

Preface

Since the creation of the Cochrane Insurance Medicine (CIM) in 2015, our field has made important progress towards our goal of making insurance medicine (IM) more evidence based. In 2018, we continued in this path consolidating our field and strengthening our capacities to advocate, generate, compile, disseminate and foster the use of IM scientific evidence.

In terms of scientific productivity, our members published 11 peer-reviewed papers in 2018. Among those, a systematic review and meta-analysis on Opioids for Chronic Noncancer Pain ([JAMA](#)), commonly prescribed to patients with chronic pain and at risk of work disability; a comparative analysis of intervention policies and social security in case of reduced working capacity in the Netherlands, Finland and Germany ([Int J Public Health](#)) and a GRADE guideline “How ROBINS-I and other tools to assess risk of bias in nonrandomized studies should be used to rate the certainty of a body of evidence” ([J Clin Epidemiol](#)). It is not unusual for IM to be left with non-randomised studies for decision-making.

Our network had an outstanding participation and contribution in several high level academic events, such as, the EUMASS Congress 2018; the Spinoza Chair at Amsterdam University and the Symposium ‘Ten years evidence-based medicine at the Dutch Social Security Agency’. Similarly, our members conducted multiple educational and promotional activities in the Netherlands, Sweden and Switzerland. The participation of our members in these activities has been crucial for increasing CIM visibility and recognition among the IM and scientific community.

To guide our future steps, the CIM Board, with input from our members, defined and approved the CIM strategic plan 2018-2023. The strategic plan aims to strengthen our network, to advocate for the generation and use of evidence, and to develop and implement knowledge translation products and activities.

Finally, in 2018 CIM started or continued relevant projects that will be finalized and implemented in the short- to middle-term. These include: (i) the creation of the topic “Insurance Medicine” in the Cochrane Library to facilitate the search for IM evidence; (ii) the feasibility of creating an IM Database; (iii) the design and implementation of the CIM social media communication strategy; (iv) the co-organisation of the EUMASS Congress in Basel (2020); (v) several on-going publications and (vi) other projects that will strengthen our relationship with our partner organisations.

I believe that we have accomplished important achievements in the last four years and I am very positive and excited for the projects and new challenges to come.

Regina Kunz
on behalf of the board of directors

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

Co-directors Jan Hoving (Deputy), Dept. Coronel Institute of Occupational Health & KCVG, Academic Medical Center, Amsterdam, the Netherlands
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Sweden Kristina Alexanderson PhD, Mirkka Söderman MSc, Agneta Wennman-Larsen PhD (Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm)

Canada Rachel Couban (McMaster University, Hamilton)

Supporters:



Swiss Insurance Medicine



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

The CIM Family lost a friend...



We miss you Bert...



Bert Cornelius 1952-2018
Insurance Physician and cartoonist

HIGHLIGHTS 2018

Symposium 10 years Evidence-based Medicine at the Dutch Social Security Agency Utrecht, the Netherlands, 12 April 2018.

In 2008, UWV (the Dutch Employee Insurance Agency), AMC (the University Hospital of Amsterdam) and the Dutch Cochrane Centre, started a novel program on Evidence Based Medicine education (EBM) for insurance physicians who are already registered and working at UWV. Since then, evidence-based practice has become an important component in the training and routine work of insurance physicians working at UWV in the Netherlands. The symposium celebrated the achievements of 10 years of evidence-based insurance medicine in UWV, reflecting on the beginnings of the program and looking at upcoming developments with a focus on knowledge translation, in which the inspirational lecture of Prof. Regina Kunz about research into inter-rater variability in medical assessments, lifted things in a more international perspective.

Presentations

1. Hoving J. **10 jaar EBM bij UWV – lessons learned.** (*10 years of EBM at UWV – lessons learned*).
2. Hoving J, Kok R. **Portal EBM voor verzekeringsartsen UWV.** (*Portal EBM for insurance physicians at UWV*).
3. Kok R. **Workshop casuïstiek en Dynamed Plus: toepassen EBM.** (*Workshop casuistry and Dynamed Plus: apply EBM*).
4. Kunz R. **Internationaal: ontwikkelingen EBM.** (*International: developments EBM*).



