

CHBG NEWSLETTER

The Cochrane Hepato-Biliary Group (CHBG)

October 2009

Volume 13, Issue 2

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- THE 25th COCHRANE HEPATO-BILIARY GROUP (THE CHBG) BI-ANNUAL MEETING - NOVEMBER 1, 2009

The numbering is a continuation from Vol. 13, Issue 1, 2009

NEW PUBLICATIONS IN THE CLIB ISSUE 3 AND 4, 2009

NEW REVIEWS

- 106 Antibiotic prophylaxis for leptospirosis. Brett-Major DM, Lipnick RJ.
- 107 Percutaneous ethanol injection or percutaneous acetic acid injection for early hepatocellular carcinoma. Schoppmeyer K, Weis S, Mössner J, Fleig WE.
- 108 Cryotherapy for hepatocellular carcinoma. Awad T, Thorlund K, Glud C.
- 109 Cardiopulmonary interventions to decrease blood loss and blood transfusion requirements for liver resection. Gurusamy KS, Li J, Sharma D, Davidson BR.
- 110 Pharmacological interventions for ischaemia reperfusion injury in liver resection surgery performed under vascular control. Abu-Amara M, Gurusamy KS, Glantzounis G, Fuller B, Davidson BR.
- 111 Pharmacological interventions versus no pharmacological intervention for ischaemia reperfusion injury in liver resection surgery performed under vascular control. Abu-Amara M, Gurusamy KS, Hori S, Glantzounis G, Fuller B, Davidson BR.
- 112 Pharmacological interventions to decrease blood loss and blood transfusion requirements for liver resection. Gurusamy KS, Li J, Sharma D, Davidson BR.
- 113 Pentoxifylline for alcoholic hepatitis. Whitfield K, Rambaldi A, Wetterslev J, Glud C.

UPDATED REVIEWS

32. Ribavirin monotherapy for chronic hepatitis C. Brok J, Glud LL, Glud C.

NEW PROTOCOLS

- 223 Antiviral treatments for lamivudine-resistant



- chronic hepatitis B adult patients. Fisher A, Musini VM, Bassett K.
- 224 Naloxone for hepatic encephalopathy. Sun SL, Yang KH, Jing T, Zhang J, Tian JH, Ma B, Yin H.
- 225 Pegylated interferon plus ribavirin versus non-pegylated interferon plus ribavirin for chronic hepatitis C. Awad T, Brok J, Thorlund K, Hauser G, Stimac D, Mabrouk M, Gluud C, Gluud LL.

In addition, The CHBG has published another fourteen protocols that have been withdrawn within the years since they were either abandoned, replaced, or the review title has been changed.

UPDATED PROTOCOLS

None.

NEW REGISTERED TITLES

- 326 Percutaneous ethanol injection for liver metastases. Riemsma RP, Bala M, Wolff R, Kleijnen J.
- 327 Albumin or colloids for prevention of hepatorenal syndrome in spontaneous bacterial peritonitis. Gluud LL, Langholz E.
- 328 Transarterial (chemo)embolisation versus other non-surgical ablation methods for liver metastases. Kleijnen J, Riemsma RP, Wolffe R, Bala M.
- 329 Electro-coagulation for liver metastases. Wolffe R, Bala M, Kleijnen J, Riemsma RP.
- 330 Transarterial (chemo)embolisation versus no intervention or placebo (sham) intervention for liver metastases. Riemsma RP, Kleijnen J, Wolffe R, Bala M.
- 331 Cryotherapy for liver metastases. Kleijnen J, Riemsma RP, Wolffe R, Bala M.
- 332 Microwave coagulation for liver metastases. Riemsma RP, Wolffe R, Bala M, Kleijnen J
- 333 Glycirrhizin for chronic hepatitis B virus infection. Liu JP.
- 334 Sophorus species for chronic hepatitis B virus infection. Liu JP.
- 335 Phyllanthus species for chronic hepatitis B virus infection. Liu JP.
- 336 Extended peginterferon plus ribavirin treatment for 72 weeks versus standard peginterferon plus ribavirin treatment for 48 weeks for patients with chronic hepatitis C virus genotype 1 infection having shown slow antiviral response. Tur-Kaspa R, Gafter-Gvili A, Katz LH.
- 337 Antibiotic prophylaxis for obstructive jaundice. Abu-Amara M, Gurusamy KS.
- 338 Elastography for the diagnosis of chronic liver disease. Gurusamy KS, Burroughs AK, Davidson BR.
- 339 Perfusion techniques for liver retrieval in liver donors. Gurusamy KS, Davidson BR.
- 340 Branched-chain amino acid supplements for liver disease in children. Fan J.

