

Annual Report 2024

Cochrane Denmark & Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine Odense

The following report describes the objectives, organisation, and activities of Cochrane Denmark (CD) and Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine Odense (CEBMO), from January 1st 2024 to December 31st 2024.

Introduction

Cochrane Denmark (CD) and Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine Odense (CEBMO) is a functionally merged research centre (CD-CEBMO) at the Department of Clinical Research, University of Southern Denmark.

In June 2020, the Danish Ministry of Health decided that the Nordic Cochrane Centre, situated at Rigshospitalet in Copenhagen, be closely affiliated with CEBMO. The Nordic Cochrane Centre then moved from Rigshospitalet to the University of Southern Denmark in Odense, and in the process, changed its name to Cochrane Denmark. Similarly, CEBMO moved its organizational setting from Odense University Hospital to University of Southern Denmark. The two centres were hereafter functionally merged into one larger centre, CD-CEBMO, effective of January 1st 2021.

Cochrane Denmark is funded by the Danish government as a national Cochrane centre, and its activities are guided by [Cochrane's general strategy](#) and the Ministry of Health's note as of June 2020, supplemented by recommendations from the [VIVE report](#). The Ministry of Health's note on the matter specified that the "political level believes" the new organisational setup "may create a strong research centre ..., and at the same time enhance close clinical collaboration with Odense University Hospital and contribute to a broader cooperation across the country".

CEBMO is funded by Odense University Hospital and University of Southern Denmark as a regional research centre. The activities of CEBMO are guided by a term of reference (Appendix 1).

CD-CEBMO objectives

There was a considerable overlap between the objectives of Cochrane Denmark and Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine Odense, which was part of the Ministry's rationale for the functional merger. Overall, CD-CEBMO has four main objectives:

- To conduct research in evidence-based medicine, clinical research methodology, and other types of research relevant for evidence synthesis
- To promote Cochrane in Denmark and support Cochrane authors based in Denmark as well as Cochrane internationally
- To run a counselling and research methods guidance service for researchers at Odense University Hospital and at University of Southern Denmark with a focus on systematic reviews and meta-analyses
- To contribute to undergraduate teaching in evidence-based medicine at University of Southern Denmark and to PhD courses, for example in systematic reviews and meta-analysis

The disposition of this report broadly follows the four main objectives, preceded by a section on organisation and governance.

I. Organisation and governance

CD-CEBMO is organised as a research centre at the Department of Clinical Research, University of Southern Denmark. The Head of CD-CEBMO functions both as leader of research and administration and refers to the Head of Department of Clinical Research, University of Southern Denmark. In matters relating to Cochrane, the Head of CD-CEBMO will operate in accordance with the collaboration agreement with Cochrane.

Staff

As of 31st of December 2024, the Centre had a staff of 19:

Title	Name	FTE ¹
Head of Centre, professor	Asbjørn Hróbjartsson	1,0
Professor	Karsten Juhl Jørgensen	1,0
Associate Professor	Andreas Lundh	0,5
Associate Professor	Jeppe B. Schroll	0,5
Postdoc and Research Coordinator	Camilla Hansen Nejstgaard	1,0
Postdoc	Helena Van Beersel Krejcikova	0,8
PhD Fellow and Research Coordinator	Lasse Østengaard	1,0
PhD Fellow	Mathias Weis Damkjær	1,0
PhD Fellow	Christoffer Bruun Korfitsen	1,0
PhD Fellow	David Ruben Teindl Laursen	1,0
Researcher	Cecilie Jespersen	1,0
Researcher	Josefina Salazar	1,0
Researcher	Mette Bangshof Engmose	1,0
Researcher	Mihaela Ivosevic	1,0
Researcher	Nina Sondrup	1,0
Student Assistant	Lasse Adrup Benné Petersen	0,13
Student Assistant	Mia Elkjær	0,13
Student Assistant	Louise Andie Pedersen	0,13
Administrator	Frihild Askham	1,0

¹Full time employment

In addition, the following researchers were associated with the Centre: Librarian Mette Brandt Eriksen (10% Associated Professor) and Professor Robin Christensen. In addition, Professor An-Wen Chan from University of Toronto was Adjunct Professor.

Advisory Board

As of 31st of December 2024, the Centre's advisory board included:

- 1) Lisa Bero (Professor of Medicine and Public Health, University of Colorado, USA)
- 2) Isabelle Boutron (Professor of epidemiology, Université de Paris and Director of Cochrane France, France)
- 3) Declan Devan (Professor of Nursing and Midwifery, National University of Ireland, and Scientific Director of Cochrane Ireland, Ireland)
- 4) Lesley Stewart (Professor of Evidence Synthesis and Director of CDR, University of York, UK)
- 5) Lone Kjeld Petersen (Professor of Gynaecology and Obstetrics, Odense University Hospital; Denmark)
- 6) Kirsten Kyvik (Professor, University of Southern Denmark, Denmark)

- 7) Anders Perner (Professor of Intensive Care Medicine, University of Copenhagen, and Vice Chair of the Organization of Danish Medical Societies, Denmark)
- 8) Klaus Lunding (Chairman, Danish Patients, Denmark)
- 9) Ole Jakob Storebø (Professor and Head of the Center for Evidence-Based Psychiatry, Psychiatric Research Unit, Region Zealand, Denmark)
- 10) Henrik Toft Sørensen (Professor of Clinical Epidemiology, Aarhus University, Denmark)

II. Research activity

Research publications: overview

In total, researchers at the Centre¹ authored 35 scholarly publications: 30 articles in peer reviewed journals, one letter to the editor, three book chapters, and one report.

