

Preface

We proudly present this second Annual Report of Cochrane Insurance Medicine, CIM and inform about our endeavors to consolidate our new Cochrane group by launching important activities:

- We built a collaborative infrastructure across the field using monthly tele conferences across the board, project groups for small scale projects limited in time, the annual face-to-face meeting and ad hoc meetings at conferences. The Dutch group developed a national network within the academic Kenniscentrum Verzeekeringsgeneeskunde, KCVG, a potential role model to others.
- We completed an international survey among insurance medicine (IM) professionals on their (research) knowledge seeking behavior, their experience in evidence-based medicine, knowledge and training needs. Feedback from more than 700 respondents from Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland will inform our strategic plan.
- We launched “Evidence on the Web” (insuremed.cochrane.org/evidence) a collection of reviews on IM topics from Cochrane and other sources to present current scientific evidence. Each quarter, around 200 new individuals attend our website, a third of whom keep returning.
- We negotiated successfully to include the term ‘insurance medicine’ as a topic in the Cochrane Library. This important step will allow to search the library for reviews with IM outcomes. The library will include the new topic in 2017.
- We introduced our field on national and international meetings, e.g. the European EUMASS conference of social insurance physicians or the international ICLAM conference and communicated with our members (more than 300) through quarterly newsletters.
- We valued collaboration with other Cochrane groups, such as Work or Rehabilitation or our national Cochrane centers and connected to professional organisations, such as EUMASS and Swiss Insurance Medicine which joined as new supporters of CIM.

The Dutch team is leading methodological research on generating a core set with IM outcomes. The Canadians engage in the production of a systematic review on opioids for chronic non-cancer pain, a critical health care issue especially in North America. The Swedish team focusses on the promotion of CIM across the international public health community, practicing professionals and young academics, while the Swiss group is pushing DIME, the Database on Insurance Medicine Evidence.

In the context of its strategy 2020, Cochrane has been undertaking formal ‘structure and function’ reviews where our field participated actively. While the review will be formally adopted at the colloquium in September, it is emerging that fields will have a central role in Cochrane’s knowledge translation activities to bring Cochrane evidence to the heterogeneous spectrum of users. This old/new direction matches the strategic goals of CIM where communicating IM evidence to professionals has always been the focus of our efforts.

Activities in the upcoming years will focus on raising the number of new members, organizations and countries, proceeding with our goal of a searchable IM database, continuing with the educational efforts, strengthening the relationships with related groups and aligning our group to the refined directions of Cochrane strategy 2020.

Prof. Dr. Regina Kunz

Director of Cochrane Insurance Medicine
On behalf of the Board of Directors

Director Prof. Regina Kunz, Evidence-based Insurance Medicine, EbIM, Research & Education, Department Clinical Research, University Hospital Basel, Switzerland, Member of the Fields Executive in Cochrane.

Co-directors Prof. Sandra Brouwer, Rijksuniversiteit Groningen, Netherlands
Prof. Kristina Alexanderson, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden
Prof. Jason Busse, McMaster University, Hamilton, Canada

Coordinator Rebecca Weida MSc, EbIM Research & Education, Department Clinical Research, University Hospital Basel, Switzerland

Collaborators

Switzerland Wout de Boer PhD, David von Allmen PhD, Regine Lohss MSc, Nicole Vogel MSc

Netherlands Frederieke Schaafsma PhD, Bert Cornelius PhD, Jan Hoving PhD, Jan Buitenhuis PhD, Prof Ute Bültmann, Rob Kok PHD, Liesbeth Wijnvoord, Nico Croon PhD

Sweden Emilie Friberg PhD

Canada Rachel Couban

Members: n = 318

Supporter:



Swiss Insurance Medicine



**European Union of Medicine in Assurance
and Social Security (EUMASS)**



Peer-reviewed Publications

de Boer WE, Mousavi SM, Delclos GL, Benavides FG, Lorente M, Kunz R. Expectation of sickness absence duration: a review on statements and methods used in guidelines in Europe and North America. *Eur J Public Health*. 2016.

Ernstsson O, Gyllensten H, Alexanderson K, Tinghog P, Friberg E, Norlund A. Cost of illness of multiple sclerosis - A systematic review. *PLoS One*. 2016.

Barth J, de Boer WE, Busse JW, Hoving JL, Kedzia S, Couban R, Fischer K, von Allmen DY, Spanjer J, Kunz R. Inter-rater agreement in evaluation of disability: systematic review of reproducibility studies. *BMJ*. 2016. [Accepted]

Hoving JL, Cornelius BC, de Boer W, Kok R, Brouwer S, Schaafsma F. Cochrane Insurance Medicine (CIM): bekendheid en interesse onder verzekeringsartsen. *Tijdschrift voor bedrijfs- en verzekeringsgeneeskunde*. 2016. [Accepted]

Ongoing Projects and Collaborative Projects across the Field

Kunz R, Weida R, Röschard S, von Allmen D, et al. Evidence on the Web – the feasibility of a searchable database for insurance medicine evidence.

