

If you are interested in applying for a Cochrane Fellowship please submit a CV, title and abstract of the review to The Cochrane Development Group, Nursing & Midwifery Research Unit no later than the 11<sup>th</sup> of April. The purpose of this process is to ensure you secure support from the School of Nursing and Midwifery to undertake the fellowship, to identify a supervisor for your review and provide support to expedite the application process. Informal enquiries to Mrs Jenny McGaughey (ext 6553) or Dr Fiona Alderdice (ext 6569).



## **R&D Office**

### **Building Capacity for Evidence-based Health and Social Care**



The Cochrane Collaboration is a not-for-profit independent organisation dedicated to making up-to-date, accurate information about the effects of healthcare interventions readily available worldwide. It produces and disseminates systematic reviews of healthcare interventions in over fifty topic areas and makes them available as The Cochrane Library. In 2002, Ireland became the first country to provide free national access to the Cochrane Library, an initiative co-funded by the Health Research Board (HRB) and the Research and Development Office (R&D Office) in Northern Ireland. In addition to providing and promoting free national access, the HRB and R&D Office have developed an annual series of training courses in conjunction with the UK Cochrane Centre, and a Fellowship scheme to allow health and social care professionals, researchers and policy makers protected time to develop their capacity in conducting systematic reviews.

As part of its capacity-building programme for 2008, the R&D Office invites applications for two opportunities from the Cochrane Collaboration:

#### **1. SYSTEMATIC REVIEW COURSES**

The Cochrane programme for 2008 offers a series of half-day introductory courses and two-day intensive courses. These courses are suitable for those in a health and social care setting who require an understanding of the importance of evidence-based practice, for those who wish to improve their practice or for those considering preparing systematic reviews.

One **half-day** introductory course will take place in Northern Ireland in **April 2008** (date to be confirmed). On completion of the half-day course, participants should have a thorough background knowledge of the Cochrane Collaboration and its importance in informing evidence-based health and social care provision.

**Two-day** systematic review courses will take place at the following venues:

|                |                           |
|----------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Cork</b>    | <b>26-27 August 2008</b>  |
| <b>Belfast</b> | <b>4-5 September 2008</b> |
| <b>Dublin</b>  | <b>13-14 October 2008</b> |

On completion of the two-day course, participants should have increased confidence and ability to embark on their own systematic review and be able to position this within the Cochrane Collaboration. They should also be better able to interpret the results of systematic reviews done by others. To be eligible for a place on these courses, applicants must be employed within Health & Social Care in Northern Ireland (HSC), voluntary/not-for-profit organisations or within an academic institution.

**Closing date for applications to attend the Cochrane Systematic Review Courses 2008: 4pm on Friday 14 March 2008**

#### **2. COCHRANE FELLOWSHIPS**

The aim of the Cochrane Fellowship scheme is to build capacity in conducting systematic reviews in the health and social care field in Ireland and Northern Ireland, and to free up protected time for applicants to conduct and maintain a systematic review and to generate a body of systematic reviews, led by Irish and Northern Irish reviewers, for inclusion in the worldwide Cochrane Library. This scheme is open to individuals resident on the island of Ireland working as practitioners, researchers or policy makers in a health and social care setting. Applicants must be employed within Health & Social Care in Northern Ireland (HSC), voluntary/not-for-profit organisations or within an academic institution. The Fellowship provides the Fellow with protected time for up to two days per week for up to two years. The award covers systematic review training costs, salary costs and research expenses.

**Closing date for applications to the Cochrane Fellowship scheme 2008: 4pm on Friday 30 May 2008**

**Application forms and guidance notes for both Cochrane Collaboration Opportunities are available on the R&D Office website: [www.rdo.centalservicesagency.n-i.nhs.uk](http://www.rdo.centalservicesagency.n-i.nhs.uk)**

**For more information, please contact: Miss Joanne O'Neill tel: 028 9055 3617 email: [oneillj@rdo.n-i.nhs.uk](mailto:oneillj@rdo.n-i.nhs.uk)**