



Governing Board Elected Member Candidate Statement

The Candidate Statement, your photograph and names of your nominators will be published on the Cochrane websites during the elections process.

Please submit this Elected Member Candidate Statement in Word format by **Friday 24 November 2023**. It should be shared beforehand with your two nominators.

Family name (surname):	Jordan
First name(s):	Vanessa
Today's date:	20/11/23
Are you a current member of the Governing Board standing for re-election?	No

Questions 1-4: General experience and motivation

- 1. What experience do you have of serving as a trustee, member of a governing board, board of directors, management group or similar? (maximum 200 words).**

I am the appointed epidemiologist on New Zealand's National Ethics Advisory Group. This group advises New Zealand's Minister of Health on ethical issues and oversees the health and disability ethics committees. During my time on this committee, we have dealt with the Covid-19 pandemic and the introduction of the End-of-Life Choice act in addition to other projects. The committee provided essential support and ethical guidance in these areas.

Since 2020, I have represented authors on the Cochrane Council. It is challenging to represent such a diverse community as Cochrane authors. In order to better represent this group, I initiated the setup of the author panel which is a group of interested authors whom we were able to contact and ask for more specific feedback.

I am co-director of MSDocs Ltd a company which owns a primary care practice, this practice is multi-disciplinary and serves a population with high needs and who have low socioeconomic status.

- 2. How have you contributed to Cochrane's work? (maximum 200 words)**

Authoring

- Author of 17 reviews and 6 protocols in the Cochrane library.

- Worked with 12 different Cochrane review groups.

Editing and reviewing

- Methods editor for Cochrane Gynaecology and Fertility.

- Methodology reviewer for the central editorial service.

Promotion and Training

- Associate Director of Cochrane NZ.

- Trainer for Cochrane methods in New Zealand.

- Manages Cochrane's social media presence in NZ.

- Ensures continuation of the national site license for New Zealand.

- Facilitates engagement of healthcare students and NZ ministry staff with Cochrane evidence.

- Coordinates the Primary Healthcare Field and writes Cochrane PEARLs which are a dissemination product for those working in primary care.

Committees

- Author Representative for the Cochrane Council.

- Chair of the Conflict-of-Interest panel.

- Member of the Cochrane Oversight Committee.

- Member of the Cochrane Scientific Strategy Advisory Group.

Memberships

- Coordinator of the new Cochrane thematic group in sexual and reproductive health.

- Member of the Cochrane Methods Group and Trainers' Network.

- Convenor of the Cochrane Author's Panel.

3. Trustees are required to act only in the best interest of the charity and make decision collectively. Members of the Governing Board take a collaborative approach to decision-making and must set aside personal opinions and group affiliations. Please describe how you would fulfil this obligation, using examples.

(maximum 200 words).

I have been privileged to wear multiple hats within The Cochrane Collaboration. This has given me

the opportunity to experience working with Cochrane entities across the organisation as a whole. As a member of multiple groups, fields, networks and a centre I feel that I have a whole organisation approach rather than a single focus on one type of entity. I negotiate the Cochrane funding contracts for the Primary healthcare field, Cochrane Gynaecology and Fertility and Cochrane NZ as well as ensuring the continuation of the national site license for the Cochrane Library. Although my main entity is Cochrane NZ, I have had to put any bias aside and ensure funding for all the groups. The stability of all the groups in NZ is my priority rather than focusing on the centre. The stability of Cochrane globally would be my priority as a member of the governing board.

In my professional career I have worked across clinical disciplines and the many varied personalities that come with this. My focus is always on what we aim to achieve and how best to support the team to complete these aims rather than just my discrete role in the team.

**4. What skills, experience and qualities do you have to enable you to serve as an effective member of the Cochrane Governing Board?
(maximum 200 words)**

I am a senior academic in the Faculty of Health and Medical Science at the University of Auckland in NZ. As such I have been involved in primary and secondary research and lecture at both the undergraduate and postgraduate level. I have had to gain funding to support activities for both Cochrane and non-Cochrane work and have served on local, national, and international committees. During this work I have gained skills in effective communication with individuals of varying levels of knowledge. I have gained insights in how to achieve an aim, even if the pathway to that aim may not be that which I initially envisioned. I have learnt the flexibility to accept others' ideas as well as contributing my own to achieve the overall aim. My experience within Cochrane has given me a broad oversight on how the organisation functions. I believe I am well informed about the changes that are underway and therefore, I will be able to leverage this knowledge to contribute to discussions.

