



Robert, DELLAVALLE

Tell us a bit about your professional background

I am a Joint Coordinating Editor of *Cochrane Skin*, a Professor of Dermatology and Public Health at the University of Colorado, and a practicing physician. In 2010, I organized the first joint Cochrane and Campbell Colloquium in Keystone, Colorado, (800 participants). In 2014, I served as a GRADE methodologist for World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines on HIV skin and mucosal diseases. In 2015 I helped found the American Academy of Dermatology (AAD) Cochrane Fellowship while serving as the AAD Guidelines Committee Chairman---this scholarship increases Cochrane workforce capacity in dermatology by funding two dermatologists' travel to the Colloquium annually. Over several years I have been involved in Cochrane research prioritization comparing Cochrane Library content with the global burden of disease and Wikipedia dissemination projects that have increased the citation of Cochrane Skin systematic reviews in Wikipedia skin disease chapters.

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

I want to serve as a Cochrane Governing Board Member because I am a true believer in Cochrane's goals and mission, and I want to give back to it at this critical time when evidence-based medicine is more under attack than ever. I believe Cochrane needs innovative, versatile, open-minded Governing Board members with extensive experience both inside and outside of the Collaboration who will put the Charity above personal agendas. I believe my collaborative and transparent communication style, my broad experience, and my teaching skills (acquired from mentoring hundreds of medical students and promoting state-wide skin cancer prevention initiatives) will be valuable assets for me as a board member.

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

Board members must maintain Cochrane's laser focus on our central mission of producing the highest quality and most impactful systematic reviews. Cochrane must also continue to lead the development of cutting edge methodological and policy applications of this work (given the proliferation of poorer quality reviews in ever increasing numbers) and push this best evidence into practice.