

# The Cochrane Collaboration and the Cochrane Library

Anne K. Ilacqua  
Minneapolis, MN

APLIC-I  
April 28 2003

# What Is the Cochrane Collaboration?

- “It is an international organization that aims to help people make well informed decisions about health care by preparing, maintaining and ensuring the accessibility of systematic reviews of the effects of health care interventions.”

ARCHIE COCHRANE

1909-1988



1941 : POW in 1941 in  
Crete; POW medical  
Officer in Greece and  
in Germany

AUTHOR OF :

*Effectiveness and Efficiency –*  
*Random Reflections on*  
*Health Services* 1972

# EVALUATION of HEALTH SERVICES...

- ...should be based on  
*scientific evidence... not:*
- CLINICAL IMPRESSIONS
- ANECTODAL EXPERIENCE
- "EXPERT" OPINION or
- TRADITION

## COCHRANE COLLABORATION

- The Cochrane Collaboration was formed to create a body of accessible, quality information related to healthcare and medical treatments in 49 disease-specific fields.

## A GLOBAL COLLABORATION

Founded in 1993, the Cochrane Collaboration is made up of thousands of collaborators in a network of 13 centers in countries around the world, including:

China, South Africa, France,  
Germany, Italy, Australia and Brazil.

A complete list is posted at [www.cochrane.org/](http://www.cochrane.org/)

## THE TEN PRINCIPLES

- collaboration
- building on the enthusiasm of individuals
- avoiding duplication
- minimizing bias
- keeping up to date
- striving for relevance
- promoting access
- ensuring quality
- continuity
- enabling wide participation

# U.S. Cochrane Center



- Brown University, the U.S. headquarters for the Cochrane Collaboration, aims “... to provide the best quality information to those who seek it, whether they are consumers, doctors or other providers, policy-makers or journalists.”



# THE COCHRANE LIBRARY

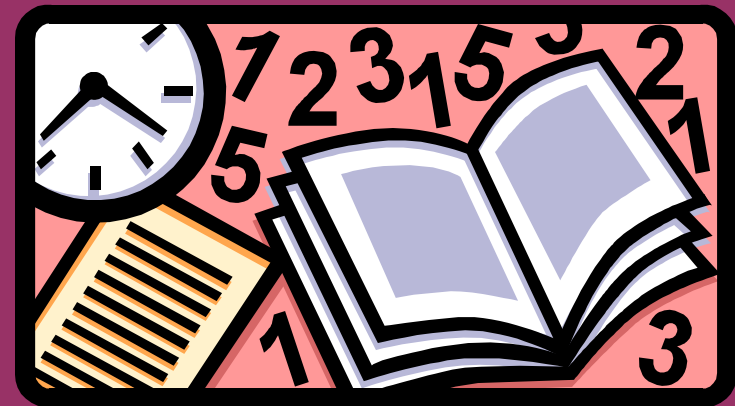
The Cochrane Library - a quarterly electronic journal, available by subscription

- a collection of evidence-based medicine databases.

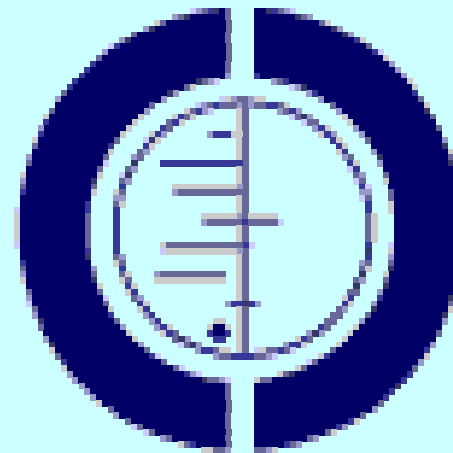
Abstracts of Cochrane reviews and consumer synopses are free, via the website.

# LOCATING THE EVIDENCE

- LITERATURE SEARCHES - HOW?
- LITERATURE SEARCHES - WHO?



LET'S HAVE A LOOK AT...



**THE COCHRANE  
COLLABORATION®**