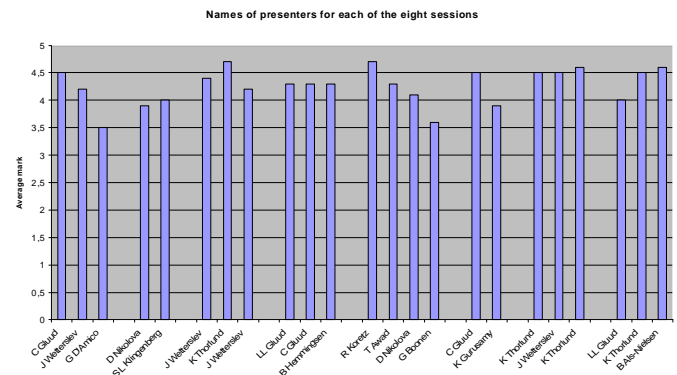
PAST EVENTS

THE CHBG'S TWO-DAYS' MONOTHEMATIC CONFERENCE ON SYSTEMATIC REVIEWS AND META-ANALYSES: FROM CLINICAL RESEARCH TO CLINICAL PRACTICE

The CHBG monothematic conference was run in April on 20 and 21, 2009 at the Panum Institute, in Copenhagen, Denmark. There were between 29 and 38 people attending the eight sessions with 23 presentations.

Twenty-three to twenty-nine attendants submitted evaluation forms. The marks used for the assessment of the presenters were from 1 to 5, where 1 = poor; 2 = reasonable; 3 = satisfactory; 4 = good; and 5 = excellent.

The average mark for all the 23 presentations is 4.3. The mark of the individual presenters is given in Fig 1. The slide presentations can be found on <http://ctu.rh.dk/chbg>



The highest mark was given to Ronlad L. Koretz, USA, for his presentation 'Does making a test better make a patient better: surrogate outcomes in liver disease'.

The additional three general questions received an average mark of 4.2; the highest average mark was given to question No. 3 (What is your overall evaluation of the conference?), followed by 4.2 to question No. 2 (How much did the conference as a



whole fulfil the objective of facilitating learning in evidence-based medicine?), and lastly, an average mark of 3.9 to question No. 1 (How much, through the conference, did we contribute to improving your knowledge on evidence-based medicine?).

We thank all people for their input and participation in the conference. The programme was broadcasted with the March issue of 2009 of The CHBG Newsletter and the slides are available at <http://ctu.rh.dk/chbg>.

THE 24TH BI-ANNUAL CHBG MEETING AND EXHIBITION STAND DURING THE 44TH ANNUAL EASL MEETING, COPENHAGEN
April 23, 2009

The two-hours meeting focused on diagnostic test accuracy systematic reviews and studies. We thank all attendants and presenters.

The exhibition stand gave us the possibility to meet not only with CHBG authors and peer reviewers, but also very many interested in our work people. We thank all people who visited The CHBG stand.

CHBG EDITORS' MEETING
Copenhagen, Denmark
April 23, 2009

The Editors' meeting took place in the afternoon of 23 of April at The CHBG Editorial Team Office in the Panum Institute, Copenhagen. After a short presentation on the status of the CHBG work, the meeting followed the remaining agenda items that encompassed editorial issues such as ways to improve editorial processes in terms of editors' responses, quality of submitted comments, deadlines on submission of comments, monitoring and evaluation of editors' performance, expectations ensuing from the roles of an editor, commitment of contributors, and alike. The possibility of establishing CHBG satellite groups was also discussed.

It was also agreed that reviews void of randomised clinical trials shall still be published in The Cochrane Library. In lack of randomised trials, authors may also choose to prepare reviews based on observational studies, but as a Cochrane Handbook on reviews based on observational studies has not yet been finalised, authors should be cautious in summarising the findings.

