



Writing, GRADEing, and Using Systematic Reviews Symposium (½ day) and Workshop (1 ½ days)

Cochrane Collaboration and GRADE working group



- Registration required -

During the first, stand-alone part of the event international speakers will present about systematic reviews, guideline development, the GRADE approach, and their use in practice and policy. The second, separate part is a practical workshop to apply Cochrane methods to write a systematic review and to use GRADE to interpret and present results in the review.

Dates and location

May 8-9, 2008
Scientific Director & Dept. of Epidemiology
Centro Congresso Bastianelli
Italian National Cancer Institute "Regina Elena"
Via Elio Chianesi 53
00144 Rome
Italy

Systematic reviews of the effects of an intervention to improve health are valuable sources of information. They provide evidence for making clinical decisions, creating policy, and developing clinical practice guidelines. To ensure accuracy and relevance of these reviews, systematic, rigorous and transparent methods should be used to search, assess the quality, analyse, and present the evidence.

This symposium and workshop is a **two-day event** that introduces participants to the concepts of development and use of Cochrane Collaboration systematic reviews, and guides participants through the steps of developing a systematic review. The workshop includes both presentations and interactive sessions. Presentations will describe systematic reviews, the methods of the **Cochrane Collaboration**, the **GRADE** approach, the application of reviews in clinical and policy settings, and guideline development including relevant context for the **World Health Organization (WHO)**. Interactive sessions will help acquiring the skills to conduct a systematic review, provide time for participants to practice those skills, and have hands-on experience using the new Cochrane Collaboration's Review Manager (**RevMan 5.0**) and GRADEpro software to create Summary of Findings tables and GRADE evidence profiles. Sample reviews will be used throughout the programme, but participants can work on their own systematic reviews during the sessions. Highly **experienced contributors to the Cochrane Collaboration and leaders of the GRADE working group** will conduct this event.

Workshop Objectives

Upon completion of this workshop, participants should be able to:

1. Understand the concepts behind systematic reviews and their application and use.
2. Formulate a focused and sensible clinical question
3. Understand the principles of developing a search strategy and selecting original studies
4. Describe the steps required to extract data from the original studies and assess their methodological quality using the Cochrane Risk of Bias (RoB) table
5. Input and analyze data in RevMan 5.0
6. Understand the GRADE approach to grading quality of evidence and determining the strength of guideline recommendations
7. Generate and interpret a Summary of Findings (SoF) table and GRADE evidence profile using GRADEpro software

Target audience

The primary target audience of this workshop includes healthcare professionals and clinical scientists interested in conducting systematic reviews of the medical literature and developing clinical practice guidelines. In particular those interested in using Cochrane Collaboration methodology and/or the GRADE framework in developing clinical practice guidelines will also benefit from this workshop.

Faculty

Elie Akl, MD, MPH, State University of New York at Buffalo, USA
Stephanie Chang, MD, MPH, Agency for Health-care Research and Quality, Washington DC, USA
Patrick M Bossuyt, PhD, Academic Medical Center, University of Amsterdam, Netherlands
Jan Brożek, MD, PhD, Italian National Cancer Institute "Regina Elena", Rome, Italy
Yngve Falck-Ytter, MD, Case Western University, Cleveland, USA
Paul Glasziou, MD, PhD, University of Oxford, UK
Gordon H Guyatt, MD, MSc, McMaster University, Hamilton, Canada
Suzanne R Hill, MD, World Health Organization, Geneva, Switzerland
Andrew D Oxman, MD, MSc, Norwegian Knowledge Centre for Health Services, Oslo, Norway & Nordic Cochrane Center
Nancy Santesso, RD, MLIS, Italian National Cancer Institute "Regina Elena", Rome, Italy
Holger J Schünemann, MD, PhD, Italian National Cancer Institute "Regina Elena", Rome, Italy
Francesca Sperati, PhD, Italian National Cancer Institute "Regina Elena", Rome, Italy
Irene Terrenato, PhD, Italian National Cancer Institute "Regina Elena", Rome, Italy

Workshop language: English with support by Italian faculty (translations available for symposium and Italian speaking faculty present for small group sessions)

CME credits: available from the Italian Ministry of Health

Registration fees

Day 1: ½ day only:	free for members of public institutions (€ 25 for others)
Full registration	€ 300
Students, residents and fellows	€ 200

Cancellation Fees: € 150 cancellation before April 24
€ 200 cancellation April 24 - May 1

Registration is required and includes participation in lectures, tutorials, and hands-on sessions, as well as workshop materials. Coffee breaks (½ day and full registration) and Box lunch (full registration only) are also included. The registration fees are used strictly to organize this event.

