

CHBG NEWSLETTER

The Cochrane Hepato-Biliary Group (CHBG)

Volume 10, Issue 2

September 2006

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NOTE

The numbering is a continuation from Vol.10, Issue 1, 2006

PUBLISHED REVIEWS AND PROTOCOLS IN THE CLIB ISSUE 3 AND 4, 2006.

NEW REVIEWS

54. Bicyclol for chronic hepatitis B. Wu T, Roger H, Xie L, Liu G, Hao B.
55. Cyclosporin versus tacrolimus for liver transplanted patients. Haddad EM, McAlister VC, Renouf E, Malthaner R, Kjaer MS, Gluud LL.
56. Early versus delayed laparoscopic cholecystectomy for acute cholecystitis. Gurusamy KS, Samraj K.
57. Endoscopic balloon sphincter dilation (sphincteroplasty) versus sphincterotomy for common bile duct stones. Weinberg BM, Shindy W, Lo S.
58. Laparoscopic versus open cholecystectomy for patients with symptomatic cholecystolithiasis. Keus F, de Jong JAF, Gooszen HG, van Laarhoven CJHM.
59. Laparoscopic versus small-incision cholecystectomy for patients with symptomatic cholecystolithiasis. Keus F, de Jong JAF, Gooszen HG, van Laarhoven CJHM.
60. Portosystemic shunts versus endoscopic therapy for variceal rebleeding in patients with cirrhosis. Khan S, Tudur Smith C, Williamson P, Sutton R.
61. Small-incision versus open cholecystectomy for patients with symptomatic cholecystolithiasis. Keus F, de Jong JAF, Gooszen HG, van Laarhoven CJHM.
62. Terlipressin for hepatorenal syndrome. Gluud LL, Kjaer MS, Christensen E.



UPDATED REVIEWS

17. Anabolic-androgenic steroids for alcoholic liver disease. Rambaldi A, Glud C.
18. TIPS versus paracentesis for cirrhotic patients with refractory ascites. Saab S, Nieto JM, Lewis SK, Runyon BA.

NEW PROTOCOLS

125. Tiopronin for chronic hepatitis B. He Q, Chen XY, He L.
126. Cholecystectomy deferral in patients with endoscopic sphincterotomy. McAlister VC, Davenport E, Renouf E.
127. Cholecystectomy versus no cholecystectomy in patients with silent gall stones. Gurusamy KS, Samraj K.
128. Routine abdominal drainage for uncomplicated liver resection. Gurusamy KS, Samraj K.

UPDATED PROTOCOLS

9. Endoscopic therapy or beta-blockers for primary prevention of bleeding oesophageal varices. Glud LL, Klingenberg SLF, Nikolova D, Glud C.

NEW REGISTERED TITLES

229. Laparoscopic versus small-incision cholecystectomy for patients with symptomatic cholelithiasis. Keus F et al.
230. Laparoscopic versus open cholecystectomy for patients with symptomatic cholelithiasis. Keus F et al.
231. Small-incision versus open cholecystectomy for patients with symptomatic cholelithiasis. Keus F et al.
232. Ischaemic preconditioning versus no ischaemic preconditioning for liver transplantation. Gurusamy K et al.
233. Hepatitis B immunisation for children born to mothers with hepatitis B surface antigen negative or unknown status. Mathew JL et al.
234. Lamivudine for chronic hepatitis B in pregnant women. Zuberi N et al.
235. Endoscopic variceal ligation versus injection sclerotherapy for prevention of variceal rebleeding in cirrhotic patients. Prasad SS et al.

236. Biliary reconstruction in liver transplantation. Davidson BR et al.
237. Topical haemostatic agents in liver resection. Gurusamy K et al.
238. Pharmacological interventions to reduce ischaemic reperfusion injury in liver resection. Davidson BR et al.
239. Liver parenchymal transection techniques used in liver resections. Davidson BR et al.
240. Methods of vascular occlusion in liver resections. Gurusamy K et al.
241. Systemic chemotherapy for advanced cholangiocarcinoma. Tharavichitkul E et al.
242. Pentoxifyllin for alcoholic liver disease. Rambaldi A et al.
243. Immunosuppressive antibody therapies for liver transplant recipients. Wilson C et al.
244. Entecavir for chronic hepatitis B. Woo G et al.
245. Endoscopic therapy or beta-blockers for primary prevention of bleeding oesophageal varices. Glud LL et al.
246. Combination of beta-blocker plus nitrate for prevention of variceal rebleeding in portal hypertension. Sharma B et al.
247. Beta-blockers for prevention of variceal rebleeding in portal hypertension. Sharma B et al.