Of the 30 articles published in peer reviewed journals, 29 were indexed in Scopus. Among these publications, 21 articles (72%) were published in journals ranked in the top 25% in their category, and 14 articles (48%) were published in journals ranked in the top 10% in their category. Five articles (17%) were published in one of the “big five”² general medical journals: two in The BMJ, two in Annals of Internal Medicine, and one in JAMA. There were 13 articles (43%) published in core journals for Cochrane and evidence-based medicine.³ A total of seven articles (23%) had main authors (first or last) from the Centre.

List of publications: Articles (full articles or editorials) in peer reviewed journals

- 1) Andersen MS, Kofoed MS, Paludan-Müller AS, Pedersen CB, Mathiesen T, Mawrin C, Olsen BB, Halle B, Poulsen FR. CRIME-Q—a unifying tool for critical appraisal of methodological (technical) quality, quality of reporting and risk of bias in animal research. *BMC Medical Research Methodology*. 2024. doi: 10.1186/s12874-024-02413-0
- 2) Autier P, Jørgensen KJ, Smans M, Støvring H. Effect of screening mammography on the risk of breast cancer deaths and of all-cause deaths: a systematic review with meta-analysis of cohort studies. *Journal of Clinical Epidemiology*. 2024. doi: 10.1016/j.jclinepi.2024.111426
- 3) Bjerrum S, Yang B, Åhsberg J, Nathavitharana RR, Olbrich L, Jaganath D, Kay AW, Lundh A, Shah M. Parallel use of low-complexity automated nucleic acid amplification tests and lateral flow urine lipoarabinomannan assays to detect tuberculosis disease in adults and adolescents living with HIV. *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews*. 2024. doi: 10.1002/14651858.CD016070
- 4) Bülow C, Clausen SS, Thøgersen PL, Dalin DA, Hansen JM, Johansson KS, Lundh A, Christensen MB. Patients’ knowledge of the indications for their medications – a scoping review. *BMC Health Services Research*. 2024. doi: 10.1186/s12913-024-11685-7

¹ Researchers employed by the centre in 2024, or researchers who had been employed before 2024 and had then worked on the publication in question

² The Lancet, NEJM, Annals of Internal Medicine, JAMA or The BMJ

³ Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews, Journal of Clinical Epidemiology, BMC Medical Research Methodology, and Cochrane Evidence Synthesis and Methods.

- 5) Constantin AM, Noertjojo K, Sommer I, Pizarro AB, Persad E, Durao S, Nussbaumer-Streit B, McElvenny DM, Rhodes S, Martin C, Sampson O, Jørgensen KJ, Bruschettini M. Workplace interventions to reduce the risk of SARS-CoV-2 infection outside of healthcare settings. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews. 2024. doi: 10.1002/14651858.CD015112.pub3
- 6) Damkjær MW, Hess S, Gerke O, Jørgensen KJ, Schroll JB. Critical reading of scientific articles on diagnostic studies. Ugeskrift for Laeger. 2024. doi: 10.61409/V06230404
- 7) Haugaard AK, Saude Conde R, J Maria AR, Vithal Yergolkar A, Jørgensen KJ, Heleno B. Immunotherapy for advanced and recurrent malignant pleural mesothelioma. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews. 2024. doi: 10.1002/14651858.CD014720
- 8) Higgins JPT, Morgan RL, Rooney AA, Taylor KW, Thayer KA, Silva RA, Lemers C, Akl EA, Bateson TF, Berkman ND, Glenn BS, Hróbjartsson A, LaKind JS, McAleenan A, Meerpolh JJ, Nachman RM, Obbagy JE, O'Connor A, Radke EG, Savović J, Schünemann HJ, Shea B, Tilling K, Verbeek J, Viswanathan M, Sterne JAC. A tool to assess risk of bias in non-randomized follow-up studies of exposure effects (ROBINS-E). Environment International. 2024. doi: 10.1016/j.envint.2024.108602
- 9) Jensen MCH, Holm C, Jørgensen KJ, Schroll JB. Treatment for women with postpartum iron deficiency anaemia. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews. 2024. doi: 10.1002/14651858.CD010861.pub3
- 10) Jespersen C, Lauritsen MP, Frokjaer VG, Schroll JB. Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors for premenstrual syndrome and premenstrual dysphoric disorder. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews. 2024. doi: 10.1002/14651858.CD001396.pub4
- 11) Johansson M, Albarqouni L, O'Keeffe M, Jørgensen KJ, Woloshin S. Website Content and Funding of Officially Recognized Disease Awareness Campaigns. JAMA. 2024. doi: 10.1001/jama.2024.12267
- 12) Johansson M, Niklasson A, Albarqouni L, Jørgensen KJ, Guyatt G, Montori VM. Guidelines Recommending That Clinicians Advise Patients on Lifestyle Changes: A Popular but Questionable Approach to Improve Public Health. Annals of Internal Medicine. 2024. doi: 10.7326/ANNALS-24-00283
- 13) Laursen DRT, Brorson S, Lundh A, Møller AM, Nejstgaard CH, Rosenberg J, Hróbjartsson A. Critical reading of systematic review articles. Ugeskrift for Laeger. 2024. doi: 10.61409/V09230616
- 14) Lundh A, Hróbjartsson A. Kritisk læsning af kliniske forskningsartikler. Ugeskrift for Laeger. 2024. doi: 10.61409/V205187
- 15) Lynge E, Schroll JB, Andersen B, Balasubramaniam K, Poulsgaard Frandsen A, Ibfelt EH, Jochumsen KM, Bruun Laustsen MU, Nielsen S, Salmani R, Schledermann D, Hall Viborg PB, Waldstrøm M, Napolitano G, Serizawa R. Cervical cancer incidence in Denmark: Disentangling determinants of time trend. International Journal of Cancer. 2024. doi: 10.1002/ijc.35081

