with named mentors for reviews

Activity 5.4: Hold residential mentoring programmes at the coordinating centre and sites

Activity 5.5: Conduct at least one introductory workshop per year in the region on diagnostic systematic reviews; to consider protocol development workshops in due course

Theme 6: To train information specialists on the use of The Cochrane Library and other Evidence-Based resources

Activity 6.1: Establish a network of medical librarians and information specialists from the network sites and other institutions to facilitate the activities of the SACNC

Activity 6.2: Provide training for this information specialist network in using The Cochrane Library and other evidence-based resources

Activity 6.3: Provide information about these resources to users via the SACN website and other means

Theme 7: To train and organize hand-searching activities

Activity 7.1: Identify journals/conference proceedings that need hand-searching for clinical trials

Activity 7.2: Allot each site with journals/conference proceedings that need to be hand-searched

Activity 7.3: Train personnel at each site to co-ordinate hand-searching activities

Theme 8: To involve and train consumers

Activity 8.1: Identify consumers willing to serve as referees for reviews and to disseminate evidence summaries

Activity 8.2: Involve consumers in a regional network to represent the region in the Cochrane Consumer Network (CCNet)

GOAL 3: TO INCREASE THE USE OF RELIABLE EVIDENCE IN HEALTHCARE DECISIONS

Theme 9: Increase capacity among policy makers to access, appraise and use evidence from systematic reviews in formulating health care policy

Activity 9.1: Hold workshops for policy makers on the role of systematic reviews, the Cochrane Library and other EBM resources in providing reliable evidence on interventions used in healthcare

Activity 9.2: Include policy makers in workshops that support the production of systematic reviews

Activity 9.3: Work with policy makers to attempt to change policy through dissemination of reliable evidence from systematic reviews when needed

Activity 9.4: Include policy makers in dissemination of summaries of systematic reviews

Theme 10: Increasing capacity among clinicians to access, appraise and implement evidence

Activity 10.1: Hold workshops at local, regional and national conferences on evidence based practice (Activity 1.1)

Activity 10.2: Identify and support institutions and organizations willing to consider audits of practice against evidence based recommendations

Activity 10.3: Introduce modules on systematic reviews, critical appraisal and evidence based practice in undergraduate and postgraduate curricula

Theme 11: Identifying and prioritizing locally relevant areas for research

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Activity 11.1: In collaboration with clinicians, policy makers, researchers and consumers identify areas where evidence exists but needs to be synthesized in systematic reviews

Activity 11.2: Prioritize these conditions/interventions for systematic reviews from the region

GOAL 4: TO REPRESENT AND ADVOCATE FOR HIGH QUALITY RESEARCH IN SOUTH ASIA

Theme 12: Encourage the prospective registration of clinical trials in the region

Activity 12.1: Disseminate information about the Clinical Trials Register-India and the WHO International Clinical Trials Registry Platform and the need to prospectively register clinical trials

Activity 12.2: Encourage prospective registration of all clinical trials in the region

Theme 13: Improve the design, conduct, quality and reporting of clinical trials from the region

Activity 13.1: Disseminate the CONSORT Guidelines and ICMJE requirements in workshops on critical appraisal among clinicians and researchers

Activity 13.2: Work with local and regional ethics committees and medical journal editors to improve the design, conduct and reporting of clinical trials

Theme 14: Develop and maintain a register of controlled clinical trials in the region

Activity 14.1: Establish a register of trials conducted in South Asia

Activity 14.2: Hand-search non-indexed journals and conference proceedings for published and unpublished trials

Activity 14.3: Search dissertations for un-published trials

Activity 14.5: Establish a mechanism to maintain this register

Theme 15: Develop capacity for methodological research in evaluating healthcare interventions

Activity 15.1: Develop collaborative partnerships to improve capacity for undertaking research in the methods and applications of research synthesis

Activity 15.2: Inform the research agendas of national and regional research funding agencies by identifying important research questions relating to priority health topics where evidence is inconclusive

Activity 15.3: Conduct methodological research in the area of systematic reviews of interventions and their derivative products

Activity 15.4 Encourage research in uptake and implementation of evidence-based clinical practical guidelines in selected areas

GOAL 5: TO ENSURE A SUSTAINABLE STRUCTURE FOR THE SOUTH ASIAN COCHRANE NETWORK & CENTRE AND CONTRIBUTE SUBSTANTIALLY TO THE COCHRANE COLLABORATION

Theme 16: Enhance the capacity of the South Asian Cochrane Network to support the activities of the Cochrane Collaboration

Activity 16.1: Apply to the Cochrane Collaboration to be an independent Cochrane Centre (South Asian Cochrane Network and Centre) with a Centre at the Christian Medical College, Vellore, India and network sites in Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka

Activity 16.2: Constitute a steering group comprising all review group editors and site representatives from the region

Activity 16.3: Constitute an advisory group to guide the goals, mission and activities of the network

Activity 16.4 Fulfill the functions of a Cochrane Centre.

The coordinating centre will coordinate training activities, liaise with policy makers, help seek funding support for sites, host and maintain the web-site, prepare and disseminate the bi-annual SACNC newsletter with input from sites, maintain the SACNC module in The Cochrane Library, maintain a contact database and a mailing list; serve as a reference centre for the region; liaise with the SACNC steering and advisory groups regarding policy issues, and with Cochrane review groups regarding title registration and reviews; create an arbitration committee from the SACNC steering and advisory groups; and represent the SACNC in the Collaboration's activities, and the Collaboration's interests in the region.

Theme 17: Integration of training and support activities within all countries in South Asia

Activity 17.1: Delineate specific roles and measurable targets for the network sites that are common for all sites and those that draw on the strengths of each site.

Activity 17.2: Facilitate the formation of a branch of the SACNC in Pakistan with the Aga Khan University as the coordinating centre in Pakistan

Activity 17.3: Identify and support potential contributors and sites in Afghanistan, Bhutan, Nepal and the Maldives

Activity 17.4: Hold an annual steering to group meeting at different sites in the region

Activity 17.5: Host the mid-year Cochrane Collaboration Steering Group and Cochrane Centre and Branch Directors and Coordinating Editors meeting at CMC Vellore in April 2008.

Activity 17.6: Hold an annual meeting of Cochrane contributors and a regional evidence-based healthcare symposium starting with the symposium at Colombo in August 2007, proceeding to the symposium at Vellore in April 2008, and yearly thereafter.

Theme 18: Contribute substantially to the Cochrane Collaboration's activities

Activity 18.1: Participate in the Collaboration's committees and advisory groups, and entities such as the Developing Countries Network

Activity 18.2: Participate at the annual and mid-year Centre and Branch Directors meetings

Activity 18.3: Participate at the annual Cochrane Colloquia

Activity 18.4: Contribute trials from the SACNC regional register of controlled clinical trials to the Collaboration's Central Register.