

# UK Cochrane Centre Annual Report 2005

This brief report of the activities of the UK Cochrane Centre in 2005 summarises key features of the work of the Centre during the year.

## Background

The UK Cochrane Centre (UKCC) was established at the end of 1992 by the NHS Research and Development Programme 'to facilitate and co-ordinate the preparation and maintenance of systematic reviews of randomized controlled trials of healthcare'. The UKCC is now part of The Cochrane Collaboration, which was launched at the First Cochrane Colloquium in Oxford in October 1993, and remains an integral part of the NHS Research and Development Programme, along with the Centre for Reviews and Dissemination in York and the NHS Health Technology Assessment Programme. Following an external review of the UKCC's work in 2003, the NHS R&D Programme decided that we should receive continued funding until at least March 2010. The agreed programme of work focuses on the training and support of Cochrane entities and contributors based in the UK and other countries for which the Centre is responsible. It was agreed that the UKCC should continue to carry out some methodological research and other activities intended to help improve the quality of Cochrane reviews; seeking additional funds to support large projects as necessary.

The UKCC provides a link between national initiatives in the UK and the international Cochrane Collaboration. It is one of twelve Cochrane Centres, which provide the infrastructure for co-ordinating The Cochrane Collaboration around the world. Within The Cochrane Collaboration, the UKCC is responsible for supporting contributors to The Cochrane Collaboration in the United Kingdom, Ireland and some other countries. A branch of the Centre was established in Bahrain in March 2005. Responsibility for Thailand (including the Thai Cochrane Network) reverted to the Australasian Cochrane Centre in February 2006.

## The UK Cochrane Centre

The staff of the UKCC are listed in Appendix 1, all contribute to our Training and Support Programme. During 2005, the UKCC was the reference Cochrane Centre for half of the Cochrane Review Groups (CRGs), with 25 of the 50 CRGs having editorial bases in the UK. The 51<sup>st</sup> CRG, Childhood Cancer, was registered in 2006 and is based in The Netherlands. The co-ordinating bases of one Field and seven Methods Groups were also based in the UK in 2005. More than one third of the contributors to the 51 CRGs live in the UK. This represented more than 5000 people by the start of 2006, an increase of 137% since 2000 (see table below). In early 2006, nearly 3000 of the 9000 authors of Cochrane reviews were in the UK.

## **Contributors to the work of Collaborative Review Groups in the UK and the rest of the world, 2000-2006**

	<b>2000</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>
<b>UK</b>	2303	3084	3660	4446	4933	5459
<b>Rest of the world</b>	3134	4644	5619	7071	8114	9466
<b>Total</b>	5437	7728	9279	11,517	13,047	14,925

The Workplan for the UKCC for 2005-2010 was agreed with the Department of Health in 2005. This reflects the decisions taken following the 2003 external review to make the main focus for the core funding provided to the UKCC by the Department of Health (via the NHS R&D Programme) the training and support for entities (in particular Cochrane Review Groups) and contributors to The Cochrane Collaboration based in the UK. This includes a recognition of the need for our Research/Methodology Programme to help underpin the Training and Support Programme but a requirement that funds be sought from elsewhere for major research projects of the type we proposed to the external review.

This report describes briefly the different aspects of our work. Our achievements against our targets are shown in Appendix 2.

### **Training and Support Programme**

The training programme provided by the UKCC evolved and grew during 2005, so as to meet the continuing and increasing demand. During the year, there were ten one-day 'Developing a protocol for a review' and eight one-day 'Introduction to Analysis' workshops for authors of Cochrane reviews, with 268 places filled by 235 people. This is an 11% increase in the number of participants compared to 2004 for what continue to be workshops aimed primarily at people working on their first Cochrane review. Workshops were held in Belfast, Dublin, Edinburgh, Leeds, Liverpool, London, Oxford and York. 93% of the participants were based in the UK. The evaluation from these workshops continues to indicate that they clearly meet the needs of the participants and they will continue to represent the core of our standalone workshop programme.

In April 2005, we piloted a new 2-day workshop on developing a protocol for a review with five participants. This extends the question formulation aspects of the one-day workshop by adding time to get the protocol started in The Cochrane Collaboration's review preparation software: RevMan. The feedback from this pilot workshop was positive and we plan to run it twice in 2006.

