



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):	Jordan
First name(s):	Vanessa
Today's date:	07/10/2024
Are you a current member of the Governing Board standing for re-election?	No
Are you a Cochrane member in a low-income or middle-income country (LMIC)?	No

Questions 1-4: Skills, experience and motivation

- 1. Please outline your experience of serving as a trustee, member of a governing board, board of directors, management group or similar? (maximum 200 words)**

I have extensive leadership and governance experience across various organizations. I am currently a member of the New Zealand National Ethics Advisory Committee (NEAC), appointed by the Minister of Health in 2020 and reappointed in 2023, providing expertise in epidemiology. NEAC advises on ethical issues and oversees health and disability ethics committees. During my time, we have addressed ethical guidance for the Covid-19 pandemic and the introduction of the End-of-Life Choice Act.

I also serve on the Future of Evidence Synthesis Oversight Committee, overseeing the strategic redesign of Cochrane's processes. From 2019 to 2023, I was an elected member of the Cochrane Council, representing Cochrane authors in strategic decisions. I am currently part of the Future Engagement Mechanisms working group and chair the Cochrane Conflict of Interest panel, a role I've held since 2020. I am also an Assoc Director of Cochrane New Zealand.

In the private sector, I have served as Director of MSDOCS Ltd since 2000. The company operates a multidisciplinary healthcare practice serving a population with high needs and low socioeconomic status, while also offering consultancy services, primarily to the public sector.

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

(maximum 200 words)

I have demonstrated my commitment to Cochrane's mission, vision, and founding principles through extensive leadership and active contributions since 2003, when I started as a New Zealand Cochrane Fellow. I served as an elected member of the Cochrane Council from 2019 to 2023, representing Cochrane authors in strategic decision-making processes to ensure their perspectives were heard at the highest levels, aligning with Cochrane's principles of collaboration and transparency.

Currently, I chair Cochrane's Conflict of Interest panel, ensuring that our work remains free from bias and maintains its reputation for trustworthy evidence. I also serve on the Future of Evidence Synthesis Oversight Committee, guiding the redesign of Cochrane's processes to meet future challenges and support the vision of accessible, high-quality evidence for health decision-making.

Additionally, I have authored methodology papers, including a Cochrane methodology review, to ensure Cochrane remains at the forefront of systematic review methods. These roles underscore my commitment to Cochrane's principles of integrity, independence, and relevance in global health research while fostering collaboration within the Cochrane community.

3. How have you contributed to Cochrane's work?

(maximum 200 words)

Authoring

- Author of 18 reviews (intervention, diagnostic and methods), 5 protocols in the Cochrane library.
- Worked with 12 different Cochrane review groups, and a thematic group.

Editing and reviewing

- Methods editor for Cochrane Gynaecology and Fertility.
- Methodology reviewer, Central editorial service.
- Proposal Editor, Central editorial service.
- Sign-off editor, Central editorial service.

Promotion and Training

- Associate Director of Cochrane NZ.
- Trainer for Cochrane methods in New Zealand.
- Manages Cochrane's social media presence in NZ.
- Ensures continuation of the national site license for New Zealand.
- Facilitates engagement of healthcare students and NZ ministry staff with Cochrane evidence.
- Coordinates the Primary Healthcare Field and writes Cochrane PEARLS which are a dissemination product for those working in primary care.

Committees and Memberships

- Member of Future Engagement Mechanisms (FEM) working group
- Author Representative for the Cochrane Council.

- Chair of the Conflict-of-Interest panel.
- Member of the Future of Evidence Synthesis Oversight Committee.
- Member of the Cochrane Scientific Strategy Advisory Group.
- Coordinator of the Cochrane thematic group in sexual and reproductive health.
- Member of Geographic Group Directors.
- Member of the Cochrane Methods Group
- Member of Trainers' Network.
- Convenor of the Cochrane Author's Panel.

4. 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).

I have a strong track record of prioritizing collective goals and maintaining an unbiased perspective in decision-making. Through my work within The Cochrane Collaboration, I have been responsible for negotiating funding for multiple entities, including the Primary Healthcare Field, Cochrane Gynaecology and Fertility, and Cochrane NZ. While my primary role is with Cochrane NZ, I have consistently set aside any personal or entity-specific biases to ensure the stability of all Cochrane groups in New Zealand. My approach has always been to focus on the broader organizational priorities rather than a narrow or self-interested view.

For example, when negotiating contracts, I actively work to ensure that all groups are equitably supported, recognizing that the overall success of the organization depends on the collective strength of its parts. In a collaborative decision-making environment, like the Governing Board, I would apply this same principle—focusing on the best interests of the charity as a whole, listening to diverse viewpoints, and making decisions that benefit the global Cochrane community, rather than any single entity or group. My experience working across different disciplines has further strengthened my ability to work toward shared goals in a balanced, collaborative manner.