Mirella Fraquelli, Agostino Colli, and Dario Conte from Italy were invited to become CHBG editors on diagnostic test accuracy reviews and they gladly accepted. Kristian Thorlund was at that time trained to

become a statistical editor, and Kristian Thorlund is now also on board.

The performance of all CHBG Editors will be evaluated in May 2010, and if any of the editors does not live up to the Groups's expectations or does not perform their duties as required, she or he will be asked to step down from the Editorial Board of The CHBG.

We wish all old and new editors fruitful work with The CHBG!

THE CHBG SYMPOSIUM 2009 AND EXHIBITION STAND DURING THE DDW 2009
Chicago, Illinois, USA
June 1, 2009

The CHBG symposium 'Evidence-based management of end-stage liver disease' was held on June 1, 2009 from 2:15 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. at McCormick Place, Chicago. Intervention reviews from the Hepato-Biliary Group were presented. Ronald L. Koretz and Christian Gluud co-chaired the meeting. The interest was great, and the discussions were lively.

The CHBG stand was also well attended.

CONGRESSO NACIONAL DE GASTROENTEROLOGIA, ENDOSCOPIA DIGESTIVA E HEPATOLOGIA
Porto, Portugal
18 June to 20 June 2009

Christian Gluud gave a talk on the risk of random errors in portal hypertension trials. The abstracts from the congress are published in 'Journal Português de Gastroenterologia' 2009;16:4.

Porto was as always a gem.

EVIDENCE-BASED CLINICAL PRACTICE WORKSHOP: THE ARCHITECTURE OF PROGNOSTIC STUDIES AND DIAGNOSTIC STUDIES
Gargnano, Garda Lake, Italy
30 September to 3 October, 2009

The workshop was organised by the Centro Interuniversitario "Thomas C. Chalmers", Fondazione IRCCS Ospedale Policlinico Mangiagalli e Regina Elena – Italy, The Cochrane Multiple Sclerosis Group, Fondazione Istituto Nazionale Neurologico Besta, Milan, Italy, and The Cochrane Hepato-Biliary Group, Rigshospitalet, Copenhagen, Denmark.



The workshop aimed at educating medical doctors in the basics of prognostic and diagnostic studies as well as performance of systematic reviews on diagnostic test accuracy studies. The workshop was attended by 16 participants from Italy and 12 from abroad. Additionally, there were 13 people in the faculty. The break out sessions contained group exercises based on the morning sessions. The workshop finished with an examination, and all participants obtained a diploma. Participants evaluated highly the content of the presentations and the obtained knowledge, and recommended that the workshop be repeated also in 2010. Some of the participants recommended that there should be more case stories presented and more time for discussing them.

People interested in the workshop may find the slide presentations on The CHBG website <http://ctu.rh.dk/chbg>

The venue of the workshop was a university house on the coast of the Garda lake in the town of Gargnano. The view was breathtaking!

We extend our thanks to the Italian hosts.

FUTURE EVENTS

17TH COCHRANE COLLOQUIUM The Lion City-state, Singapore October 11 to 14, 2009

The Singapore Cochrane Centre will host the 2009 Colloquium. It will be held October 11 to 14, 2009 in The Lion City-state of Singapore, Singapore and this is the first Cochrane colloquium ever held in Asia.

For information visit

<http://www.colloquium09.com/index.shtml>.

Abstracts from the previous colloquia are to be found at <http://cochrane.org/colloquia/abstracts/>, where the abstracts of the present colloquium will be uploaded.

THE 25TH BI-ANNUAL CHBG MEETING AND EXHIBITION STAND DURING THE 60TH ANNUAL AASLD MEETING

Boston, USA

November 1, 2009

The CHBG will hold a meeting on November 1 from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm. The program encompasses hepato-biliary group systematic reviews to be published in The Cochrane Library. The program was sent in September by e-mail to all CHBG members with e-mail addresses. It is also attached within this Newsletter. You are most welcome to attend the

meeting; no registration is required.

The CHBG will also have a stand. We will be happy to answer any questions that you might have on The CHBG products and work.