- 16) Manyara AM, Davies P, Stewart D, Weir CJ, Young AE, Blazeby J, Butcher NJ, Bujkiewicz S, Chan AW, Dawoud D, Offringa M, Ouwendijk M, Hróbjartsson A, Amstutz A, Bertolaccini L, Bruno VD, Devane D, Faria CDM, Gilbert PB, Harris R, Lassere M, Marinelli L, Markham S, Powers JH, Rezaei Y, Richert L, Schwendicke F, Tereshchenko LG, Thoma A, Turan A, Worrall A, Christensen R, Collins GS, Ross JS, Taylor RS, Ciani O. Reporting of surrogate endpoints in randomised controlled trial reports (CONSORT-Surrogate): Extension checklist with explanation and elaboration. *BMJ*. 2024. doi: 10.1136/bmj-2023-078524
- 17) Manyara AM, Davies P, Stewart D, Weir CJ, Young AE, Blazeby J, Butcher NJ, Bujkiewicz S, Chan AW, Dawoud D, Offringa M, Ouwendijk M, Hróbjartsson A, Amstutz A, Bertolaccini L, Bruno VD, Devane D, Faria CDM, Gilbert PB, Harris R, Lassere M, Marinelli L, Markham S, Powers JH, Rezaei Y, Richert L, Schwendicke F, Tereshchenko LG, Thoma A, Turan A, Worrall A, Christensen R, Collins GS, Ross JS, Taylor RS, Ciani O. Reporting of surrogate endpoints in randomised controlled trial protocols (SPIRIT-Surrogate): extension checklist with explanation and elaboration. *BMJ*. 2024. doi: 10.1136/bmj-2023-078525
- 18) Nonboe MH, Napolitano GM, Kann C, Andersen B, Bennetzen MH, Christiansen S, Frandsen AP, Rygaard C, Salmani R, Schroll JB, Lyng E. Screening outcome of HPV-vaccinated women: Data from the Danish Trial23 cohort study. *PLoS ONE*. 2024. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0306044
- 19) Olbrich L, Kay AW, Bjerrum S, Yang B, Åhsberg J, Nathavitharana RR, Lundh A, Shah M, Jaganath D. Parallel use of low-complexity automated nucleic acid amplification tests on respiratory samples and stool with or without lateral flow lipoarabinomannan assays to detect pulmonary tuberculosis disease in children. *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews*. 2024. doi: 10.1002/14651858.CD016071
- 20) Peterslund P, Mølstrøm S, Jørgensen KJ, Chew MS, Schmidt H. Pharmacological interventions for vasoplegic syndrome after cardiac surgery. *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews*. 2024. doi: 10.1002/14651858.CD015257
- 21) Puljak L, Bala MM, Zajac J, Meštrović T, Buttigieg S, Yanakouli M, Briel M, Lunny C, Lesniak W, Poklepović Peričić T, Alonso-Coello P, Clarke M, Djulbegovic B, Gartlehner G, Giannakou K, Glenny AM, Glenton C, Guyatt G, Hemkens LG, Ioannidis JPA, Jaeschke R, Jørgensen KJ, Martins-Pfeifer CC, Marušić A, Mbuagbaw L, Meneses Echavez JF, Moher D, Nussbaumer-Streit B, Page MJ, Pérez-Gaxiola G, Robinson KA, Salanti G, Saldanha IJ, Savović J, Thomas J, Tricco AC, Tugwell P, van Hoof J, Pieper D. Methods proposed for monitoring the implementation of evidence-based research: a cross-sectional study. *Journal of Clinical Epidemiology*. 2024. doi: 10.1016/j.jclinepi.2024.111247
- 22) Sandau N, Aagaard TV, Hróbjartsson A, Harris IA, Brorson S. Transitivity, coherence, and reliability of network meta-analyses comparing proximal humerus fracture treatments: a meta-epidemiological study. *BMC Musculoskeletal Disorders*. 2024. doi: 10.1186/s12891-023-07119-w
- 23) Schroll JB, Jeppesen BT, Møller MH, Jørgensen KJ, Fally M, Brorson S. Critical appraisal of clinical practice guidelines. *Ugeskrift for Laeger*. 2024. doi: 10.61409/V09230579

24) Tunn R, Boutron I, Chan AW, Collins GS, Hróbjartsson A, Moher D, Schulz KF, de Beyer JA, Hansen Nejstgaard CH, Østenggaard L, Hopewell S. Methods used to develop the SPIRIT 2024 and CONSORT 2024 Statements. *Journal of Clinical Epidemiology*. 2024. doi: 10.1016/j.jclinepi.2024.111309

25) Walløe S, Roikjær SG, Hansen SMB, Zanger G, Mortensen SR, Korfitsen CB, Simoný C, Lauridsen HH, Morsø L. Content validity of patient-reported measures evaluating experiences of the quality of transitions in healthcare settings—a scoping review. *BMC Health Services Research*. 2024. doi: 10.1186/s12913-024-11298-0

26) Wei L, Kuenzig E, Im J, Zheng Y, McLinden T, Emerson S, Eissa A, Halder H, Shaw R, Chan AW, Dixon W, Ehrenstein V, Guttmann A, Harron K, Hemkens LG, Hróbjartsson A, Lyons R, MacDonald SE, Maniate J, Moher D, Petersen I, Quan H, Schmidt S, Sørensen H, Wang S, McAllister DA, Langan SM, Benchimol EI. Methodological Challenges when Using Routinely Collected Health Data for Research: A scoping review. *International Journal of Population Data Science*. 2024. doi: 10.23889/ijpds.v9i5.2610

