

## 2018-6-29 10<sup>th</sup> Croatian Cochrane symposium

**Round table:** Creating a strategy for Cochrane systematic review production in Croatia

### Participants:

Irena Zakarija-Grković  
Tamara Lotfi  
Mahir Fidahić  
Kaja Šantić, EBM student  
Helena Tomljenović, TRIBE student  
Ivana Bokan, TRIBE student  
Karmela Krleža-Jerić

**Facilitated** by Irena Zakarija-Grković and Tamara Lotfi

**Notes** by Karmela Krleža-Jerić

Tamara presented the Oliver chart and the use of GRADE

Irena facilitated discussion on motivation and challenges in performing systematic reviews.

### Some Issues:

- Do Drs accept evidence informed medicine?

Dr. Šantić warned that doctors have to follow **Guidelines**. Irena mentioned that prof A Marusic assessed guidelines and found them to be lacking in quality. Recommendations for guideline development were discussed. For example: are they acceptable to patients. While patients might not have an understanding of the disease, they can offer experience based knowledge on living/coping with the disease and therefore, should be included in guideline developing committees.

- Patients are not present in ethics committees

**Existing strengths:** In BH: the curriculum for Clinical pharmacology includes EBM as a compulsory subject

### ROUND TABLE:

Four participants shared their motivation to perform a systematic review and the challenges they faced.

**Mahir Fidahić**, Clinical pharmacologist; Tuzla

He conducted and published the Cochrane systematic review “*Celecoxib for rheumatoid arthritis*”<sup>1</sup>

**Plan:** now he would like to perform an overview of reviews

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/28597983>

**Motivation:** to learn how to do an overview

**Area:** any- he is a clinical pharmacologist

What was his **Motivation** for doing a systematic review on rheumatoid arthritis

- publication in the Cochrane library;
  - When the protocol is accepted, it is a guaranteed publication in Cochrane Library
  - Irena commented that this is not the case any more
- Researchers from BH do not need to pay to publish – low income country

**Challenges:**

- Methodological support: despite being a 4 - member team they needed substantial methodological assistance from Canada (Cochrane musculoskeletal group).
- time needed: the review took 3 years;
  - look for either young people or old- they might have more time.
  - Reviews require updating

**Additional comment/** Mahir F. pointed out that as the review was conducted by a 4 - member team, it did not take as much time for individual team members as he expected

**Dr. Kaja Šantić.** Surgeon, currently working on his Ph.D., TRIBE

**Area:** Cerebrovascular

**Motivation:** he would like to work on /do a systematic review, as a part of the Ph.D. thesis; join some team?

He is aware that Clinical centre in Ljubljana /neurological disease Ljubljana/ works on this issue Multicentric CTs.

**Challenge:** whom to contact/ which review group?

Apparently, this is the Cochrane Stroke group. Due to the reorganization of Cochrane, it is now in a new larger group

Croatian Cochrane can help facilitate contact with a review group. Dr. Šantić will contact Irena.

**Helena Tomljenovic:** Psychologist

**Area:** Clinical Psychology: she has been studying how rational or irrational people are when making health related decisions; performed an online survey regarding vaccination; mostly young parents. Rationality measure: cognitive tests? Education?

- Discussion by the group: Q: is there a difference re age group, education; also a relationship of same age and level of education? They found that individuals with lower education were against vaccinations;

**Motivation:** to do something good and valuable;

**Challenges:** Efforts and time; Grant management

Needs more knowledge on how to find the literature;

Needs a help from an information specialist;

**Barriers/Gaps at the MEFST:** Irena explained that Ana Utrobicic is overwhelmed with tasks. There are only 2 librarians at the MEFST while the number of students and the needs is constantly growing.

