

Annual Report 2019

University Hospital
Basel

Department Clinical Research
EbIM Research & Education



**Kenniscentrum
Verzekeringsgeneeskunde**



Dutch Academic Center
for Insurance Medicine

McMaster
University 





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Preface

In 2019, CIM participated in two important events with lasting impact on our work

The formation of the Amsterdam Satellite of Cochrane Work. The opening of the new [Amsterdam Satellite of Cochrane Work](#) started with a symposium of international speakers representing clinical researchers, research methodologists, systematic reviewers and review managers, guideline methodologists and guideline developers, international professional organisations and policy makers. The high-profile representation acknowledged the importance of the reviews produced by Cochrane Work for clinical guidance and policies. Why is this event important to Cochrane Insurance Medicine? Cochrane Work, the producer of systematic reviews and Cochrane Insurance Medicine disseminating evidence are close allies in their efforts to prevent work disability, to keep people with health impairments in the labour market and to strengthen efforts for rehabilitation and return to work. The funding crisis raised awareness for the need of close collaboration and strengthened the ties.

The times are changing. While cancelled last minute, the 26th Cochrane Colloquium transformed its physical format into its first truly virtual colloquium ever. In 2019, the world observed the unprecedented event that a Cochrane Colloquium had to be cancelled just two days prior to its official start on the 22nd of October. Ongoing civil unrest in the streets of Santiago, Chile, due to worsening social conditions and the shutdown of the airport made 800+ researchers, practitioners and patients from 56+ countries strand in Chile's capital or somewhere on their way to Chile. To compensate for missed opportunities and acknowledge the many contributions prepared by the participants, Cochrane turned ad hoc the physical colloquium in a [virtual event](#) where participants listened to e-plenaries, attended webinars, presented digital posters and communicated through twitter and Instagram. Dr. Adrian Verbel, the CIM coordinator, presented our [Survey on evidence needs in insurance medicine](#). Civil unrest triggered Cochrane's creative mind to set up this ad-hoc virtual meeting for its worldwide community. It thereby directed its community to innovative opportunities of connecting in challenging times.

Prefaces are always a good place to say thank you to those who accompanied us throughout the year: our contributors, members and followers from practice, research, and policy who keep inspiring us with new ideas. We thank our colleagues and friends who offer opportunities for dissemination to make insurance medicine at all levels more evidence-based.

Prof. Regina Kunz
on behalf of the board of directors

HIGHLIGHT 2019

**Amsterdam Satellite of Cochrane Work
Inaugural Symposium
AMC, the Netherlands 6 Sept 2019**

How to improve the evidence for work participation?



The Programme

J. Hoving	The Amsterdam Satellite of Cochrane Work: Its vision, its plans.
J. Verbeek	What I learned from Cochrane Work.
L. Hooft	Amsterdam Satellite of Cochrane Work. The Launch.
M. Ravinskaya	Development of a Core Outcome Set for Work Participation.
C. Hulshof	What could Cochrane do better for guideline developers?
H. Anema	Intervention research to promote work participation: Changing people or their environment.
J. Ruotsalainen	Cochrane Work: Blogs, infographics and storytelling to get your message across.
R. Kunz	Cochrane Insurance Medicine: Knowledge production - Knowledge translation.
U. Bültmann	Improving work participation interventions: Doing MORE of the SAME or something different.
G. Lindenger	How can social security better benefit from Cochrane Reviews?
Ch. Prinz	TARGETING POLICY MAKERS. What Cochrane evidence do they need?

Dr. **Jan Hoving**, Cochrane Work – Amsterdam Satellite, Coroneel Institute, AMC, NL; Dr. **Jos Verbeek**, Cochrane Work, FI; Prof. **Lotty Hooft**, Dutch Cochrane Center, University Medical Center Utrecht, Julius Center Research Methodology, NL; **Margarita Ravinskaya** – PhD student, Coroneel Institute, AMC, Amsterdam, NL; Prof. **Carel Hulshof**, director, Coroneel Institute, AMC, Amsterdam, NL; Prof. **Han Anema**, Dutch Research Center for Insurance Medicine, VUMC, Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam, NL; Dr. **Jani Ruotsalainen**, Cochrane Work, Finnish Institute of Occupational Health, FI; Prof. **Regina Kunz**, CIM, director Evidence-based Insurance Medicine, Dept. of Clin. Research, University of Basel, CH; Prof. **Ute Bültmann**, Dutch Research Center for Insurance Medicine, University of Groningen, NL; Dr. **Gerd Lindenger**, EUMASS, European Union of Medicine in Assurance and Social Security, BE; Dr. **Christopher Prinz**, Senior Labor Market Analyst, OECD, Paris, FR.