5. 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 a broad range of skills, experience, and personal qualities that would enable me to serve effectively on the Cochrane Governing Board. As a senior academic at the University of Auckland, I have been involved in primary and secondary research, teaching at various levels, and securing funding for both Cochrane and non-Cochrane projects. This experience has sharpened my skills in negotiation, financial management, and strategic planning.

Working across multiple Cochrane groups and collaborating with individuals from diverse clinical areas has given me a whole-organization perspective. I have actively fostered collaboration across these entities, contributing both in my professional capacity and through my role on the council. I frequently engage in this work beyond standard hours, showing my dedication to Cochrane's success.

Flexibility has been crucial throughout my career, as I've learned to adapt and embrace new ideas to achieve shared goals. My understanding of Cochrane's operations and the changes underway will enable me to contribute effectively to board discussions. I am solution-focused, empathetic, and fully committed to supporting Cochrane's mission and ensuring its future success.

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:
Experience of serving on a Governing Board, Board of Trustees or similar	Contribute actively to the Governing Board's role in giving firm strategic direction to the organization and evaluating performance against agreed targets.	Yes	I already serve and have been an active member on one of the governing boards subcommittees (Future of Evidence Synthesis Oversight Committee). I was on the Cochrane Council. I am a director of a private company. I am a director of Cochrane NZ.
Experience of serving on a Finance, Audit and Risk Committee or equivalent	Understand budgets, accounts and financial statements.	yes	I manage and am accountable for grants held within my university which are valued at over a million dollars. This involves budgeting and understanding the financial long term strategies.
Fundraising	Share your knowledge and experience in developing opportunities for income generation, building organizational relationships and accessing donor and partner networks.	Yes	When I initially joined Cochrane there was no national license for the library nor was there funding for the primary healthcare field. The funding was also renewed on an annual basis. Through strengthening the relationship between Cochrane and the Ministry of Health I along with my fellow directors have secured a national license as well as additional funding for the groups and we have secured three yearly renewable funding for the organisation.
Publishing and Open Access.	Guide others through the complexities and opportunities that Cochrane's ambitions around achieving Open Access present.	Yes	I am not only an editor for the central editorial service but am also an editor for the journal systematic reviews and am on the editorial board for the journal Drugs.

Member engagement and communication	Understand communications and member engagement strategies and processes.	Yes	As the author rep on the Cochrane Council, it was my job to understand the authors concerns. To do this I created the author panel a group of active Cochrane authors that I could consult with
Digital and Artificial Intelligence	Bring to the Board an understanding of user-centred design and the development and delivery of new digital products.	Yes	I lead a subcommittee on AI ethics for New Zealand's national ethics committee.

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

The Cochrane Collaboration is currently navigating a critical period of change—necessary for securing its future sustainability. While some may argue that the organization could have adapted sooner, hindsight highlights the challenges of balancing global operations with reliance on external funding. With contributions from national governments, international organizations, universities, and private donors, the transient nature of much of this funding means that the Governing Board must carefully balance future-proofing Cochrane's structure while preserving existing funding streams and maintaining productivity.

I am deeply committed to supporting Cochrane through this period of transformation. I understand the importance of ensuring that any changes align with Cochrane's core ethical principles and values, while also keeping the goodwill of our contributors intact. With my broad experience within Cochrane, my work on funding and organizational stability, and my leadership in various academic and governance roles, I am well-equipped to help guide the organization through these challenges. I would be honoured to contribute to the Governing Board, helping to strike the necessary balance between change, sustainability, and ethical stewardship, while securing Cochrane's future for the global community it serves.

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 from the Charity Commission The essential trustee: what you need to know, what you need to do	✓
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: Vanessa Jordan	
DATE: 08/10/2024	

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 have received grants and funding from Ministry of Health NZ
b) Had paid consultancies: any paid work, consulting fees (in cash or kind) from a related organization?	Yes -University of Auckland -Ministry of Health NZ - Pharmac - Wellington School of Medicine, Otago University
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?	Yes Director of MSDocs Ltd Company this company owns a primary care practice
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

<p>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?</p>	<p>No</p>
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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:

<p>Am willing to act as a trustee of The Cochrane Collaboration</p>	<p>✓</p>
<p>Understand Cochrane’s purposes (objects) and rules set out in its Articles of Association</p>	<p>✓</p>
<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 	<p>✓</p>
<p>Will provide true, complete and correct information to the Charity Commission if elected as a Board member</p>	<p>✓</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>✓</p>
<p>Comply with my responsibilities as a trustee that are set out in the Charity Commission guidance ‘The essential trustee (CC3)’</p>	<p>✓</p>