REVIEWS AND PROTOCOLS EXPECTED TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE CLIB ISSUE 1 OR 2, 2007

NEW PROTOCOLS FOR ISSUE 1 2007 IN THE CLIB

129. Pegylated interferon for chronic hepatitis B. Mumtaz K et al.
130. Beta-blockers for prevention of variceal rebleeding in portal hypertension. Sharma B et al.

REVIEWS IN EDITORIAL PROCESS

Presently twenty-five reviews are undergoing editorial evaluation. Eleven of these reviews are sent to the CHBG Editors for final comments before acceptance for publication in Issue 1 2007.

1. Antifibrinolytic amino acids for acquired coagulation disorders in patients with liver disease. Marti-Carvajal AJ et al.
2. Elective surgery for benign liver tumours. Colli A et al.



3. Cholecystectomy versus no cholecystectomy in patients with silent gallstones. Gurusamy K et al.
4. Probiotics for non-alcoholic fatty liver disease and/or steatohepatitis. Lirussi F et al.
5. Human recombinant activated factor VII for upper gastrointestinal bleeding in patients with liver diseases. Marti-Carvajal AJ et al.
6. Primary closure versus T-tube drainage after laparoscopic common bile duct stone exploration. Gurusamy K et al.
7. Bicyclol for chronic hepatitis C. Wu T et al.
8. Primary closure versus T-tube drainage after open common bile duct exploration. Gurusamy K et al.
9. Bile acids for non-alcoholic fatty liver disease and/or steatohepatitis. Orlando R et al.
10. Antioxidant supplements for non-alcoholic fatty liver disease and/or steatohepatitis. Lirussi F et al.
11. Drugs improving insulin resistance for non-alcoholic fatty liver disease and/or non-alcoholic steatohepatitis. Angelico F et al.

Another fourteen reviews are sent to peer reviewers or sent back to authors for additional revision:

1. Antibiotics for cholangitis and/or cholecystitis. Kukuruzovic R et al.
2. Immunoglobulin for preventing hepatitis A. Liu J et al.
3. Lamivudine for chronic hepatitis B. Mumtaz K et al.
4. Metronidazole with or without image-guided percutaneous procedure for uncomplicated amoebic liver abscess. Labio E et al.
5. Pegylated interferon plus ribavirin versus non-pegylated interferon plus ribavirin for chronic hepatitis C. Simin M et al.
6. Routine abdominal drainage in uncomplicated open cholecystectomy. Gurusamy K et al.
7. Preoperative biliary drainage for obstructive jaundice. Wang C et al.
8. Glucocorticosteroids for alcoholic hepatitis. Rambaldi A et al.
9. Banding ligation versus beta-blockers for primary prevention of bleeding oesophageal varices. Gluud LL et al.

10. Antibiotic prophylaxis for patients undergoing elective laparoscopic cholecystectomy. Sanabria A et al.
11. Routine abdominal drainage in uncomplicated open cholecystectomy. Gurusamy K et al.
12. Ursodeoxycholic acid for primary biliary cirrhosis. Gong Y et al.
13. Pegylated interferon alpha 2a versus pegylated interferon alpha 2b for acute and chronic hepatitis. Simin M et al.
14. Preoperative biliary drainage for obstructive jaundice. Wang C et al.

PROTOCOLS IN EDITORIAL PROCESS

Presently ten protocols for reviews are undergoing editorial evaluation.

1. Non-steroid anti-inflammatory drugs for biliary colics. Colli A et al.
2. Entecavir for chronic hepatitis B. Woo G et al.
3. Lamivudine for chronic hepatitis B. Mumtaz K et al.
4. Percutaneous ethanol injection or percutaneous acetic acid injection for early hepatocellular carcinoma. Wagner A et al.
5. Methods of vascular occlusion for liver resections. Gurusamy K et al.
6. Combination of beta-blocker plus nitrate for prevention of variceal rebleeding in portal hypertension. Sharma B et al.
7. Ischaemic preconditioning versus no ischaemic preconditioning for liver transplantation. Gurusamy K et al.
8. Antibiotics for hepatic encephalopathy. Falavigna M et al.
9. Pegylated interferon for acute hepatitis C. Simin M et al.
10. Imidazole derivatives for uncomplicated amoebic liver abscess. Mumtaz K et al.

