



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):	Roaldsen
First name(s):	Melinda Berg
Today's date:	24.10.2021
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)?

I became involved with Cochrane in 2018 as the first author of the Cochrane Review called "Recanalisation therapies for wake-up stroke". I have since then been the first author of two updates of the following Cochrane reviews called "Intravenous thrombolytic treatment and endovascular thrombectomy for ischaemic wake-up stroke" and "Endovascular thrombectomy and intra-arterial interventions for acute ischaemic stroke". I have co-operated with the Cochrane Knowledge Translation Department and created a dissemination brief for science communication purposes for one of these reviews and I am also currently working on preparing a podcast.

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 am currently serving on several boards such as the Liaison Committee for education, research and innovation in North Norway as a part of my new occupation as the Head of Department of the Clinical Research Department of the University Hospital of North Norway.

I have been involved in the planning and execution and I am also the Trial Manager of the International Multi-Centre Prospective Randomised Controlled Trial TWIST (Tenecteplase in Wake-up Ischaemic Stroke Trial) since 2016 and up until today.

During my time as a medical student at UiT, The Arctic University of Norway I was a member of several governing boards such as being the next leader of the Tromsø University Student Sport Team Association and the elected leader of the board for the Tromsø University Student Ballet and Dance Association.

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 have the last five years been the International Trial Manager of a multi-centre, international, randomised controlled trial called TWIST (Tenecteplase in Wake-up Ischaemic Stroke Trial). TWIST has 10 participating countries and 77 centres in Europe and New Zealand. I have been responsible for facilitating the information flow within this organisation during these years and also have been a part of building the network and keeping everybody updated through physical and digital lectures, meetings, emails, regular weekly and monthly newsletters, social media etc. This has been vital to keeping the recruitment rate up and everybody involved in the trial.

I am Head of the Clinical Research Department of the University Hospital of North Norway and I am responsible for the whole research support team at the University Hospital that works in a collaborative effort towards increasing clinical research activity at all Departments at the University Hospital.

The aforementioned work activities I believe has prepared me for collaborative work in other arena's. I believe that I will be able to fulfil my obligations on the Cochrane Governing Board in a satisfactory manner, if I would be elected, because of these previous experiences.

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

I believe in the importance of evidence-based medicine, clinical research and properly executed systematic reviews and meta-analyses. I believe that the Cochrane Collaborations always have provided unique and extraordinary high-quality evidence to the science community and wish to contribute to this important work. I also wish to contribute to making the Cochrane Collaboration even more visible and information even more accessible. I believe in the importance of implementing universal open access to make Cochrane evidence readily available for the health community and public. I am told by others that I am effective and that I have a solid work capacity. I am a person that takes my obligations very seriously and I like to get things done. I am used to working in an international setting and collaborating with many different colleagues and stakeholders with diverse backgrounds.

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	NO	
6. Fundraising and business development	Develop and implement opportunities for income generation, build organizational relationships and connections, access donor and partner networks	NO	
7. Digital product development	Guide user-centred design, development and delivery of new digital products, understand informatics and structured data	NO	
8. Financial management	Oversee an organization’s fiduciary, risk and audit duties, lead financial and investment planning	NO	
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	In my work as International Trial Manager for the RCT TWIST I have done this. I have met colleagues and/or stakeholders from all the 10 participating countries, given talks at national and international conferences and meetings and promoting the trial and building a network and have been an advocate for the trial since the very beginning.

<p>10. Science communications or public relations</p>	<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>	<p>YES</p>	<p>In my work as International Trial Manager for the RCT TWIST I have done this. We build a TWIST web-portal, developed a TWIST logo, a TWIST account on twitter etc. We have continued recruitment during the crisis of the covid-19 pandemic, and we experienced several issues such as difficulties with the supply of the study drug. We always have managed to keep on recruiting despite these unforeseen difficulties we have encountered.</p>
<p>11. Making organizations more diverse and equitable</p>	<p>Guide equity, diversity and inclusion assessments and target-setting or provide lived experience of addressing issues of inequality</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>I myself have a multi-national background and as a woman I have always had a special focus and awareness on promoting gender equity, diversity and inclusion in all my previous work obligations and occupations.</p>

12. Anything else you'd like to say in support of your nomination (maximum 200 words)?

I sincerely hope that I will be given the chance to work on the Cochrane Governing Board. I am highly motivated, and I hope to deliver on the requested areas on the Cochrane Governing Board. I am both prepared and willing to dedicate and invest the necessary and required time and energy in fulfilling Cochrane's ambitions and goals and I wish to contribute to Cochrane's continuous and future success.

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	MBR
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	MBR
3. Accept the Governing Board Charter	MBR
4. Accept and will adhere to the Code of Conduct for Trustees	MBR
5. Have completed the Cochrane 'Declaration of Interest' Statement (Annex 1 of this document)	MBR
6. Have completed the 'Trustee Eligibility Declaration' required by the UK Charity Commission for all Trustees (Annex 2 of this document)	MBR
NAME: Melinda Berg Roaldsen	
DATE: 24.10.2021	

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 In the last three years, have you:	YES/NO (If YES, please provide details)
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?	YES, I am to be awarded a small grant of £5000 from the UK NIHR Cochrane Review Incentive Scheme for my work with the Cochrane review: Endovascular thrombectomy and intra-arterial interventions for acute ischaemic stroke
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	MBR
Understand Cochrane's purposes (objects) and rules set out in its Articles of Association	MBR
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 	MBR
Will provide true, complete and correct information to the Charity Commission if elected as a Board member	MBR
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	MBR
Comply with my responsibilities as a trustee that are set out in the Charity Commission guidance 'The essential trustee (CC3)'	MBR