

Frank, PEINEMANN

Tell us a bit about your professional background

I am a paediatrician and adjunct lecturer at the Children's Hospital of the University of Cologne, Germany. The Care and Public Health Research Institute (CAPHRI) of Maastricht University, Netherlands, awarded me a Ph.D. in evidence-based medicine. I am conducting systematic reviews on healthcare interventions, preferably Cochrane Reviews. Occasionally, I address the respective methodology and provide recommendations to prevent pitfalls observed with reviews and clinical studies.

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

I would like to be responsible for overseeing the development and implementation of Cochrane's strategic direction. I would like to affirm reliable achievements and acknowledge new developments. I would like to discuss matters with people and share various thoughts which may lead reasonable agreements.

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

General media and medical journals could be approached to introduce recurring messages such as "This week's news from Cochrane". Authors of Cochrane reviews should be encouraged to publish abridged versions preferably connected to the respective medical discipline, although, they need to adjust to the current evidence. Authorship criteria should be crucial for authorship and thus should be preferred to just being registered before the actual work has been commenced. Government secretaries of health should be approached to explain the value of the publicly available Cochrane Library for the people. The consideration of various study designs should allow the evaluation of different aspects of an intervention, for example, adverse events, rare disease, and orphan drugs.