REVIEWS IN NEED TO BE UPDATED

The date in bracket refers to the last search result sent to authors with a request to update the review.

Since the number of outdated CHBG reviews is increasing, we would like to request authors to dedicate time and run searches of their own or contact Sarah Louise Klinkenberg, The CHBG Trials Search Co-ordinator, to help with searches,



translation of possibly relevant papers, and similar. If any of the authors, for some reason, cannot maintain a published review, then we would appreciate a lot if we get a notification. In such case we will feel free to offer the review to other interested people.

1. Alpha-fetoprotein and/or liver ultrasonography for liver cancer screening in patients with chronic hepatitis B. Wun YT, Dickinson JA.
2. Antibiotic prophylaxis for cirrhotic patients with gastrointestinal bleeding. Soares-Weiser K, Brezis M, Tur-Kaspa R, Leibovici L. (June 2006)
3. Antibiotics for leptospirosis. Guidugli F, Castro AA, Atallah AN. (September 2005)
4. Antibiotics for preventing leptospirosis. Guidugli F, Castro AA, Atallah AN. (September 2005)
5. Antibiotics for spontaneous bacterial peritonitis in cirrhotics. Soares-Weiser K, Brezis M, Leibovici L. (June 2006)
6. Artificial and bioartificial support systems for liver failure. Liu JP, Gluud LL, Als-Nielsen B, Gluud C.
7. Benzodiazepine receptor antagonists for hepatic encephalopathy. Als-Nielsen B, Gluud LL, Gluud C.
8. Bile acids for primary sclerosing cholangitis. Chen W, Gluud C. (September 2006)
9. Bile acids for viral hepatitis. Chen W, Liu J, Gluud C. (January 2006)
10. Branched-chain amino acids for hepatic encephalopathy. Als-Nielsen B, Koretz RL, Kjaergard LL, Gluud C. (September 2006)
11. Chinese medicinal herbs for asymptomatic carriers of hepatitis B virus infection. Liu JP, McIntosh H, Lin H. (December 2005)
12. Chinese medicinal herbs for chronic hepatitis B. Liu JP, McIntosh H, Lin H. (October 2005)
13. Emergency sclerotherapy versus medical interventions for bleeding oesophageal varices in cirrhotic patients. D'Amico G, Pagliaro L, Pietrosi G, Tarantino I. (March 2006)
14. Interferon for acute hepatitis C. Myers RP, Regimbeau C, Thevenot T, Leroy V, Mathurin P, Opolon P, Zarski JP, Poynard T. (July 2005)
15. Interferon for interferon naive patients with chronic hepatitis C. Myers RP, Regimbeau C, Thevenot T, Leroy V, Mathurin P, Opolon P, Zarski JP, Poynard T. (April 2006)
16. Interferon for interferon nonresponding and relapsing patients with chronic hepatitis C. Myers RP, Poynard T. (April 2006)
17. Medicinal herbs for hepatitis C virus infection. Liu JP, Manheimer E, Tsutani K, Gluud C. (November 2005)
18. Neoadjuvant and adjuvant therapy for operable hepatocellular carcinoma. Chan ES-Y, Chow PK-H, Machin D, Soo K-C, Samuel M. (September 2005)
19. Nonabsorbable disaccharides for hepatic encephalopathy. Als-Nielsen B, Gluud LL, Gluud C.
20. Sphincterotomy for biliary sphincter of Oddi dysfunction. Craig AG, Toouli J. (October 2005)
21. Terlipressin for acute esophageal variceal hemorrhage. Ioannou G, Doust J, Rockey DC.
22. Ursodeoxycholic acid and/or antibiotics for prevention of biliary stent occlusion. Galandi D, Schwarzer G, Bassler D, Allgaier HP. (April 2006)

PAST EVENTS

RARE DISEASES SEMINAR
April 6 to 7, London, UK

Christian Gluud spoke about non-inferiority and equivalence trials and the selection of control intervention as an issue in drug development for rare diseases. The seminar was organised by Eudipharm-EMEA.

