

Governing Board Elected Member Candidate Statement

Family name (surname):	Sudarsanam
First name(s):	Thambu
Today's date:	3rd July 2019
Are you a current member of the Governing Board standing for re-election?	No
Are you a citizen or resident of a Lower- and-Middle-Income Country or Territory	Yes India

Questions 1-5: 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 joined the then Cochrane South Asian Centre and Network in 2004 when I attended a Protocol development workshop. Since then I have been a team member of two full Cochrane reviews and working on a third at the moment.

Now I am the Director of the Clinical Epidemiology Unit and BV Moses Center at the Christian Medical College, Vellore. This center runs Protocol development, manuscript completion, Search as well as EBM workshops. We run 5-6 per year and assist many authors in the region. I teach the protocol development as well as Risk of Bias.

We have started a rapid review course this year.

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 name(s) of the organization(s), the roles you played and other relevant information (maximum 200 words).

I have served as the deputy medical superintendent of a 2200 bed university teaching hospital. (Christian Medical College, Vellore). (NGO). I have been a member of the Governing body of the IndiaCLEN, an network of medical college, Clinical Epidemiology Units. I have been a Governing body member of the Indian Society of Health Administrators that teaches hospital management.

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

In the above three Roles as a Board member, I have had to interact with different groups of Health care workers, mixed religious groups, all genders without any problems. Most meetings are democratic and conducted in a collegial spirit with differences of opinion expressed freely but respectfully.

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

As a member from a LMIC I would be able to represent the problems or issues members from these areas face. Also I could represent unique solutions that members from these areas may want to present to the board for problems faced by both LMIC and non LMIC members.

5. What do you believe are the most important strategic challenges for Cochrane from 2020 onwards (maximum 200 words)?

1. A more inclusive group –geographically with management team representing that
2. Getting younger Health care workers involved , as many may train in methods, but cannot get their protocols into a Cochrane group. In the long term this will lead to a loss of interest in Cochrane with other groups willing to involve them.
3. Funding for LMIC centers

Questions 6-12: Specific Skills

To function optimally the Governing Board requires a range of experiences, knowledge and expertise amongst its membership. We cannot 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 these questions.

If you do answer “yes”, please provide at least one example which best demonstrates your experience or expertise. You may wish to include:

- A description of the situation and the context
- What you did
- What skills and knowledge you deployed
- The outcome and your personal contribution

6. Do you have experience of Knowledge Translation or science communication; and/or in widening access, participation, reach and impact of research?

Yes or No? If Yes, please provide details and examples below (maximum 200 words).

Yes

I have initiated the First Online training in Rapid Systematic Reviews in India. This has widened access and participation of all Health care workers in the region. The cost of the workshop was v reasonable and the timing was adjusted so participants could work as well as attend the workshop

We had v positive feedback and already have participants for a second workshop

7. Do you have experience in evidence-informed policy making?
Yes or No? If Yes, please provide details and examples below (maximum 200 words).
Yes. As the head of Dept of Medicine, my team regularly reviews journals, do formal critical appraisal and make management and policy changes. I was involved in a HTA analysis and decision making for using NAAT for HIV , Hepb and HepC in the blood bank at my Institute

8. Do you have legal experience?
Yes or No? If Yes, please provide details and examples below (maximum 200 words).
No

9. Do you have experience of advocating for evidence?
Yes or No? If Yes, please provide details and examples below (maximum 200 words).
Yes I am on the Senate board of my Medical College. I have advocated and started expanded EBM training for post-graduate residents and faculty. My Clinical Epidemiology Unit now runs courses on EBM for all residents and faculty. We also run courses for Health care workers in India

10. Do you have knowledge or experience of the issues around Open Access to research output?
Yes or No? If Yes, please provide details and examples below (maximum 200 words).
NO

11. Is there anything else you would like to say in support of your nomination (maximum 200 words)?
Is selected, I am willing to give my time in any manner to make training in Systematic reviews, Completing Reviews, Improving access to high quality evidence in any way possible as a board member

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	Yes
2. Have read the following guidance produced by the National Council for Voluntary Organisations in the UK: • What is a charity	Yes

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is a charity trustee • What trustees must do • How trustees look after the charity 	
3. Accept the Governing Board Charter	Yes
4. Accept and will adhere to the Code of Conduct for Trustees	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 UK Charity Commission for all Trustees (Annex 2 of this document)	Yes
NAME: Thambu David Sudarsanam	
DATE: 3rd July 2020	

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 share-holdings, 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	Yes
Understand Cochrane's purposes (objects) and rules set out in its Articles of Association	Yes
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 	Yes
Will provide true, complete and correct information to the Charity Commission if elected	Yes

as a Board member	
Understand that it's an offence under section 60(1)(b) of the Charities Act 2011 to knowingly or recklessly provide false or misleading information	Yes
Comply with my responsibilities as a trustee that are set out in the Charity Commission guidance 'The essential trustee (CC3)'	Yes