Specific Skills

These are the essential skills, knowledge and experience that the Board needs from its members collectively. We do not expect any single Governing Board member to have all the skills and experience listed below.

The Governing Board is committed to improving the organizations' approach to equity, diversity and inclusion. It recognises that having members with a broad mix of skills and knowledge as well as a range of perspectives and lived experiences will help the Board to be innovative, flexible, better able to adapt to a changing environment and address future challenges.

Desired skills and experience for this election:	Which means to you can:	Do you have skills and experience in this area? [YES/NO]	If YES, please provide an example:
Leadership of global and/or complex organizations	Develop and evaluate organizational strategy, lead multicultural teams and engage diverse groups of stakeholders	Yes	I lead Cochrane NZ and have had to navigate the relationship between the funder and my host institution. This has involved overhead negotiations as well as contract deliverables. In addition to this I advocate for staff working in these groups who come from international backgrounds and often work in part time capacities for Cochrane NZ.
Making organizations more diverse and equitable	Guide equity, diversity and inclusion assessments and target-setting or provide lived experience of addressing issues of inequality	Yes	NZ has a strong focus on equity as we have an indigenous population (Māori) who have not received equitable treatment with respect to healthcare and education. NZ is also a multicultural country with a large percentage of the population that are first- or second-generation migrants. Working as part of the National ethics committee during COVID, we highlighted the need to not exacerbate existing inequities and eventually the vaccine rollout and access to health services were prioritised for these groups. We advocated for a response that involved the communities in the rollout by providing funding for community providers rather than just providing access. As a result of this committee's and others advice community providers played a pivotal role in NZs response and the resulting COVID outcomes.

Organizational change management	Articulate and guide organizational change, and motivate people to support change	No	
Fundraising and business development	Develop and implement opportunities for income generation, build organizational relationships and connections, access donor and partner networks	Yes	When I initially joined Cochrane there was no national license for the library nor was there funding for the primary healthcare field. The funding was also renewed on an annual basis. Through strengthening the relationship between Cochrane and the Ministry of Health I along with my fellow directors have secured a national license as well as additional funding for the groups and we have secured three yearly renewable funding for the organisation.
Advocacy	Act as an ambassador for an organization, influence and strengthen the commitment of public leaders or decision-makers to a cause, secure community support	Yes	I have continually advocated for The Cochrane Collaboration in NZ and have presented at both international and national health specialty conferences to raise Cochrane's profile. I have been involved in organising local and national events to gather those involved in Cochrane. This is to ensure the community stays motivated and connected.
Public relations and communications	Build organizational brand and profile online and in person, lead crisis management, design effective external and internal communications processes	Yes	I run the social media presence for Cochrane NZ on Facebook, Instagram and X (twitter) I also write a Cochrane column highlighting Cochrane evidence in the Journal of Primary Healthcare as well as produce a dissemination product called PEARLs. As previously mentioned, I initiated the Cochrane authors panel along with Agustín Ciapponi in order to enhance two-way communication with Cochrane authors.
Financial management and accounting	Oversee an organization's fiduciary, risk and audit duties, lead financial and investment planning	No	
Digital product development	Guide user-centred design, development and delivery of new digital products, understand informatics and structured data	No	
Publishing and Open Access	Guide others through the complexities and opportunities for organizations in achieving Open Access to content and data	No	

Evidence synthesis and evidence-based decision-making	Understand Cochrane’s core business holistically	Yes	As listed above I am personally involved in authoring many Cochrane reviews as well as non-Cochrane reviews. I also assist with the reviewing and editorial aspects of production of systematic reviews for the Cochrane library.
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5. Any other information you would like to add to support your nomination (maximum 200 words)?

The Cochrane Collaboration is currently in a period of change. The change was needed in order to secure Cochrane’s future. Some would argue with the benefit of hindsight, that we as an organisation should have adapted more quickly and prevented some of the uncertainty we are currently facing. However, we are a global organisation whose activities are largely funded by outside groups such as national governments, international governmental and non-governmental organizations, universities, hospitals, private foundations, and personal donations, we need to be mindful that much of this funding is transient and maybe dependent on our current Cochrane structure. The governing board needs to balance the need for change to future proof the organisation against the preservation of the existing funding and production. Last but by no means least the board also needs to keep first and foremost the ethical principles and values of the organisation at the forefront of discussion. I would love the opportunity to support Cochrane in achieving this balance whilst keeping the goodwill of all those that have contributed to the Cochrane Collaboration as we move forward.