Regina Kunz and Rob Kok at the Symposium 10 years of EbM



Hans Bos at the Symposium 10 years of EbM

HIGHLIGHTS 2018

**Spinoza Chair.
AMC, Amsterdam, the Netherlands
23-25 October 2018.**

The Organization Committee of the Spinoza Chair, set up by the Amsterdam University Association on behalf of the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Amsterdam, AMC, has awarded the Spinoza Chair to Professor Regina Kunz for her academic achievements in methodological research.

Prof. Kunz presented an inspiring lecture titled “When research findings hit the glass wall: why can’t we get research findings in clinical practice?” alongside other seminars and workshops.



Regina Kunz at the Spinoza Lecture

1. Seminar in Clinical Epidemiology: The reliability of clinical observations: a challenge for clinical medicine? Many decisions in clinical medicine (patient’s history and physical examination, radiology, pathology, therapies, determining treatment success) are based on clinical observations of humans Do we know their trustworthiness?

**2. SPINOZA lecture Regina Kunz: WHEN RESEARCH FINDINGS HIT THE GLASS WALL:
Why can’t we get research findings in clinical practice?**

The delayed pick up of research findings and protracted implementation in clinical practice and patient care has been recognized for decades. Only recently this concern has mobilized research funders, policy makers, patient advocates, to call for specific efforts for getting research findings faster to the point of decision making and delivery of care. Evidence organizations such as the Cochrane Collaboration have taken up the challenge and made knowledge transfer a strategic goal. This lecture will provide a critical analysis on factors impeding transfer and evidence-informed approaches on how to overcome the glass wall.

3. GRADE special: Rating the certainty of the evidence for non-randomized studies using ROBINS-I

The GRADE framework has become 'state of the art' methodology for systematic reviews to rate the certainty in the evidence and for guidelines to provide the strength of a recommendation. Recently, GRADE successfully advanced its framework by integrating methodological innovations such as ROBINS-I from other methods groups. In this workshop we will discuss and apply the recently published GRADE guidance on how to use ROBINS-I, a risk of bias tool to rate the certainty of evidence for non-randomised intervention studies and SR. The workshop is aimed at participants with experience in using GRADE.

4. Seminar: Academic careers for women. Still a matter of concern? A seminar.

How can young female physicians and researchers find their way through the demands between clinical training, setting up a researcher career, and starting a family? Female researchers from the AMC and Basel, Switzerland at different stages of their careers will share and discuss with the young female professionals in the audience international, national and local policies, personal trajectories and perspectives for more equitable chances in proceeding with an academic career. An interactive session with R. Kunz, M. Langendam and M. Leeflang.

5. Academic afternoon with the Dutch Society of Insurance Physicians (NVVG): How to advance Evidence Based Medicine in insurance medicine.

In this academic afternoon, we reflected and practiced with Dutch insurance physicians how the technique of EBM may support decision making of insurance physicians in their day-to-day practice. Enthusiastic attendants engaged in serious disputes on when to apply evidence from systematic reviews to real patients.



Frederieke Schaafsma, Rob Kok and Jan Hoving, discussion round at the NVVG

HIGHLIGHTS 2018

EUMASS Congress 2018

Maastricht, the Netherlands. 4-6 October 2018.

CIM members had a very active participation in the academic events taking place in the last EUMASS Congress.

