

5) Accessibility of the Cochrane Library

The branch will seek to promote accessibility to The Cochrane Library to healthcare professionals, consumers and others within the region through the application of resources available from The Cochrane Collaboration website and John Wiley and Sons Ltd.

6) Planned activities

- a) Formation of a Working Group of interested parties to produce and take forward a work plan for coordinated activities within the region.
- b) Establishment of a website for the branch.
- c) Development of a regional work plan through a Regional Conference to enable consultation and development of a consensus for further regional activities.

RUFAlDAH BUILDING



MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Where is the Bahrain Branch of the UK Cochrane Centre located ?

The Bahrain Branch of the UK Cochrane Centre is located on the 2nd Floor of the Rufaidah Building in Manama where it provides open access to the Cochrane Library, both on-line and CD based, together with resources, guidance, and support to researchers and potential authors.

For further information on training courses and on the work of The Cochrane Collaboration please contact:



THE COCHRANE
COLLABORATION®

The Director
UK Cochrane Centre (Bahrain Branch)
The Ministry of Health
P.O. Box 22118
Kingdom of Bahrain
Tel: (973) 17-279879
Fax: (973) 17-273540
Website: www.cochrane.org/bahrain



KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN
MINISTRY OF HEALTH

The UK Cochrane Centre

Bahrain Branch

A Cochrane Collaboration
in the Arab World



THE COCHRANE
COLLABORATION®

Preparing, maintaining and promoting the accessibility of systematic reviews of the effects of healthcare interventions

What is the Cochrane Collaboration ?

The *Cochrane Collaboration* was established in 1992 by a handful of volunteers led by Oxford physician Iain Chalmers. They took their name from Archie Cochrane, a British epidemiologist and champion of effectiveness studies who had emphasized the role of the randomized controlled trial in assessment of effectiveness in healthcare interventions. The project caught the attention of the UK's NHS, which essentially hired *The Cochrane Collaboration* to act as an effectiveness research institute. The Collaboration went international in October 1993, when it held the first of its Colloquia. It is now a network of 14 centers, funded mainly by grants that support and train the volunteers, physicians, nurses, statisticians, epidemiologists, and even consumers.



The first Cochrane Collaboration entity in the Middle East established 17th March 2005.

An exploratory meeting for the establishment of a Bahrain Branch of the UK Cochrane Centre was held in Bahrain on 9 January 2005 and hosted by the Bahrain Ministry of Health. Delegates from the Ministry of Health, the Arabian Gulf University as well as a number of participants based in Egypt and Saudi Arabia and the Chief Executive Officer of *The Cochrane Collaboration* attended the meeting.

The meeting included wide ranging discussion of the rationale and purpose of the Branch, and of how a Regional Centre might be established subsequently. There was unanimous agreement that the Bahrain Branch should be established as a preliminary to the later establishment of a regional Cochrane Centre which would depend on the achievement of a successful track record showing sustainability and the need and demand for such a Centre.

What is the role of the Bahrain Branch of the UK Cochrane Centre ?

The role of the Bahrain Branch is primarily to act as a focal point for people in Arabic speaking countries to co-ordinate the development and provision of training and support to Cochrane review authors in these countries. This branch will develop a resource for hand searching Arabic-language healthcare journals and identify relevant studies to the wider Collaboration. It will co-ordinate the translation of necessary administrative, support and scientific documents from and to Arabic, to ensure they can be accessed by target audiences.

Production of reviews, whilst desirable, is not a primary role of the branch, although all activity should have as its end goal the facilitation of the production of reviews within and/or for the Arabic-speaking region. Any reviews produced within the branch will be conducted in association with the relevant Collaborative Review Group.

As the focal point the Bahrain Branch will usually be the point through which communication from and to the wider Collaboration will be channeled, to ensure effective, consistent and efficient communication.



What are the Core functions of the UKCC Bahrain Branch ?

1) Training and support:

Currently there are a small but steadily increasing number of Cochrane authors based in the region. Therefore, the training will initially be provided through the Bahrain branch.

2) Preparing and Maintaining Cochrane Reviews

Although not primarily directed towards the production of reviews, the branch will nevertheless strive to assist interested individuals to develop titles for Cochrane reviews and wherever possible connect potential authors with other co-authors from within or outside the region.



3) Hand searching

The Director, in collaboration with regional medical editors will identify regional healthcare journals, or databases and evaluate them for hand searching. Training for hand searchers will be provided on request through the Bahrain Branch.

4) Translation

A significant role of the branch will be to provide translation services of manuscripts and references, conference abstracts from Arabic to English, and vice versa.