

# Biennial Report 2017 & 2018

Cochrane Switzerland



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# Foreword

“The only thing that is constant is change” - this sentence commonly ascribed to Heraclitus encapsulates quite well the past two years in and around Cochrane Switzerland. In this Biennial Report for the years 2017 and 2018 we describe our activities in the domains outlined in our Strategic Plan. During this time the institutional set-up around us but also the composition of our own team saw some important changes:

In early 2017, it became clear that our host institution, the Institute for Social and Preventive Medicine (IUMSP) would undergo a radical transformation. It was decided to dissolve the whole department of the Lausanne University Hospital, of which IUMSP was a part, and to form a new academic centre, the Centre for Primary Care and Public Health (Unisanté) as a merger of several institutes of the Canton of Vaud with similar missions. Now, two years later, a transition period comes to a close that was marked by some uncertainties and we look forward to the future work within the new set-up. What remained certain were our current premises – you still find us on the Biopôle campus in Lausanne and in the House of the Academies in Berne.

In summer 2018, another important change took place when Bernard Burnand retired as director of Cochrane Switzerland. In the past two years, I was grateful not only to Bernard for his longstanding involvement but also to our team for their flexibility and commitment, for instance when taking on additional tasks during the prolonged absence of our coordinator. I was honoured to have been appointed as the new director by Cochrane’s leadership and (as co-director at this time) to have been elected as representative of the Cochrane Centres in the newly created Cochrane Council in 2017.

During the reporting period, we continued to support the production of numerous Cochrane reviews in Switzerland in different ways from answering a quick technical question to substantial involvement as co-authors. Regarding our own reviews, a highlight was the updated methods review “Full publication of results initially presented in meeting abstracts” published in November 2018 together with co-authors from Germany and the USA. It now includes no less than 425 studies. In line with Cochrane’s new Knowledge Translation Strategy, we have put quite some emphasis on activities to make Cochrane evidence known in Switzerland. The continued country-wide free access to the Cochrane Library has been critical for these efforts; we hope it can be renewed after 2020. With the German-speaking evidence users in mind, we contributed blog posts to the Cochrane blog “Wissen was wirkt” and attracted competitive funding to translate plain language summaries for “Cochrane Kompakt”. Both are joint projects together with our colleagues in Germany and Austria. Our efforts in capacity building were marked by a new two-week workshop that we developed together with the WHO HRP Alliance for mid-career researchers from low- and middle-income countries and carried out in autumn 2017 and 2018.

The following pages will give you a much more detailed overview of all these activities. We are curious to know about your feedback, suggestions and questions – stay in touch!



Erik von Elm, MD MSc  
Director Cochrane Switzerland

# 1. Key activities

Our activities during the past two years were aligned with the four main objectives in Cochrane's "Strategy to 2020": producing evidence, making evidence available, advocating for evidence and developing the organization. Our own strategic plan is consistent with this broader strategy while adjusting it to the healthcare setting in Switzerland and the resources available to our Associate Centre.

## 1.1. Producing evidence

### 1.1.1 Courses and workshops

Cochrane Switzerland provides a number of training opportunities during the year. These are courses and workshops at introductory level aiming to increasing awareness and interest in using or conducting systematic reviews and more advanced workshops aiming to strengthen methodological and statistical capacity of current and new review authors.

In 2017 and 2018, we organised or contributed to in the following training events:

- **Introductory course for Cochrane review authors (March 2018):** This three-day course was organised jointly with Cochrane Germany and Cochrane Austria and, this time, held in Freiburg / Germany. A total of 32 participants took part. They learned the basic concepts and skills that are needed to conduct a Cochrane intervention review. The course addressed topics such as the definition of the review question, protocol development, systematic literature searches in electronic databases, selection of studies, risk of bias evaluation, data extraction, meta-analysis and interpretation of findings. It also introduced participants to Cochrane's software Review Manager and the GRADE framework. In the previous year, the course could not be held due to the small number of registrations.
- **Meta-analysis: advanced methods using STATA (September 2017 and 2018):** This 2.5-day course was attended by about 12 participants in both years; most of them with a background in medical statistics or systematic reviews. The course was held by our statistician Patrick Taffé and tackled the theoretical foundation and techniques needed to carry out meta-analyses using the STATA software. It was preceded by an optional one-day refresher for the use of the statistical package STATA.
- **IUMSP & WHO HRP Alliance research methods training course (September/October 2017 and November 2018):** With a mandate by the WHO Human Reproduction Programme (HRP) Alliance we organised a two-week course, jointly with the IUMSP unit for qualitative research. Together with the WHO HRP team we developed a course curriculum with the overarching perspective of implementation research. In the first week, the focus was on the skills needed to conduct systematic reviews, and during the second week on methods of qualitative research.

Cochrane Switzerland was in charge of the content of the first course week. The training was specifically developed for mid-career researchers in sexual and reproductive health from low-income countries, where such training opportunities are not available. Participants were identified through the partner institutions of the HRP Alliance in the participating countries. In both years, the course was attended by a very diverse group of about 20 participants, many of whom travelled to Switzerland or even Europe for the first time. The programme included time to interact with staff of the WHO HRP Alliance during the course and a full-day visit to the WHO headquarters in Geneva.

- **SSPH+ Symposium “How to improve the use of evidence-based health (care) information in practice and policy? The role of rapid reviews and policy briefs, and their synergistic effects” (November 2018):** The two-day symposium was jointly organised together with IUMSP and the University of Lucerne and supported by the Swiss School of Public Health SSPH+. On the first day, it included plenary presentations by two international speakers and small group discussions on ways to produce high-quality evidence on specific health (care) issues in a timely and suitable manner. The second day was devoted to a short course about the conduct of rapid reviews delivered by members of the Cochrane Rapid Reviews Methods Group. Both days were fully booked with about 48 participants on Day 1 and 33 participants on Day 2.

Our team was also involved in under- and postgraduate teaching on methods of evidence-based medicine at Swiss universities and applied universities as well as academic institutions abroad. In 2017 and 2018 these training events included:

- **Introductory module on clinical research methods (February 2017 and 2018):** Undergraduate teaching of 3<sup>rd</sup> year medical students, Faculty of Biology and Medicine, University of Lausanne.
- **Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS) in Clinical Research Methods (December / February 2017 and 2018):** Lectures about systematic reviews in the curriculum organised by IUMSP as well as in the optional module “Systematic Reviews and Meta-analyses” organised by the Clinical Epidemiology Unit in the curriculum of the Faculty of Medicine at University of Geneva.
- **Cochrane systematic reviews & critical appraisal (November 2018):** Full-day seminar in advanced module “Evidence-based Medicine” of the Master of Advanced Studies (MAS) in Insurance Medicine, University of Basel.
- **Seminar and journal club on reporting guidelines (March 2017 and 2018):** Half-day course in the curriculum of the European Master of Science in Epidemiology at the Institute for Medical Biometry, Epidemiology and Informatics (IMBEI) at the University of Mainz, Germany.
- **Lecture about Cochrane Crowd (August 2018):** 6th Symposium of Swiss medical librarians supporting research, education and clinical practice (“Meet & Greet”) at University of Bern.
- **Lecture about the national provision for the Cochrane Library (September 2017):** Introductory day about electronic resources (eDay) of the Medical Library (Fachbereichsbibliothek Bühlplatz) at University of Bern.

### 1.1.2 Systematic review projects

In 2017 and 2018, we worked on several systematic review projects. See [Annex 1](#) for the full references of projects published during these two years.

- In July 2017, team members published the first update of the Cochrane review titled “Computer-generated reminders delivered on paper to healthcare professionals: effects on professional practice and healthcare outcomes”. It is hosted by the review group Cochrane Effective Practice and Organization of Care (EPOC) and now includes 30 randomized trials and five non-randomized trials.
- Together with co-authors in the USA and Germany we completed the first update of our Cochrane review titled “Full publication of results initially presented in abstracts” in November 2018. This comprehensive methodology review now includes 425 studies (described in 551 articles) on the subsequent full publication of a total of 307,028 meeting abstracts from the biomedical and social sciences. The review provides robust evidence for the persistent underreporting of health research projects and underpins the international efforts to tackle the problem of research waste.
- Work on the Cochrane review protocol “Interventions implemented through sporting organisations for promoting healthy behaviour or improving health outcomes” has progressed but was slower than expected because two contributing co-authors changed jobs during the reporting period. We plan to update the literature search and include additional studies (if any) in 2019.
- Our ongoing review titled “Factors that influence women’s engagement with breastfeeding support: a qualitative evidence synthesis” has reached the stage of a published protocol in November 2018. This review project with the Consumer and Communication Review Group is led by our former collaborator Theresa Bengough. It is part of her ongoing PhD thesis with the Social Research Methodology Group at the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Leuven, Belgium, and will complement three existing Cochrane intervention reviews on the support for breastfeeding mothers. To tackle the anticipated workload with this review, several co-authors from the UK are now involved in the project. The screening of the retrieved literature could be completed meanwhile, and work on critical appraisal of included studies and data extraction will begin in 2019.
- Our team member Muaamar Al-Gobari has completed his PhD thesis and graduated on 19th July 2018. His thesis project to systematically review current therapeutic strategies for sudden cardiac death prevention in heart failure patients has resulted in two publications, in PLoS One in 2017 and in BMJ Open in 2018.

