

Rene Spijker

My name is Rene Spijker, I work as an information specialist for medical library of the Amsterdam University Medical center and have been since 2008. Besides my role at the medical library I also work part time for Cochrane Netherlands supporting them with commissioned reviews, courses on systematic reviews, and research into evidence synthesis methods.

Within Cochrane I'm a member of the screening and diagnostic tests methods group and the prognosis methods group focusing on the information retrieval aspects within these groups by providing, together with other information specialists, workshops at colloquia and other events and preparing guidance.

I've been a long-time member of the Cochrane information specialist's executive and more recently one of the current members of the Cochrane council.

Besides these roles within Cochrane I'm also part of several non-cochrane initiatives such as the International collaboration for the automation of systematic reviews (ICASR) and Evidence-based research (EVBRES, <https://evbres.eu/>) to name a few.

Aside from teaching (medical students, post graduate students, etc) and supporting systematic reviews both Cochrane and for the most part non-cochrane reviews I'm also actively involved in information retrieval research with an emphasis but not exclusively on hybrid technologies to support the human retrieval process using Artificial Intelligence methods.

As the evidence landscape outside of Cochrane is changing towards including different sources of evidence (big data, IPD, clinical study reports, etc) and divergence of review questions (diagnostic, qualitative, prognostic, etc) it is important to determine cochrane's direction. As many of these changes directly affect the work and role of the information specialist a knowledgeable representation on the council is of the utmost importance.

I hope my experience both within and outside of Cochrane can provide both the council and the board with the proper information specialists perspective.