VISITS

Frederik Keus, Holland, worked at the Editorial Team Office from 20 of April to 23 of April 2009 on the overview of 'Open, small-incision, or laparoscopic cholecystectomy for patients with symptomatic cholecystolithiasis. An overview of Cochrane Hepato-Biliary Group reviews' review.

Rosanna Simonetti, Italy, worked at the Editorial Team Office from 20 of April to 27 of April 2009 on the 'Albumin and other plasma expanders for paracentesis treatment of ascites in cirrhotic patients'.

Ronald Koretz, USA, worked at the Editorial Team Office from 20 of April to 29 of April 2009 on the 'Nutritional support for liver disease' review.

Nazir Ibrahim, Syrian Arab Republic, worked at the Editorial Team Office from 20 April to 26 of April 2009 on the 'Interferon beta for chronic hepatitis B' and on 'Interferon gamma for chronic hepatitis B' reviews.

Goran Bjelakovic, Serbia, worked at the Editorial Team Office from 19 of April to 26 of April 2009 on 'Vitamin D supplementation for prevention of mortality in adults' review.

Jane Campus and Marlyn Arguilas from the Phillipines and a number of other CHBG members attending the two-days' CHBG monothematic conference, the CHBG Editors' meeting, The CHBG biannual meeting, and the EASL 2009 meeting in Copenhagen paid us a visit at the Editorial Team Office between 20 and 27 of April 2009.

Aleksander Nagorni, Serbia, worked at the Editorial Team Office from 28 June to 6 July 2009. Alexander was trained in RevMan 5, performance of systematic review, and was introduced to Trial Sequential Analyses. From July 6 to July 12, Alexander Nagorni worked with The Colorectal Cancer Group on the 'Colonoscopic polypectomy for prevention of colorectal cancer' review.

Mirella Fraquelli, Italy, worked at the Editorial Team Office from 1 to 7 of September 2009 on the 'Non-steroid anti-inflammatory drugs for biliary colics' review.



Vanja Giljak and Goran Propat, both from Serbia, worked at the Editorial Team Office from 3 of September to 7 of October 2009 on the updates of four outdated systematic reviews. These are: Bile acids for liver-transplanted patients, Bile acids for primary sclerosing cholangitis, Methotrexate for primary biliary cirrhosis, Glucocorticosteroids for primary sclerosing cholangitis. We hope that the updated reviews will be published in Issue 2, 2010 of The CLib, replacing the previously published versions.

The CHBG staff at the Editorial Team office thanks all people for their visit, participation, and appreciation of The CHBG work.

STAFF CHANGES

Editors on diagnostic test accuracy reviews

Mirella Fraquelli, Italy (mfracuelli@yahoo.it), Agostino Colli, Italy (a.colli@ospedale.lecco.it), and Dario Conte, Italy (dario.conte@unimi.it) are welcomed as Editors on Diagnostic Test Accuracy Reviews of The CHBG.

Statistical Editor

Kristian Thorlund, Denmark is from September 2009 appointed Statistical Editor of The CHBG.

MORE ON WORKING WITH REVIEW MANAGER 5 (REVMAN) AND ARCHIE

If you forget your password, then you can request a new password or a reminder of your Archie user name and an Archie user account from the Archie login screen (<http://archie.cochrane.org/>).

Having logged into Archie, you can view and edit your contact details. As an author, you can view a copy of the latest version or any previous versions of your protocols and reviews. In order to work on the review, you will need to check it out of Archie into RevMan 5. Users are strongly encouraged to find answers to their questions in 'Help' of Archie and RevMan 5 before they contact The Editorial Team office as we are overburdened with questions. From the Information Management System web site (<http://www.cc-ims.net/Projects/newIMS>) one can find links to other pages giving answers to questions.

LICENCE TO PUBLISH FORM

Licence to publish form is required before submitting your protocol or review for publication in The Cochrane Library. The Licence to Publish form can be downloaded from 'File' and 'Reports', and 'Licence to publish form' in RevMan 5. It is the responsibility of the contact author to ensure that all co-authors have

signed it and that it is received at the Editorial Team Office prior to the protocol or review publication.