Presentations and workshops

Hoving J, Kok R, Schaafsma F, Verbel A, Kunz R. **Cochrane Insurance Medicine and EUMASS: three presentations**

- Hoving J: **CIM and EUMASS: How can insurance physicians benefit?**
- Verbel A, Kunz R. **Knowledge Translation in IM.**
- Schaafsma F, Kok R. **Alert / Push Service for IM evidence.**

Hoving J, Friberg E, Kunz R, Verbel A, Lohss R, Schaafsma F, Weida R, Cornelius B, Brouwer S. **How to read a Cochrane review? An interactive workshop.**

Lohss R, Weida-Cuignet R, Hoving J, de Boer W, Verbel A, Kunz R. **Evidence-based medical evaluation in insurance medicine: Vision or declared goal?**

Alexanderson K, Friberg E, Haque M, Arrelöv B, Nilsson G. **Physician's work with sickness certification in Sweden.**

Boersema J, Cornelius B, Wilming L, Brouwer S. **Exploring the construct 'inability to work full time': a qualitative study from the physician and patient perspective.**

Friberg E, Alexanderson K. **Sickness absentees' experiences of encounters with healthcare; differences between women and men.**

Kunz R, de Boer W, von Allmen D, Busse J. **The reliability of medical assessments. Symposium of four presentations:**

- Kunz R, de Boer W, von Allmen D, Busse J. **Interrater agreement in evaluation of disability: findings from a systematic review.**
- de Boer W. **Training psychiatrists in functional interviewing: Experiences from the RELY studies.**
- von Allmen D, Kunz R. **Reporting activity limitations: IFAP, the Instrument of Functional Assessment in Psychiatry and training needs.**
- Kunz R. **The reliability of real life work disability evaluations using the functional approach: The RELY studies.**



Cochrane Insurance Medicine and its friends at the EUMASS Congress 2018, Maastricht, the Netherlands.



Jan Hoving at the EUMASS Congress 2018, Maastricht, the Netherlands.

ACHIEVEMENT 2018

Insurance Medicine has its own topic in the Cochrane Library

CIM is very pleased to announce to the Insurance Medicine (IM) community the recent creation of the topic '[Insurance Medicine](#)' in the Cochrane Library. The topic 'Insurance Medicine' will facilitate the search of Cochrane reviews that include outcomes relevant for IM (i.e. return to work, sick leave, work disability, participation, prevention of injuries or sickness and costs). Often, these outcomes are secondary outcomes and the reviews therefore more difficult to find. The topic 'Insurance Medicine' has been created for IM physicians, researchers, managers, guidelines developers, decision makers and other health professionals working in areas related to social and private insurance. We expect that this new CIM product will help us to move forward on our goal, making insurance more evidence-based.



Trusted evidence.
Informed decisions.
Better health.

Access provided by: Basel University Library

Title

Cochrane Reviews ▾

Trials ▾

Clinical Answers ▾

About ▾

Help ▾

Browse by Topic

Browse the *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews*

a

Allergy & intolerance

b

Blood disorders

c

Cancer

Child health

Complementary & alternative medicine

Consumer & communication strategies

d

Dentistry & oral health

Developmental, psychosocial & learning problems

Diagnosis

g

Gastroenterology & hepatology

Genetic disorders

Gynaecology

h

Health & safety at work

Health professional education

Heart & circulation

i

Insurance medicine

Insurance medicine

k

Kidney disease

Ongoing Projects and Collaborative Projects across the Field

Friberg E, Alexanderson K, Lytsy P, Söderman M, Hoving J, Barroso J, Wennman-Larsen A. Effects of interventions on physicians' sickness certification practices: a systematic literature review.

Hoving J, Kunz R, Verbeek J, Prinsen S, Suiter J. Development of an international core outcome set on work participation within insurance medicine (COS-IM, Core Outcome Set).

Hoving JL, Kok R, Cornelius B, Schaafsma F. Can we keep insurance physicians up to date with the evidence using an email alert? The development and evaluation of an electronic insurance medicine' email alert.

Kunz R, Verbel A, von Allmen D, Lohss R, Walter Meyer B, Weida R, Röschard S. Evidence on the Web – the feasibility of a searchable database for insurance medicine evidence.