A successful Review Completion Course was run in July 2005 for seven reviewers who had experienced difficulty in completing their reviews. This course provides a week long opportunity for authors to spend dedicated time working on their reviews, with on-site help with RevMan, statistics and searching. This was an intensive, but successful, week. Five of the

participants had completed their reviews sufficiently for them to be submitted to their Cochrane Review Group for refereeing by the end of the week.

In February 2005, we ran for the second time a two-day workshop on editorial training for Editors of Cochrane Review Groups, as part of the initiative to develop and provide training to the editorial staff of Cochrane Review Groups. We adapted the content of this training course to focus on the needs of Review Group Co-ordinators and ran a one-day course in March 2005. There were nine and eight participants on these two courses, respectively. We also held two meetings (one in Leeds and one in Oxford) with Co-ordinating Editors in 2005. This allowed a variety of issues to be covered and discussed; including prioritisation, monitoring by The Cochrane Collaboration and the Department of Health, training for editors, and copy-editing.

Other major opportunities for training are provided by the Annual Meeting for UK and Ireland-based Contributors to The Cochrane Collaboration, and the Cochrane Colloquium. In 2005, these took place in Manchester and Melbourne, respectively. The main focus of our Annual Meeting, which had 200 participants, was on training, with a programme of 37 workshops coordinated by the UKCC. The workshops were organised into six streams to accommodate beginners and advanced levels of training, as well as providing training for specific groups such as authors, consumers and editors. At the Cochrane Colloquium, the UKCC ran four workshops covering intermediate and advanced training for Trials Search Coordinators, ethical issues in systematic reviews, and specialized registers.

The Cochrane UK Consumer Group, with support and coordination from the UKCC, held a 'Commenting on a Cochrane review from a consumer perspective' workshop in June 2005 at the UKCC and a Critical Appraisal Skills Programme (CASP) workshop at the Cochrane Colloquium in Melbourne in October.

To foster the growing interest in systematic reviews in Ireland and Northern Ireland we ran five three-day workshops on systematic reviews in Belfast, Cork (twice), Dublin and Galway during 2005, in collaboration with the Research and Development Office in Belfast (R&D Office) and the Health Research Board in Dublin (HRB). A total of 45 people took part in these courses and 40 more attended two one-day courses in Belfast during the year.

We are also seeking to meet the demand for training in the UK by developing Open Learning Material. This continues to be freely available on CD-ROM from the UK Cochrane Centre and on the internet ([www.cochrane-net.org/openlearning/](http://www.cochrane-net.org/openlearning/)). During 2005, we revised this material in line with improvements in the advice contained in the *Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions* and to take account of changes in terminology (such as 'author' replacing 'reviewer'). We also enhanced the material into a web based learning tool, using Blackboard© as the interface. This will be launched in 2006.

For the fourth year, the HRB and the R&D Office have awarded Cochrane Fellowships for people on the island of Ireland to work on Cochrane reviews. We are responsible for convening the selection panel and for making recommendations to the two funding agencies. The Fellowships are for people resident in Northern Ireland or Ireland, who are working in health or social care. The funding provides the Fellows with protected time on an indicative part-time basis of up to two days per week for up to two years, to conduct a Cochrane review. Nine Fellowships were awarded in 2005. The UKCC provides continuous training for all the Cochrane Fellows and we held a training day for the 2004 Fellows in July 2005, when they are encouraged to work on their reviews, with on-site support from a range of experienced facilitators.

The UKCC oversees the Aubrey Sheiham Cochrane Collaboration Public Health and Primary Care Scholarship, which allows a Cochrane author from a low-or middle-income country to spend four months at the UKCC receiving training in systematic reviews and working on one or more Cochrane reviews. Yanina Sguassero from Argentina visited us from May through July 2005. Her review, "Community-based supplementary feeding for promoting the growth of young children in developing countries" was published in Issue 4, 2005 of *The Cochrane Library*.

As well as these formal training workshops, courses and materials, we provide regular support on a one-to-one basis to Cochrane entities and contributors in the UK. This is a daily task for some members of staff at the UKCC and is probably at least weekly for all. The support includes advice on interactions with the Department of Health, help with conflict resolution between editorial teams and authors, and methodological advice on the conduct of systematic reviews. Further information on the general support provided by the UKCC is given below (under 'Other activities').

