



Media Release

Leading International Health Research Organization Elects Influential Canadian Co-chair

(Ottawa – October 28, 2010) The Cochrane Collaboration, an international research network that helps people make well-informed healthcare decisions, elected Dr. Jeremy Grimshaw as the new co-chair of its Board of Directors at its recent 18th Annual Colloquium in Keystone, Colorado.

Grimshaw was elected unanimously by the more than 400 Cochrane members at the annual general meeting.

The Cochrane Collaboration is the world's leading independent assessor of medical interventions and medical research. It is a not-for-profit organization of over 28,000 contributors from more than 100 countries and is dedicated to making up-to-date, accurate information about the effects of health care treatment readily available worldwide. Cochrane contributors evaluate and synthesize research in all aspects of health care by mining the existing research to find the best possible evidence and identify research gaps. This information is presented in systematic reviews, known as Cochrane reviews, which are updated periodically to account for new evidence and are published online in *The Cochrane Library* (thecochranelibrary.com). Cochrane reviews help health providers, practitioners and patients make well-informed decisions about health care.

Grimshaw brings more than 20 years of research and medical experience to the position. Currently, he is the Canada Research Chair in Health Knowledge Transfer and Uptake; senior scientist in the Clinical Epidemiology Program, Ottawa Hospital Research Institute; full professor, Department of Medicine, University of Ottawa; co-ordinating editor of the Cochrane Effective Practise and Organisation of Care Review Group; and director of the Canadian Cochrane Centre.

“We are more than delighted to have such an experienced expert like Jeremy take on this role,” says Nick Royle, Chief Executive Officer of The Cochrane Collaboration. “He has been involved with the Collaboration for the past 16 years and has proven himself over and over again with his leadership of

the Canadian Cochrane Centre and a major strategic review of the Collaboration. I have no doubt that he will lead us in the right direction and help further our mission of extending the best evidence in health research to clinicians and the public alike.”

Grimshaw takes on the role of outgoing co-chair, Dr. Lorne Becker who will remain involved in the Collaboration outside the Board of Directors. Becker spent the past four years in the position and was pleased with the Collaboration’s decision to elect Grimshaw: “I can’t think of anyone better suited to be co-chair than Jeremy. This new role will allow him to help the Collaboration realize the exciting opportunities and initiatives he outlined in the organization’s strategic review which he led several years ago.”

Grimshaw joins Dr. Jonathan Craig as co-chair and their duties include strategic planning, advising and guiding the CEO and Collaboration, pursuing initiatives and projects, and representing The Cochrane Collaboration to current and potential funders. Grimshaw plans to develop global partnerships for the Collaboration and further market the work of the organization and its members.

“I am honoured to accept the position of co-chair of The Cochrane Collaboration Board of Directors,” says Grimshaw. “I know it will require time and dedication, but I am determined to help the Collaboration move forward in evidence-based medicine after already coming so far. Archie Cochrane, an influential doctor and our namesake, would be proud.”

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About Archie Cochrane:

Archie Cochrane is best known for his influential book, *Effectiveness and Efficiency: Random Reflections on Health Services* published in 1972. He suggested that because resources would always be limited they should be used to provide forms of health care which had shown to be effective. In particular, he stressed the importance of using evidence from randomized controlled trials (RCT's) because these were likely to provide much more reliable information than other evidence sources. Cochrane's simple propositions were soon widely recognized as seminal important by lay people as well as health professionals. In 1987, the year before Cochrane died, he referred to a systematic review of randomized controlled trials (RCT's) of care during pregnancy and childbirth as "a real milestone in the history of randomized trials and in the evaluation of care," and suggested other specialties should copy the methods used. His encouragement, and the endorsement of his views by others, led to the opening of the first Cochrane centre (Oxford, UK) in 1992 and the founding of The Cochrane Collaboration in 1993.