Kunz R, Verbel A, von Allmen DY, de Boer W, Brouwer S, Hoving J, Schaafsma F, et al. Insurance medicine outcomes in Cochrane reviews.

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.

Internal Activities

Member of Cochrane Fields Executive. Attendance of the Cochrane Mid-Year Meeting. March 2018; Lisbon, Portugal.

Cochrane Colloquium. September 2018; Edinburgh, United Kingdom.

CIM Meeting: Cochrane Insurance Medicine; April 2018; Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

CIM Meeting at EUMASS; October 2018; Maastricht, the Netherlands.

Monthly tele board meeting. Kunz R, Hoving J, Friberg E, Verbel A, Busse J.

Peer-reviewed Publications

1. Boersema HJ, Cornelius B, de Boer WEL, van der Klink JJJ, Brouwer S. **The assessment of work endurance in disability evaluations across European countries.** PLoS One. 2018;13(9).
2. Busse JW, de Vaal MM, Ham SJ, Sadeghirad B, van Beers L, Couban RJ, Kallyth SM, Poolman RW. **Comparative Analysis of Impairment Ratings From the 5th to 6th Editions of the AMA Guides.** J Occup Environ Med. 2018;60(12):1108-11.
3. Busse JW, Wang L, Kamaleldin M, Craigie S, Riva JJ, Montoya L, Mulla SM, Lopes LC, Vogel N, Chen E, Kirmayr K, De Oliveira K, Olivieri L, Kaushal A, Chaparro LE, Oyberman I, Agarwal A, Couban R, Tsoi L, Lam T, Vandvik PO, Hsu S, Bala MM, Schandelmaier S, Scheidecker A, Ebrahim S, Ashoorion V, Rehman Y, Hong PJ, Ross S, Johnston BC, Kunz R, Sun X, Buckley N, Sessler DI, Guyatt GH. **Opioids for Chronic Noncancer Pain: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis.** JAMA. 2018;320(23):2448-60.
4. de Boer W, Brage S, Kunz R. **Insurance medicine in clinical epidemiological terms: A concept paper for discussion.** TBV – Tijdschrift voor Bedrijfs- en Verzekeringsgeneeskunde. 2018;26(2):97-9.
5. Hoving J, Prinsen C, Kunz R, Verbeek J. **Need for a core outcome set on work participation.** TBV – Tijdschrift voor bedrijfs- en verzekeringsgeneeskunde 2018.26(7):362-4.
6. Kok R, Kuijjer PP, Hoving J. **‘Zorg die werkt’ Hoe werkt dat in de verzekeringsgeneeskundige praktijk? (Hoe does that work in insurance medicine practice ?).** TBV – Tijdschrift voor Bedrijfs- en Verzekeringsgeneeskunde 2018; 26(1):24-25.
7. Lohss R, Bachmann M, Walter Meyer B, de Boer W, Fischer K, R K. **What are the concerns of claimants who underwent a disability assessment? – A case study.** TBV – Tijdschrift voor Bedrijfs- en Verzekeringsgeneeskunde 2018;26(7):358-63.
8. Mittag O, Kotkas T, Reese C, Kampling H, Groskreutz H, de Boer W, Welti F. **Intervention policies and social security in case of reduced working capacity in the Netherlands, Finland and Germany: a comparative analysis.** Int J Public Health. 2018.
9. Schunemann HJ, Cuello C, Akl EA, Mustafa RA, Meerpohl JJ, Thayer K, Morgan RL, Gartlehner G, Kunz R, Katikireddi SV, Sterne J, Higgins JP, Guyatt G. **GRADE guidelines: 18. How ROBINS-I and other tools to assess risk of bias in nonrandomized studies should be used to rate the certainty of a body of evidence.** J Clin Epidemiol. 2018.
10. Verhaaf M, Hoving J. **Evidence-based verzekeringsgeneeskunde: Een survey. (Evidence-Based Insurance Medicine: a Survey).** TBV – Tijdschrift voor Bedrijfs- en Verzekeringsgeneeskunde 2018.26(2):59-66.

