



Governing Board Elected Member Candidate Statement

The Candidate Statement, your photograph and names of your nominators will be published on the Cochrane websites during the elections process, and the Candidate Statement and photograph will remain on the websites 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):	Qaseem
First name(s):	Amir
Today's date:	October 22, 2021
Are you a current member of the Governing Board standing for re-election?	No
Will you be 30 years old or younger on 29 November 2021?	No If yes, you will be asked to provide proof of your age following submission of your Candidate Statement

Questions 1-4: General experience and motivation

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)?

Dear friends and colleagues,

I am excited to stand and submit my name for your consideration and your vote for Cochrane Governing Board. I have been involved with Cochrane for over 15 years and currently I am director of Cochrane US Network affiliate. I have personally benefited tremendously as a member and learned from many of you through your expertise, knowledge exchange, and collaborations. At American College of Physicians, the oldest guidelines program in USA, this partnership has helped to advance science and methods in addition to conducting evidence

reviews. I have attended and presented at various Cochrane Colloquiums, including regional meetings. I am a firm believer in collaborative work and conserving resources. The current pandemic has only strengthened the need for us to work together to ensure science forms the foundation of policies. One of my goals has always been to bring the evidence reviewers and the guideline developers to work closely together. When I was Chair of the Guidelines International Network (GIN), I took on this task and worked with my colleagues to establish the Cochrane/GIN partnership. In addition, I played a leadership role in negotiations and teamwork that resulted in a highly successful 2017 Global Evidence Summit.

2. What experience do you have serving as a member of a governing board, board of directors, management group or similar? This might be within a non-for-profit or charitable organization, or a hospital or university. Please include the roles you played and other relevant information (maximum 200 words).

I have been on governance boards and committees of many national and international organizations, not-for-profit and charity. As a board member, I have been responsible for ensuring that all the rules, requirements, and fiduciary responsibilities of the charity are met, including the appropriate use, allocation, and sustainability of finances. Below are several recent examples of organizations whose boards I served on:

- a) Chair 2012-13 and 2013-14 Guidelines International Network (elected twice, 1-year term each).
- b) Member, Board of Trustees 2010 to present (elected four times, 3-year term each).
- c) Member, Board of Directors 2015-2020 Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement - American Medical Association (elected twice, 3-year term each).
- d) Member, Board of Directors 2013 to 2018 MedBiquitous - Association of American Medical Colleges (twice, 3-year term each).
- e) Chair, Measures Advisory 2017-2020: PCPI - American Medical Association (3-year term).
- f) Chair, National Quality Forum's Population Health 2014 to present.
- g) Member, DynaMed Board of Executives 2013-present.

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 organization as a whole. Please describe how you would fulfil this obligation, using examples from previous committee or other work (maximum 200 words).

I bring over 20 years of experience working on different types of boards and committees, as member and as chair, including governing boards of various organizations, guidelines committees, and governmental agencies. I have been involved with ethics and have led work on

issues such as conflicts of interest and their management. Transparency is the key. I have participated numerous times in meetings where controversial issues were discussed. However, at the end of the day, first and foremost, my primary task is representing you well and fiduciary responsibility. I have been entrenched in making national level decisions addressing testing, prevention, diagnosis, and management of COVID-19 in the United States, where controversies ranged from limitations of emerging evidence to politics. Best interest of public and patients, globally and nationally, could not have been more important than it has been over the past 18 months of pandemic. I believe that our unique experiences, expertise, and beliefs may result in differing arguments, but bring richness to the discussions. Open mindedness, listening to others, mutual respect, and effective communication on well-grounded reasoning help bring convergence. Rationality must work together with reasonableness and realities to make decisions.

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

I have been trained as a physician, health economist, methodologist/clinical epidemiologist, business administrator, a leader and problem solver. I am responsible for leading the clinical policy of the largest physician organization (ACP). At the national level, I have been deeply involved to in several initiatives and committees convened by public (CMS, CDC, NQF) and private organizations to improve the quality of health care of our patients. I have led international organizations such as GIN as Chair and Trustee. My extensive experience includes invited participant as a team member at the international level to develop health policy and quality improvement programs in countries in Asia, Australia, Europe, North America, and South America. I have been repeatedly invited to speak on health policy and economics, evidence-based medicine, performance measurement, guideline development, evidence synthesis, and quality of care. I am well published with hundreds of articles, with over 100 papers published in just the top 5 medical journals in the world, in addition to many other journals. I have been on governance boards and committees of several national and international organizations where I have experienced the importance of collaborative team-work and effective communication skills.

Questions 5-11: Specific Skills

The Governing Board needs a range of experiences, knowledge and expertise amongst its membership. We do not 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 the questions below.

If you do answer “yes”, please provide at least one example which best demonstrates your skills or experience.