27) Wilkinson J, Heal C, Antoniou GA, Flemyngh E, Alfirevic Z, Avenell A, Barbour G, Brown NJL, Carlisle J, Clarke M, Dicker P, Dumville JC, Grey A, Grohmann S, Gurrin L, Hayden JA, Heathers J, Hunter KE, Lasserson T, Lam E, Lensen S, Li T, Li W, Loder E, Lundh A, Meyerowitz-Katz G, Mol BW, O'Connell NE, Parker L, Redman BK, Seidler L, Sheldrick KA, Sydenham E, Torgerson D, Van Wely M, Wang R, Bero L, Kirkham JJ. Protocol for the development of a tool (INSPECT-SR) to identify problematic randomised controlled trials in systematic reviews of health interventions. *BMJ Open*. 2024. doi: 10.1136/bmjopen-2024-084164

28) Wilkinson J, Heal C, Antoniou GA, Flemyngh E, Avenell A, Barbour V, Bordewijk EM, Brown NJL, Clarke M, Dumville J, Grohmann S, Gurrin LC, Hayden JA, Hunter KE, Lam E, Lasserson T, Li T, Lensen S, Liu J, Lundh A, Meyerowitz-Katz G, Mol BW, O'Connell NE, Parker L, Redman B, Seidler AL, Sheldrick K, Sydenham E, Dahly DL, van Wely M, Bero L, Kirkham JJ. A survey of experts to identify methods to detect problematic studies: stage 1 of the INVeStigating ProblEmatic Clinical Trials in Systematic Reviews project. *Journal of Clinical Epidemiology*. 2024. doi: 10.1016/j.jclinepi.2024.111512

29) Xun Y, Estill J, Khabsa J, Florez ID, Guyatt GH, Norris SL, Lee MS, Ozaki A, Qaseem A, Schünemann HJ, Shao R, Chen Y, Akl EA, Amer YSAD, Akl IB, Arayssi T, Alonso-Coello P, Barber SL, Chang S, Dahm P, Falck-Ytter Y, Ford N, Grundy Q, Hazlewood GS, Kuriyama A, Lundh A, Marušić A, Mathew JL, Mintzes B, Mustafa R, Navarro DF, Nurdiati D, Pieper D, Saito H, Song Y, Su R, Thomas R, Tokalić R, Tonelli M, Wang P, Wang X, Wang Z, Yang N, Zhu D. Reporting Conflicts of Interest and Funding in Health Care Guidelines: The RIGHT-COI&F Checklist. *Annals of Internal Medicine*. 2024. doi: 10.7326/M23-3274

30) Østenggaard L, Barrientos A, Boutron I, Chan A-W, Collins G, Hopewell S, Moher D, Nejstgaard CH, Schulz KF, Speich B, Tang E, Tunn R, Watanabe N, Xu C, Hróbjartsson A. Development of a topic-specific bibliographic database supporting the updates of SPIRIT 2013 and CONSORT 2010. *Cochrane Evidence Synthesis and Methods*. 2024. doi: 10.1002/cesm.12057

List of publications: Commentaries or letters to the editor

- 1) Zahl PH, Jørgensen KJ. Estimating Breast Cancer Overdiagnosis After Screening Mammography Among Older Women in the United States. *Annals of Internal Medicine*. 2024. doi: 10.7326/L23-0484

List of publications: Book chapters

- 1) Boutron I, Page MJ, Higgins JPT, Altman DG, Lundh A, Hróbjartsson A. Considering bias and conflicts of interest among the included studies. In: Higgins JPT, Thomas J, Chandler J, Cumpston M, Li T, Welch VA, eds. *Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions* version 6.5. Cochrane 2024 <http://www.training.cochrane.org/handbook>
- 2) Van Beersel Krejčíková H. §38 až 44a. In: Šustek P, Holčapek T, Široká L, Šolc M, Červinka J, Fikejzová A, Hlaváček K, Jirásková K, Lindová B, Marx D, Salač J, Těšitelová V, Tomášek P, Van Beersel Krejčíková H. *Zákon o zdravotních službách. Komentář*. Praha: Wolters Kluwer ČR 2024;218-258. ISBN 978-80-7676-999-1.
- 3) Van Beersel Krejčíková H. § 49. In: Šustek P, Holčapek T, Široká L, Šolc M, Červinka J, Fikejzová A, Hlaváček K, Jirásková K, Lindová B, Marx D, Salač J, Těšitelová V, Tomášek P, Van Beersel Krejčíková H. *Zákon o zdravotních službách. Komentář*. Praha: Wolters Kluwer ČR 2024;292-296. ISBN 978-80-7676-999-1.

List of publications: Reports

- 1) Junior Borges do Nascimento I, Weerasekara I, Marquez J, Mohamed Abdulazeem H, Vasanthan LT, Deeken G, Morgan R, Tan HL, Aguirre IY, Østengaard L, Azzopardi-Muscat N, van Kessel R, Martinez EZ, Grbic M, Novillo-Ortiz D. The role of digital health technologies in women's health, empowerment and gender equality: project report. World Health Organization 2024. <https://www.who.int/europe/publications/i/item/WHO-EURO-2024-9293-49065-73153>

