



# 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.

Please submit this Elected Member Candidate Statement in Word format by **Friday 18 October 2024**. It should be shared beforehand with your two nominators.

Family name (surname):	<b>Sinha</b>
First name(s):	<b>Anju</b>
Today's date:	<b>9<sup>th</sup> October 2024</b>
Are you a current member of the Governing Board standing for re-election?	<b>No</b>
Are you a Cochrane member in a low-income or middle-income country (LMIC)?	<b>Yes</b>

## Questions 1-4: Skills, experience and motivation

**1. Can you demonstrate your commitment to Cochrane's mission, vision and founding principles? (link- [About us | Cochrane](#)) (maximum 200 words)**

Cochrane's vision for a world with better health for all people where decisions about health and care are informed by high-quality evidence & of promoting evidence-based decision-making in healthcare are reflected in my activities as a Co-chair of the Cochrane India Network and Director of the ICMR Cochrane Affiliate Centre. I have initiated a unique funding opportunity for Indian authors in systematic reviews and meta-analyses on key priority health areas of the National Health Policy, Perinatal Maternal Child and Adolescent health. In the high priority area of anemia among women of reproductive age and children 28 systematic reviews were coordinated by our Centre that contributed towards revision of the national program "Anemia Mukht Bharat 2.0" (anemia free India). This aligns with Cochrane's vision of improving health outcomes through high-quality, accessible research evidence. My commitment is also reflected in efforts to build capacity of Indian Scientists in Cochrane systematic review through workshops organized by the ICMR-Cochrane Affiliate Centre. I firmly believe in furthering Cochrane's founding principles of collaboration, inclusivity, and transparency in global health research. My work consistently promotes the dissemination and application of Cochrane reviews to inform public health policy.

**2. How have you contributed to Cochrane's work? (maximum 200 words)**

My contributions to Cochrane's work span authorship, training, and leadership roles. As a Cochrane author of

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Neonatal, Acute Respiratory groups, have published Cochrane systematic reviews including the prestigious Kenneth Warren award-winning review on chlorhexidine for neonatal care. I am an author in two ongoing reviews with the Campbell Social Welfare & Campbell International Development Groups. I am a group member with Cochrane's Trainer's network, Cochrane Child Health, and a peer reviewer for the Acute respiratory infections group. I have contributed to Workshops and Abstracts committees for Cochrane colloquium in (2023, 2024).

As the Director of the ICMR Cochrane Affiliate Centre I facilitate capacity building by training scientists and clinicians in systematic reviews through Cochrane-supported series of workshops. As Co-chair of the India Cochrane Network, I have fostered collaborations with key stakeholders, initiated projects like the Anemia Mukht Bharat Program, and played a role in producing evidence and gap maps to prioritize research needs in child health. Additionally, I actively participate in peer review for Cochrane groups, contributing to maintaining the high standards of Cochrane outputs. I have now been made a sign off editor with the Cochrane Central Editorial.

**3. Trustees are required to act only in the best interest of the charity and make decision collectively. Members of the Governing Board take a collaborative approach to decision-making and must set aside personal opinions and group affiliations. Please describe how you would fulfil this obligation, using examples.  
(maximum 200 words).**

This would be a new role for me. I plan to do my homework by reading the outputs created by my predecessors and by communicating with the existing Board directors. This would help me gain insights and learn about the collaborative approach. In my role as Deputy Director General at the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), I routinely contributed to collective decisions that balanced diverse stakeholder perspectives. For example, while coordinating the ICMR task force on anemia reduction, I facilitated consensus among researchers, funders, and government representatives to ensure the research's focus aligned with national health priorities. By fostering an environment of open discussion, I ensured that decisions reflected the group's best interest and maintained objectivity. In governing roles, including my work with Cochrane, as a Co-Chair of the Cochrane India Network, I consistently prioritize CIN's goals and ensure that decision-making processes remain transparent, collaborative, and free from personal biases. I have initiated collaboration with NITI Aayog, Global Centre of Traditional Medicine (GCTM), and Campbell Collaboration to support and develop technology based on Evidence based medicine. NITI Aayog approached CIN to produce synthesized evidence on topics of national priorities.

**4. What skills, experience and personal qualities do you have to enable you to serve as an effective member of the Cochrane Governing Board?  
(maximum 200 words)**

I bring over three decades of experience in public health research, leadership, and evidence synthesis, particularly in maternal and child health. As a Program officer in Child Health at the Division of Reproductive, Maternal and Child Health at the ICMR New Delhi, I contributed to advance the research agenda of the Division in the areas of Newborn & Child Health, Child Nutrition, Paediatric HIV, and Evidence Based Medicine. I have coordinated research opportunities to bring out effective strategies for prevention and control of morbidities among women and children. I have expanded the scope of research in Child Health in the areas of Childhood and

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Adolescent Anaemia, Injuries, Social Paediatrics' issues -Children living in difficult circumstances, Prevention and management of Prematurity, role of Probiotics in Women's and child Health and Evidence Based Child Health by advertising calls for proposals. I was responsible for research management of investigator-initiated research projects supported by ICMR. My skills in research management, strategic planning, and capacity building are complemented by a strong background in epidemiology and biostatistics. I am committed to Cochrane's principles of evidence-based healthcare and have a proven track record of promoting collaborative research environments. My leadership roles in Cochrane, as well as my extensive experience in global health projects, equip me with the necessary skills to navigate complex decision-making processes while maintaining a collaborative and transparent approach. Colleagues describe me as a quick learner with good interpersonal skills.

## Specific Skills

These are the essential skills, knowledge and experience that the Board needs from its members collectively. We do not expect any single Governing Board member to have all the skills and experience listed below.