Declarations:

To be eligible to stand for election, candidates must confirm the following by putting a 'tick' (✓) or their initials in the boxes below:

I hereby confirm that I:

1. Have accepted the Terms and Conditions of Cochrane Membership and have been a Cochrane Member for at least 30 days prior to the close of voting in this election	VJ
2. Have read the following guidance from the Charity Commission The essential trustee: what you need to know, what you need to do	VJ
3. Accept the Governing Board Charter	VJ
4. Accept and will adhere to the Code of Conduct for Trustees	VJ
5. Have completed the Cochrane 'Declaration of Interest' Statement (Annex 1 of this document)	VJ
6. Have completed the 'Trustee Eligibility Declaration' required by the UK Charity Commission for all Trustees (Annex 2 of this document)	VJ
NAME: Vanessa Jordan	
DATE: 22/11/23	

Annex 1: Cochrane Declaration of Interest Statement

Candidates must make a declaration of conflict of interest, including financial or non-financial relationships with other organizations, professional relationships to other members of the Board, and other Boards she/he may sit on. In writing this statement, candidates should refer to Cochrane’s [conflict of interest policy](#) (for Cochrane Groups) and the [declarations of existing members of the Board](#).

Please answer the following questions:

1. Financial interests In the last three years, have you:	YES/NO (If YES, please provide details)
a) Received funding: any grant, contract or gift, commissioned research, or fellowship from Cochrane or a related organization (i.e., any organization related to health care or medical research) to conduct research?	I have received grants and funding from Ministry of Health NZ
b) Had paid consultancies: any paid work, consulting fees (in cash or kind) from a related organization?	Yes -University of Auckland -Ministry of Health NZ - Pharmac - Wellington School of Medicine, Otago University
c) Received honoraria: one-time payments (in cash or kind) from a related organization?	No
d) Served as a director, officer, partner, trustee, employee or held a position of management with a related organization?	Yes Director of MSDocs Ltd Company this company owns a primary care practice
e) Possessed shareholdings, stock, stock options, equity with a related organization (excludes mutual funds or similar arrangements where the individual has no control over the selection of the shares)?	No
f) Received personal gifts from a related organization?	No
g) Had an outstanding loan with a related organization?	No
h) Received royalty payments from a related organization?	No

<p>2. Do you have any other competing interests that could pose a conflict of interest that would reasonably appear to be related to the primary interest?</p>	<p>No</p>
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Annex 2: Trustee Eligibility Declaration

As required by the [UK Charity Commission](#)

Please tick or initial in the boxes below to confirm the following:

I declare that I:

<p>Am willing to act as a trustee of The Cochrane Collaboration</p>	<p>VJ</p>
<p>Understand Cochrane’s purposes (objects) and rules set out in its Articles of Association</p>	<p>VJ</p>
<p>Am not prevented from acting as a trustee because I:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have an unspent conviction for one or more of the offences listed here • Have an Individual Voluntary Arrangement, debt relief order and/or a bankruptcy order • Have been removed as a trustee in England, Scotland or Wales (by the Charity Commission or Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator) • Have been removed from being in the management or control of any organization in Scotland (under relevant legislation) • Have been disqualified by the Charity Commission • Am a disqualified company director • Am a designated person for the purposes of anti-terrorism legislation • Am on the sex offenders register or equivalent in any country • Have been found in contempt of court for making (or causing to be made) a false statement • Have been found guilty of disobedience to an order or direction of the Charity Commission 	<p>VJ</p>
<p>Will provide true, complete and correct information to the Charity Commission if elected as a Board member</p>	<p>VJ</p>
<p>Understand that it’s an offence under section 60(1)(b) of the Charities Act 2011 (United Kingdom) to knowingly or recklessly provide false or misleading information</p>	<p>VJ</p>
<p>Comply with my responsibilities as a trustee that are set out in the Charity Commission guidance ‘The essential trustee (CC3)’</p>	<p>VJ</p>