We monitor the output of the participants of the UKCC workshops on an annual basis by checking if they are authors on protocols or full reviews in the *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* in *The Cochrane Library*. In the period 1998-2005, 1496 people attended our 'Developing a protocol for a review' or 'Introduction to Analysis' workshops, and a total of 1044 reviews and 637 protocols in Issue 4, 2005 of *The Cochrane Library* had at least one of these people listed as an author. This represents 41% of the 2537 reviews and 39% of the 1618 protocols in that Issue. Examining the 548 Cochrane reviews that were new or substantively updated in 2005, reveals that at least one author on more than half of these (286, 52%) has attended a UKCC workshop since 1998.

## **Research/Methodology Programme**

The UKCC has continued to engage in a limited programme of research of direct relevance to our Training and Support Programme. For example, during 2005, this included research into publication bias, methods for identifying randomized trials, and the reporting of adverse effects in systematic reviews.

The UKCC continues to be responsible for the production of the annual Cochrane Collaboration Methods Groups Newsletter. This contains articles about the methodology of healthcare evaluations, structured abstracts and commentaries on published research, details of empirical research within The Cochrane Collaboration, and reports from the Methods Groups. More than 750 copies of the 2005 edition were distributed to Cochrane entities in the UK and worldwide, as well as to other people and organizations inside and outside the UK and The Cochrane Collaboration. The newsletter can be downloaded from The Cochrane Collaboration website: [www.cochrane.org/newslett/index.htm](http://www.cochrane.org/newslett/index.htm).

With funding from the Methodology Programme within the NHS Health Technology Assessment Programme, the Centre continued to enhance *The Cochrane Methodology Register* during 2005. This Register is a unique resource, containing thousands of records and abstracts for studies relevant to the methodology of systematic reviews and other healthcare evaluations. Through systematic searching of relevant journals, bibliographic databases and the checking of references in more than 20 HTA monographs, we identified, indexed and included 1500 additional records in the Register during 2005, bringing its total content to more than 7500 records. We have also worked with the Director of the Methodology Programme, Professor Richard Lilford, to highlight topics that might be suitable for calls for proposals for future research.

### **Identification of studies**

Although there has been a substantial decrease in the amount of work done by the UKCC in the identification of studies for possible inclusion in Cochrane reviews over the last few years, in keeping with the guidance from the Department of Health, we remain active in some specific aspects of this task. These focus on those areas where maximum efficiency can be achieved through work done centrally by the UKCC. During 2005, our trial identification programme contributed nearly 5000 reports of trials to *The Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials (CENTRAL)*, from a combination of handsearching journals and our ongoing project to develop a search strategy for EMBASE.

### **Other activities**

Every day, staff at the UK Cochrane Centre provide advice and support to members of The Cochrane Collaboration and others interested in the evaluation of health care. This is usually by email or telephone. This has included support to emerging Cochrane entities and initiatives, including Evidence Aid, the working group on Diagnostic Test Accuracy Reviews, the Information Retrieval Methods Group, and the possible Forensic Medicine Review Group and Adverse Events Methods Group. We hosted several meetings relating to the Information Management System of The Cochrane Collaboration during 2005.

During the year, we helped to establish new partnerships between organisations within the NHS and Cochrane Review Groups in the UK and beyond. Examples of these are between the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guideline groups and the Breast Cancer, Metabolic and Endocrine Disorders, and Musculoskeletal Groups; and between the National Coordinating Centre for Health Technology Assessment and the Oral Health and Pregnancy and Childbirth Groups. This is in addition to the work we have done to support the links between the NHS R&D Programme and Cochrane Review Groups in relation to, for example, their annual reports and the incentive scheme for new and updated Cochrane reviews.

We have refereed protocols and reviews for several Cochrane Review Groups, articles for journals and grant applications, made several presentations about the work of the UK Cochrane Centre, The Cochrane Collaboration, systematic reviews and evidence based health care, and participated in a variety of committees within the UK and internationally. We have continued to provide a service to the UK Medical Research Council by suggesting referees for outline proposals for clinical trials (52 applications in 2005). We also provided detailed and extensive feedback during the consultations on the new NHS R&D strategy and the proposals for the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise.