The Governing Board is committed to improving the organizations' approach to equity, diversity and inclusion. It recognises that having members with a broad mix of skills and knowledge as well as a range of perspectives and lived experiences will help the Board to be innovative, flexible, better able to adapt to a changing environment and address future challenges.

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 examples:
<b>Experience of serving on a Governing Board, Board of Trustees or similar</b>	Contribute actively to the Governing Board's role in giving firm strategic direction to the organization and evaluating performance against agreed targets.	Yes	I have served on the Governing board of Campbell South Asia for last one year. Also, technical advisory committee member of HTAI at Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health and family welfare, New Delhi. I am a member of International Life Sciences Institute's Knowledge Center on Functional Foods, Gut Health and Immunity.
<b>Experience of serving on a Finance, Audit and Risk Committee or equivalent</b>	Understand budgets, accounts and financial statements.	Yes	As a program officer at the Indian Council of Medical Research, headquarters office, included administrative management of extramural research projects submitted for funding. Careful evaluation of budgets and statement of expenditure/ utilization certificates was part of this activity.
<b>Fundraising</b>	Share your knowledge and experience in developing opportunities for income generation, building organizational relationships and accessing donor and partner networks.	Yes	I have experience in generating funds for research projects from International/national funding agencies such as MRC UK, International Life Sciences Institute and ICMR.
<b>Publishing and Open Access.</b>	Guide others through the complexities and opportunities that Cochrane's ambitions around achieving Open Access present.	No	
<b>Member engagement and communication</b>	Understand communications and member engagement strategies and processes.	Yes	It has been an integral part of my work in the past. Building partnerships & collaborations with various stakeholders engaged in

			evidence synthesis has grown in the Cochrane India Network with my efforts.
<b>Digital and Artificial Intelligence</b>	Bring to the Board an understanding of user-centred design and the development and delivery of new digital products.	No	Although I do not have experience in this domain, it is a growing area, and of great interest to me and currently we are working on use of different AI tools to increase the efficiency of systematic reviews and meta-analysis.

**5. Any other information you would like to add to support your nomination (maximum 200 words)?**

Throughout my career, I have demonstrated a deep commitment to advancing global health, particularly in resource-limited settings. My leadership roles, including as Co-chair of the India Cochrane Network, have provided me with the experience of managing large-scale, multicentric projects, promoting evidence-based healthcare practices, and fostering national and international collaboration. I have received several international fellowships and awards, including the Joint Global Health Trials award from MRC UK, Fogarty International Fellowship, Aubrey Sheiham Public Health & Primary care, WHO-Cornell Fellowship and the Kenneth Warren Award, recognizing my contributions to evidence synthesis and public health.

My experience spans not only academic research but also policy impact, as evidenced by my role in initiatives such as the Anemia Mukht Bharat Program, and my participation in the ICMR's strategic health initiatives. I have a strong track record in stakeholder engagement, policy translation, and the creation of high-impact research outcomes that inform national health programs.

As a Governing Board member, I would bring my extensive network, strategic leadership skills, and a commitment to promoting Cochrane's mission of advancing healthcare through evidence. I am passionate about scaling Cochrane's work globally, ensuring inclusivity, and supporting the organization in its pursuit of delivering reliable health information for all.

## 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 <a href="#">Terms and Conditions of Cochrane Membership</a> and have been a Cochrane Member for at least 30 days prior to the close of voting in this election	Yes
2. Have read the following guidance from the Charity Commission <a href="#">The essential trustee: what you need to know, what you need to do</a>	Yes
3. Accept the <a href="#">Governing Board Charter</a>	Yes
4. Accept and will adhere to the <a href="#">Code of Conduct for Trustees</a>	Yes
5. Have completed the Cochrane 'Declaration of Interest' Statement (Annex 1 of this document)	Yes
6. Have completed the 'Trustee Eligibility Declaration' required by the <a href="#">UK Charity Commission for all Trustees</a> (Annex 2 of this document)	Yes
<b>NAME: Anju Sinha</b>	
<b>DATE: 9<sup>th</sup> October 2024</b>	

## 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:

<b>1. Financial interests</b>  <b>In the last three years, have you:</b>	<b>YES/NO (If YES, please provide details)</b>
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 have received funding (Research Grant) from International Life Sciences Institute, India to do a Systematic Review related to Neutraceuticals in 2021.  I have received a grant from MRC UKRI under Joint Global Health Trials (JGHT)2020.  I have received a Sub-Award from Texas A&M University funded by BMGF.
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?	I serve as a board member of Campbell South Asia and also served as a Technical Advisory Committee member in HTAIn, Member K-FFIG, ILSI India.
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
<b>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?</b>	No

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## 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	Yes
Understand Cochrane’s purposes (objects) and rules set out in its <a href="#">Articles of Association</a>	Yes
Am not prevented from acting as a trustee because I: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have an unspent conviction for one or more of the offences <a href="#">listed here</a></li> <li>• Have an Individual Voluntary Arrangement, debt relief order and/or a bankruptcy order</li> <li>• Have been removed as a trustee in England, Scotland or Wales (by the Charity Commission or Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator)</li> <li>• Have been removed from being in the management or control of any organization in Scotland (under relevant legislation)</li> <li>• Have been disqualified by the Charity Commission</li> <li>• Am a disqualified company director</li> <li>• Am a designated person for the purposes of anti-terrorism legislation</li> <li>• Am on the sex offenders register or equivalent in any country</li> <li>• Have been found in contempt of court for making (or causing to be made) a false statement</li> <li>• Have been found guilty of disobedience to an order or direction of the Charity Commission</li> </ul>	No
Will provide true, complete and correct information to the Charity Commission if elected as a Board member	Yes
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	Yes
Comply with my responsibilities as a trustee that are set out in the <a href="#">Charity Commission guidance ‘The essential trustee (CC3)’</a>	Yes