### 1.1.3 Contributions to Cochrane review production

As part of our overall goal to promote Cochrane review production, we supported several systematic review projects that were led by author groups in Switzerland and abroad, either as co-authors, editors, methods advisors or referees. These reviews were hosted by the following Review Groups:

- Tobacco Addiction Group;

- Drugs and Alcohol Group;
- Effective Practice and Organisation of Care Group;
- Injuries Group;
- Methods Group;
- Cochrane Work Group;
- Upper GI and Pancreatic Diseases Group;
- Consumers and Communication Group.

A full list of Cochrane Reviews published by author teams based in Switzerland is provided in [Annex 2](#).

## 1.2. Making evidence available

The full content of the Cochrane Library with about 8000 systematic reviews is available in English but not in the three Swiss national languages. Many healthcare professionals in the country access and read health information in English but prefer if it is written in their own language. Other user groups including patients and consumers groups, the media, and policy makers have a strong preference for content in the national languages. Consequently, we maintain versions of our website in French, German, Italian and English. In 2017 and 2018 we also produced new information material to draw attention to Cochrane resources. We created this material with the support of Cochrane's Central Executive Team and the publisher of the Cochrane Library, Wiley & Sons (UK). The flyers are available on our website for download and printing and were distributed at several events.

**Cochrane Suisse**

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« Notre vision est celle d'un pays où les décisions dans le domaine de la santé sont prises judicieusement grâce à des preuves scientifiques provenant de recherches de qualité, pertinentes, synthétisées et mises à jour régulièrement. »  
*Professeur Bernard Burnand, Directeur de Cochrane Suisse*

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**Cochrane Suisse**

Où trouver une information fiable pour prendre une décision dans le domaine de la santé ?

**Des données probantes  
 Des décisions éclairées  
 Une meilleure santé**

### 1.2.1 Cochrane Library national provision

Since 2016, Swiss residents have free and unrestricted access to the full content of the Cochrane Library through one-click access. This has been made possible by the continued commitment of the Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences (SAMS), the Federal Office of Public Health and the academic medical libraries with the aim to grant health professionals and the public access to a high-quality source of health information that is free from commercial interests. The current national license agreement is for the period 2016-2020. During 2017 and 2018 we have worked with SAMW and

several libraries to raise awareness and promote the use of the Cochrane Library and will continue to do so.

We are monitoring the user statistics for download of pdf-files or access to HTML full versions of Cochrane reviews on a quarterly basis. Access numbers remained stable during the past two years with about 163'000 full text reviews downloaded per year. Usage followed a seasonal pattern with peaks in spring and October/November (see graph in [Annex 3](#)). In the last quarter of 2018 Switzerland recorded the fifth highest number of full text accesses compared to other countries with a national provision for the Cochrane Library.

The joint effort of the three Cochrane Centres in the German-speaking countries for translation of the plain language summaries (Cochrane Kompakt, see Section 1.2.3) as well as the availability of such translations in French through Cochrane France further supports our efforts to make the Cochrane Library known in Switzerland.

### **1.2.2 Publications in medical education journals**

We continued our partnerships with three medical education journals in Switzerland and one in France to provide tailored information to selected professional groups:

- **physioactive:** This bi-monthly journal is published by the professional organization of physiotherapists in Switzerland physioswiss. As guest editors, we edit a series of articles about Cochrane reviews of interest to physiotherapists that are selected by two collaborating physiotherapists. In 2017, physioactive featured five such summaries, and in 2018 four.
- **Ars Medici:** This new collaboration with a bi-weekly journal for primary care practitioners has been started with a published interview with Erik von Elm in July 2017. Since then, ars medici has published several short articles on recent Cochrane reviews under the heading "Neues aus der Cochrane Library". In 2017, two summaries were published and in 2018 sixteen. For some articles, a clinical specialist was invited to comment on the findings of the Cochrane review.
- **Tribuna Medica Ticinese:** This monthly bulletin caters to health professionals in the canton of Ticino, the Italian speaking part of Switzerland. In 2017, four summaries were published in Tribuna Medica Ticinese, and in 2018 three.
- **Médecine & Enfance:** In 2018, we published one summary in the column "Coté Cochrane" of this French specialist journal for pediatricians.

See [Annex 4](#) for a full list of references to articles from 2017 and 2018 featuring Cochrane evidence in these medical education journals.

### **1.2.3 Cochrane Kompakt - Cochrane summaries in German**

We continued our active collaboration with Cochrane Germany for *Cochrane Kompakt* ([www.cochrane.org/de/kompakt](http://www.cochrane.org/de/kompakt)). This resource includes German translations of plain language summaries of Cochrane Reviews and was initiated in 2014. The focus is on recently published or updated reviews and those in selected fields of interest, for which collaborations with professional societies could be established. As of December 2018, more than 1500 German-language summaries were published in Cochrane Kompakt. In 2017 and 2018, this activity was made possible



with funding from the SANA Foundation (Bern, Switzerland). Following a joint proposal together with the Institute of Midwifery at the Zürich University of Applied Sciences (Zürcher Hochschule für Angewandte Wissenschaften - ZHAW) we received a grant allowing us to translate a total of 120 plain language summaries in the area of pregnancy and childbirth. ZHAW offers Master studies for specialised professional translators. Our joint project has enabled a collaboration that is now continuing with translation of Cochrane Kompakt content on a regular basis. A second grant from the SANA Foundation has received a positive response in December 2018 and will support the translation of 150 more plain language summaries in the area of nutrition and health in 2019.

#### 1.2.4 "Wissen Was Wirkt" - The Cochrane blog in German

The blog "Wissen Was Wirkt – Cochrane bloggt auf deutsch" ([www.wissenwaswirkt.org](http://www.wissenwaswirkt.org)) is another key collaboration with our colleagues in Germany and Austria. The blog highlights recently published Cochrane reviews, in particular those with plain language summaries already translated into German while increasing the visibility of *Cochrane Kompakt*. In addition, it covers other topics or events about evidence-based healthcare that are of interest to the blog's readership. In 2017 and 2018, the blog has become more prominent and popular. Below are some highlights and key numbers from 2017 and 2018:

- A total of **82 blog posts** were published during this two-year period. Our team contributed four articles in 2017 and six in 2018. A list of the titles is provided in [Annex 5](#).
- The blog had **about 3300 visits per month in 2018** according to Google Analytics.
- The content is also actively disseminated via a **Facebook page** with more than 800 followers and a **Twitter account** with more than 1000 followers.
- In response to the blogposts, we usually receive only few comments. In some of them readers ask for more information or give us general feedback such as the following:

*"I read several good stuff here. Certainly worth bookmarking for revisiting. I wonder how much effort you put to create such a fantastic informative website."* (June 2018)

### 1.3. Advocating for evidence

New information material specific for Cochrane Switzerland has been developed and disseminated during 2017 and 2018 at several events. We created this material with the support of Cochrane's central executive team and the publisher of the Cochrane Library, Wiley & Sons (UK). For instance, our flyers highlighted the national provision (see section 1.2), Cochrane Kompakt, or the work of Cochrane Public Health Europe.

#### 1.3.1 Work with the media

Our team members were spokespersons for healthcare-related themes in the media or provided background information to journalists on several occasions. The following are examples of activities involving Swiss media:

- **Interview, RTS 1 channel, CQFD programme (October 2017):** Many anti-cancer treatments are licensed without providing benefits in terms of quality of life. According to a study by the King's College and the London School of Economics and Political Science that was published in the BMJ, 57% of anti-cancer treatments are launched without demonstrating that they increase patients' survival or quality of life. Bernard Burnand commented on this study in an interview in the popular health programme CQFD in the French-speaking radio channel RTS 1.
- **Interview, RTS 1 channel, CQFD programme (February 2018):** Bernard Burnand was invited to join Matthias Egger in the French-speaking radio channel RTS 1 to talk about a new network meta-analysis on the effectiveness of 21 anti-depressants, that was published in The Lancet by a large consortium including Swiss researchers.
- **"Eco Santé" column in Tribune de Genève:** In 2017, we were invited to write two short articles in the column "Eco Santé" of Tribune de Genève, one of the newspapers in the canton of Geneva. The topics covered were: "Décider pour sa santé en utilisant des preuves fiables" (Making decisions for health using reliable evidence) and "L'Echinacée, un remède naturel efficace pour soigner le rhume?" (Echinacea, an effective natural medication to treat common cold).
- **Press releases in German, French and Italian:** In 2017, two press releases issued by Cochrane were translated in German, French and Italian. Both were highlighting new Cochrane reviews on "Tobacco packaging design for reducing tobacco use" and "Support for health professionals reduces unnecessary use of antibiotics in hospitals". In 2018, the press release accompanying the Cochrane Review "Prophylactic vaccination against human papillomaviruses to prevent cervical cancer and its precursors" and the review's plain language summary were translated in German on very short notice at the time of publication. This review received considerable attention in the media in Switzerland and is among the ten most downloaded Cochrane reviews in the country. Another press release of 2018 was on a new Cochrane review titled "Omega-3 fatty acid addition during pregnancy". Our translated press release was picked up by the Swiss television SRF in their health programme "Puls" in November 2018 ([www.srf.ch/sendungen/puls/omega-3-fettsaeuren-reduzieren-fruehgeburten](http://www.srf.ch/sendungen/puls/omega-3-fettsaeuren-reduzieren-fruehgeburten)).

### **1.3.2 Work with consumer organizations**

In 2017, we completed a collaborative project with the "Fédération Romande des Consommateurs" (FRC), the leading consumer organization in the French-speaking part of Switzerland. This project aimed at strengthening the exchange between healthcare consumers and professionals by involving them in dialogues. This activity is now continued by FRC under the headline "Tous consomm'acteurs de la santé" (We are all consumer/actors in healthcare) ([www.frc.ch/dossiers/tous-consommacteurs-de-la-sante](http://www.frc.ch/dossiers/tous-consommacteurs-de-la-sante)).