## **Appendix 1. Staff list of the UK Cochrane Centre (as of January 2006)**

Director: Mike Clarke (80%)

Training Director: Phil Wiffen (80%)

Administrator: Caroline Rouse

Personal Assistant/Secretary: Lisa Horwill

Personal Assistant/Secretary: Sarah Moore

Training Co-ordinator: Nicola Thornton (81%)

Lecturer in Systematic Reviews: Catherine Francis-Baldesari

Research Scientist: Sally Hopewell

Information Specialist: Carol Lefebvre

Information Specialist: Anne Eisinga

## Appendix 2. Status of Objectives and Targets, at January 2006

<p><b>Objective 1: To provide training and support to UK-based Cochrane entities, contributors to The Cochrane Collaboration and others engaged in the preparation of systematic reviews.</b></p>
<p><i>Objective 1.1: To provide UK-based Cochrane reviewers with a range of free options for training in preparing and maintaining Cochrane reviews.</i></p>
<p>1.1.1: Year on year, to continue to provide 'Developing a Protocol' and 'Introduction to Analysis' workshops. <a href="#">Achieved for 2005.</a></p>
<p>1.1.2: By the end of 2005, to have piloted a new two-day protocol workshop. <a href="#">Achieved.</a></p>
<p>1.1.3: By the end of 2005, to have investigated the provision of familiarization sessions for RevMan 5 and The Cochrane Collaboration's new Information Management System (to be rolled out in 2005 and 2006), perhaps in combination with a new workshop on updating reviews. <a href="#">On hold, pending revised timetable for RevMan 5 from The Cochrane Collaboration (currently scheduled for roll-out in late 2006).</a></p>
<p>1.1.4: Year on year, to continue to provide weeklong Review Completion Courses. <a href="#">Achieved for 2005.</a></p>
<p><i>Objective 1.2: To contribute to ensuring that editorial teams of Collaborative Review Groups (CRGs) are supported in the production of high quality reviews.</i></p>
<p>1.2.1: By mid 2005, to have identified priorities for training of UK-based editorial teams through consultation with members of CRG editorial teams. <a href="#">Achieved in part and ongoing. Training needs of Trial Search Co-ordinators (TSCs) for 2006 were identified, resulting in the planning of a one-day training event for TSCs for mid 2006. For CRG editorial teams more widely: a survey was prepared in November/December 2005 (following the Cochrane Colloquium) and sent to the editorial teams in January 2006.</a></p>
<p>1.2.2: Year on year, to contribute to organising and delivering training workshops for members of editorial teams at the Annual Meetings of UK and Irish Contributors to The Cochrane Collaboration, Cochrane Colloquia, and other times and places as appropriate. <a href="#">Achieved for 2005.</a></p>
<p>1.2.3: Year on year, to continue to provide a workshop for UK-based editors. <a href="#">Achieved for 2005.</a></p>
<p>1.2.4: By the end of 2006, to have facilitated the introduction of The Cochrane Collaboration's new Information Management System. <a href="#">Ongoing.</a></p>
<p>1.2.5: By the end of 2006, to have worked with the UKCC's Research/Methodology Team to provide a pilot course on methodological issues relevant to editorial teams. <a href="#">A pilot workshop on methodological challenges in Cochrane reviews is planned for 8 February 2006, aimed primarily at editors and co-ordinating editors (approximately 20 participants).</a></p>
<p>1.2.6: Year on year, to work with other Cochrane Centres to facilitate the provision of training to non-UK-based editors of UK-based CRGs. <a href="#">Achieved for 2005.</a></p>
<p>1.2.7: Year on year, to provide workshops on peer reviewing. <a href="#">Not achieved, still at the planning stage.</a></p>
<p><i>Objective 1.3: To support the introduction of Cochrane reviews of diagnostic test accuracy</i></p>
<p>1.3.1: By the end of 2005, to have worked with The Cochrane Collaboration's working party on reviews of diagnostic test accuracy to have identified the training needs relevant to the introduction of this new type of Cochrane review. <a href="#">On hold, pending the availability of adequate resources for the preparation and support of Cochrane reviews of diagnostic test accuracy.</a></p>
<p><i>Objective 1.4: To train and support UK-based Cochrane entities and reviewers to ensure that reports of randomized trials and other eligible studies are made accessible for inclusion in Cochrane reviews.</i></p>
<p>1.4.1: Year on year, to advise and support Cochrane entities, in particular Trials Search Co-ordinators, in developing appropriate search strategies for regular use in <i>The Cochrane Library</i>, MEDLINE, EMBASE and other electronic sources for identifying studies to include in their Specialized Registers. <a href="#">Achieved for 2005.</a></p>
<p>1.4.2: Year on year, to advise and support all UK-based CRGs in having an efficient process in place (e.g. use of a specialized register of eligible studies) for informing reviewers of studies likely to be relevant for inclusion in their review(s). <a href="#">Achieved for 2005.</a></p>
<p>1.4.3: Year on year, to support all UK-based CRGs and Fields/Networks in maintaining their search strategies for their specialized registers and in developing specific search strategies for Cochrane reviews, where appropriate. <a href="#">Achieved for 2005.</a></p>

