



Governing Board Elected Member Candidate Statement

The Candidate Statement, your photograph and names of your nominators will be published on the Cochrane Community website during the elections process, and the Candidate Statement and photograph will remain on the website against the names of new members for the duration of their terms on the Board. For this reason, this Candidate Statement document template must be used; and full addresses, email addresses and/or unencrypted e-signatures excluded.

Please submit this Elected Member Candidate Statement in Word format by the stated deadline. It should be shared beforehand with your two nominators.

Family name (surname):	Jordan
First name(s):	Vanessa
Today's date:	31/10/18

1. How and when did you first become involved in Cochrane and what has been your subsequent contribution to Cochrane's work (maximum 200 words)?

I have been involved with Cochrane for 15 years. I hold the post of New Zealand (NZ) Cochrane fellow and am a staff member of Cochrane NZ. As part of this position I advocate for Cochrane authors from NZ and have dealt with almost all Cochrane groups in this advocacy role. In addition to this I organise and run the Cochrane training within NZ and am involved with promotional activities to increase awareness and use of the Cochrane Library.

As a methodologist I have been involved in Cochrane authoring teams from various healthcare areas. I am an author on 17 Cochrane reviews and have worked with 7 different Cochrane groups as an author, which in turn are part of 5 separate networks.

In 2012 I was heavily involved in the organisation of the 20th Cochrane Colloquium. I was chair of the abstract committee and was on the scientific committee as well as being responsible for the overall organisation of the event.

I am a member of the statistical methods group, trainers' network and consumer network. I have also regularly represented Cochrane NZ at the Centre Directors' meetings. Lastly, I was a member of the Colloquium Policy Advisory Committee (CPAC) from 2011-2015.

2. What experience do you have serving as a member of a governing board, board of directors or similar? This might be within a non-for-profit or

charitable organization, or a hospital or University. Please include the name(s) of the organization(s), the roles you played and other relevant information (maximum 200 words).

I have not yet had the privilege of being a member of a board of directors. I have been an advisory board member of Cochrane NZ since its inception in 2004 and have represented Cochrane NZ at the centre directors' board meeting as a proxy on multiple occasions. In these roles I have taken part in strategic discussions as well as small focus groups to discuss possible recommendations and future steps.

3. Acting as a Board member requires a collaborative approach to decision-making, setting aside personal opinions and group affiliations and acting in the best interests of the charity. Please describe how you would fulfil this obligation, using examples from previous committee or other work (maximum 200 words).

During my work and personal life I work consistently with groups and individuals to achieve various goals (authoring groups, organisational committees, exam committees, school parent groups). One of the constants I have found is that listening to all point of views is fundamental to gaining a group consensus. All committees have members who come with different expertise and can offer value to the discussions. I have found that people are more likely to accept the group consensus if they feel they have had a fair hearing of their own point of view. I am no different.

Listening has to be balanced with relevance. It is important to keep comments on point. When I am offering a point of view to groups I recognise that time is valuable and I keep my comments pertinent and concise.

As an independent doctoral chair for the University of Auckland I frequently chair oral examinations that include examiners, department heads and supervisors. When coming to a consensus on an examination grade I put into practice the points I have made above. I listen to all point of views, keep the agenda to time and make sure all parties are happy with the consensus at the conclusion of the meeting.

4. What do you think would make you an effective member of the Board (maximum 200 words)?

I have been associated with Cochrane for a reasonable number of years but I have not been a member since its inception. As such I believe I understand the values Cochrane is based around and what makes this organisation special but my views are not entrenched. Change should never be just for the sake of change alone but neither should an organisation stay exactly the way it was when it was conceived. Cochrane has a gold standard reputation that needs to be protected in order to maintain the level of respect we currently have worldwide. However, I believe Cochrane needs to change and grow in order to stay relevant and meet the needs of the current health evidence environment. If we do not change we risk being a Wikipedia entry of an organisation who was intimately involved in changing the face of health evidence in the late 90's and early 2000's. The role of the governing board is to steer our organisation so that we maintain our reputation but also so we continue to grow and develop and remain relevant. I would be honoured to be a part of this process.

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5. What do you believe are the most important strategic challenges for Cochrane in 2019 (maximum 200 words)?

Cochrane has recently faced a very public challenge to our brand and integrity. Both of these are at the heart of our strategy to 2020. We need to ensure Cochrane remains known for its gold standard work, ethos of academic rigour and true independence. Cochrane is a charity with multimillion dollar revenue and as such it needs to adhere to the rules and regulations prescribed in the UK Charities Act 2011. I believe that whilst following these rules the board must also consider the ethos of Cochrane and it must act in an open and transparent way. It is now time to move forward, learn from this experience and become even stronger as an organisation.

Dissemination of evidence has always been a challenge for Cochrane and I believe continues to be a challenge, and it must be met head on. This has already been identified and is part of the strategy to 2020 document. The establishment of the knowledge translation advisory group means Cochrane is moving in the right direction. However, I believe that although some projects have already been identified more needs to be done in this area. In order to be successful financially and more importantly to maintain and improve our position as evidence providers we need to ensure the evidence that we produce is relevant, accessible and utilised.

Questions 6-12: Specific Skills

To function optimally the Governing Board requires a range of experiences, knowledge and expertise amongst its membership. We cannot expect any single Governing Board member to have all the necessary skills and experience. We are looking for diversity.

We do not expect you to answer “yes” to more than one or two of these questions.

If you do answer “yes”, please provide at least one example which best demonstrates your experience or expertise. You may wish to include:

- A description of the situation and the context
- What you did
- What skills and knowledge you deployed
- The outcome and your personal contribution

6. Do you have experience of Charity Governance (in any charitable organization around the world)?

Yes or No? If Yes, please provide details and examples below (maximum 200 words).