OTHER FORMS WE REQUEST YOU TO USE

We have placed several new forms on The CHBG web site, and we kindly suggest that people use them when they wish to register a new title, or before submission of their protocol or their review to the CHBG Editorial Team office. These forms are embedded in the text within 'From title to review' and 'Contact' headings, so one should click on the word 'here' that comes within the text in order to open the respective form. Peer reviewers will also be able to submit electronically the forms for comments, which are also embedded in the text within 'From title to review' on The CHBG web site. There is also an embedded form for new members under 'Contact'.

COCHRANE STYLE GUIDE

www.cochrane.org/style/csg.htm

Authors are requested to use The Cochrane Style Guide (4th edition) when working on their protocols and reviews. The Style Guide has been updated to reflect users' experience with Review Manager 5 and other feedback. A full list of changes is available in the Cochrane Style Guide.

PRESS RELEASE: WHO PROVIDES PRIMARY STATUS TO THE PAN AFRICAN CLINICAL TRIALS REGISTRY IN AFRICA

25 September 2009

The Hague/Cape Town

The Pan-African Clinical Trials Registry (PACTR) has been accepted as a primary clinical trials registry – the first World Health Organization (WHO) endorsed trials registry in Africa. This registry will feed data into the global WHO International Clinical Trials Registry Platform (ICTRP) search portal facilitating African representation in the global picture of planned, ongoing and completed clinical trials. The Registry is currently funded by the European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP) and coordinated by the South African Cochrane Centre (SACC) at the Medical Research Council (MRC). "We are delighted to be able to offer access to a WHO primary register to all trialists in Africa. We hope the PACTR will become the first choice for African trial registration," says Nandi Siegfried, co-director at the SACC.

In September 2004, the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) stated that all 11 member journals would adopt a registration policy to promote comprehensive trial registration as a solution to the problem of selective awareness



(<http://www.icmje.org/clintrial.pdf>). Thus clinical trials must be publicly registered before the first participants are enrolled if the intention is to publish findings in member medical journals which include leading journals such as The Lancet, JAMA and NEJM.

Professor Charles Mgone, EDCTP Executive Director, explained that since June 2009 the African registry has expanded from a disease-specific registry to cater for clinical trials on all diseases transitioning to the PACTR. Researchers conducting clinical trials in Africa who use PACTR as their registry of choice will meet international requirements for research transparency.

Davina Ghersi, head of WHO's International Clinical Trials Registry Platform (ICTRP), says the approval of PACTR as a primary trials registry is a significant milestone in the quest for transparency. "Our hope is that the PACTR will make it easier to capture information about trials involving people in the region. We look forward to filling the gap in our knowledge about clinical trials in Africa."

Since registries "provide an essential tool to assess completeness of the information about all initiated trials" and are the "necessary first step to enable identification of all trials" and the "tracking of their results" (Moja et.al.,

<http://www.trialsjournal.com/content/10/1/56>), having an African based registry will benefit both Africa and the world as PACTR will actively encourage trial registration.

"Registering a clinical trial greatly increases exposure of the trial and assists researchers in determining gaps in research, thus reducing the likelihood of duplication of research and wasted funding and man-power," says Professor Charles Mgone.

Dr Siegfried further says that it is the intention for PACTR to become the single reference point for clinical trials activities in Africa. "The registry will feed directly into the global WHO International Clinical Trials Search Portal, thus ensuring African representation in this global search engine".

Additionally, the PACTR's database will include regularly downloaded information from the South African National Clinical Trials Registry (SANCTR) and will continue to build information sharing networks with national or other localised registries.

Background information:

In response to the need to increase transparency and facilitate registration by African researchers, the HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (ATM) Clinical Trials Registry was first established in 2007.

African trialists face additional challenges in trial registration, such as limited, unreliable and costly access to the internet. Quite often, African collaborators in multi-country clinical trials need to request their partners on other continents to register the trial for them. Because of these obstacles, there is serious underreporting of clinical trials that are conducted on the African continent.

The PACTR seeks to provide feasible ways of overcoming these. It is a registry which is developed by Africans for Africans. Trials may be registered online (via the internet if access is sufficiently reliable) but they may also be registered by email, postal mail or facsimile. Registration is free, and information on registered trials is free of charge and easy to access through the registry's search function.