List of publications: Publication by adjudicated researchers based in Denmark

- 1) Christensen R, Nelson AE. Clinical practice guidelines for osteoarthritis: Caveats related to discrepancies in recommendations. *Osteoarthritis and Cartilage*. 2024. doi: 10.1016/j.joca.2024.04.014
- 2) Frandsen TF, Carlsen A-MF, Eriksen MB. The use of subject headings varied in Embase and Medline: an analysis of indexing across six subject areas. *Journal of Information Science*. 2024. doi: 10.1177/01655515221107335
- 3) Frandsen TF, Eriksen MB. Afrapportering af systematiske søgninger. *Ugeskrift for Laeger*. 2024. Article number: V06230420.
- 4) Shahid A, Liu X, Bracken K, Christensen R, Deveza LA, Collins S, Harnett J, Hunter DJ, McLachlan AJ, Robbins S, Bowden JL. Efficacy and safety of an oral complementary medicine combination in people with symptomatic knee osteoarthritis: Protocol for the double-blind, randomized, placebo-controlled ATLAS trial. *Osteoarthritis and Cartilage Open*. 2024. doi: 10.1016/j.ocarto.2024.100522

5) Sofíudóttir BK, Munk HL, Christensen R, Möller S, Overgaard SH, Sorensen GL, Møllegaard KM, Pingel J, Nexøe AB, Glerup H, Guldmann T, Pedersen N, Dahlerup JF, Hvas CL, Andersen KW, Jawhara M, Nielsen OH, Bergenheim FO, Bygum A, Davidsen JR, Sørensen SB, Brodersen JB, Kjeldsen J, Andersen V, Ellingsen T. Microfibrillar-associated protein 4 as a predictive biomarker of treatment response in patients with chronic inflammatory diseases initiating biologics: secondary analyses based on the prospective BELIEVE cohort study. *Rheumatology International*. 2024. doi: 10.1007/s00296-024-05744-9

Bibliometric overview 2021-2024

See below figures illustrating the development of the number of scientific articles by Centre researchers (and various subgroups of publications) and the total number of citations to such articles since the merge of Cochrane Denmark and Centre of Evidence-Based Medicine Odense in 2021.

Figure 1. Number of articles in peer reviews journals (left vertical axis) by centre researchers and number of citations (right vertical axis) to such articles by year

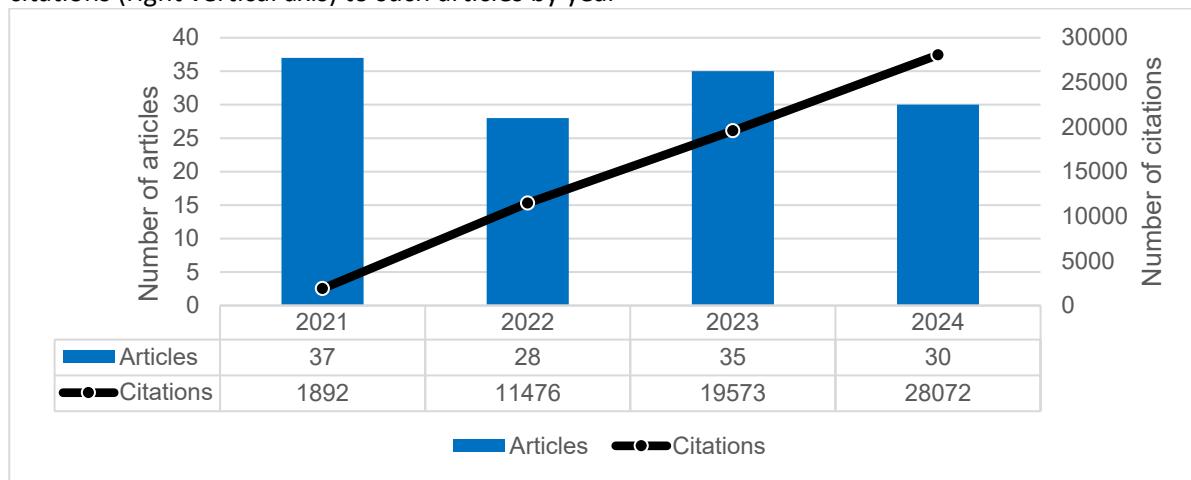
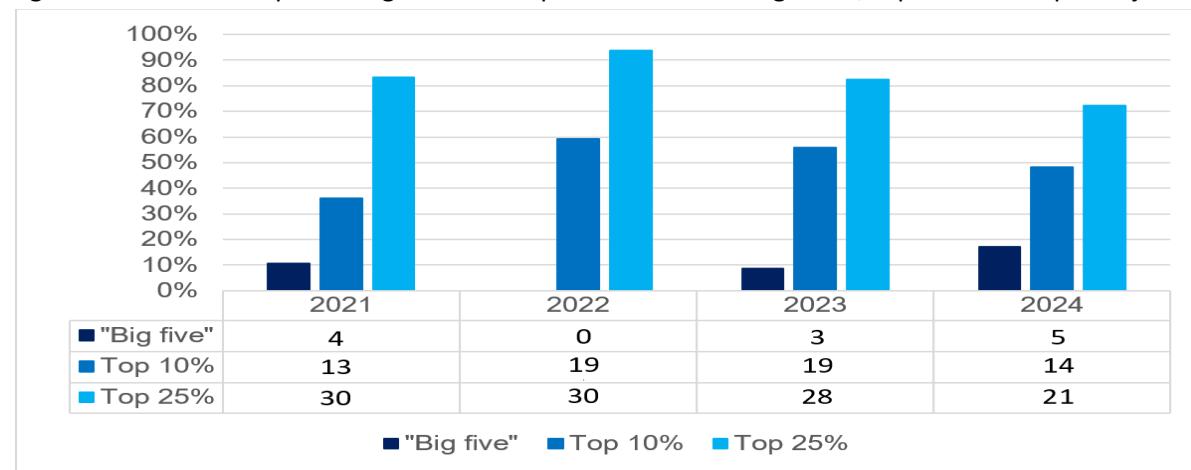


