

COCHRANE REHABILITATION

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In 2016, based on an initiative of the Evidence Based Medicine Special interest scientific committee (headed by prof. Stefano Negrini) of the European Society of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine (ESPRM), an exploratory meeting was organised in Brescia, Italy for creating a Rehabilitation Field in Cochrane collaboration to bridge between best evidence and the specific needs of our field of competence. Thanks to the support of PRM (ESPRM, PRM Section and Board to UEMS, ISPRM) and other professional societies of specialists, working in this fields and to the efforts of 8 promoters from Italy, Belgium, Germany, Croatia, New Zeland, Bulgaria, Malaysia, Finland, Cochrane Rehabilitation was officially approved by the Cochrane Steering Group in the Cochrane Colloquium (Seoul, October 2016).

The aim of Cochrane Rehabilitation is to identify and systematically spread the best available evidences on rehabilitation; to enable rehabilitation professionals to apply Evidence Based Clinical Practice and the decision makers to take decisions according to the best and most appropriate evidence. The specific goals of Cochrane rehabilitation are discussed.

The structure of Cochrane Rehabilitation includes an Advisory Board (3 Cochrane Groups, 5 World Scientific Societies, 4 Regional Scientific Societies, 12 Journals, experts and represenatives of LMIC and WHO); Executive Committee and network of professionals. The director Prof. Negrini is responsible about the knowledge translation. The coordinator ensures the implementation of a networking strategy and coordination of activities between the Committees, Units and members. The Executive committee includes the chairs of the six committees responsible about the implementation of the goals of Cochrane rehabilitation.

Review committee: to develop a register of Cochrane and non-Cochrane systematic reviews relevant to rehabilitation. Communication committee: to create connection between Cochrane and the rehabilitation stakeholders. Publication committee: to undertake knowledge translation for Cochrane on reviews relevant to rehabilitation, with dissemination to stakeholders, in line with Cochrane's knowledge translation strategy. Education committee: to promote Evidence Based Clinical Practice and provide education and training on it and on systematic review methods to stakeholders. Methodology committee: to review and strengthen methodology relevant to Evidence Based Clinical Practice to inform both rehabilitation and other Cochrane work related to rehabilitation and stimulating methodological developments. The Executive Committee includes also representatives of the low middle income countries and rehabilitation professionals. A network of 256 individuals was created, coming from 56 countries from all continents.

The aim of Cochrane Rehabilitation is to act as a bridge between Cochrane and Rehabilitation stakeholders: systematically identifying and disseminating evidence from Cochrane to rehabilitation providers, policy makers and service users, but also improving the quality, quantity and relevance of Cochrane's work from a rehabilitation perspective. Allow all rehabilitation professionals to combine the best available evidence as gathered by high quality Cochrane systematic reviews, with their own clinical expertise and the values of patients. Cochrane Rehabilitation aims to improve the methods for evidence synthesis, to make them coherent with the needs of disabled people and daily clinical practice in rehabilitation.