Vogel N, Ebrahim S, de Boer W, Busse J, Kunz R, et al. Return to work coordination programmes for improving return to work in workers on sick leave. A Cochrane review.

Hoving J, Weida R, Abma F, Niewenhuijsen K. Core outcomes in insurance medicine.

Hoving J, Kunz R, Schaafsma F, Cornelius LR. Development of an international core outcome set on work participation within insurance medicine (COS-IM, Core Outcome Set).

Sengers J, Abma F, Heerkens Y, Brouwer S. Systematic review on ICF-core sets: which items are relevant for the assessment of work capacity in a social security setting.

Vogel N, Weida R, de Boer W, von Allmen DY, Brouwer S, Hoving J, Schaafsma F, et al. Insurance medicine outcomes in Cochrane reviews.

Busse J, et.al. Development of a guideline for use of opioids for chronic non-cancer pain, using systematic reviews and GRADE, including an insurance perspective.

Alexanderson K. Self-employed and return to work after cancer: a systematic literature review (within the Cancer and Work, CANWON, Network www.cost.eu/COST_Actions/isch/IS1211)

Barroso J, Friberg E, Alexanderson K. Interventions in sickness certification practices: a systematic review. (Translation)

de Boer W, Cornelius B, Hoving J, Oancea C, Autti-Rämö I, Brage S. Penetration of evidence (PEO) in practice; PEO survey in EUMASS countries.

Presentations and Workshops

De Boer WE. Development of an ICF based instrument for functional assessment of work capacity in psychiatry. EUMASS Congress, Ljubljana, Slovenia. June 2016.

De Boer WE. Sickleave certification and return to work. A short review of the integration of professionals in 12 countries. Reha Colloquium, Aachen, Germany. March 2016.

De Boer WE. Evidence-based disability evaluation? EUMASS Congress, Ljubljana, Slovenia. June 2016.

Kunz R, de Boer W, Fischer K. Translating evidence into better health services. Insurance medicine: forgotten by evidence. Evidence Live 16; University of Oxford, Great Britain. June 2016.

Kunz R. Interventions for return to work. Do they work? EUMASS Congress; Ljubljana, Slovenia. June 2016.

Kunz R. Introduction to evidence-based insurance medicine and the Cochrane Collaboration: what is insurance medicine? Why does it need more evidence and how to move forward? ICLAM Congress; Maastricht, Netherlands. May 2016.

Schaafsma R, Kok R. Evidence-based Insurance Medicine. DICIM Congress, Almere, Netherlands. November 2016.

von Allmen DY. Requirements for reliable assessments in social insurance: talk about work. EUMASS Congress, Ljubljana, Slovenia. June 2016.

von Allmen DY. Functional interviewing in disability evaluation. EUMASS Congress, Ljubljana, Slovenia. June 2016.

Weida R, Brouwer S, Busse J, Alexanderson K, Kunz R. What do insurance medicine practitioners need? Needs assessment and priority setting for a new field within Cochrane – Insurance Medicine. EUMASS Congress, Ljubljana, Slovenia. June 2016.

Weida R, Brouwer S, Busse J, Alexanderson K, Kunz R. Meet the new field within Cochrane – Insurance Medicine. An interactive presentation. EUMASS Congress, Ljubljana, Slovenia. June 2016.

Weida R, Schaafsma F, Hoving J, de Boer W, Busse J, Friberg E, Kunz R. Cochrane Insurance Medicine. A survey on needs assessment and priority setting. EUMASS Congress, Ljubljana, Slovenia. June 2016.

Weida R, Ruotsalainen J, Kunz R. Cochrane Work meets Cochrane Insurance Medicine. Cochrane Colloquium, Seoul, South Korea. October 2016.

Weida R. News from the Cochrane Colloquium – Insurance medicine on a global scale. DICIM Congress, Almere, Netherlands. November 2016.

Lectures and other Educational Activities

Alexanderson K, Friberg E. Lectures and introductory training in how to systematically review literature in Cochrane Insurance Medicine. Advanced course in insurance medicine for physicians. 9 hours course and group work spread over 3 semesters 2016-17. Karolinska Institutet. Stockholm. Sweden.

Hoving J, Kok R, Smits P. Training in evidence-based medicine to Dutch insurance physicians. A 5 days' course on ebm over 5 months. Coronel Institute of Occupational Health, Academic Medical Center, University of Amsterdam. Netherlands. November 2016 to April 2017.