1.4.4: By early 2005, to have developed a session for UK-based reviewers, outlining the key issues in identifying studies for inclusion in a Cochrane review. <a href="#">Achieved, with sessions run as part of the Review Completion Course and at the Annual Meeting of the UK and Irish Contributors to The Cochrane Collaboration.</a>
1.4.5: By the end of 2005, to have integrated Information Specialist support into the UKCC's Review Completion Course. <a href="#">Achieved.</a>
1.4.6: By the end of 2005, to have developed and implemented a formal induction programme for newly appointed Trials Search Co-ordinators. <a href="#">Not achieved, will be achieved by April 2006.</a>
1.4.7: Year on year, to develop and conduct an ongoing training programme for Trials Search Co-ordinators focussing on their key responsibilities in study identification and reviewer support. <a href="#">Achieved for 2005.</a>
<i>Objective 1.5: To provide training to people working on systematic reviews within NICE.</i>
1.5.1: Year on year, to liaise with the groups responsible for producing Technology Assessment Reports (TARs) for NICE about their training needs. <a href="#">Achieved for 2005.</a>
1.5.2: To continue to provide special training workshops for NICE. <a href="#">Currently on hold due to lack of capacity.</a>
<i>Objective 1.6: To contribute to increasing capacity on the island of Ireland to prepare and understand systematic reviews of healthcare interventions.</i>
1.6.1: Year on year, to liaise with the Health Research Board, Dublin, and the R&D Office, Belfast in stimulating interest and providing training opportunities on the island of Ireland. <a href="#">Achieved for 2005.</a>
1.6.2: Year on year, to work with the Health Research Board and the R&D Office to provide workshops and courses on the island of Ireland. <a href="#">Achieved for 2005.</a>
1.6.3: Year on year, to work with the Health Research Board and the R&D Office in the promotion, selection and support of Cochrane Training Fellows on the island of Ireland. <a href="#">Achieved for 2005, with additional courses run for the Ireland Fellows.</a>
<i>Objective 1.7: To organise and host the XIV Cochrane Colloquium in Dublin in October 2006.</i>
1.7.1: By early 2005 to have prepared a detailed project plan for the Colloquium, the targets from which will be incorporated into a revised version of this workplan. <a href="#">Ongoing.</a>
<i>Objective 1.8: To ensure that training materials used by the UKCC keep step with both methodological developments and changes in the processes of review production.</i>
1.8.1: Year on year, to work together with the UKCC's Research/Methodology Team to keep abreast of relevant developments. <a href="#">Achieved for 2005.</a>
1.8.2: Year on year, to liaise with other Cochrane Centres providing similar training around the world, to share resources and reduce duplication of effort. <a href="#">Achieved for 2005.</a>
1.8.3: Year on year, to work with other Cochrane Centres and others within The Cochrane Collaboration to develop distance learning materials for reviewers and editorial teams. <a href="#">Achieved for 2005.</a>
1.8.4: Year on year, to keep under review and provide training as appropriate for those willing to teach on workshops and courses organised by the UKCC. <a href="#">Achieved for 2005.</a>
<i>Objective 1.9: To ensure that The Cochrane Collaboration Aubrey Sheiham Public Health and Primary Care Scholarship is awarded annually.</i>
1.9.1: Year on year, to advertise the scholarship, administer the selection process on behalf of the selection committee, and ensure the scholar is provided with the award as detailed in the advertisement. <a href="#">Achieved for 2005.</a>
<b>Objective 2: To maintain a research programme of international standing on the control of bias in systematic reviewing and to support advances in methodology, in collaboration with others inside and outside The Cochrane Collaboration (see also targets 1.2.5 and 1.8.1 above)</b>