WHO CLINICAL TRIAL REGISTRY STANDARD MEETING
April 26, Geneva, Switzerland

Christian Gluud participated at the meeting in which WHO representatives as well as representatives from industry and academia were present. The discussions were led by Norman Swan from Australia. This was the final meeting before WHO made their choice for further guidelines on trial registration.



For more information, please go to
<http://www.who.int/ictrp/background/en/>

THE 41ST ANNUAL EASL 2006 MEETING
April 27 to 30, Vienna, Austria

The CHBG manned a stand during the EASL exhibition. The stand was sponsored by EASL.

DIGESTIVE DISEASE WEEK (DDW) 2006
May 20 to 25, Los Angeles, USA

The CHBG run a symposium May 23, 2006 from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. at the Los Angeles Convention Center, representing the Cochrane gastrointestinal groups. About 60 people were present.

The CHBG manned a stand during the DDW exhibition. There was great interest in the work of the four gastrointestinal groups as well as The Cochrane Library. The stand was sponsored by Wiley.

CONTINENTAL EUROPEAN COCHRANE ENTITIES MEETING
May 3 to 5, Copenhagen, Denmark

The meeting for European review group staff only was organized, sponsored, and hosted by The Nordic Cochrane Centre.

INTERNATIONAL CLINICAL TRIALS' DAY
May 19, Brussel, Belgium

May 20th 2006 was the second International Clinical Trials' Day. The Day was marked by a symposium and press conference on May 19, 2006.

For information on what ECRIN is, their objectives, etc. please visit <http://www.ecrin.org/>. During the meeting, Tiki Pang, WHO, officially declared WHO's new policy: all must register all trials (phase I to IV) before inclusion of the first participant at a public register. This is a great victory for transparency and ethical research. You may read more at <http://www.who.int/ictrp/background/en/>

XIII INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON FREE RADICALS 2006
August 15 to 19, Davos, Switzerland

Christian Gluud presented a lecture on antioxidants for primary and secondary prevention entitled 'the antioxidant dilemma: the contrasting findings of randomised intervention trials and observational studies.

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF THE LIVER (AfASLD) MEETING 2006 – CAIRO, EGYPT

Abdel Meguid Kassem (Egypt), Wasim Jaffrey (Pakistan), and Christian Gluud (Denmark) run a one-day course on September 11 on critical appraisal of evidence in hepatology. The course was run in collaboration with IASL and The Cochrane Hepato-Biliary Group. Twenty participants attended the course. They were from Egypt, Nigeria, Sudan, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Syria, and Libya.

FUTURE EVENTS

MEETING ON INTERNATIONAL GUIDELINES ON CHELATING AGENTS
October 6 to 9, Naples, Italy

Christian Gluud is chairing a meeting, run from October 6 to 9, 2006 and organised by Aurelio Maggio, Italy. The aim of the meeting is to review the efficacy and calculate the cost of main interventions for prevention and treatment of secondary haemochromatosis in patients with haemoglobinopathies.

EUROPEAN CLINICAL RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURES NETWORK (ECRIN) MEETING
October 12, London, UK

The ECRIN kick-off meeting will take place in the Medical Research Council's Clinical Trial Unit on October 12, 2006. The agenda items will include roles of the co-ordination and national networks and their participation in workshops that are going to iron out the bottlenecks. Christian Gluud will attend the meeting.



14TH COCHRANE COLLOQUIUM
October 23 to 26, Dublin, Ireland

The 14th Cochrane Colloquium will take place on October 23 to 26, 2006 in Dublin. Here is what Mike Clarke, the Director of the UK Centre says:

In 1992, the UK Cochrane Centre opened and, a year later, the first Cochrane Colloquium took place in the meeting room of the home of this Centre, an old, converted bakery in Oxford. Seventy-seven people from 19 countries gathered together and The Cochrane Collaboration was established as an international organization. The growth in the Collaboration since then has been phenomenal. In 2005, more than 13,000 people from almost 100 countries are involved. The Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews, with 36 reviews in 1995, has grown to more than 2500 full reviews and protocols for 1600 more. The reviews are serving to help people make evidence-informed decisions about health care. A great deal has clearly been achieved already but even more work remains ahead of us.