We also piloted an online resource that highlights Cochrane evidence on selected topics of relevance to the general public. In an electronic survey this format received positive feedback and we plan to integrate it into a new information platform in the future. The collaborative project received funding from the health promotion fund of the Canton of Vaud, the "Commission de prévention de la santé et de lutte contre les addictions" (CPLSA).

### 1.3.3 Work with professional groups

- **Cochrane Public Health Europe (CPHE)** is the European satellite of the Cochrane Public Health (CPH) review group (<http://ph.cochrane.org>). In August 2018, the editorial base of Cochrane Public Health was transferred from Melbourne to Newcastle, Australia, when the leadership of the review group changed. The new joint coordinating editors are Luke Wolfenden (University of Newcastle, Australia) and Hilary Thomson (University of Glasgow, UK). We continued to contribute to the activities of CPHE within our established network of five centers in Germany, Austria and Switzerland. We promoted the uptake of CPH evidence through emails to selected stakeholders in Swiss public health institutions at the time when new public health reviews of interest were published, and supported the review production at the editorial stage of several reviews.

Since late 2017, a major activity of CPHE was the preparation of grant proposal for a so-called "Research unit" (Forschergruppe) of the German Research Foundation (DFG). Under the lead of our colleagues at the Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich, Germany, an interdisciplinary consortium with additional partners was convened. The proposed collaborative group plans to carry out seven sub-projects over a period of six years with the aim to develop a new model of evidence-informed public health that actively involves public health practitioners in the co-production of evidence. The overall proposal includes one sub-project in Austria and one in Switzerland (co-led by Zurich and Lausanne). The overall proposal was selected by the DFG panel in charge in the first round in 2018 and will be presented in a final round in spring 2019.

**Swiss Medical Board (SMB):** As a permanent mandate we continued to be in charge of the Scientific Secretariat that supports the SMB Appraisal Committee in its role as an independent expert panel. We were involved in the production of two SMB Appraisal Reports on (1) combined drug therapy for moderate to severe Alzheimer's disease and (2) on robot-assisted surgery for prostatectomy and hysterectomy, as well as the scoping of several upcoming HTA projects that the SMB will take on. The most recent SMB report used two Cochrane reviews as the basis to assess the clinical effectiveness and safety of robot-assisted surgery interventions. In this context, we piloted the integration of a Cochrane Targeted Update of a Cochrane review last updated in December 2014 as a mandate to the Cochrane Response team in London, UK. This collaboration turned out to be a successful model for the use Cochrane evidence in the context of HTA. Upon completion, Peter Suter, past president of SMB, commented:

*"Our experience with them has been very positive. All the timelines were met and the communication with the Cochrane Response team has been effective. We would highly recommend this service, in particular if timelines are tight."*

- **Federal Office of Public Health & swissethics:** During the year 2018 we were part of a consortium led by the Swiss Clinical Trials Organization (SCTO) together with researchers of ceb Basel and the Clinical Trials Unit Basel. Within this consortium we took on a mandate by the Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH) for one project to evaluate the new Human Research Act that came into effect in 2014. Together with researchers of the ESOPE team at our host institute, we designed, implemented and conducted an online survey of more than 2000 investigators who had submitted a study protocol for approval by a Cantonal research ethics committee in 2017. This survey represents a key component of this evaluation and will inform potential adjustments of the current regulation based on the experience gathered during the

first few years since introduction of the law. The final reports of all three project parts as well as a summary have been published online by FOPH on their website (<https://bit.ly/2WoJtuT>).

- **Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences (SAMS):** In 2018 we carried out an evidence synthesis in the context of the revision of the SAMS guidance document on decisions about resuscitation (SAMW Richtlinien Reanimationsentscheidungen). We identified the evidence from systematic reviews on potential prognostic factors at time of cardiopulmonary resuscitation in children and adults in both the in-hospital and out-of-hospital setting, assessed the methodological quality of the included 21 reviews and summarized the evidence in a report. In December 2018, results were presented to the SAMS subcommittee in charge. It is planned to publish the data in a peer-reviewed journal in 2019.

### 1.3.4 Presentations at scientific meetings

Our team participated in several national and international conferences in 2017 and 2018 with oral and poster presentations. These included:

- **Annual Conference of the German Network for Evidence-based medicine (Hamburg, Germany; 9-11 March 2017):** We held a workshop titled "Cochrane für alle – Übersetzungen und Verbreitung von Cochrane-Evidenz auf Deutsch". We also had a talk in the series „Methodik“ and participated in the working group meeting of Cochrane Public Health Europe.
- **Global Evidence Summit (Cape Town, South Africa; 13-16 September 2017):** We presented results of our evaluation of the text mining tool RobotAnalyst® firstly in an oral presentation titled "Using the RobotAnalyst text-mining application to boost efficiency of literature screening: experience from a systematic review in health services research"" and secondly as part of a joint workshop together with the RobotAnalyst developers from the National Center for Text Mining, University of Manchester, UK. This collaboration has resulted in a joint publication titled "Prioritising references for systematic reviews with RobotAnalyst: A user study" in the journal Research Synthesis Methods in June 2018. At the conference we were also actively involved in meetings of several Cochrane working / strategic groups including those of the Centre Directors, the Cochrane Council, the Translation Advisory Group, and the Cochrane Public Health Group.
- **Annual Conference of the German Network for Evidence-based medicine (Graz, Austria; 8-10 March 2018):** We co-organised a workshop on "Cochrane - Evidenz für alle und zum Mitmachen!" and a stand of the three German-speaking Cochrane Centres. We also participated in the working group meeting of Cochrane Public Health Europe.
- **Cochrane Colloquium (Edinburgh, Scotland, 16-18 September 2018):** We attended the meetings of several Cochrane groups including those of the directors of the Cochrane Centres, the Cochrane Council, the Translation Advisory Group. Together with our colleagues of Cochrane Germany, we presented the knowledge translation project "Cochrane Kompakt" as a poster.
- **Swiss Public Health Conference (Basel, 22-23 November 2017):** Together with partners from EBPI Zürich we organised a workshop to present and discuss a newly developed short format

for evidence from public health reviews. This format has been developed in the Cochrane Public Health Europe network earlier and has been described with a worked example in the journal *Research Policy and Systems* (July 2018) in an article titled "Facilitating evidence uptake: development and user testing of a systematic review summary format to inform public health decision-making in German-speaking countries".

- Swiss Public Health Conference (Neuchâtel, 7-8 November 2018): We convened a workshop to promote the uptake of Cochrane's citizen science platform Cochrane Crowd. The group of participants was introduced to the RCT/CCT identification task in Cochrane Crowd and competed in a live challenge in two teams. This interactive workshop format allowed them to discover this interactive way of contributing to Cochrane's work with small tasks.

## 1.4. Developing the organisation

Team members contributed to the development of Cochrane as an international organization through their involvement in several working groups. This included representation of the Cochrane Centres as elected member of the Cochrane Council, co-chairing the Centre Directors Executive, and membership in the WHO Cochrane Working Group and the Translation Advisory Group. In May 2017 and 2018, Erik von Elm was a member of Cochrane's delegation at the 70th and 71st World Health Assembly in Geneva. Cochrane has a non-voting observer status as an accredited civil society organization in this meeting.

### 1.4.1 Our strategy

The Strategic Plan 2015-2020<sup>1</sup> of Cochrane Switzerland defines four goals and nine objectives, that continued to guide our work in the years 2017 and 2018:

<b>Goal 1:</b>	<b>Provide training in systematic reviews, and contribute to Cochrane Reviews and development of review methodology.</b>
Objective 1.1	Train researchers, healthcare professionals and other interested groups in the principles and methodology of systematic reviews. We aim to capacitate and motivate people to contribute to reviews in their discipline and thus increase the number of contributors residing in Switzerland.
Objective 1.2	Carry out systematic reviews on Swiss priority healthcare concerns. Our team is already involved in conducting systematic reviews. Targeting these reviews to Swiss healthcare priorities will facilitate awareness-raising for evidence-informed decision making.
Objective 1.3	Contribute to the further development of Cochrane methodologies, especially in the areas of public health, and in the organisation and delivery of effective healthcare practices. Cochrane Switzerland aims to continue its active involvement in the European Satellite of the Cochrane Public Health Group and in the Cochrane Effective Practice and Organisation of Care Group (EPOC).
<b>Goal 2:</b>	<b>Increase the use of evidence in healthcare by making it accessible to key actors of the Swiss health system.</b>
Objective 2.1	Make Cochrane evidence accessible in the three national languages of Switzerland (French, German, Italian). Until recently, most of the Cochrane evidence was available in English only. For consumer and patient groups, the general public, but also for many health practitioners, the language represents a barrier to access and use of scientific evidence. Cochrane, in its <i>Strategy to 2020</i> , acknowledges the urgency to address language needs and identifies a number of targets to increase access through multi-lingual content. Cochrane Switzerland will build on these activities and implement additional activities where needed to address the language needs of Swiss stakeholders.
Objective 2.2	Respond to user needs and align communication formats and channels to these needs. This objective complements Objective 2.1 but emphasises increasing access by using various communication approaches.
Objective 2.3	Liaise with media to raise awareness of the available evidence and resources. Media in Switzerland (as well as elsewhere) report almost daily on new diagnostic tests or treatments. It is often not clear what evidence is used in these reports and how trustworthy this evidence is. With this objective, we aim to increase the use of evidence by the media in their reporting on health issues.
<b>Goal 3:</b>	<b>Advocate for evidence and make Cochrane's work known in Switzerland.</b>
Objective 3.1	Advocate for evidence-informed healthcare decision making, and for Cochrane and its resources as the 'home of evidence'. We acknowledge that decision making is influenced by many factors at national and cantonal levels, but focus our approach on how evidence can be accessed and used so that it can start playing a larger role in decision making.
<b>Goal 4:</b>	<b>Build an effective and sustainable structure for Cochrane Switzerland to carry out its work.</b>
Objective 4.1	Develop Cochrane Switzerland into a sustainable structure serving the needs of patients and healthcare professionals in Switzerland. This objective focuses on developing a process and structure that facilitates the participation of stakeholders in the work of Cochrane Switzerland.
Objective 4.2	Actively contribute to the international activities of Cochrane, especially through the various Cochrane Review Groups and the Cochrane Fields.