2.1: By the end of 2007, to have secured additional external funding to support a major methodological research project to improve the quality of systematic reviews. <a href="#">Ongoing.</a>
2.2: By mid 2005, to have submitted for publication guidance on the improved Cochrane Highly Sensitive Search Strategy to identify reports of randomized trials for MEDLINE and to have integrated this guidance into study identification training as part of the UKCC's Training and Support Programme. <a href="#">Achieved in part: the manuscript was submitted in April 2005 and has been accepted for publication in April 2006 in the US Journal of the Medical Library Association. The new strategy has been referred to in training workshops for TSCs and in other appropriate sessions, and will be incorporated in the next update of the <i>Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions</i>.</a>
2.3: By the end of 2005, to have developed a highly sensitive search strategy to identify reports of randomized trials for prospective searching of EMBASE using an objective analysis of the frequency of terms used to describe reports of trials that have been identified in the UKCC's retrospective search of EMBASE, compared with their frequency across the entire EMBASE database, to determine their sensitivity and precision in identifying reports of randomized trials. <a href="#">Achieved in part: this interim target was superseded by the research methods developed for the MEDLINE project (target 2.2). The methods developed for that project will now be used to develop the EMBASE strategy.</a>
2.4: By early 2006, to have submitted for publication guidance on a Cochrane Highly Sensitive Search Strategy to identify reports of randomized trials in EMBASE, to have prepared a report for publication of the work done by the UKCC in identifying reports of randomized trials in EMBASE and developing the Highly Sensitive Search Strategy and to have integrated this guidance into study identification training as part of the UKCC's Training and Support Programme. <a href="#">Ongoing: a manuscript should be submitted by April 2006.</a>
2.5: By the end of 2008, to have conducted, reported and integrated, into the UKCC's Training and Support Programme, research on when to update Cochrane reviews. <a href="#">Pending.</a>
2.6: By the end of 2008, to have conducted, reported and integrated, into the UKCC's Training and Support Programme, research on how information about adverse events is currently being included in Cochrane reviews. <a href="#">Ongoing: a research project is under way assessing the quantity and quality of adverse events information in a sample of systematic reviews published in 2004 and 2005.</a>
2.7: Subject to securing additional funding, in collaboration with CRD and others, to develop, evaluate and publish details of a highly sensitive search strategy to identify studies with information about adverse effects. <a href="#">Ongoing.</a>
2.8: By the end of 2006, to have conducted and reported research on the methodology and reporting of systematic reviews of diagnostic test accuracy. <a href="#">Ongoing.</a>
2.9: Subject to securing additional funding, in collaboration with CRD and others, to develop, evaluate and publish details of a highly sensitive search strategy to identify studies for Cochrane reviews of diagnostic test accuracy. <a href="#">Pending.</a>
2.10: As and when it becomes necessary, to work with others in The Cochrane Collaboration to provide advice and assistance in developing formats, infrastructure and materials for the development of Cochrane reviews of diagnostic test accuracy. <a href="#">Pending: dependent upon the availability of adequate resources for the preparation and support of Cochrane reviews of diagnostic test accuracy..</a>
2.11: By the end of 2006, to have conducted and published research on improving the quality of trials reported in conference proceedings. <a href="#">Ongoing, some research already presented, published or both.</a>
2.12: By the end of 2007, to have conducted, reported and integrated, into the UKCC's Training and Support programme, research on common methodological problems within Cochrane reviews. <a href="#">Ongoing.</a>
2.13: By the end of 2008 to have prepared and kept up to date at least eight Cochrane methodology reviews. <a href="#">Ongoing, seven Cochrane methodology reviews already published or underway.</a>
2.14: Year on year, to continue to support methodologists within The Cochrane Collaboration as well as support visiting fellows on work related to the UKCC's research programme. <a href="#">Achieved for 2005.</a>
2.15: Year on year, in association with the Oslo Branch of the Nordic Cochrane Centre and the Methodology Group of the NHS R&D Programme, to continue to develop <i>The Cochrane Methodology Register</i> as a source of information on closed, ongoing and planned empirical studies of methodology. <a href="#">Achieved for 2005.</a>
<b>Objective 3: To provide a focal point, in the countries for which the UKCC is the reference Centre, in relation to The Cochrane Collaboration, systematic reviews, the evaluation of health and social care, and the control of bias in such evaluations; and to contribute to health care research more generally.</b>
3.1: Year on year, to work with others in the National Health Service (NHS) to improve the accessibility, understanding, and usefulness of the findings of Cochrane reviews to the NHS. <a href="#">Achieved for 2005.</a>