The XIV Cochrane Colloquium will be an opportunity to celebrate what has been achieved and also a chance to assess how the Collaboration can continue to grow and evolve to meet its aims. We shall, of course, be evidence-based but on an island famous for writers, poets and story-tellers, we shall not forget the value of the anecdote and the quotation. In the first half of the twentieth century, Poul Henningsen, the Danish lamp designer, wrote, "Fremtiden kommer af sig selv, det gør fremskridtet ikke" – "The future arrives of its own accord, progress does not". The Colloquium will help the Collaboration to plan for the future and to continue to make progress. In the second half of the twentieth century, the Irish musician, Bono, sang "I still haven't found what I'm looking for". The Colloquium will help the Collaboration to consider how to make it easier for people to find what they need to know when making decisions about health care. Finally, as an even older story has it, even the longest journey begins with a first, small move. Whether you will be travelling thousands of miles, or just a few, we

hope that move will be the start of a safe and pleasant journey. See you in Dublin!

Mike Clarke

Director

UK Cochrane Centre

55TH ANNUAL AASLD MEETING
October 30, Boston, MA, USA

The 21st Cochrane CHBG bi-annual meeting, during the 55th annual AASLD meeting, Boston, (October 27 to October 31, 2006) will be run on October 30. The meeting will start at 7 pm at the Sheraton hotel in Boston. The agenda for the meeting is sent out with this issue of the CHBG Newsletter.

Please feel invited to attend it. There is no registration fee.

VISITS

Andrea Rambaldi, Italy, visited the Editorial Team office for a week in June 2006. Andrea worked on the review 'Glucocorticosteroids for alcoholic hepatitis'.

Goran Bjelakovic, Serbia and Montenegro, worked at the Editorial Team office for three weeks in August 2006. He worked on the project about antioxidant supplements and mortality.

Marija Simin, Croatia, is presently here to continue her work on systematic reviews with peg interferon.

Barjesh Chander Sharma, India, is presently on a month's visit at The Editorial Team office in Copenhagen to work on the systematic reviews 'Beta-blockers for prevention of variceal rebleeding in portal hypertension' and 'Combination of beta-blocker plus nitrate for prevention of variceal rebleeding in portal hypertension'. For the readers of the CHBG Newsletter Barjesh Sharma wrote:

The Cochrane Hepato-Biliary Group with the Editorial base in Copenhagen has innovative,



original, and very dynamic approach to production of systematic reviews, with inclusion of research trials after thorough literature search and critical evaluation. I was taught methodology and tricks of doing literature search, critical evaluation of trials, and how to prepare the protocol and the review. I am being provided with a kind and expert professional guidance and assistance that helps me accomplish my work.

I wish people involved in research to get the opportunity for an excellent training, here at the CHBG Editorial base, as I.

Barjesh Chander Sharma,
Professor
Gastroenterology
G B Pant Hospital, New Delhi
New Delhi
India

COLLABORATION NEWS

Due to the limited space we cannot inform in details about new reports or policies of The Cochrane Collaboration or the working activities within entities. That is why we can only recommend that you visit regularly The Cochrane Collaboration web site to follow the news connected with policy decisions, updates of materials for authors, and software programmes. See <http://www.cochrane.org>

Information about workshops run in different countries you will find at <http://www.cochrane.org/news/workshops.shtml>

CLINICAL-PRACTICE RESEARCH METHODS WORKSHOP

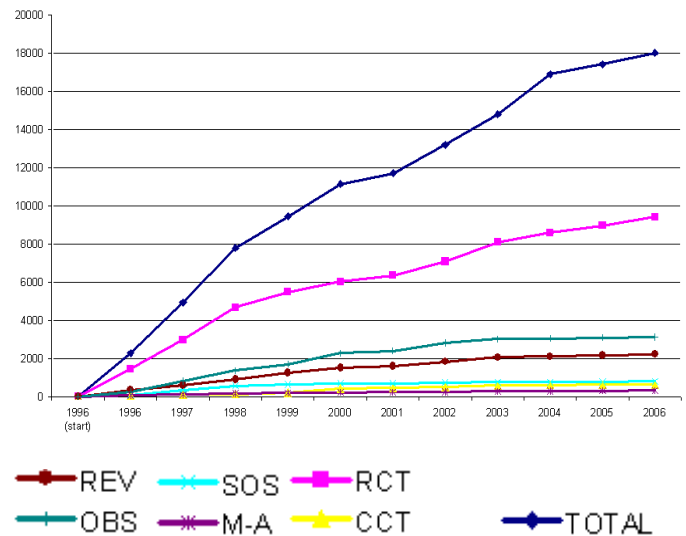
October 20 to 22, 2006
 with Dave Sackett at Irish Lake, Ontario

Workshops are held twice a year for clinical epidemiology graduate students, new faculty, and

the occasional industry-based trialist. The aim is to teach how to generate successful protocols for clinical-practice research.

