

## The Cochrane Heart at *Global Heart*

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*Global Heart* is pleased to announce a new collaboration with the Cochrane Heart Group. Through this collaboration, *Global Heart* will include summaries and comments of selected Cochrane systematic reviews that are relevant in the area of global cardiovascular health.

### WHY THIS COLLABORATION IS IMPORTANT FOR GLOBAL CARDIOVASCULAR HEALTH

As the official journal of the World Heart Federation, *Global Heart* is committed to support the United Nations historic declaration to achieve a 25% relative reduction in premature mortality from noncommunicable diseases (including cardiovascular diseases) by 2025 [1]. This target will only be achieved through the implementation of evidence-based interventions. Systematic reviews are the main source to identify the most valid evidence about the effectiveness of interventions because they use explicit, systematic methods to minimize bias and reduce chance effects [2].

### THE COCHRANE COLLABORATION

The Cochrane Collaboration is an academic, independent, not-for-profit organization that was founded in 1993 by Sir Iain Chalmers. The collaboration was inspired by the work of Archie Cochrane, a British medical researcher who contributed to the field of epidemiology and evidence-based medicine. The main aim of the collaboration is to help people make well-informed decisions about health care by preparing, maintaining, and promoting the accessibility of systematic reviews. Cochrane reviews maintain a high standard of methodology and quality assessment and are updated on a regular basis to stay contemporary. Cochrane reviews are published electronically in the *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews*. Since 1993, the Cochrane Collaboration has over 28,000 collaborators in over 120 countries and has produced over 4,600 reviews. The collaboration informs national and international guideline committees. For example, it is estimated that about two-thirds of National Institute for Health and Care

Excellence guidelines refer to at least 1 Cochrane review. In 2011, the World Health Organization awarded Cochrane a seat on the World Health Assembly, providing Cochrane an opportunity to promote evidence-based health care at the highest tier of global health care policy setting.

### THE COCHRANE HEART GROUP

The Cochrane Heart Group was founded in 1998 and currently has 33 editors and 830 authors across 5 continents. The scope of the Cochrane Heart Group includes primary cardiovascular disease prevention, acute treatment, secondary prevention, and rehabilitation, in all forms of heart disease, including ischemic heart disease, heart diseases more common in developing countries, arrhythmias, valvular, and congenital heart diseases. Its impact factor is 9.82 and ranks in 5th position among the 53 review groups of the Cochrane Collaboration. Forty-two percent of Cochrane Heart Group reviews (50 of 116) are cited in 65 different national and international guidelines.

### THE COCHRANE HEART AT GLOBAL HEART

Beginning 2015, *Global Heart* will include a summary of existing Cochrane reviews providing evidence about interventions for cardiovascular diseases, with an emphasis on interventions relevant in low- and middle-income countries. This section will also identify existing uncertainties and will highlight areas for which more research is needed. We hope that, through this collaboration, we will be contributing to this historical opportunity for the global cardiovascular community to reduce premature cardiovascular mortality by 2025.

### REFERENCES

1. World Health Organization. WHO GAP 2013: Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases 2013–2020. Geneva, Switzerland: WHO, 2013.
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GLOBAL HEART  
© 2014 Published by Elsevier Ltd. on behalf of World Heart Federation (Geneva).  
VOL. 9, NO. 4, 2014  
ISSN 2211-8160/\$36.00.  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jheart.2014.12.003>