Kunz R, de Boer W, Donker-Cools B., Weida R, von Elm E, Böker M, Bollig C, et al. Evidence-based Insurance Medicine. A five day module in the postgraduate program Master in Insurance Medicine. University of Basel, Switzerland. November 2016.

including

Kunz R, von Elm E, Weida R. Critical appraisal of a Cochrane review. An interactive small group session.

Bollig C., Böker M (Cochrane Germany) Literature search: The Cochrane Library: Introduction and practice.

Von Elm E, Weida R. Cochrane Groups: Cochrane Switzerland, Cochrane Insurance Medicine, Cochrane Work.

Posters, Podcasts and other Publications

Weida R, Hoving J, Kunz R, Busse J, Friberg E, de Boer W, Schaafsma FG. Information needs and priority setting for Cochrane Insurance Medicine (CIM): an international stakeholder survey (Poster). Cochrane Colloquium, Seoul, South Korea. 2016.

Weida R, Hoving J, Busse J, Friberg E, Schaafsma FG, De Boer W, Kunz R. Insurance medicine outcomes in Cochrane reviews (Poster). Cochrane Colloquium, Seoul, South Korea. 2016.

Weida R, Wijnvoord L, Kunz R. Evidence on the Web – exploring the feasibility of a searchable database for insurance medicine evidence (Poster). Dutch International Congress on Insurance Medicine (DICIM); Almere, Netherlands. 2016.

Alexanderson K, et al. Physicians who work with sick leave certification. (English translation of a Swedish report).

Alexanderson K, et al. A report covering “grey literature” including publications presenting empirical data on sickness absentees. (English translation of a Swedish report)

Alexanderson K, et al. Multimorbidity. (Summary of a Swedish report, English translation)

Promotional Activities

Alexanderson K. Information to the 900 members of the EUPHA Section of Social Security, Work and Health. 9-12 November 2016; Vienna, Austria.

Alexanderson K, Friberg E. European Cost network on research about Cancer and Work (CANWON)

Friberg, E. WDPI conference. 25-28 September 2016; Amsterdam. Netherlands.

Promotion Tables

Swiss Insurance Medicine, SIM, annual conference; March 2016; Olten, Switzerland.

EUMASS Congress; June 2016; Ljubljana, Slovenia.

Dutch International Congress on Insurance Medicine, DICIM; November 2016; Almere, Netherlands.

International Committee for Insurance Medicine Congress, ICLAM; May 2016; Maastricht, Netherlands.

Work Disability Prevention & Integration, WDPI, Congress; September 2016; Amsterdam, Netherlands.

Public Relations

Newsletter

Weida R, Kunz R, Hoving J, Schaafsma F, Brouwer S, Cornelius LR, Alexanderson K, Busse J, Friberg, E. Periodic newsletters to the insurance medicine community (February, May, August and December), 2016.



Special thanks to Bert Cornelius who contributes a new comic for each of our Cochrane Insurance Medicine newsletters.

Internal Activities

Member of Cochrane Fields Executive. Attendance of the Cochrane Mid-Year Meeting.

CIM Face to face Meeting: Cochrane Insurance Medicine; May 2016; Maastricht, Netherlands.

Monthly tele board meeting. Kunz R, Brouwer S, Busse J, Alexanderson K, Friberg, E. Weida R.

Project groups

Education

Bültmann U, Schaafsma F, Bert C, Friberg E, Busse J, Weida R. Education Project Group meetings (tele conferences) (9 March, 11 April, 12 October, 2 December), 2016.

Risk Assessment

Kunz R, Wijnvoord, L, Weida R. Risk Assessment Project Group meetings (tele conferences) (21 June, 10 August, 16 September, 14 October, 2 December) 2016.

Survey

Weida R, de Boer W, Hoving J, Schaafsma F, Kunz R. Information needs and priority setting among insurance physicians. Online survey at the international EUMASS congress and the international ICLAM congress, 2016.

Evidence on the web

Kunz R, Weida R, von Allmen DY, Lohss R, Roeschard S, Walter Meyer B. Evidence on the web project, 2016.

Cochrane Insurance Medicine

at the EUMASS Congress, 9 - 11 June 2016 in Ljubljana, Slovenia



Members of Cochrane Insurance Medicine

From the left to the right: Wout de Boer (CH), Kristina Alexanderson (SE), Bert Cornelius (NL), Rebecca Weida (CH), Regina Kunz (CH), Rob Kok (NL), Sandra Brouwer (NL), Jan Hoving (NL), Frederieke Schaafsma (NL), Emilie Friberg (SE).