<sup>1</sup> Cochrane Switzerland. Strategic Plan 2015-2020. Available from: <http://swiss.cochrane.org/sites/swiss.cochrane.org/files/uploads/pdf/Strategic%20plan%202015-2020.pdf>

### **1.4.2 Partnerships and involvement in professional groups**

Cochrane Switzerland has been hosted by the Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine (IUMSP) at Lausanne University Hospital (CHUV) until end of 2018. Through this continued commitment IUMSP has been our main funder during the reporting period as before. In 2017, a comprehensive reorganisation of several academic institutions affiliated with CHUV has been launched by the Canton of Vaud, which took more concrete forms during 2018. As a consequence, our host institution was formally merged with the Department of Ambulatory Care and Community Medicine (Policlinique Médical Universitaire) and several other institutions to become a large academic health centre, the Center for Primary Care and Public Health (Unisanté) of the University of Lausanne.

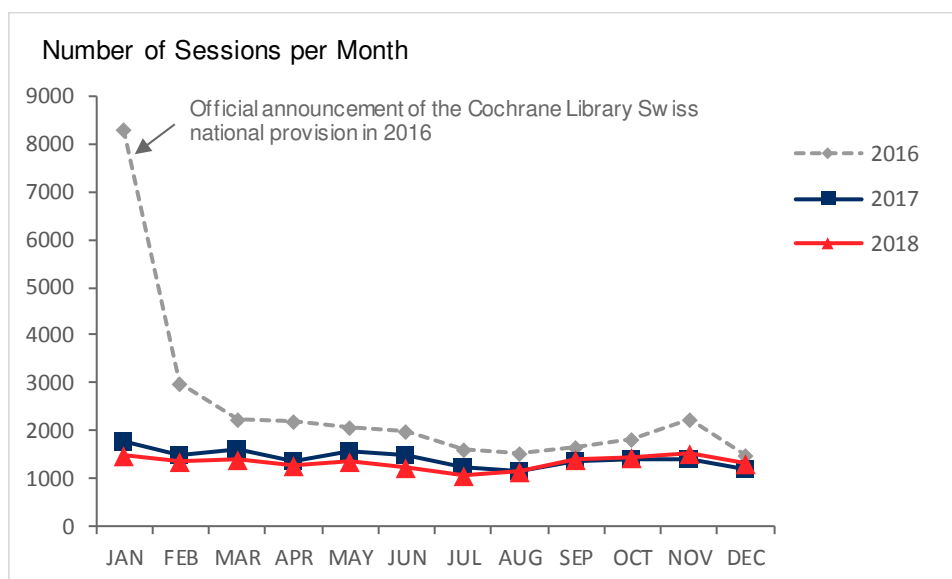
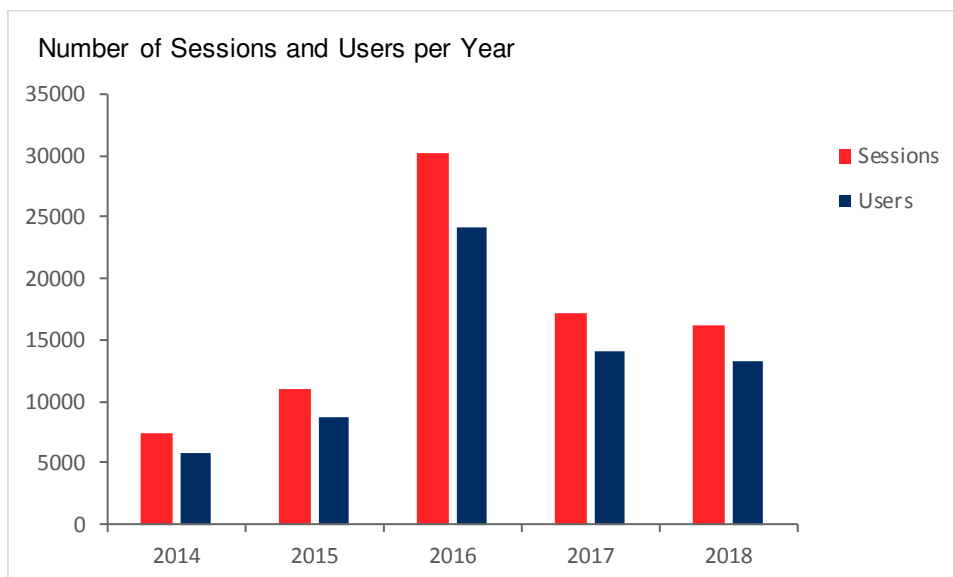
Besides the local involvement, our team members were active in a range of national and international networks, advisory bodies, and professional associations. These activities contribute to the promotion of Cochrane's role in evidence-based healthcare. In 2017 and 2018, memberships included:

- Coordination pour l'Evaluation des Pratiques Professionnelles en Santé en Rhône-Alpes (CEPPRAL);
- Federal Commission on Mandatory insurance, Federal Office of Public Health (CFPP-ELGK);
- Enhancing the QUALity and Transparency Of health Research (EQUATOR Network);
- Scientific Advisory Committee on the Quality Strategy for the Swiss Health Care System, Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH);
- Fédération Romande des Consommateurs (FRC);
- German Network for Evidence-based Medicine (DNEbM);
- Grading of Recommendations Assessment, Development and Evaluation (GRADE) Working Group;
- International Methodology Consortium on Coded Health Information (IMECCHI);
- Public Health Switzerland;
- Réseau d'Epidémiologie Clinique International Francophone (RECIF-Euro-Mediterranean branch of INCLIN (International Network on Clinical Epidemiology);
- STrengthening the Reporting of OBservational studies in Epidemiology (STROBE) Initiative;
- Swiss Network for Health Technology Assessment (SNHTA);
- Topic Advisory Group 'Quality and Safety', WHO.

### 1.4.3 Indicators

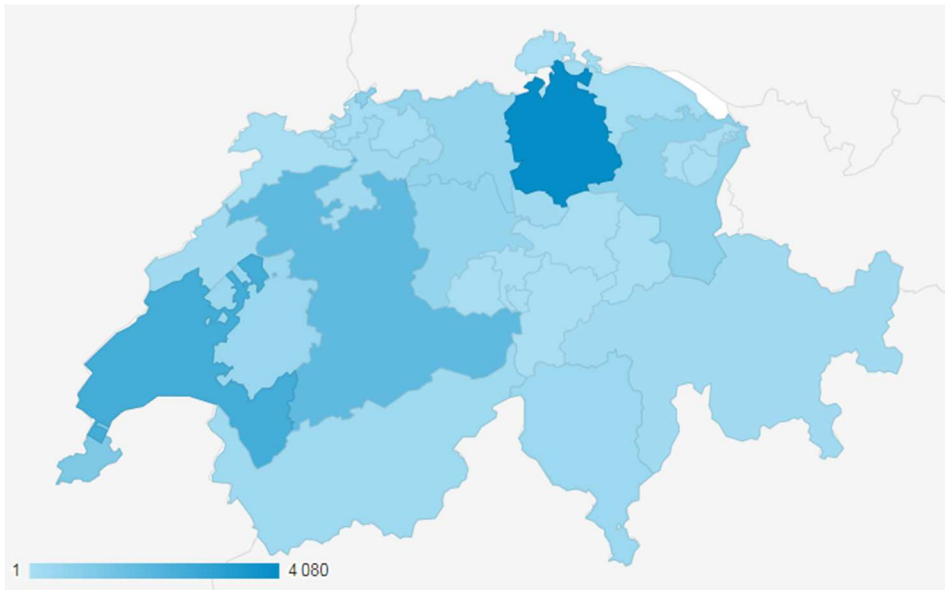
#### Website traffic for [swiss.cochrane.org](http://swiss.cochrane.org)

Access statistics provided by Google Analytics indicated a stable number of sessions with our website opened throughout 2017 and 2018. In early 2016, the number of sessions had peaked at the time of the launch of the national provision of the Cochrane Library. In 2017 and 2018, the access numbers remained well above the level of 2015 and earlier.



About 17000 users visited our website per year. A smaller proportion (13%) were first-time visitors but most (87%) were return visitors. The average time spent on the website was just above two minutes, and users opened an average of 2.7 pages during this time. Most sessions (58%) originated in Switzerland or the neighbouring European countries, in particular France and Germany. In Switzerland, the cantons of Zurich, Vaud and Berne had particularly high numbers of users.