Posters, Podcasts and other Publications

Alexanderson K, et.al. **Physicians who work with sick leave certification.** (English translation and updating with recent results).

Blijleven R, Weel A, Regina Kunz, directeur en oprichter van Cochrane Insurance Medicine: **'Insurance medicine needs to be evidence-based'**. TBV – Tijdschrift voor Bedrijfs- en Verzekeringsgeneeskunde. 2018;26(2):92-6.

Hoving J, Schaafsma F, Verbeek J, Kok R. **Cochrane Corner 1: Oefentherapie effectief bij chronische vermoeidheidssyndroom: In samenwerking met Cochrane Insurance Medicine en Cochrane Work.** (*Exercise is effective in chronic fatigue syndrome: In cooperation with Cochrane Insurance Medicine and Cochrane Work*). TBV – Tijdschrift voor bedrijfs- en verzekeringsgeneeskunde 2018.26(2):70-2.

Suijkerbuijk Y, Hoving J, Schaafsma F. **Cochrane Corner 3: Interventions for obtaining and maintaining employment in adults with severe mental illness.** TBV – Tijdschrift voor bedrijfs- en verzekeringsgeneeskunde 2018.26(7):365-7.

Wijnvoord L, Croon N, Hoving J. **Cochrane Corner 2: Arbeidsgerelateerde interventies ter voorkoming van arbeidsongeschiktheid bij werknemers die verzuimen.** (*Workplace interventions to prevent work disability in workers on sick leave: In cooperation with Cochrane Insurance Medicine and Cochrane Work*). TBV – Tijdschrift voor bedrijfs- en verzekeringsgeneeskunde 2018.26(6):282-3.

Weida R, de Boer W, Roeschard S, Lohss R, Klipstein A, Kunz R. **Wissensbedarf unter Gutachtern in der Schweiz. Eine Umfrage unter den Mitgliedern der Swiss Insurance Medicine.** (*Information needs by expert in Switzerland. A survey among Swiss Insurance Medicine members*). Suva Medical. 2018;2869/89:90-8.

Weida R, Martin B, Kunz R. **Cochrane Corner 2018. Interventions to improve return to work in depressed people.** Suva Medical. 2018;2869/89:134-41.

Educational Activities

Friberg E. Lectures on how to systematically review literature in the field of insurance medicine at the sickness absence research (PhD course). Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden. April 2018.

Friberg E. Lectures on evidence-based insurance medicine and promoting Cochrane Insurance Medicine at the network training course within the research network Integrated Datasets in Europe for Ageing Research. Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden. November 2018.

Hoving J. Master program NFU Kwaliteit en Veiligheid (*Master program quality and safety in healthcare*). Teacher and coordinator Module 4: Effective healthcare (with focus on teaching Evidence Based Medicine and Systematic review methodology). Academic Medical Center (AMC). Amsterdam, Netherlands. December 2018.

Kunz R, Donker-Cools B, Ewald H, von Elm E, Verbel A et al. Evidence-based Insurance Medicine. A five-day module in the postgraduate program Master in Insurance Medicine. University of Basel, Switzerland. November 2018.



Master in Insurance Medicine, University of Basel, Swiss TPH. Participants of the module Evidence-based Insurance Medicine.

Promotional Activities

Alexanderson A, Friberg, E. EPH European Public Health Conference. 28 November 2018; Ljubljana, Slovenia.

Friberg, E. 15 year, Anniversary Seminar, Division of insurance medicine at Karolinska Institutet; 19 November 2018; Stockholm, Sweden.