**Suggestions** coming from the round table participants regarding the literature:

- find and read few syst reviews, meta-analysis, especially protocols to see how they went about selecting the literature; identifying key words and mesh terms;
- TRIBE graduate course gives basic info about it.
- draft the Search strategy and then ask an expert to verify it

**Ivana Bokan:**

*Area:* nursing /Education

*Motivation:* to contribute to the evidence in nursing

*Challenges:* Undecided whether to do a primary study (RCT) or SR

**CONCLUSIONS and PROPOSED ACTIONS that can be taken by the Croatian Cochrane**

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1. **Regarding increasing motivation:** encourage people to consider performing a systematic review. This includes emphasizing that
  - Conducting a systematic review is team work and thus one does not have to give an enormous amount of time (unless the first author) because each team member has a specific task.

**Proposed Action:** include these and add other motivational/promotional information in brochures, symposia, special presentations to professional associations, curricula at undergraduate and graduate levels etc. Such information might be a part of a strategy /plan.

- Organize regular 2 -day training courses

2. **Proposed Action: Prepare a strategy /plan (Tamara will assist),** evaluate and update it annually;

Plan basic steps to reach out to different people: clinicians to be more involved; patients as they have specific questions; students to learn how to.

Such a plan would also include support to individuals interested in performing a systematic review, students, and others. The support might be in the form of contacting, i.e. establishing contacts with relevant groups; helping with finding the literature or connecting several people that expressed interest in forming a team and performing a review.

3. **Proposed Action: Perform a survey of capacity** in Croatia and in BH; identify weaknesses and strengths; challenges and facilitators (Irena and Mahir). To be presented at next year's Cochrane Colloquium.

4. Tamara pointed to the Framework and promised to send it  
According to the Framework, one can work on 3 levels:

- Institutional
- Team

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<sup>2</sup> The round table participants proposed listed actions listed for consideration by the Croatian Cochrane

- Individual

She explained that one might wish to start from the individual level.

Discussion led to the notion that *investing in students* (undergraduate and graduate) seems to be the best strategy, provided the team and institutional support is in place.

### **Proposed Action**

**Curricula and Training materials will be updated;** include evidence informed medicine in curricula at different (all) levels including undergrad, grad, and in the continuous education for doctors;

- Involve students in reviewing teaching materials. Students can write about their experience;
- Pilot new teaching material;
- Add the e-learning component

5. **The symposium** is an excellent tool to inform and motivate, but it seems people do not know about the symposia. Cochrane Croatia needs to inform more people about symposia. Considering BH, Mahir suggested contacting all medical schools.

**Proposed ACTIONS** to attract more participants to symposia:

5.1 Analyse the reasons for this year's low participation: date? presentation of the topic? promotion issues?

5.2. Choose an attractive topic and present it attractively

- The topic might come out of the survey, or it could be suggested in the evaluation form of previous symposia; or be inspired by the Colloquium or symposia by other Cochrane centres;

5.3. Develop stronger promotional campaign

5.3.1 Include media – establish a regular contact with Media - press release etc

5.3.2 Re BH participation

- As Bosnia and Hercegovina are decentralized (each region has its own medical chamber), it is necessary to reach out to each all 5 public universities individually: Sarajevo, Tuzla, Mostar, Banja Luka, Zenica, Foca and 2 private (one at Ilidza/ Sarajevo and ...).
- *Suggestion:* Croatian Cochrane directly informs these universities and other interested institutions such as AKAZ. However as there is now the BH Affiliate of Croatian Cochrane, it would promote the visibility of the BH Affiliate to inform about the Symposium.

**Proposed action** for (at least few years): both CroCoS and BH to contact these 5+2 universities;

- **Proposed action:** Offer free of charge registration for 2 participants from each of BH universities, and 50% fee for others

5.4.**Proposed actions**

5.4.1. Organizing a joint symposium with BH Affiliate every two years or so.

- 5.4.2. Establish awards for posters; publicise/celebrate/ circulate the information who received an award.
- 5.4.3. Include presentations or at least info on systematic reviews performed by Croatian authors
- 5.4.4. Ensure Continuing education Credits for doctors participating (this is already in place);
- 5.4.5. Promote symposium specifically among (graduate) students; continue offering free participation for students
- 5.4.6. Consider conducting the symposium on a Saturday, when students do not have teaching