## Newsletter

In 2017, we published two numbers of our newsletter and in 2018 another two, all were in the three languages English, French and German. All issues are also available for download from our website. Between December 2016 and December 2018 the number of subscriptions increased by 28% from 276 to 352.

## 2. Our team

By the end of 2018, our team consisted of four full- or part-time staff members, who were employees of our host institution IUMSP Lausanne. Several additional IUMSP collaborators and external Cochrane members contributed to activities of Cochrane Switzerland and are listed below. The past two years saw a number of changes in our team:

- In May 2017, **Annegret Borchard** joined our team as scientific collaborator in charge of activities related to Cochrane Public Health Europe and knowledge translation in German language including our involvement in the collaborative projects Cochrane Kompakt and the blog “Wissen Was Wirkt”.
- In June 2018, **Fabrizio Barazzoni** handed over to **Giorgio Treglia** as the Cochrane representative in Ticino, the Italian speaking part of Switzerland. Giorgio is head of the hospital-based HTA unit and consultant physician in nuclear medicine at EOC Bellinzona, as well as an associate physician at the Lausanne University Hospitals. His particular interest is in promoting the production and use of diagnostic reviews.
- In August 2018, **Bernard Burnand** retired from his position as professor at the University of Lausanne and head of the Health Care Evaluation Unit at IUMSP. He had joined the institute in 2003 and had co-founded Cochrane Switzerland in 2010 together with Erik von Elm. After eight years of joint leadership of Cochrane Switzerland, he handed over to **Erik von Elm** as the director of Cochrane Switzerland. Bernard continues his involvement in evidence-based health care and knowledge transfer on a voluntary basis. In his role as head of the IUMSP Health Care Evaluation Unit he was succeeded by **Isabelle Peytremann Bridevaux**.
- In August 2018, our scientific collaborator **Thomy Tonia** and our coordinator **Claudia Burdet** left the team. Thomy has contributed to the Scientific Secretariat of the Swiss Medical Board and one of our evidence synthesis mandates. Claudia was much involved in the project with the Fédération Romande de Consommateurs besides her function as coordinator.
- **Muaamar Al-Gobari** defended his PhD thesis on 19th July 2018 and graduated from the Faculty of Biology and Medicine of the University of Lausanne. We hope to be able to involve him as a post-doc researcher in our regular activities in the near future.

## Core team members:

**Annegret Borchard**, MSc; scientific collaborator

**Lucienne Boujon**; secretary

**Erik von Elm**, MD, MSc, FMH; director Cochrane Switzerland

**Claudia Burdet**, PhD; coordinator (till August 2018)

**Bernard Burnand**, MD, MPH; professor, director Cochrane Switzerland (till July 2018)

**Isabelle Peytremann Bridevaux**, MD, MPH, DSc; professor (team member till December 2018)

**Thomy Tonia**, MSc; scientific collaborator (till August 2018)

## Associated team members:

**Muaamar Al-Gobari**, PhD, MSc, MPH; scientific collaborator

**Chantal Arditi**, MSc, MA; scientific collaborator, PhD student

**Pierluigi Ballabeni**, MSc, PhD; statistician (in charge of web content in Italian)

**Marie-Annick Le Pogam**, MD MPH; scientific collaborator, PhD student

**Stefania Massetti-Pelli**, MBA; scientific collaborator in Ticino

**Patrick Taffé**, MSc, PhD, statistician

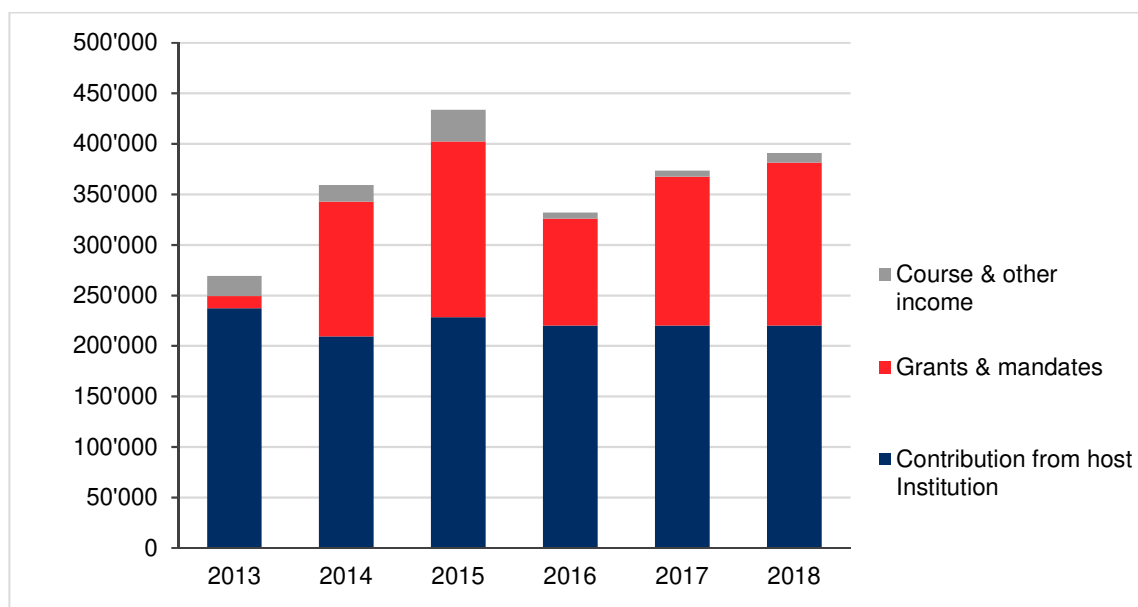
**Giorgio Treglia**, MD, MSc (HTA), Cochrane representative in Ticino, eoc Bellinzona

**Kathelene Weiss**, MA; Development Coordinator, Cochrane Central Executive

### 3. Key financial data

The figure below shows the total budget of Cochrane Switzerland for the years 2013 to 2018

**Figure: Budget in CHF**



Cochrane Switzerland received in-kind support from the Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine (IUMSP) at the Lausanne University Hospital (CHUV). Some of the research conducted by IUMSP is complementary to the work of Cochrane Switzerland, for example in the areas of knowledge translation, public health or health services research. Resources related to these projects are not included in the above financial overview.

# Annex 1 - Peer reviewed articles by our team in 2017 and 2018

## 2017:

- Aerts, M, Minalu, G, Bösner, S, Buntinx, F, **Burnand, B**, Haasenritter, J, Herzig, L, J Knottnerus, A, Nilsson, S, Renier, W, Sox, C, Sox, H, Donner-Banzhoff, N. Pooled individual patient data from five countries were used to derive a clinical prediction rule for coronary artery disease in primary care *Journal Of Clinical Epidemiology* 81 (2017) 120-128.
- Alexandre K, Desrichard O, **Burnand B**, **Peytremann-Bridevaux I**. Factors influencing self-management in adults with diabetes: an umbrella review protocol. *Jbi Database Of Systematic Reviews And Implementation Reports* 15 (2017) 2630-2637.
- **Al-Gobari M**, Le HH, Fall M, Gueyffier F, **Burnand B**. No benefits of statins for sudden cardiac death prevention in patients with heart failure and reduced ejection fraction: A meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials. *Plos One* 12 (2017) e0171168.
- Alturki R, Schandelmaier S, Olu K, Kalu, von Niederhäusern, B, Agarwal, A, Frei, R, Bhatnagar, N, Hooft, L, **von Elm, E**, Briel, M. Premature trial discontinuation often not accurately reflected in registries: comparison of registry records with publications. *Journal of Clinical Epidemiology* 81 (2017) 56-63.
- Amstutz A, Schandelmaier, S, Frei, R, Surina, J, Agarwal, A, Olu, K, Kalu, Alturki, R, von Niederhäusern, B, **von Elm, E**, Briel, M. Discontinuation and non-publication of randomised clinical trials supported by the main public funding body in Switzerland: a retrospective cohort study. *Bmj Open* 7 (2017) e016216.
- Arditi C, Rège-Walther M, Durieux P, **Burnand B**. Computer-generated reminders delivered on paper to healthcare professionals: effects on professional practice and healthcare outcomes. *The Cochrane Database Of Systematic Reviews* 7 (2017) CD001175.
- Baggio S, Iglesias, K, Hugli, O, **Burnand, B**, Ruggeri, O, Wasserfallen, J-B, Moschetti, K, Staeger, P, Alary, S, Allen, M, Canepa, Daepfen, J-B, Bodenmann, P. Associations between perceived discrimination and health status among frequent Emergency Department users. *European Journal Of Emergency Medicine* 24 (2017) 136-141.
- Bodenmann P, Velonaki V-S, Griffin JL, Baggio, S, Iglesias, K, Moschetti, K, Ruggeri, O, **Burnand, B**, Wasserfallen, J-B, Vu, F, Schupbach, J, Hugli, O, Daepfen, J-P. Case Management may Reduce Emergency Department Frequent use in a Universal Health Coverage System: a Randomized Controlled Trial. *Journal Of General Internal Medicine* 32 (2017) 508-515.
- Briel M, Elger B, **von Elm E**, Satalkar P. Insufficient recruitment and premature discontinuation of clinical trials in Switzerland: qualitative study with trialists and other stakeholders. *Swiss Medical Weekly* 147 (2017) w14556.