Dutch International Congress on Insurance Medicine (DICIM) 6th-8th Nov 2019, Almere

This annual congress offered critical talks by outstanding speakers on current topics in modern insurance medicine with the option to expand and discuss the topic in more depth in small group workshops. Highlights were the talks on:

- 'Ethical Issues in Performance Validity Testing: From Labeling to Moral Reasoning' by Prof. L. Erdodi, U of Windsor, Canada
- 'The challenge of oncology care in the 21st century. The Lung Cancer Case' by Dr. R.G. Martins, MPH, Seattle, USA
- 'The impacts of insurance and compensation scheme design on claimant outcomes: A primer' by Prof. iur G.M. Grant, MPH, Monash University, Australia

In two workshops on spinal cord stimulation, a technology increasingly implanted to patients with disabling chronic pain, CIM illustrated from a methodological point of view why severe flaws in design and analysis invalidate the findings of current randomised trials.

Lohss R, von Allmen DY, Busse J, Schmidt H, Kunz R. **An insurer's perspective: Spinal cord stimulation versus optimal multimodal medical management in patients with chronic pain following accidents. A systematic review.**

Lohss R, Von Allmen DY, Busse J, Sarrafzadeh A, Kunz R. **An insurer's perspective: Novel modes of spinal cord stimulation versus conventional spinal cord stimulation. Their role in the management of chronic pain patients following accidents and injuries. A systematic review.**

CIM ACTIVITIES 2019

Ongoing Projects and Collaborative Projects across the Field

Daams JG, Kok R, Schaafsma F, Hoving JL. 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.

Friberg E, Lytsy P. Psychosocial interventions at the workplace. A systematic literature review.

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.

Lytsy P, Friberg E. Psychosocial work environment factors and their associations to health outcomes, a systematic literature review.

Ravinskaya M, Langendam M, Kunz R, Verbeek J, Verstappen S, Madan I, Hulshof C, Hoving J. Development of an international core outcome set for work participation: COS for Work.

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.

Söderman M, Wennman-Larsen A, Hoving J, Alexanderson K, Friberg E. Interventions regarding physicians' sickness certification practice. A systematic literature review and meta-analysis.

Internal Activities

5th CIM Colloquium: **Research meets Knowledge Translation**. Coronel Institute of Occupational Health, AMC University Hospital Amsterdam, The Netherlands. 24-25 May 2019.

Monthly tele **meetings of the board of directors**.

Cochrane Fields Executive. Attendance of the **Cochrane Governance Meeting**. 1-5 April 2019; Krakow, Poland.



Peer-reviewed Publications

den Bakker CM, Anema JR, Huirne JAF, Twisk J, Bonjer HJ, Schaafsma FG. **Predicting return to work among patients with colorectal cancer.** Br J Surg. 2020 Jan;107(1):140-148.

Hoving JL, Verbeek J, Schaafsma F, Kok R, Hulshof C. **Work participation needs evidence based practice** [*Arbeidsparticipatie gebaat bij evidence based werken*]. Medisch contact 2019;3: 29-31.

Kunz R, Verbel A, Weida-Cuignet R, Hoving J, Weinbrenner S, Friberg E, Klipstein A, Van haecht C, Autti-Rämö I, Agosti N, Vargas-Prada S, Kneepkens S, Lindenger G, de Boer W, Schaafsma F. **Evidence needs, training demands, and opportunities for knowledge translation in social security and insurance medicine. A survey across Europe.** [Submitted].

Louwerse I, Huysmans MA, van Rijssen JH, Schaafsma FG, Weerdesteijn KH, van der Beek AJ, Anema JR. **Predicting future changes in the work ability of individuals receiving a work disability benefit: weighted analysis of longitudinal data.** Scand J Work Environ Health. 2019 May 27. pii:3834.doi:10.5271/sjweh.3834. [Epub ahead of print]

Molen van der H, Hoving JL. **Cochrane Corner. Interventions for preventing injuries in the construction industry.** TBV - Tijdschrift voor bedrijfs- en verzekeringsgeneeskunde. 2019; 27 (9):40-42.