Please register at:

<http://www.grade.pro.org/romeworkshop>

or contact:

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The organizations

Internet:

Cochrane Collaboration

www.cochrane.org

The Cochrane Collaboration was founded in 1993 as an international not-for-profit organization dedicated to improving healthcare decision-making globally, through the production and dissemination of methodologically sound and up-to-date [systematic reviews](#) of the effects of healthcare interventions.

GRADE Working Group

www.gradeworkinggroup.org

The Grading of Recommendations Assessment, Development and Evaluation (GRADE) Working Group was assembled in the year 2000 as an informal collaboration of people with an interest in the development of clinical practice guidelines and addressing the shortcomings of then available systems of grading quality of evidence and strength of healthcare recommendations. The aim of the GRADE Working Group is to develop a common and sensible approach to grading quality of evidence and strength of recommendations. Over 30 organizations, including the WHO, NICE, CADTH, American Thoracic Society and other professional societies use the GRADE approach.

Workshop organizers

Elie Akl, University at Buffalo, NY, USA

Jan Brożek, **Nancy Santesso**, **Holger Schünemann**, Italian National Cancer Institute “Regina Elena”, Rome, Italy

Andrew Oxman, Norwegian Knowledge Centre for Health Services, Oslo, Norway and Nordic Cochrane Center

Detailed program

May 8, 2008 (Day 1)	
8:00	Beginning of event and Registration
SYMPOSIUM PRESENTATIONS	
9.00 – 9.10	Introduction to the Symposium Holger Schünemann, IFO Rome, Italy
9:10 – 9:35	What Evidence Based Medicine really is Gordon Guyatt, McMaster University, Canada
9:35 – 10:00	The Cochrane Collaboration and systematic reviews Andrew Oxman, Cochrane Collaboration
10:00 – 10:25	Systematic reviews of diagnostic accuracy Patrick Bossuyt, University of Amsterdam, NL
10:25 -10:50	GRADE: Quality of evidence and strength of recommendations Holger Schünemann, IFO Rome
10:50 – 11:15	Systematic reviews and GRADE in WHO guidelines Suzanne Hill, World Health Organization
11:15 – 11:35	BREAK
11:35 – 11:50	Pragmatic use of GRADE for the development of recommendations Jan Brozek, IFO Rome, Italy
11:50 – 12:15	Applying systematic reviews in clinical practice Paul Glasziou, University of Oxford, UK
12:15 – 12:35	Government organizations and the use of GRADE Stephanie Chang, Agency for Health-care Research and Quality, Washington DC, USA
12:35 – 13:30	Using systematic reviews and GRADE for policy making: Round Table and Discussion Italian and International representatives
13:30 – 14:30	LUNCH
INTERACTIVE SESSIONS Day 1 (for workshop registrants)	
Faculty: Jan Brożek, Elie Akl, Gordon Guyatt, Andrew Oxman, Yngve Falck-Ytter, Nancy Santesso, Holger J Schünemann, Francesca Sperati, Irene Terrenato	
14:30 – 15:00	Overview of the structure and methods of a Cochrane systematic review and building a team (hands on example)
15:00 – 15:45	Formulating a sensible and focused clinical question and protocol developing– exercise
15:45 – 16:00	BREAK
16:00 – 16:45	Searching for studies – hands-on session

16:45 – 17:15	Selecting studies
17:15 – 18:00	Assessing the quality of clinical studies
WORKSHOP RECEPTION	
18:30	RECEPTION
May 9, 2008 (Day 2)	
INTERACTIVE AND HANDS-ON SESSIONS (for workshop registrants)	
Faculty: Jan Brożek, Elie Akl, Yngve Falck-Ytter, Nancy Santesso, Holger J Schünemann, Francesca Sperati, Irene Terrenato	
9:00 – 10:30	Assessment of methodological quality of the studies – exercise
10.30 – 11.15	Data extraction – exercise
11:15 – 11:30	BREAK
11:30 – 12:30	RevMan 5 hands-on session – overview and data entry
12:30 – 13:15	Introduction to meta-analysis
12:30 – 13:30	LUNCH
13:30 – 14:15	Heterogeneity, subgroup and sensitivity analyses
14:15 – 15:00	RevMan 5 hands-on session – data analysis
15:00 – 15:45	Evaluating & presenting and interpreting results: GRADE approach
15:45 – 16:00	BREAK
16:00 – 16:30	GRADEpro hands-on session – the basics
16:30 – 17:00	Interpreting results and drawing conclusions
17:00 – 17:30	Review and Evaluation of the workshop