- Carron, T, Bridevaux, P-O, Lörvall, K, Parmentier, R, Moix, J-B, Beytrison, V, Pernet, R, Rey, C, Roberfroid, P-Y, Chhaged, PN, Dieterle, T, Zellweger, LJoos, Kohler, M, Maier, S, Miedinger, D, Thurnheer, R, Urwyler, P, Tschopp, J-M, Zuercher, E, Leuppi, JDaniel, **Burnand, B, Peytremann-Bridevaux, I.** Feasibility, acceptability and effectiveness of integrated care for COPD patients: a mixed methods evaluation of a pilot community-based programme. *Swiss Medical Weekly* 147 (2017) w14567.
- Deruaz-Luyet A, A N'Goran, A, Senn, N, Bodenmann, P, Pasquier, J, Widmer, D, Tandjung, R, Rosemann, T, Frey, P, Streit, S, Zeller, A, Haller, DM, Excoffier, S, **Burnand, B**, Herzig, L. Multimorbidity and patterns of chronic conditions in a primary care population in Switzerland: a cross-sectional study.. *Bmj Open* 7 (2017) e013664.
- Dubois J, Scala E, Faouzi M, Decosterd I, **Burnand B**, Rodondi P-Y. Chronic low back pain patients' use of, level of knowledge of and perceived benefits of complementary medicine: a cross-sectional study at an academic pain center. *Bmc Complementary And Alternative Medicine* 17 (2017) 193.
- Ducrest I, Marques-Vidal P, Faouzi M, **Burnand B**, Waeber G, Rodondi P-Y. Complementary medicine use among general internal medicine inpatients in a Swiss university hospital. *International Journal Of Clinical Practice* 71 (2017) 1-8.
- Forster AJ, **Burnand B**, Drösler SE, Gurevich, Y, Harrison, J, Januel, J-M, Romano, PS, Southern, DA, Sundararajan, V, Quan, H, Vanderloo, SE, Pincus, HA, Ghali, WA. A World Health Organization field trial assessing a proposed ICD-11 framework for classifying patient safety events. *International Journal For Quality In Health Care* 29 (2017) 548-556.
- Gijs E, Zuercher E, Henry V, Morin D, Bize R, **Peytremann-Bridevaux I.** Diabetes care: Comparison of patients' and healthcare professionals' assessment using the PACIC instrument. *Journal Of Evaluation In Clinical Practice* 23 (2017) 803-811.
- Gilles I, Mayer M, Courvoisier N, **Peytremann-Bridevaux I.** Joint analyses of open comments and quantitative data: Added value in a job satisfaction survey of hospital professionals. *Plos One* 12 (2017) e0173950.
- Halfon P, Staines A, **Burnand B.** Adverse events related to hospital care: a retrospective medical records review in a Swiss hospital. *International Journal For Quality In Health Care: Journal Of The International Society For Quality In Health Care* 29 (2017) 527-533.
- Konstantinidis L, Carron, T, de Ancos, E, Chinet, L, Hagon-Traub, I, Zuercher, E, **Peytremann-Bridevaux, I.** Awareness and practices regarding eye diseases among patients with diabetes: a cross sectional analysis of the CoDiab-VD cohort. *Bmc Endocrine Disorders* 17 (2017) 56.
- Le Pogam, M-A, Quantin, C, Reich, O, Tuppin, P, Fagot-Campagna, A, Paccaud, F, **Peytremann-Bridevaux, I, Burnand, B.** Geriatric Patient Safety Indicators Based on Linked Administrative Health Data to Assess Anticoagulant-Related Thromboembolic and Hemorrhagic Adverse Events in Older Inpatients: A Study Proposal. *Jmir Research Protocols* 6 (2017) e82.

- Pillai N, Dusheiko M, **Burnand B**, Pittet V. A systematic review of cost-effectiveness studies comparing conventional, biological and surgical interventions for inflammatory bowel disease. *Plos One* 12 (2017) e0185500.
- Pittet V, Vaucher C, Froehlich F, **Burnand B**, Michetti P, Maillard MH. Patient self-reported concerns in inflammatory bowel diseases: A gender-specific subjective quality-of-life indicator. *Plos One* 12 (2017) e0171864.
- Rosselet P, Hagon-Traub I, **Burnand B**, Konstantidinis L, Ambresin A. Prévention et prise en charge de la rétinopathie diabétique - Prise en charge multidisciplinaire du diabète : recommandations pour la pratique clinique []  
*Revue Medicale Suisse* 13 (2017) 1217
- Rosselet P, Hagon-Traub I, **Burnand B**. Autosurveillance de la glycémie lors du diabète : Prise en charge multidisciplinaire du diabète : recommandations pour la pratique clinique. *Revue Medicale Suisse* 13 (2017) 665.
- Rosselet P, Hagon-Traub I, **Burnand B**. Education thérapeutique du patient à l'autogestion du diabète: Prise en charge multidisciplinaire du diabète : recommandations pour la pratique clinique. *Revue Médicale Suisse* 13 (2017) 768.
- Rosselet P, Hagon-Traub I, **Burnand B**. Questions spécifiques au diabète chez les personnes âgées : prise en charge multidisciplinaire du diabète : recommandations pour la pratique clinique. *Revue Medicale Suisse* 13 (2017) 769.
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- **von Elm E**. Switzerland voted against a universal basic income. *Bmj (Clinical Research Ed.)* 356 (2017) j191.
- Zuercher E, Diatta IDina, **Burnand B**, **Peytremann-Bridevaux I**. Health literacy and quality of care of patients with diabetes: A cross-sectional analysis. *Primary Care Diabetes* 11 (2017) 233-240.

## 2018:

- **Al-Gobari M**, Al-Aqeel S, Gueyffier F, **Burnand B**. Effectiveness of drug interventions to prevent sudden cardiac death in patients with heart failure and reduced ejection fraction: an overview of systematic reviews. *Bmj Open* 8 (2018) e021108.
- Amstutz A, Schandelmaier S, Frei R, Surina J, Agarwal A, Alturki R, von Niederhäusern B, **von Elm E**, Briel M. Funding characteristics of randomised clinical trials supported by the Swiss National Science Foundation: a retrospective cohort study. *Swiss Medical Weekly* 148 (2018) w14587.
- Arditi C, Iglesias K, **Peytremann-Bridevaux I**. The use of the Patient Assessment of Chronic Illness Care (PACIC) instrument in diabetes care: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *International Journal For Quality In Health Care* (2018).
- Arditi C, Zanchi A, **Peytremann-Bridevaux I**. Health status and quality of life in patients with diabetes in Switzerland. *Primary Care Diabetes* (2018).
- Bashkin O, Horne R, **Peytremann-Bridevaux I**. Influence of Health Status on the Association Between Diabetes and Depression Among Adults in Europe: Findings From the SHARE International Survey. *Diabetes Spectrum* 31 (2018) 75-82.
- Deruaz-Luyet, A, N'Goran, AA, Pasquier, J, **Burnand, B**, Bodenmann, P, Zechmann, S, Neuner-Jehle, S, Senn, N, Widmer, D, Streit, S, Zeller, A, Haller, DM, Herzig, L. Multimorbidity: can general practitioners identify the health conditions most important to their patients? Results from a national cross-sectional study in Switzerland.. *Bmc Family Practice* 19 (2018) 66.
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- Iglesias, K, Baggio, S, Moschetti, K, Wasserfallen, J-B, Hugli, O, Daepfen, J-B, **Burnand, B**, Bodenmann, P. Using case management in a universal health coverage system to improve quality of life of frequent Emergency Department users: a randomized controlled trial. *Quality Of Life Research* 27 (2018) 503-513.
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- N'Goran, AA, Pasquier, J, Deruaz-Luyet, A, **Burnand, B**, Haller, DM, Neuner-Jehle, S, Zeller, A, Streit, S, Herzig, L, Bodenmann, P Factors associated with health literacy in multimorbid patients in primary care: a cross-sectional study in Switzerland. *Bmj Open* 8 (2018) e018281.
- Pin S, Koutaissoff D, Henry V, Bathily A, **Peytremann-Bridevaux I**. Evaluation du projet de l'Association Réseau Orientation Santé Social (AROSS) Lausanne, Institut universitaire de médecine sociale et préventive (IUMSP), 2018, (Raisons de santé 292).
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- Przybyła, P, Brockmeier, AJ, Kontonatsios, G, Le Pogam, M-A, McNaught, J, **von Elm, E**, Nolan, K, Ananiadou, S. Prioritising references for systematic reviews with RobotAnalyst: A user study. *Research Synthesis Methods* 9 (2018) 470-488.
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## *Annex 2 - Cochrane reviews newly published or updated in 2017/2018 involving authors based in Switzerland*

This table provides an overview of new or updated Cochrane systematic reviews published in 2017 and 2018 that included one or more authors based in Switzerland. The full reviews are available in the Cochrane Library and are free of charge in Switzerland (<http://www.cochranelibrary.com>).