Figure 2. Number and percentage of articles published in the "big five"², top 10% and top 25% journals⁴



⁴Data from top 10% is also included in top 25%

Figure 3. Number and percentage of articles published with a main author from CD-CEBMO or in a core journal

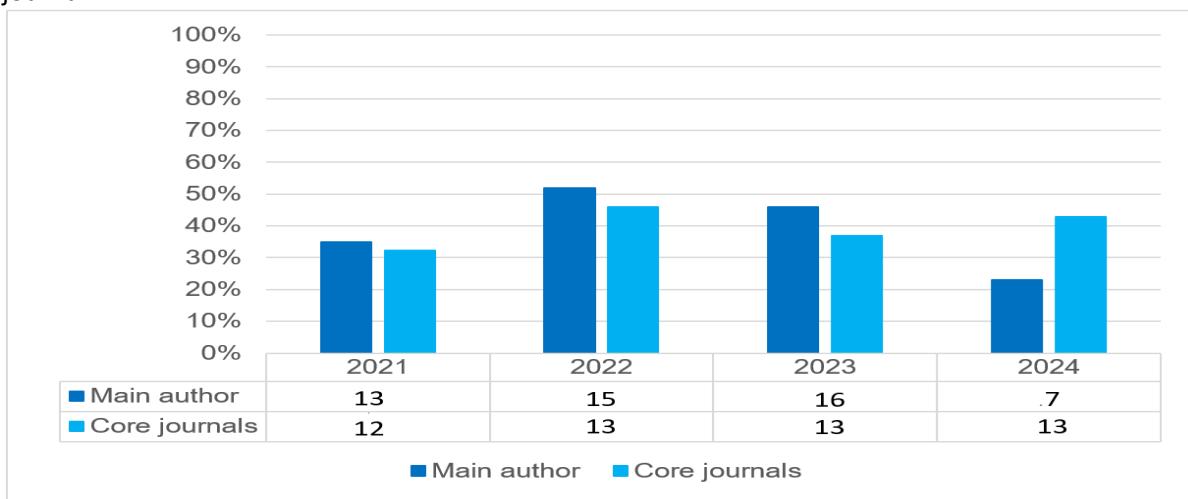
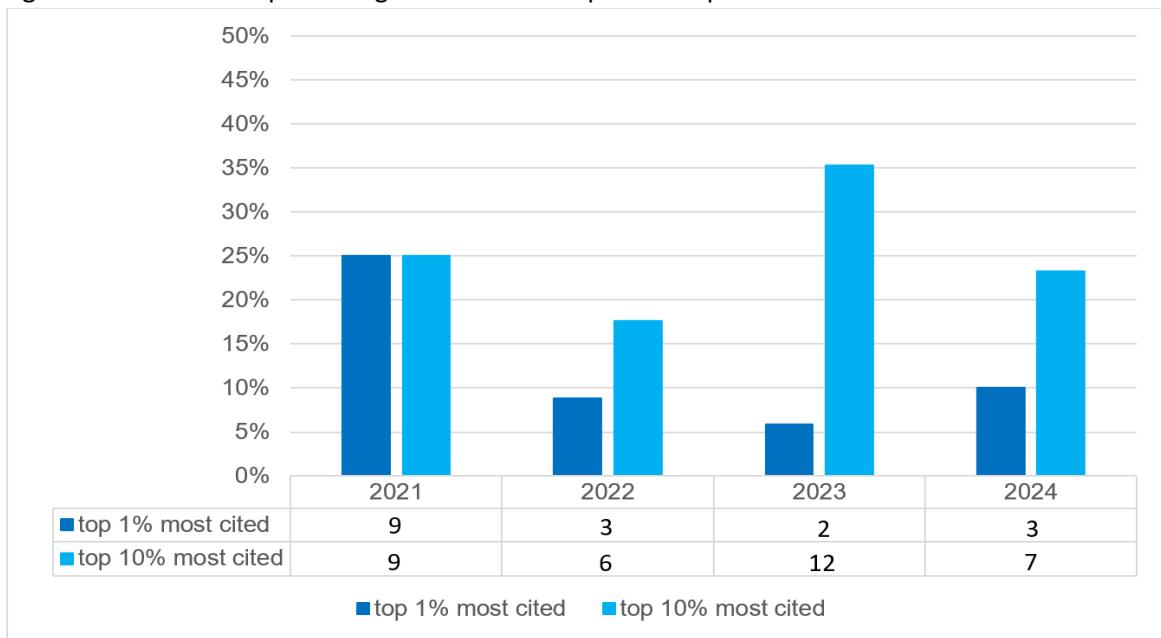


Figure 4. Number and percentage of articles in top citation percentiles^{5,6}



⁵ Show as field-weighted

⁶ Data from top 1% is included in top 10%

Overview of selected large international projects

The following section presents main international projects that the Centre was engaged in during 2024.

TACIT – Tool for Addressing Conflicts of Interests in Trials. Our centre leads the development of a tool for addressing conflicts of interests in randomized trials included in systematic reviews. The project is supported by an international working group and a steering group. See the [TACIT website](#). The project is co-led by Andreas Lundh and Asbjørn Hróbjartsson. The main publication is expected in 2025.

COMFIT – Commercial Funding in Trials. Our Centre led the work on constructing a database, combining unpublished data from multiple methods studies to investigate the impact of commercial funding on estimated intervention effects in randomized clinical trials. The project is co-led by Asbjørn Hróbjartsson, Andreas Lundh, and Camilla Hansen Nejstgaard. The main publication is expected in 2025.

