



Blanche, LIM

Tell us a bit about your professional background

I am a Doctor currently serving in Ophthalmology in Singapore. As nominated Chief Resident, in addition to my core medical and surgical duties, I too participate in the overseeing of manpower and resource allocation for the daily running of clinic and core services, critically evaluate clinical pathways and processes and patient safety guidelines and am heavily involved in community Ophthalmology screening programmes on a national and personal basis daily. I am also involved in multiple regional and community healthcare events on a voluntary basis.

Why do you want to become a member of Cochrane's Governing Board?

I am invested to create change positively, having seen how evidence-based medicine has impacted my personal practice. In addition, Cochrane is starting to be driven towards systematic reviews pertaining to topics relating to developing world health issues which has always remained my passion. Last but not least, I believe my ability to relate to this role and bring a voice from the Asian perspective to the table will add a different dimension to the Board.

What are Cochrane's key opportunities and challenges and what can the Board do to help address them?

Cochrane's reach is immense but still remains a "luxury" in developing countries, where it may remain inaccessible to core healthcare services, governing bodies, and voluntary healthcare organisations. This can have the downstream effect of unsafe practices which can immensely impact care. This remains a severe limitation of care in the Asia-Pacific region which I have experienced on a personal level whilst engaging in missions, e.g. in Cambodia and parts of Indonesia. This exemplifies a major challenge that Cochrane faces, and should consider addressing to remain relevant globally. The second challenge is to focus collaborative evidence based research towards building public healthcare, to encourage those who are steeped in voluntary work in these regions towards producing work that will enable us to evaluate effectiveness of care given the simplicity of options that are available. Relevance to policy makers- an 'Insurmountable' mountain of knowledge. While Cochrane is a treasure

trove of information, its very strength may be its weakness, when key players of healthcare provision may not know where to begin their hunt for relevant information pertaining to their line of work. Currently Cochrane produces a simplified abstract of current studies – but I would like us to be challenged to be relevant to policy-makers and offer evidence-based work that will impact change positively for critical use of resources.