Review Title 2017	Cochrane Review Group
Antibiotic prophylaxis for episiotomy repair following vaginal birth	Pregnancy and Childbirth Group
Chemotherapy for advanced gastric cancer	Upper GI and Pancreatic Diseases Group
Computer-generated reminders delivered on paper to healthcare professionals: effects on professional practice and healthcare outcomes	Effective Practice and Organisation of Care Group
Continuous support for women during childbirth	Pregnancy and Childbirth Group
Controlled cord traction for the third stage of labour	Pregnancy and Childbirth Group
Corticosteroids for adult patients with advanced cancer who have nausea and vomiting (not related to chemotherapy, radiotherapy, or surgery)	Pain, Palliative and Supportive Care Group
Deferasirox for managing iron overload in people with thalassaemia	Cystic Fibrosis and Genetic Disorders Group
Diet, physical activity and behavioural interventions for the treatment of overweight or obese children from the age of 6 to 11 years	Metabolic and Endocrine Disorders Group
Exercise for pregnant women with gestational diabetes for improving maternal and fetal outcomes	Pregnancy and Childbirth Group
Exercise for pregnant women with pre-existing diabetes for improving maternal and fetal outcomes	Pregnancy and Childbirth Group
Fibrates for primary prevention of cardiovascular disease events	Heart Group
Fundal pressure during the second stage of labour	Pregnancy and Childbirth Group
Inhaled nitric oxide for acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) in children and adults	Emergency and Critical Care Group
Interventions for hirsutism (excluding laser and photoepilation therapy alone)	Skin Group

Iodine supplementation for women during the preconception, pregnancy and postpartum period	Pregnancy and Childbirth Group
Longchain polyunsaturated fatty acid supplementation in preterm infants	Neonatal Group
Medical treatments for incomplete miscarriage	Pregnancy and Childbirth Group
Niacin for primary and secondary prevention of cardiovascular events	Heart Group
Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs for sciatica	Back and Neck Group
Pharmacological and mechanical interventions for labour induction in outpatient settings	Pregnancy and Childbirth Group
Physical exercise training for cystic fibrosis	Cystic Fibrosis and Genetic Disorders Group
Point-of-use fortification of foods with micronutrient powders containing iron in children of preschool and school-age	Developmental, Psychosocial and Learning Problems Group
Position in the second stage of labour for women without epidural anaesthesia	Pregnancy and Childbirth Group
Procalcitonin to initiate or discontinue antibiotics in acute respiratory tract infections	Acute Respiratory Infections Group
Psychological interventions for acute pain after open heart surgery	Pain, Palliative and Supportive Care Group
Respiratory muscle training for multiple sclerosis	Multiple Sclerosis and Rare Diseases of the CNS Group
Return-to-work coordination programmes for improving return to work in workers on sick leave	Work Group
Routine antibiotic prophylaxis after normal vaginal birth for reducing maternal infectious morbidity	Pregnancy and Childbirth Group
Surgery for cataracts in people with age-related macular degeneration	Eyes and Vision Group
Surgery for women with anterior compartment prolapse	Gynaecology and Fertility Group
Surgery for women with apical vaginal prolapse	Gynaecology and Fertility Group
Thymic peptides for treatment of cancer patients	Gynaecological, Neuro-oncology and Orphan Cancer Group
Transvaginal mesh or grafts compared with native tissue repair for vaginal prolapse	Gynaecology and Fertility Group
Treatment with disease-modifying drugs for people with a first clinical attack suggestive of multiple sclerosis	Multiple Sclerosis and Rare Diseases of the CNS Group

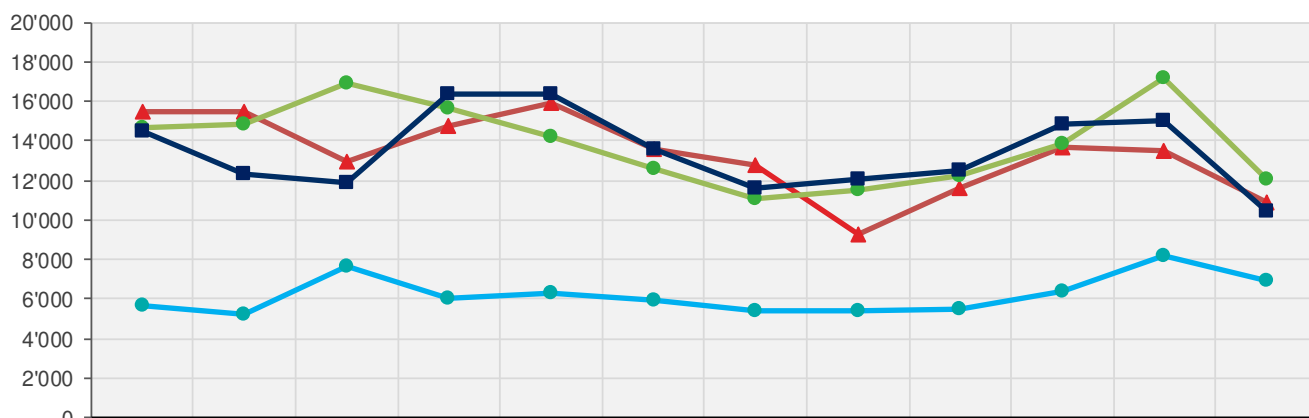
<b>Review Title 2018</b>	<b>Cochrane Review Group</b>
<b>Antibiotics for exacerbations of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease</b>	Airways Group
<b>Baclofen for alcohol use disorder</b>	Drugs and Alcohol Group
<b>Beta-blockers for prevention and treatment of retinopathy of prematurity in preterm infants</b>	Neonatal Group
<b>Client feedback in psychological therapy for children and adolescents with mental health problems</b>	Common Mental Disorders Group
<b>Dietary modifications for infantile colic</b>	Developmental, Psychosocial and Learning Problems Group
<b>Effectiveness of brief alcohol interventions in primary care populations</b>	Drugs and Alcohol Group
<b>E-learning for health professionals</b>	Effective Practice and Organisation of Care Group
<b>Eszopiclone for insomnia</b>	Common Mental Disorders Group
<b>Fortification of maize flour with iron for controlling anaemia and iron deficiency in populations</b>	Public Health Group
<b>Full publication of results initially presented in abstracts</b>	Methodology Review Group
<b>Insecticide-treated nets for preventing malaria</b>	Infectious Diseases Group
<b>Intramuscular versus intravenous prophylactic oxytocin for the third stage of labour</b>	Pregnancy and Childbirth Group
<b>Laparoscopic-endoscopic rendezvous versus preoperative endoscopic sphincterotomy in people undergoing laparoscopic cholecystectomy for stones in the gallbladder and bile duct</b>	Hepato-Biliary Group
<b>Lipid-based nutrient supplements for maternal, birth, and infant developmental outcomes</b>	Developmental, Psychosocial and Learning Problems Group
<b>Maxillary distraction osteogenesis versus orthognathic surgery for cleft lip and palate patients</b>	Oral Health Group
<b>Medical and surgical abortion for women living with HIV</b>	Fertility Regulation Group
<b>Medical treatments for incomplete miscarriage</b>	
<b>Mosquito repellents for malaria prevention</b>	Infectious Diseases Group
<b>Non-clinical interventions for reducing unnecessary caesarean section</b>	Effective Practice and Organisation of Care Group
<b>Nutritional supplements for patients being treated for active visceral leishmaniasis</b>	Infectious Diseases Group
<b>Perioperative interventions in pelvic organ prolapse surgery</b>	Gynaecology and Fertility Group
<b>Perioperative intravenous ketamine for acute postoperative pain in adults</b>	Pain, Palliative and Supportive Care Group

<b>Psychological therapies for the treatment of mental disorders in low- and middle-income countries affected by humanitarian crises</b>	Common Mental Disorders Group
<b>Selenium for preventing cancer</b>	Gynaecological, Neuro-oncology and Orphan Cancer Group
<b>Surgery for women with pelvic organ prolapse with or without stress urinary incontinence</b>	Gynaecology and Fertility Group
<b>Surgery for women with posterior compartment prolapse</b>	Gynaecology and Fertility Group
<b>Treatment for HIV-associated cryptococcal meningitis</b>	Infectious Diseases Group
<b>Uterotonic agents for preventing postpartum haemorrhage: a network meta-analysis</b>	Pregnancy and Childbirth Group
<b>Xenon as an adjuvant to therapeutic hypothermia in near-term and term newborns with hypoxic-ischaemic encephalopathy</b>	Neonatal Group
<b>Xpert® MTB/RIF assay for extrapulmonary tuberculosis and rifampicin resistance</b>	Infectious Diseases Group

# Annex 3 - Access to Cochrane Library in Switzerland, 2015-2018

Numbers are full-text downloads (pdf and html) of Cochrane systematic reviews from a computer located in Switzerland. 2016 (blue line) was the first year with free access through the national provision.

Full text access of Cochrane Reveiws and Protocols



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
▲ 2018	15'481	15'488	12'939	14'769	15'971	13'569	12'769	9'300	11'597	13'647	13'481	10'904
● 2017	14'695	14'859	16'918	15'635	14'184	12'613	11'115	11'496	12'266	13'880	17'176	12'055
■ 2016	14'526	12'369	11'853	16'396	16'421	13'576	11'614	12'090	12'555	14'884	15'074	10'431
● 2015	5'679	5'261	7'702	6'077	6'280	5'951	5'387	5'391	5'474	6'372	8'182	6'959

## Annex 4 - Other publications by Cochrane Switzerland, 2017 / 2018

We have worked with several medical education journals to publish contextualised Cochrane summaries in French, German and Italian. Some Cochrane reviews have been covered in more than one language in different journals.