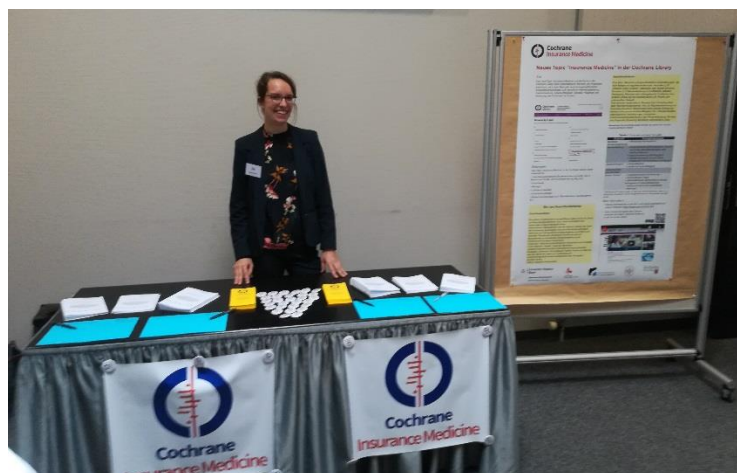


15 year Insurance Medicine, Karolinska Institutet, Sweden

Promotion Tables

Swiss Insurance Medicine, SIM, Annual Conference; March 2018; Olten, Switzerland.

EUMASS Congress; October 2018; Maastricht, Netherlands.



Regine Lohss at Swiss Insurance Medicine Annual Conference

Communications and social media

Newsletters

- [Cochrane Insurance Medicine Newsletter, Jun 2018, Issue 08](#)
- [Cochrane Insurance Medicine Newsletter, Aug 2018, Issue 09](#)
- [Cochrane Insurance Medicine Newsletter, Nov 2018, Issue 10](#)

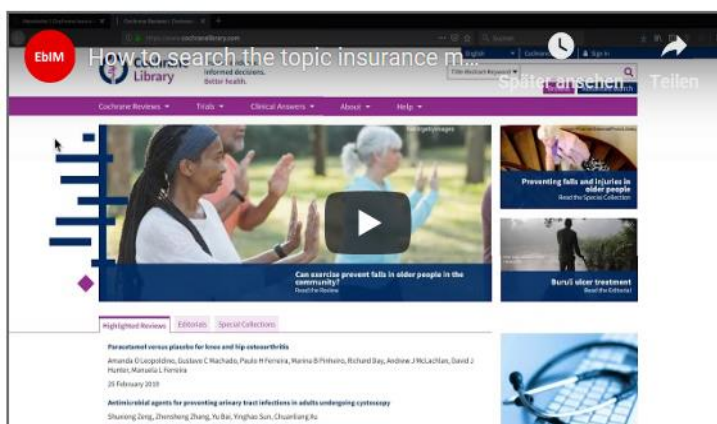
Social Media and Website

- Creation of CIM Twitter account on 13 April 2018. 40 followers and 107 tweets.
- Creation of the 'training' tab on the CIM Website



Video Tutorial on Youtube

- Creation of a tutorial video: How to search the topic 'Insurance Medicine' in the Cochrane Library



Project groups

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

Verbel, A, Kunz R, Walter Meyer B, Roeschard S, Weida R. Tagging topics about insurance medicine for Cochrane Library.

Collaboration with Cochrane Work

Kunz R, Friberg E, Hoving J, Weida R, Kok R, Ruotsalainen J, Verbeek J. **Development of a Core Outcome Set (COS) for work participation interventions.** This project aims to develop a Core Outcome Set on Work participation (including return to work). Cochrane systematic reviews use a range of work related outcomes where it would be preferable to have one core outcome set for work participation including return to work or sick leave which should be measured in all trials and all systematic reviews on work participation interventions (Hoving et al, 2018). The research group at the Coronel Institute of Occupational Health in Amsterdam has already initiated the development of such a core outcome set, in close collaboration with Cochrane Insurance Medicine and Cochrane Work using methodology from the Core Outcome Measures in Effectiveness Trials initiative (COMET: <http://www.comet-initiative.org/>). Cochrane highly values the development and use of Core outcome sets (<https://community.cochrane.org/news/cochrane-and-comet-working-together-improve-core-outcome-sets>).

Supporters:



Swiss Insurance Medicine



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