



Vanessa, JORDAN

Tell us a bit about your professional background

I am currently employed as a Senior Research Fellow/Senior Lecturer at the University of Auckland. I also hold the position as New Zealand Cochrane Fellow and have done for 15 years. I have a PhD in epidemiology/biostatistics and biochemistry and have spent my career specialising in research design and systematic review methodology. I am recognised as a skilful communicator and teacher and am invited to conduct workshops both nationally and internationally. My research is primarily focused on publication bias and I have an interest in the ethics and methods currently being developed for Big Data.

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

The role of the governing board is to steer our organisation so that we maintain our reputation but also continue to grow, develop and remain relevant. I would be honoured to be a part of this process. I am a practitioner of evidence-based thought and action and as such believe I would be a valuable asset to the board. I am collaborative and am prepared to listen to other points of view as well as express my own. I believe I can contribute to a board that works on evidence, and not on hearsay, to continue to develop and prepare Cochrane for the changing world of evidence in healthcare.

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

Cochrane's most pressing challenge is the current criticism and concern that has been raised following events earlier this year. The board needs to help mend the Cochrane community and reassure the outside world that we are still the same organisation. As always open debate has been welcome within this organisation and during this time the open debate has continued. However, I am concerned that there have been those who have tried to use this open discussion as a forum to push other non-related issues. Rumour and suggestion have no place in this organisation. Moving forward it is important the board is transparent and communicates clearly with the members of Cochrane and their decisions must be based on evidence and be available for review.