3.2: Year on year, to answer general queries received by the UKCC, either directly or by referring the enquirer to the relevant Cochrane entity, other organisation or individual. <a href="#">Achieved for 2005.</a>
3.3: Year on year, to maintain an up-to-date module for the UKCC for publication in <i>The Cochrane Library</i> and elsewhere as appropriate. <a href="#">Achieved for 2005.</a>
3.4: Year on year, to maintain the Cochrane Contact database. <a href="#">Achieved for 2005.</a>
3.4: Year on year, to play an active role in the scientific arena by, for example, refereeing journal articles, conference abstracts and grant applications. <a href="#">Achieved for 2005.</a>
3.5: Year on year, to work with the Medical Research Council and others as appropriate to identify referees from within The Cochrane Collaboration for proposals for new research. <a href="#">Achieved for 2005.</a>
3.6: Year on year, to provide office space for up to five colleagues working on training materials, Cochrane reviews and methodology research. <a href="#">Achieved for 2005.</a>
3.7: Year on year, to encourage UKCC staff to prepare and maintain Cochrane reviews. <a href="#">Achieved for 2005.</a>
<b>Objective 4: To support consumer involvement in The Cochrane Collaboration.</b>
4.1: Year on year, to provide stipends to enable a small number of UK-based Cochrane consumers to attend the meeting of UK and Irish Contributors to The Cochrane Collaboration and the international Cochrane Colloquium. <a href="#">Achieved in part for 2005: for Contributors' meeting.</a>
4.2: By early 2005, to have arranged a meeting with Harry Cayton (from the NHS), Sarah Buckland or Nick Partridge (from INVOLVE) and Gill Gyte (from The Cochrane Collaboration) to discuss the role of the UKCC in relation to consumers in The Cochrane Collaboration and the NHS more widely. <a href="#">Not achieved.</a>
4.3: Year on year, to encourage UKCC staff to work as consumers with CRGs. <a href="#">Achieved for 2005.</a>
<b>Objective 5: To identify reports of randomized trials of healthcare interventions in non-electronic sources and to make this information available to those involved in preparing and maintaining Cochrane reviews.</b>
5.1: By March 2005, to have determined what role, if any, the UKCC should have in the prospective searching of general healthcare journals and conference proceedings in the reference area of the UKCC, based on the yield of reports of randomized trials in addition to those already identified through electronic sources, in order to identify which journals it might no longer be necessary to search. <a href="#">Achieved in part, to be completed by mid 2006.</a>
5.2: By mid 2005, to have ensured that efficient arrangements are in place for prospective identification of new reports of randomized trials in general healthcare journals and conference proceedings within the reference area of the UKCC, where appropriate. <a href="#">Achieved in part, to be completed by end of 2006.</a>
<b>Objective 6: To provide non-training support to UK-based Cochrane entities.</b>
6.1: Year on year, to provide advice and support to UK-based Cochrane entities, as appropriate. <a href="#">Achieved for 2005.</a>
6.2: Year on year, to help UK-based Cochrane entities to raise the profile of their work. <a href="#">Achieved for 2005.</a>
6.3: Year on year, to work with UK-based CRGs to help make them a key component within the NHS. <a href="#">Achieved for 2005.</a>
6.4: Year on year, to work with UK-based Cochrane Fields/Networks and Methods Groups to help ensure that The Cochrane Collaboration and the NHS benefit from their work. <a href="#">Achieved for 2005.</a>
6.5: Year on year, to work with The Cochrane Collaboration in providing advice to UK-based Cochrane entities in relation to applications for funding. <a href="#">Achieved for 2005.</a>
6.6: By 2008, to have worked with the UK-based CRGs to ensure that the Groups and the UKCC are regarded as such a key component of the NHS that the UKCC and the Groups will be provided with adequate core funding to allow them to continue into the next decade. <a href="#">Ongoing.</a>