No

7. Do you have experience of Organizational Finance and Resource Management?

Yes or No? If Yes, please provide details and examples below (maximum 200 words).

Within the university setting I have managed large research grants. These grants have typically covered a three year program including funding for operating costs, staff costs and institutional overheads.

8. Do you have experience of People Management (often called 'Human Resources' in English) and Organizational Development?

Yes or No? If Yes, please provide details and examples below (maximum 200 words).

I am a co-director of a limited liability company that incorporates a medical practice. This practice has recently undergone a restructure, expansion and a move to new premises which has involved working with human resource (HR) consultants. This process is still ongoing but I believe it has given me invaluable experience and has demonstrated the need for good legal advice and understanding of HR practice.

9. Do you have experience of Consumer and Patient involvement in Evidence Production and Health Policy?

Yes or No? If Yes, please provide details and examples below (maximum 200 words).

Cochrane New Zealand has always included consumer representation on its advisory board. I have been fortunate to work with these representatives. In order to be inclusive of consumers organisations need to recognise not only the value they add but also show an understanding that these individuals do not have the resources that are commonly available to other board members such as Continuing Medical Education (CME) and travel funds.

I have also worked closely with Choosing Wisely international and Choosing Wisely New Zealand. This organisation aims to empower consumers to ask pertinent questions regarding treatment choices that they are offered.

10. Do you have experience of Advocating for Evidence?

Yes or No? If Yes, please provide details and examples below (maximum 200 words).

Yes, I have compiled multiple submissions to the New Zealand Ministry of Health (MoH) on their national health strategy and national health research strategy. These submissions highlighted the necessity of using high grade evidence to support their recommendations. In addition to formally advocating for the use of evidence I have also informally discussed how to help the MoH use evidence and this has resulted in Cochrane New Zealand running training workshops on the use and

interpretation of evidence within the ministry.

I am also currently engaged in a project that is assessing the grade of evidence used to support Choosing Wisely recommendations. We hope to add appropriate existing evidence to the evidence base behind these recommendations as well as highlighting clinical areas where a gap in systematic review evidence may exist.

11. Do you have experience of Widening Access, Participation, Reach and Impact of Research?

Yes or No? If Yes, please provide details and examples below (maximum 200 words).

One of our main objectives of Cochrane NZ at its inception was to establish a national licence for access to the Cochrane Library. In 2005 we achieved this goal by lobbying the district health boards (DHB's) and the Ministry of Health. Once this licence was in place it became one of Cochrane NZ's key objectives to promote and increase the use of this licence which I am responsible for. As such I produce over 60 alert documents annually which target 14 medical specialties highlighting new Cochrane reviews in their area of interest.

I also actively engage in social media. Cochrane New Zealand has an active Twitter account and Facebook page which targets users of Cochrane reviews. We are very careful to tag consumer and professional organisations if we believe the post is of interest to them thus expanding the reach of Cochrane evidence.

As a result of these and other activities annual full text downloads have increased from 35100 in 2006 to 161,467 in 2017 giving New Zealand the sixth highest number of full text downloads for countries with national site licences.

12. Do you have experience of Fundraising & Development?

Yes or No? If Yes, please provide details and examples below (maximum 200 words).

No

13. Is there anything else you would like to say in support of your nomination (maximum 200 words)?

I believe I would be a valuable member of the Cochrane governing board. As an active Cochrane contributor across many Cochrane groups I bring with me a wide knowledge base. As a methodologist I am also used to working in collaborative groups across research areas. By collaborating with people from different backgrounds I have learnt effective and appropriate communication skills as well as how to build positive working relationships. I am a very experienced public speaker and am also effective communicating in small groups. I would appreciate the opportunity to give back to Cochrane by helping steer the organisation through the next three years.

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	✓
2. Have read the following guidance produced by the National Council for Voluntary Organisations in the UK: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is a charity• What is a charity trustee• What trustees must do• How trustees look after the charity	✓
3. Accept the Governing Board Charter	✓
4. Accept and will adhere to the Code of Conduct for Trustees	✓
5. Have completed the Cochrane 'Declaration of Interest' Statement (Annex 1 of this document)	✓
6. Have completed the 'Trustee Eligibility Declaration' required by the UK Charity Commission for all Trustees (Annex 2 of this document)	✓
NAME: Vanessa Jordan	
DATE: 6/11/2018	

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](#) 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 research 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 from New Zealand Ministry of Health, Maurice and Phyllis Paykel Trust, Sir John Logan Campbell Medical Trust, University of Auckland summer studentship programme and Faculty research and development fund University of Auckland
b) Had paid consultancies: any paid work, consulting fees (in cash or kind) from a related organization?	I have been paid consultancy fees to teach at the University of Auckland, University of Otago and AUT (Auckland University of Technology)
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?	I am a director of MSDocs Ltd a limited liability company that runs a medical practice.
e) Possessed share-holdings, 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
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	No

interest?

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:

Am willing to act as a trustee of The Cochrane Collaboration	✓
Understand Cochrane's purposes (objects) and rules set out in its Articles of Association	✓
Am not prevented from acting as a trustee because I: <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	✓
Will provide true, complete and correct information to the Charity Commission if elected as a Board member	✓
Understand that it's an offence under section 60(1)(b) of the Charities Act 2011 to knowingly or recklessly provide false or misleading information	✓
Comply with my responsibilities as a trustee that are set out in the Charity Commission guidance 'The essential trustee (CC3)'	✓