### Articles published in PRAXIS in the series '*Mini-review Cochrane für die Praxis*'

#### 2017:

- Herzog V., von Elm E. Orale Antidiabetika zusätzlich zum Insulin? Praxis 2017; 106(1): 49
- Herzog V., von Elm E. Tibolon gegen klimakterische Beschwerden. Praxis 2017; 106(1): 49
- Herzog V., von Elm E. Bisphosphonate bei Steroid-induzierter Osteoporose. Praxis 2017; 106(1): 49
- Herzog V., von Elm E. Stützstrümpfe im Flugzeug nützlich. Praxis 2017; 106(1): 49 -50
- Herzog V., von Elm E. D-Dimer zum Ausschluss einer Lungenembolie. Praxis 2017; 106(1): 50
- Herzog V., von Elm E. Vitamin D zur Asthmatherapie. Praxis 2017; 106(1): 50

### Articles published in Tribuna Medica Ticinese:

#### 2017:

- Wildi L., Flatz A., von Elm E. La condroitina è efficace nell'artrosi? Tribuna Medica Ticinese 2017, July / August: 195-197
- Herzog V., von Elm E., Flatz A. Può il Mini-Mental State Examination rilevare in modo affidabile la demenza nelle persone con più di 65 anni? Tribuna Medica Ticinese 2017, September: 226
- Herzog V., von Elm E., Flatz A. Farmaci triciclici per l'enuresi notturna nei bambini. Tribuna Medica Ticinese 2017, September: 226
- Herzog V., von Elm E., Flatz A. Preparati topici nella psoriasi del cuoio capelluto. Tribuna Medica Ticinese 2017, October
- Herzog V., von Elm E., Flatz A. Vaccinazione contro l'Herpes zoster. Tribuna Medica Ticinese 2017, October
- Herzog V., von Elm E., Flatz A. È ragionevole vietare il bagno ai bambini con tubi timpanostomici? Tribuna Medica Ticinese 2017, November



- Herzog V., von Elm E., Flatz A. Tenere la bocca fresca impedisce l'insorgenza della mucosite orale nei pazienti con neoplasia? Tribuna Medica Ticinese 2017, November

## 2018:

- Herzog V., von Elm E., Flatz A. Non aumentare la dose di steroidi in caso di crisi asmatica. Tribuna Medica Ticinese 2018, January:18
- Herzog V., von Elm E., Flatz A. Trattamento contro la perdita dei capelli nelle donne. Tribuna Medica Ticinese 2018, January:18
- Herzog V., von Elm E., Flatz A. Nel mal di schiena il paracetamolo non è migliore del placebo. Tribuna Medica Ticinese 2018, February
- Herzog V., von Elm E., Flatz A. Spray nasale con steroidi nella rinosinusite cronica? Tribuna Medica Ticinese 2018, February

## Articles published in *Médecine et Enfance* in the series '*Côté Cochrane*':

### 2018:

- Fouriki A., Cachat F, Burnand B. Programmes de prise en charge multidisciplinaire de l'obésité chez l'enfant et l'adolescent : approches diététique et comportementale, activité physique. *Médecine et enfance* 2018, January-February 2018: 25-26

## Articles published in *physioactive* in the series "*Bildung und Forschung*"

### 2017:

- Winteler B., Monnin D. Parkinson: Virtuelle Rehabilitation und klassische Physiotherapie mit vergleichbarer Wirkung / Parkinson: la rééducation virtuelle et la physiothérapie classique ont un effet comparable. *Physioactive* (5) 2017: 45-47
- Winteler B., Monnin D. Körperliche Aktivität bei koronaren Herzerkrankungen / Activité physique et maladie coronarienne: un couple dont les relations pourraient être plus claires. *Physioactive* (4) 2017:41-44
- Winteler B., Monnin D. Wird die Rekonditionierung bei PatientInnen mit chronischen Schmerzen überbewertet? / Le reconditionnement chez les patients atteints de douleurs chroniques est-il surévalué? *Physioactive* (3) 2017: 45-48
- Winteler B., Monnin D. Repetitives aufgabenorientiertes Training scheint die Fähigkeiten von Schlaganfallpatienten zu verbessern / Les exercices fonctionnels répétitifs semblent améliorer les capacités des patients atteints d'un accident vasculaire cérébral. *Physioactive* (2) 2017: 39-41
- Winteler B., Monnin D. Lumbale Spinalstenose: eine Operation ist wahrscheinlich nicht besser als ein konservatives Vorgehen / Sténose lombaire: une opération n'est probablement pas plus efficace qu'un traitement non chirurgical. *Physioactive* (1) 2017: 34-36

**2018:**

- Winteler B., Monnin D. Ausdauertraining scheint bei Fibromyalgie vorteilhaft / L'activité physique en endurance peut être bénéfique aux patients fibromyalgiques. Physioactive (6) 2018: 53-56
- Winteler B., Monnin D. E-Learning in den Gesundheitsberufen / L'e-learning dans les professions de la santé. Physioactive (5) 2018: 49-52
- Winteler B., Monnin D. Apps zum Selbstmanagement bei COPD / Des apps pour soutenir l'autonomie des patient·e·s atteint·e·s de BPCO. Physioactive (4) 2018: 48-50
- Winteler B., Monnin D. Persistierende Schmerzen bei Folteropfern / Les douleurs persistantes des victimes de la torture. Physioactive (3) 2018: 39-42
- Winteler B., Monnin D. Eine Trainingstherapie scheint bei PatientInnen mit Cerebralparese unterstützend zu wirken / Un entraînement général semble améliorer les capacités fonctionnelles des patients inermes moteurs cérébraux. Physioactive (2) 2018: 47-50
- Winteler B., Monnin D. Yoga für Patientinnen mit Brustkrebs / Du yoga pour les patientes atteintes du cancer du sein. Physioactive (1) 2018: 50-52

**Articles published in Ars Medici in collaboration with Cochrane Switzerland****2017:**

- Herzog V., von Elm E. Welche Zweierkombination bei stabiler COPD? ARS MEDICI (13), 2017: 582
- Herzog V. Cochrane-Evidenz frei Haus: Interview mit Dr. Erik von Elm, Kodirektor Cochrane Schweiz. ARS MEDICI (13), 2017: 580-581
- Herzog V., von Elm E. Renale Denervation bei resistenter Hypertonie - zwar logisch, aber nicht effektiv. ARS MEDICI (18), 2017: 779-781

**2018:**

- Herzog V., von Elm E. Protonenpumpenhemmer zur Behandlung von funktionellen Dyspepsiesymptomen. ARS MEDICI 1+2/2017: 41
- Herzog V., von Elm E. Persistierendes Asthma: Antileukotrien zusätzlich zum Kortikosteroid vorteilhaft. ARS MEDICI 1+2/2017: 42
- Herzog V., von Elm E. Nutzen von Vitamin C in der kardiovaskulären Primärprävention fraglich. ARS MEDICI 1+2/2017: 43
- Herzog V., von Elm E. Chlorhexidin-Mundspülung reduziert Zahnfleischentzündung anhaltend. ARS MEDICI 1+2/2017: 43
- Herzog V., von Elm E. Passanten reanimieren ohne Beatmung besser. ARS MEDICI 5/2018: 174
- Herzog V., von Elm E. Bewegung hilft bei Schaufensterkrankheit. ARS MEDICI 13 / 2018: 592

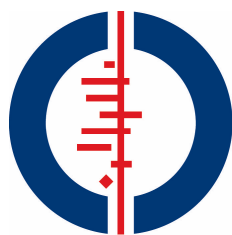
- Herzog V., von Elm E. Passanten reanimieren ohne Beatmung besser. ARS MEDICI 13 / 2018: 592
- Herzog V., von Elm E. Probiotika in der Prävention von Clostridium-difficile-Diarrhö hilfreich. ARS MEDICI 13 / 2018: 593
- Herzog V., von Elm E. Anti-IL-5-Therapien bei schwerem eosinophilen Asthma. ARS MEDICI 13 / 2018: 593
- Herzog V., von Elm E. Kortikosteroidzusatz bei Pneumonie nützlich. ARS MEDICI 13 / 2018: 594
- Herzog V., von Elm E. Tiefe Venenthrombose zu Hause oder im Spital therapieren? ARS MEDICI 13 / 2018: 594
- Herzog V., von Elm E. Donepezil bei Alzheimer-Demenz. ARS MEDICI 23 / 2018: 942
- Herzog V., von Elm E. Sind Übungen bei Handarthritits nützlich? ARS MEDICI 23 / 2018: 942-943
- Herzog V., von Elm E. Grippeimpfung bei COPD-Patienten reduziert Exazerbationen. ARS MEDICI 23 / 2018: 943
- Herzog V., von Elm E. Antibiotika bei chronisch produktivem Husten bei Kindern wirksam. ARS MEDICI 23 / 2018: 944
- Herzog V., von Elm E. Antidepressiva sind bei Alkoholkranken mit Depression einen Versuch wert. ARS MEDICI 23 / 2018: 944

## Annex 5 – Our blogposts in the blog "Wissen was wirkt"

Blogpost title	Date of publication
Gedächtnisstörungen nach einem Schlaganfall: hilft die kognitive-Rehabilitation *	2.1.2017
Sprechstunde in der Apotheke: ein Versorgungsmodell mit Zukunft	28.6.2017
Macht späterer Unterrichtsbeginn Jugendliche klüger?	1.9.2017
5 am Tag – auch schon für die Kleinsten	21.11.2017
Vorbeugung von Diabetes Typ 2 – was wirklich hilft	29.1.2018
Stillen am Arbeitsplatz – theoretisch möglich. Praktisch auch?	7.3.2018
Bye-bye-Mittagsspeck-dank Kalorienangaben in Restaurants	17.5.2018
Honig gegen Husten: Wirkt Grossmutter's Hausmittel doch?	21.6.2018
Herzschwäche: Hilft körperliche Aktivität?	23.8.2018
Cochrane für Alle: Cochrane Colloquium 2018 *	1.10.2018
* Co-written with Cochrane Germany	

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