Source:

<http://www.edctp.org/Announcement.403+M5701cef5280.0.html>

RECOMMENDED BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS

Liver: A Complete Book on Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Diseases. Authors: Mamun-Al-Mahtab and Salimur Rahman. Publisher: Elsevier 2008.

You may read feedback on the book at <http://www.elsevierhealthindia.com>

The book contains 69 chapters on liver, pancreas, and biliary diseases. It provides up-to-date information on topics related to their anatomy, physiology, and diseases. It discusses all aspects of diseases ranging from epidemiology to prognosis. This book also covers disease pattern of South-Asian region. It also includes examples from the entire Indian subcontinent. This book has contributors from all over the world. We hope that anyone around the world will find this book useful.

Dr Mamun-Al-Mahtab is a hepatologist and resides in Bangladesh. He is a CHBG member. Christian Gluud, Denmark, has contributed with a chapter entitled 'Evidence-Based Clinical Practice in Hepatology'.

Statistical Development of Quality in Medicine. Authors Per Winkel and Nien Fan Zhang. Publisher: John Wiley and Sons Ltd 2007.

You may read feedback on the book at <http://www.amazon.co.uk>.

The book presents the statistical concepts behind the application of industrial quality control methods. Filled with numerous case studies and worked examples, the text enables the reader to choose the



relevant control chart, to critically apply it, improve it if necessary, and monitor its stability. Furthermore, the reader is provided with the necessary background to critically assess the literature on the application of control charts and risk adjustment and to apply the findings.

The book is primarily aimed at health care officials, and personnel responsible for developing and controlling the quality of health care services. However, it is also ideal for statisticians working with health care problems, diagnostic and pharmaceutical companies, and graduate students of quality control.

Why are Cochrane hepato-biliary reviews undervalued by physicians as an aid for clinical decision-making? by **L Pagliaro, P Bruzzi, and M Bobbio**, to be published in the **Digestive and Liver Disease** journal. You may find it at <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19665955> [(August 7, 2009) ahead of print].

The article deals with some critical problems that The CHBG needs to face as CHBG reviews seem to be not sufficiently valued and used by physicians. As the interest to the CHBG work increases, we hope to change this situation into a better with our combined efforts.

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 in paper and electronic formats world-wide to all people on The CHBG members' list who have contributed, are contributing, or have shown interest in the work of The CHBG. The purpose with The CHBG Newsletter is to inform its readers about activities within The CHBG.

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THE 25th COCHRANE HEPATO-BILIARY GROUP (The CHBG)

BI-ANNUAL MEETING

DURING

THE 60th ANNUAL AASLD MEETING, Boston - USA

PROGRAM

Date: 11/1/2009

Time: 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Meeting room: Hampton A

Place: Sheraton Boston Hotel

Chairs: Ronald L. Koretz (USA) and Christian Gluud (Denmark)

6:30 pm – 6:35 pm	Welcome and presentation of the programme.	RL Koretz (USA).
6:35 pm – 7:00 pm	Architecture of diagnostic research.	C Gluud (Denmark).
7:00 pm – 7:05 pm	Discussion.	
7:05 pm – 7:25 pm	Elastography for the diagnosis of fibrosis in chronic liver disease. A Diagnostic Test Accuracy review.	<u>E Tsochatzis</u> , KS Gurusamy, BR Davidson, AK Burroughs (UK).
7:25 pm – 7:30 pm	Discussion.	
7:30 pm – 7:50 pm	Vasoconstrictor drugs for hepatorenal syndrome - is the duration of the response important?	LL Gluud, K Christensen, E Christensen, <u>A Krag</u> (Denmark).
7:50 pm – 7:55 pm	Discussion.	
7:55 pm – 8:15 pm	Peginterferon alpha-2a may achieve higher sustained virological response than peginterferon alpha-2b in chronic hepatitis C: systematic review.	<u>T Awad</u> (Denmark), K Thorlund (Denmark), G Hauser (Croatia), D Stimac (Croatia), M Mabrouk (Egypt), C Gluud (Denmark).
8:15 pm – 8:20 pm	Discussion.	
8:20 pm – 8:30 pm	Any other business.	C Gluud (Denmark).