PRISMA-P 2026 – An updated reporting guideline for systematic review protocols. In late 2022, planning started for updating the PRISMA-P reporting guideline, originally published in 2015: PRISMA-P 2026. The leading researchers behind the original PRISMA-P initiative were contacted and a collaboration was agreed on. The project is co-led by Asbjørn Hróbjartsson and Professor Lesley Stewart from University of York.

Re-evaluation of screening interventions directed at the general public. Our centre led a group of international screening experts, outlining the principles for a framework for regular re-evaluation of existing screening interventions directed at the public. A series of papers is planned to contribute to a stronger emphasis on evidence-informed prioritization and de-implementation in healthcare. The project is led by Karsten Juhl Jørgensen.

SPIRIT-CONSORT – Reporting guidelines for protocol and final report of randomised clinical trials. Our Centre was represented in the Executive Group for the development of SPIRIT 2025 and CONSORT 2025 statements. The main publications will be in print in April 2025.

INSPECT-SR project: INveStigating ProblEmatic Clinical Trials in Systematic Reviews, led by Jack Wilkinson, Centre for Biostatistics, The University of Manchester, Manchester Academic Health Science Centre, Manchester, UK. The centre is represented in the working group by Andreas Lundh. The main publication is expected in 2025.

PhD projects

In 2024, there were four PhD Fellows at CD-CEBMO: David Ruben Teindl Laursen, Lasse Østengaard, Christoffer Bruun Korfitsen, and Mathias Weiss Damkjær.

David Laursen: Active placebo as control intervention in pre-clinical and clinical randomised trials. The first two sub-projects investigated the impact of using active placebo controls (rather than standard non-active placebos) on estimated drug effect. Asbjørn Hróbjartsson is primary supervisor.

Lasse Østengaard: Citation principles in clinical research.

The objective of Lasse's PhD project is to characterise and analyse the content and variability of principles for citations in clinical research. The study will provide an empirical basis for reflections on adequacy of citations and serve as the evidence foundation for the development of a citation guideline which is a planned extension of the PhD study. Asbjørn Hróbjartsson is primary supervisor.

Christoffer Bruun Korfitsen: Conflicts of interest in peer review of biomedical research.

Christoffer's PhD project aims to investigate conflicts of interest in peer review of biomedical research. The first sub-project mapped the research on peer reviewers' conflicts of interest. The other sub-projects will investigate journal policies and practices on peer reviewers' conflicts of interest, and journal editors' and researchers' experiences with peer reviewers' conflicts of interest. Andreas Lundh is primary supervisor.

Mathias Weiss Damkjær: medical devices.

Mathias' project focuses on challenges involved in how medical devices are tested, approved, and selected for clinical use. Jeppe Schroll is primary supervisor.

In addition, four researchers prepared PhD projects with tentative start dates in 2025: Mihaela Ivosevic Broager, Mette Bangshof Engmose, Josefina Salazar, and Cecilie Jespersen.

Project supervision

Senior researchers at the Centre also acted as project supervisor for two other PhD Fellows, who have primarily been affiliated with other centres: Cille Bülow supervised by Andreas Lundh; and Mette Hartman Nonboe supervised by Jeppe Schroll.

III. Promotion of Cochrane in Denmark and support to Cochrane authors based in Denmark as well as Cochrane internationally

Supporting national collaboration within Cochrane and evidence-based medicine

The heads of the three Cochrane Review Group based in Denmark and Asbjørn Hróbjartsson held routine video meetings approximately every two months. The meetings provided a forum for discussing recent Cochrane developments.

The Danish EBM Network was established in 2022. The Network aims to foster collaboration between persons interested in evidence-based medicine and Cochrane activities in Denmark. In 2024 there were 65 persons on the mailing list. Lasse Østengaard was daily coordinator. We arranged a half-day meeting with optional dinner in the spring of 2024 with 54 participants.

In 2024, the practicalities of establishing an affiliate Cochrane unit in Aarhus moved on, and it is realistic that a unit will open officially in 2025.

Teaching sessions on Cochrane methods and clinical epidemiology (not SDU)

Researchers from the centre taught in: a course for young researchers at Centre for Translational Research, Bispebjerg Hospital; a course in clinical decision-making at University of Copenhagen; a course in bias in observational studies at Rigshospitalet's oncology department; a course in GRADE for medical students at the University of Copenhagen; and a PhD-course at Lund University in association with Cochrane Sweden on systematic review methods and Cochrane.

Talks on Cochrane methods and clinical epidemiology

Researchers at the centre gave talks on: conflicts of interest in healthcare and industry-funded research at The Medicines Council; independence in the approval of medicinal products at Doctors without sponsor online meeting; Conflicts of interest across scholarly disciplines and organisations at a symposia at the World Congress on Research Integrity; breast screening at <https://forward.recentiprogressi.it>; Systematic

reviews at Sundhedsnetværket; reporting bias at the biannual meeting for research ethical committees in Denmark; protocols and publications at research ethical committee for Region South; and protocols and publications at research ethical committee for Capital Region.

Training Cochrane authors

See below under 'Course activity on Cochrane methodology and systematic reviews.'

Media contact

During the year, Centre staff were contacted by, or was otherwise mentioned, in the following media: Akademikerbladet, Ugeskrift for Laeger's podcast, Nature, www.sensible-med.com, TV2, DR, DRP1, DRP3, Radio 1111, www.videnskab.dk, www.tjekdet.dk, BT, Sundhedsmonitor, Politiken, and Washington Post.

Guest editors at Ugeskrift for Laeger

Centre staff suggested in 2023 to the editorial board of the Ugeskrift for Laeger to publish a series of papers on how to critically appraise clinical research articles. The editors accepted the idea and a series of six papers were commissioned. Several of the papers were published in 2024.

