



# Cochrane Work

## **Cochrane is seeking to elect 4 new Governing Board members**

Cochrane is looking for candidates with a passion for the Cochrane Collaboration, a belief in its power to improve healthcare decision making worldwide, and the ability to support the members of the organization - especially the authors who slave away on Cochrane reviews without any remuneration.

Cochrane is an international collaborative organization and a registered charity in the UK. Members of the Governing Board are called the 'Trustees' of the charity, which is a British term meaning the people in charge. The board members carry ultimate legal responsibility for Cochrane. As you will understand this is a critically important role because they are the decision makers.

The Board consists of 13 members of which seven are elected from Cochrane members. The idea behind this is that Cochrane members would always have the majority on the Board. The elected members appoint another six members who are supposed to balance the others' scientific expertise with their own experience in leading organisations or from politics. Therefore, the elected members should be young and dynamic and have a good feel for the pulse of the organisation. With all your hard work for Cochrane, this is the benefit you have earned: you may vote and you may stand as a candidate in the elections. So, use your rights! It would be foolish to throw away this dearly earned benefit.

In this election, Cochrane is especially seeking candidates who are prepared to step into the situation that the current Governing Board has created. As you may recall, four elected board members resigned [because they could not support the decision to expel one of their members](#). So it is not going to be an easy job. But remember that you are going to be elected by the Cochrane members who make up the heart of this organisation. It is worthwhile doing it for them and to ensure that Cochrane is a lively and democratic organisation. Cochrane is seeking candidates who have one or more of the following areas of expertise, to complement those of existing Board members:

- A thorough understanding of the unpaid and voluntary input of Authors, Centres, Methods and Review groups
- Exquisite skills in constructively handling criticism
- Experience in Cochrane of another role than that of Coordinating Editor
- Great communication skills to inform and engage Cochrane members
- Understanding of Cochrane as a global collaboration reaching beyond the UK

This is an exciting opportunity to join the team providing strategic oversight to Cochrane, making sure its decisions are democratic and in the interest of its members. This means that the production of systematic reviews becomes more efficient and leaves less back-breaking slavery for authors, the organization's work is effective and innovative, and that it delivers on its mission to promote evidence-informed health decision making by producing high-quality, relevant, accessible systematic reviews and other synthesized research evidence.

Unfortunately, Cochrane cannot give you any money for doing the ungrateful work of a Board member because that is legally forbidden for a UK Charity. You are expected to go through hundreds and hundreds of pages riddled with management talk and filter out the important pieces. You also have to learn dozens of documents that specify the rules that you have to stick to. However, there are members that are willing to support you in this. Formally the Board requests that, each year you will need to commit to attending at least three and up to four face-to-face meetings at different locations internationally, and at least two teleconferences. You will be expected to be a member of one or more Board Sub-Committees. In practice, if you want to do it well it is a lot of work. But the cause is worth it. Your expenses will be paid to attend meetings. The term of appointment is three years, from December 2018 to December 2021. In 2019, you should be available to travel to London, UK, 19-20 January; Krakow, Poland, 1-5 April; and Santiago, Chile, 22-25 October.

The deadline for nominations is Wednesday 14 November 2018. To find out how to stand for election, please visit [elections.cochrane.org](http://elections.cochrane.org).

With best wishes,

Jos Verbeek, Cochrane member until 2023