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. 2019;111:105-14.

Vukadin M, Schaafsma FG, Vlaar SJ, van Busschbach JT, van de Ven PM, Michon HWC, Anema JR. **Work Motivation and Employment Outcomes in People with Severe Mental Illness.** J Occup Rehabil. 2019 Dec;29(4):803-809.

Weerdesteijn KHN, Schaafsma FG, van der Beek AJ, Merkus SL, Maeland S, Hoedeman R, Lissenberg-Witte BI, Werner EL, Anema JR. **Sick leave assessments of workers with subjective health complaints: a cross-sectional study on differences among physicians working in occupational health care.** Disabil Rehabil. 2019 Jan 26:1-8.

Weerdesteijn KHN, Schaafsma FG, Louwerse I, Huysmans MA, Van der Beek AJ, Anema JR. **Does self-perceived health correlate with physician-assessed functional limitations in medical work disability assessments?** J Psychosom Res. 2019 Oct;125:109792.

Presentations, Posters, Podcasts and other Publications

Lohss R, Bachmann MS, Walter Meyer B, de Boer W, Kunz R, Fischer K. **Perceived fairness of claimants undergoing a disability evaluation.** Congress of the European Forum for Research in Rehabilitation and German Congress for Rehabilitation; Berlin, Germany. 16.04.2019.

Ravinskaya M, Verbeek J, Hulshof C, Langendam M, Madan I, Verstappen S, Kunz R, Daams J, Hoving J. **A Core Outcome Set for Work participation. Collaboration between Cochrane Work and Cochrane Insurance Medicine.** Work Disability Prevention and Integration (WDPI) Conference; Odense, Denmark. 04.06.2019.

Söderberg E, Lindholm C, Kärrholm J, Alexanderson K. **Physician's sickness certification practices: A systematic review.** Division of Insurance Medicine, Karolinska Institutet. 2019. ISBN 978-91-7831-362-4.

Verbel A. **Knowledge Translation in Cochrane Insurance Medicine.** Congress of the European Forum for Research in Rehabilitation and German Congress for Rehabilitation; Berlin, Germany. 15.04.2019.

Verbel A. **Knowledge Translation in Cochrane Insurance Medicine.** Research Platform, Basel Institute for Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics, ceb; Basel, Switzerland. 19.09.2019.

Verbel A. **Designing Knowledge Translation Strategies: Using online surveys to identify target audience characteristics and evidence needs.** Cochrane Webinar. 19.06.2019. <https://training.cochrane.org/resource/designing-knowledge-translation-strategies-using-online-surveys-identify-target-audience> (last accessed: 28.02.2020)

Educational Activities

Friberg E. Evidence-based Insurance Medicine. Lectures for medical staff in mental health. Stockholm. 7 days course spread over the year.

Promotional Activities

Promotion Table

Swiss Insurance Medicine, SIM, Annual Conference; March 2019; Olten, Switzerland.

European Forum for Research in Rehabilitation / German Congress for Rehabilitation April 2019; Berlin, Germany

Work Disability Prevention and Integration (WDPI) Conference; June 2019; Odense, Denmark.

Dutch International Congress on Insurance Medicine, DICIM; Nov 2019; Almere, Netherlands.

Communications and social media

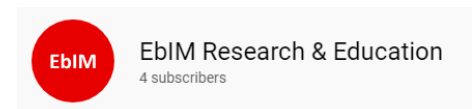
Verbel A, Kunz R, Weida R, Hoving J, Weinbrenner S, Friberg E, de Boer W, Schaafsma F. **From a survey on evidence needs' to a knowledge translation strategic plan: the case of Cochrane Insurance Medicine.** Video presentation at the 1st Virtual Cochrane Colloquium; Santiago, Chile. December 2019. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oy9xvtXfUQo> (Last accessed: 28.02.2020)

Newsletters

- [Cochrane Insurance Medicine Newsletter, Mar 2019, Issue 11](#)
- [Cochrane Insurance Medicine Newsletter, May 2019, Issue 12](#)
- [Cochrane Insurance Medicine Newsletter, Oct 2019, Issue 13](#)

Social Media

Creation of the EbIM Research and Education Youtube Channel.