International Cochrane activities

The Centre hosts the secretariat for the Cochrane Bias Methods Group. The group is responsible for methods guidance to Cochrane, contributing to the Cochrane Handbook, developing the Cochrane Risk of Bias Tool, and coordinating methods research on bias. Asbjørn Hróbjartsson is co-convenor with Senior Research Fellow Matt Page, Cochrane Australia; Professor Isabelle Boutron, Cochrane France; and Professor Julian Higgins, University of Bristol, UK. The group's research coordinator is Camilla Hansen Nejstgaard.

Members of staff served on Advisory Board, etc.

PROSPERO, University of York, UK; Centre of Evidence-Based Psychiatry, Region Sjælland; member of the Coordinating Group for GRADE Nordic Network.

IV. Research training and methods guidance

Throughout 2024, our team supported research training activities and methods guidance aimed at Cochrane authors in Denmark, and university students, healthcare researchers, guideline developers and health professionals at University of Southern Denmark and Odense University Hospital. The Centre offers guidance for students and researchers to support them when conducting a clinical study, typically a systematic review.

We offered walk-in methods clinics, and short-term and long-term guidance. The two-hour clinics were held once every month (except January and July). The short-term service consisted of a up to 1-hour guidance and the long-term guidance consisted of a total of up to 10-hours support.

Methods consultancy, general

The two-hour walk-in methods workshops offered an introduction to various types of reviews and guiding the participants through the core steps of preparing them. The monthly regular workshops were supplemented by additional workshops covering specific themes (e.g., workshops in protocols or searches). In 2024, we offered 13 workshops (10 ordinary and three thematic).

The short-term guidance consisted of a 1-hour guidance. In 2024, we provided short-term guidance through the workshops or short-term services to a total of 62 review projects.

The long-term guidance consisted of up to 10-hours support. In general, the long-term service was a continuous process where a methods consultant from our centre provided guidance throughout the course of a research project. In 2024, we provided long-term guidance to 32 consultancy projects, including five Cochrane Reviews.

Methods consultancy related to randomised trials

In 2024, we expanded our service to include individual project guidance for randomised trials as part of our close cooperation with the Clinical Trial Unit (CTU) at OPEN (Regional research support unit). This part of the methods consultancy service was in the startup phase, and the procedures will have to be settled and adjusted as we gain more experience.

The trial projects are administered by OPEN, and we participated in meetings or provided written feedback. Our guidance focused on academic and methodological aspects during planning and protocol development as well as dissemination, e.g. relevance of trial, design considerations, registration, reporting guidelines, and dissemination plans. In 2024, we provided short-term guidance on one trial project and long-term guidance on 12 trial projects.

Course activity on Cochrane methodology and systematic reviews

We have a portfolio of courses on Cochrane methodology on how to conduct a systematic review or evidence synthesis. The courses are aimed at Cochrane authors from Denmark broadly and for researchers at Odense University Hospital and Department of Clinical Research at the University of Southern Denmark.

The portfolio of courses consists of 1) free access to Cochrane Online Learning Modules; 2) a one-day introductory course on systematic reviews, and 3) a four-day advanced course on systematic reviews. Both courses were held twice in 2024.

V. Teaching Evidence-Based Medicine at University of Southern Denmark

Our Centre led the course in evidence-based medicine for medical students at the University of Southern Denmark. We organised the course, taught, and examined approximately 150 medical students per semester. The course lasts a total of five weeks (8 ETCS) and aims to provide students with skills that allow them to frame a structured clinical question, identify the relevant scientific literature, and critically appraise the identified clinical studies. Each year, professors and associate professors from our Centre contribute with 32 hours of lectures, and postdocs and PhD Fellows contribute with 18 hours of case-work instructions and 330 hours of instructions and feedback to written assignments of a critically appraised topic (CAT).

One member of our team also gave two double lectures as part of the MSc programme in Pharmacy at the Faculty of Health Sciences at University of Southern Denmark.

PhD courses

The two courses (1-day and 4-day course) described above (Course activity for Cochrane authors and for researchers wanting to do systematic reviews) had status as PhD courses.

VI. Other activities

In 2021, Odense University Hospital and the Department of Clinical Research at the University of Southern Denmark published a joint research strategy for the years 2021-25. The strategy specifies evidence-based medicine as one of five central dimensions. CD-CEBMO contributed to the strategy by expanding the research methods guidance service, leading the group responsible for implementation of that dimension of the strategy, and giving talks to clinical departments.

Specialist training

Senior staff contributed to specialist education in internal medicine: Course in rational pharmacotherapy; screening; randomized trials/systematic reviews; and bias in randomized trials.

Assessments of academic theses or positions

Members of staff contributed to the assessment of one PhD Thesis.

Clinical Trials Unit at OPEN, Odense University Hospital

The Clinical Trials Unit (CTU) at Odense University Hospital was established in 2024. The centre collaborated closely with the CTU, focusing on guidance on development of trial protocol, registration of the trial, interpretation of results, public access to data, and the reporting of the final result.

VII. Overview of main developments and changes from 2023

In 2021 Cochrane Denmark and Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine Odense were functionally merged into one centre, and by 2023, a unified working culture had been established. In 2024, the merger was successfully concluded. During the year, researchers at the Centre published a robust number of articles in journals with high impact factor, most notably five publications in a “Big Five” journal. The publications often involved international collaboration, had first/last author from the Centre, and the questions addressed were central to Cochrane and evidence-based medicine. Plans for a new Cochrane unit in Aarhus progressed, and close collaboration was established with the new Clinical Trials Unit at Odense University Hospital.

Odense, 26/5 2025



Asbjørn Hróbjartsson
Professor, Head of Centre