For more information, please go to www.davesackett.com

STATUS OF THE CHBG SPECIALIZED REGISTER

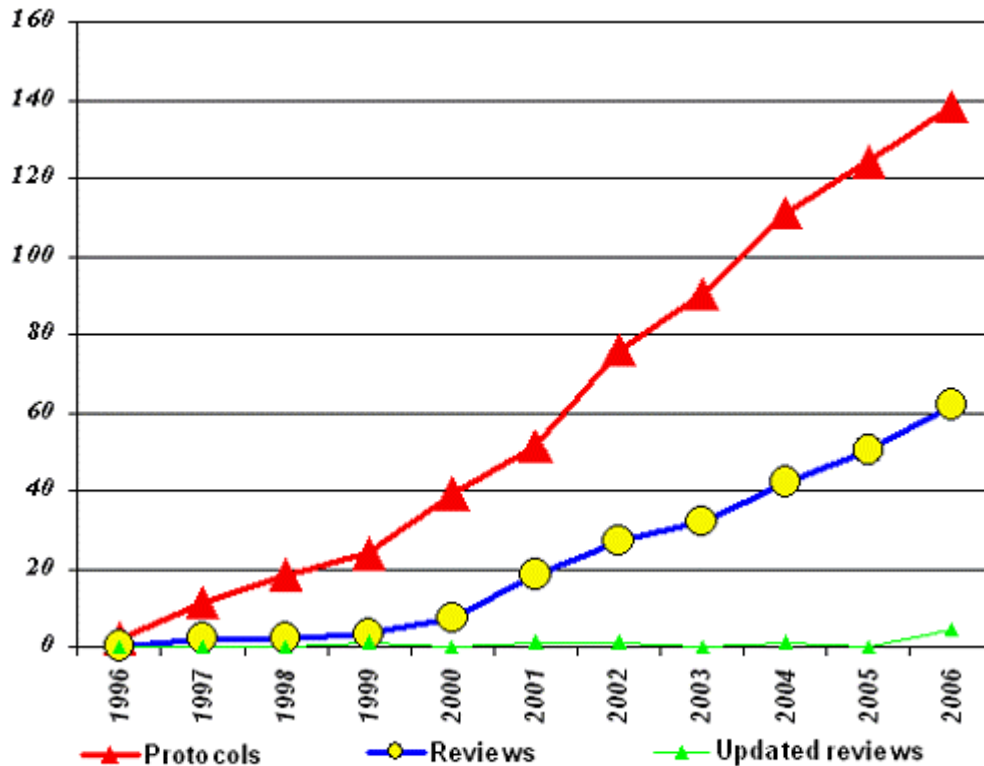


The above chart shows the references on publications collected until September 2006 on hepato-biliary diseases. Their number constantly increases with the periodic searches performed in electronic databases as well as paperback journals.

STATUS OF CHBG PUBLICATIONS

The chart on the back page shows the number of The CHBG protocols, reviews, and updated reviews published in The Cochrane Library during 1996 to 2006. The first protocols were published in Issue 3, 1996.





NOTE

The CHBG Newsletter has now acquired International Standard Serial Number (ISSN). This is a unique eight-digit number assigned to every serial publication. Information about the publication will be added to international databases. You will see it on the top right corner of the first page.

The bi-yearly Cochrane Hepato-Biliary Group (CHBG) Newsletter is written, edited, and published in electronic and paper format by staff at the CHBG Editorial Base in Copenhagen, Denmark. It is issued twice a year and distributed for free world-wide to all people on The CHBG members list who either have contributed, are contributing, or show interest in the work of The CHBG. The purpose is to inform the readers about activities within The CHBG.

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