As part of the CIM social media strategy, we created the YouTube Channel EbIM Research and Education in 2019. Since then, we produced one tutorial video explaining [how to search and use the new topic "insurance medicine" in the Cochrane Library](#), as well as, two playlists compiling relevant videos. In [the first playlist](#), you will find six videos, including our tutorial, interviews and academic presentations from our CIM members. [The second playlist](#) contains the videos from a Cochrane webinar conducted by CIM and titled "Designing knowledge translation strategies: using online surveys to identify target audience characteristics and evidence needs". The aim of the CIM's social media strategy is to facilitate the dissemination and access to scientific evidence and other relevant information for the insurance medicine community.

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 the Cochrane Library.**

OUTLOOK FOR 2020

10 years Clinical Professorship of Insurance Medicine at the University of Basel

5 years Cochrane Field Insurance Medicine



Registration on: eumass-2020.eu/preconference-symposium

Reasons to celebrate!

10 years ago, the University of Basel established a clinical professorship of insurance medicine to advance and promote the production of evidence in insurance medicine. 5 years later, this chair founded the international Cochrane Insurance Medicine Field together with partners in the Netherlands, Sweden and Canada. Both activities made important contributions to

professionalise insurance medicine in Switzerland and Europe and indicate directions for an insurance medicine based on clinical research that informs practice. We now welcome you to celebrate these achievements together with us and our collaborators in Basel, CH and Europe at **the pre-conference symposium “Evidence-based Practice in Insurance Medicine”** to the international EUMASS congress. (see next side for programme details)

Cochrane Insurance Medicine, Swiss Insurance Medicine and other partners succeeded to bring the most important European Congress on Insurance Medicine, EUMASS 2020, to Basel. Following the congress motto **“Science and practice in the field of insurance medicine –present and future challenges in the European and Swiss context”**, the congress offers researchers and practitioners a platform for exchange. Keynote lectures invite participants to listen to leaders and scientists in the field, interactive workshops, mini-symposia and short oral sessions facilitate to discuss with experts and colleagues recent research findings, new developments and evolving societal changes, and their implication in practice.



Registration on: eumass-2020.eu

Evidence-based Practice in Insurance Medicine

Date: Wed., 16th Sept 2020 Time: 13.30 to 17.00 hr. Place: University Hospital Basel Registration: https://www.eumass-2020.eu/preconference-symposium	
13.00 – 13.30	Registration
13.30 – 13.45	Welcome! Prof. Primo Schär, Dean, Medical Faculty, Evidence-based Insurance Medicine and Cochrane Insurance Medicine celebrate their anniversaries!
	Part I: Evidence Production
13.45 – 14.10	Functional work capacity evaluation: How insurance medicine can benefit from the IFAP instruments. Dr. Wout de Boer; Dr. Renato Marelli, Past President SGVP
14.10 – 14.35	The RELY Studies on the reproducibility of work capacity assessments: Opportunities and challenges. Prof. Regina Kunz, Head of EbIM, CH
14.35 – 15.00	COS Work Participation: International collaboration to complement the research toolbox of insurance medicine. Margarita Ravinskaya, PhD student NL
15.00 – 15.30	Coffee Break
	Part II: Knowledge Translation
15.30 – 15.45	When evidence contradicts practice - Implementing evidence from systematic reviews. Dr. Jos Verbeek, Coordinating Editor Cochrane Work, FI
15.45 – 16.00	The Dutch example: Evidence-based Insurance Medicine Guidelines. Dr. Jan Hoving, CIM Deputy Director, NL
16.00 – 16.15	To bring IM knowledge to practitioners, stakeholders and policy makers: Cochrane Insurance Medicine. Dr. Adrian Verbel, CIM Coordinator, CH
16.15 – 16.30	The Postgraduate Master Insurance Medicine at the University of Basel Prof. Nino Künzli, Director of Swiss School of Public Health, SSPH+, CH
16.30 – 16.45	Professional development in Insurance Medicine: Assist Prof. Emilie Friberg, CIM Co Director, SE
	Summary and future perspectives on academic insurance medicine
17.00 – 18.00	Apero and poster session

Last but not least

according to the latest
Cochrane systematic review
you should be working...



Bert Cornelius 1952-2018
Insurance Physician and cartoonist

Supporters



EUMASS, European Union of Medicine
in Assurance and Social Security