



Xavier, BONFILL

Tell us a bit about your professional background

I am a physician specialist in Medical Oncology as well as in Epidemiology and Public Health, professor of these matters at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. I am the director of the Clinical Epidemiology and Public Health Department at the Hospital de Sant Pau in Barcelona, as well as the director of the Iberoamerican Cochrane Centre and Network. I coordinate an active research group mainly focused on clinical trials, systematic reviews and appropriateness studies.

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

I feel that Cochrane, to which so many people we have devoted so much time along our life, now really needs the generosity and capacity from all of us. We are a unique organisation worldwide whose contributions and importance go far beyond our products. Our existence and background demonstrates that the principles on which we have built our project are enough solid and necessary to be preserved and enlarged in order to improve the health of people and also the health of the world. The original spirit of the Cochrane Collaboration must be adapted to the new times and challenges but without losing its nature. We must learn constructively from the recent problems in order to better combine legality and participation, democracy and inclusiveness.

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

In my opinion Cochrane is currently at a very important crossroad to face its future, with several major challenges: 1. reaffirming and further developing the foundational principles of the Collaboration, so that there will be no doubts, neither internally nor externally, about them or their interpretation. This would provide greater cohesion among members and overcome the existing confusion, frustration and division; 2. reviewing the internal mechanisms of organisation, participation, resolution of potential conflicts and differences, as well as clarifying the degree of the necessary autonomy of territorial entities and individuals. All these mechanisms should prevail over—although making them compatible with—the constraints from the legal structure of the organisation; 3. continuing the efforts to become an organisation really global, participative, multilingual, and inclusive; 4. developing a sustainable and ambitious economic model that combines

institutional agreements, progressive open access policies and more support to Cochrane entities worldwide.