Desired skills and experience for this election:	Which means to you can:	Do you have skills and experience in this area? [YES/NO]	If YES, please provide an example:
5. Publishing and Open Access	Guide others through the complexities and opportunities for organizations in achieving Open Access to content and data	Yes	ACP has many publication and physician education resources, and I am regularly involved in the discussions and decisions. Examples include our top journal, <i>Annals of Internal Medicine</i> , with an impact factor of 25.391. I also work with <i>ACP Internist</i> , a newsletter that goes to 161,000 physicians. I have also been on the editorial board of <i>American Journal of Medical Quality</i> . ACP also just recently established a new open access journal, <i>Clinical Cases</i> . Finally, I have been involved at the board and editor level with <i>DynaMed</i> , a medical point of care resource by EBSCO Publishing.
6. Fundraising and business development	Develop and implement opportunities for income generation, build organizational relationships and connections, access donor and partner networks	Yes	I am responsible for leading the business development and strategic engagement decisions for ACP’s clinical policy work. This entails

			<p>making decisions and selecting national and international level organizations with similar mission and goals to help improve the health and health care of individuals and populations. I am currently on the Executive Committee of the Cochrane US Network, where one of our responsibilities include business development and identifying funding resources to establish this new network. An example includes planning and hosting GIN Annual Conference in Philadelphia, USA in 2016. It was a highly successful meeting, one the top 3 events ever for GIN, both financially and strategically, with good educational content and most importantly, participation from across the globe. It involved leading a team to gather external financial support from sponsors and partners for the conference.</p>
7. Digital product development	<p>Guide user-centred design, development and delivery of new digital products, understand informatics and structured data</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>I am involved in the integration of digital medicine into healthcare delivery efforts by ACP. Examples include working with publishing, communication, and technical experts to identify innovative options to get the evidence and guidelines to patients and clinicians. In addition, I am participating in the national level efforts in the US where organizations, regulators, and innovators are working together towards digital transformation in health. Other examples include identification of trustworthy resources such as apps to help physicians and patients. My international involvement includes being a</p>

			member of HL7 FHIR guidelines group and DynaMed.
8. Financial management	Oversee an organization's fiduciary, risk and audit duties, lead financial and investment planning	Yes	My financial experience include work at my own institution, American College of Physicians. I am responsible for a multimillion-dollar annual budget. I have also been a Chair and currently Trustee of Guidelines International Network, a Scottish charity. I am also a recipient of multiple grants where I was responsible for the budget.
9. Advocacy	Act as an ambassador for an organization, influence and strengthen the commitment of public leaders or decision-makers to a cause, secure community support	Yes	<p>I have an extensive experience in this field. I am the lead staff for clinical policy at the ACP, advocating for using best available evidence as the basis for not only guidelines, but also for decisions such as coverage, reimbursement, performance measures, or payments. I have also been involved in discussions and giving presentations in front of local, state, and federal levels, both government and private organizations, such as the United States Congressional Staff, CMS, CDC, AHRQ, and private insurance companies, health care systems, hospitals, patient organizations, and disease advocacy organizations.</p> <p>Internationally, I have helped establish science and evidence as a strategic priority for medical organizations and at the national level, including using clinical guidelines, across regions. This involved discussions with the senior level</p>

			officials at the governmental and provincial ministries and private health care systems. I have done this work in many countries in Europe and Asia.
10. Science communications or public relations	<p>Build organizational brand and profile online and in person, lead crisis management, design effective external and internal communications processes; OR</p> <p>Educate and raise awareness of science-related topics, design strategies for effectively communicating complex ideas to different audiences, or lead the transfer of knowledge into action</p>	Yes	<p>I am official spokesperson for ACP and have been professionally trained for the press/media relations. Over the years, I have been interviewed by journalists for from TV, Radio, and Print/Internet for many high-profile media outlets such as BBC, CNN, NBC, Washington Post, New York Times, and Wall Street Journal to name a few.</p> <p>I have been interviewed on live TV in arenas such as primetime evening news. Example, BBC asked me to appear for a live question and answer during their 8pm news hour to discuss COVID-19 with only one hour notice.</p>
11. Making organizations more diverse and equitable	Guide equity, diversity and inclusion assessments and target-setting or provide lived experience of addressing issues of inequality	Yes	I am heavily involved in organizational level efforts at ACP to ensure we continue to be diverse, equitable, inclusive, and anti-racist. This includes increasing diversity within the organization but beyond ACP such as physician workforce and programs that address bias. In addition, experiences such as my work on COVID-19 has made it a priority for myself to address how limited resources are considered and distributed to communities that are vulnerable due to neglect, disinvestment, and marginalization.

			My evidence-based work includes consideration of structural and social determinants of health as a key variable during policy making to address deeprooted and long-standing inequities.
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12. Anything else you'd like to say in support of your nomination (maximum 200 words)?

It would truly be an honor for me if I am given the opportunity to represent you as a board member. You are all the spirit of Cochrane and you are the collaboration network.

Thank you and warm regards.

Amir Qaseem, MD, PhD, MHA, MRCP (London), FACP Vice President,
American College of Physicians
Director, Cochrane US Network Affiliate
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
USA

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: Amir Qaseem	
DATE: 10/22/21	

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](#) (for Cochrane Groups) and the [declarations of existing members of the Board](#).

Please answer the following questions:

1. Financial interests	YES/NO (If YES, please provide details)
In the last three years, have you:	
a) Received 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?	No
b) Had paid consultancies: any paid work, consulting fees (in cash or kind) from a related organization?	No
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?	No
e) Possessed shareholdings, 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 interest?	No

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	✓
<p>Am not prevented from acting as a trustee because I:</p> <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 (United Kingdom) 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)'	✓