Name: Joerg Meerpohl Standing for position of: Centre staff representative
Nominated by Rob Scholten (Netherlands) and seconded by Xavier Bonfill (Spain)

1. **How long have you been contributing to the work of The Cochrane Collaboration, and how did you first become involved?**

After having qualified as a paediatrician at the Paediatrics Department of the Medical Center at the University Freiburg in 2005 and a subsequent six-months unpaid leave to travel in East-Asia and South America, I felt on my return that I wanted to embark on new challenges. Therefore, I started working as part-time (50%) researcher at the German Cochrane Centre (GCC) located in Freiburg while pursuing my specialization in paediatric haematology/oncology. The same year, I was able to attend my first Colloquium in Sao Paulo, Brasil. As part of my work at the GCC, I quickly started to conduct my first series of Cochrane Reviews and initiated a project on publication practice in paediatric oncology (publication bias and reporting quality).

2. **Have you helped to prepare or bring into practice a Cochrane Review? If so, what was your involvement?**

Yes. During my first years at the GCC, I conducted three Cochrane Reviews as lead author on iron chelation in various transfusion-dependent anaemias with the Cystic Fibrosis & Genetic Disorders and the Haematological Malignancies review groups. Since then, I have been involved in six more Cochrane Reviews as senior author or co-author, four of which are already published, and two more Reviews will be published in May and June this year. My very first Review has just been updated and been approved for publication. The update of my second Review has been submitted, and work on the third update is on-going. As methodological advisor for various guideline panels (WHO, Robert-Koch Institute, etc.), I have worked with panel members to conduct, interpret and put into practice evidence from both Cochrane and other systematic reviews.

3. **What experience do you have of committee work (particularly at the policy-setting level) nationally, internationally, and within The Cochrane Collaboration?**

I have recently been selected as member of the GRADE Guidance Committee (02/2014), and I have been a methodological advisor with several national and international guideline panels (e.g., WHO Nutritional Guidance Advisory Expert Group, WHO HIV, WHO SAGE subgroup on Vaccine Hesitancy). Furthermore, I am board member of the German Network for Evidence based Medicine since 03/2012, a member of the advisory board of the WHO ICTRP since 09/2013, and of the Cochrane Child Health Field since 11/2012. I have also coordinated a European Union funded FP7 multi-national project on publication bias.

4. **What do you think would make you an effective member of the Steering Group?**

I will bring a high level of commitment (since 07/2012 working full-time as Deputy Director of the GCC), the ability to see issues from different perspectives (non-native speaker, non-English environment, clinician by training) and flexibility to adapt to different contexts and situations. After 12 years of clinical experience (most in paediatric haematology & oncology), I am a team-

player and have extensive experience in both making and communicating (also unpleasant) decisions under pressure.

5. **What would you like to change about the Collaboration and/or the Steering Group, and why?**

With regard to the Steering Group, this is a rather difficult question, since I have not been part of it. One thing that I feel is really important, though, is to have and possibly increase the representation from non-English countries to truly reflect that Cochrane is an international organization. As to the Collaboration, I am personally very much in favour of extending the active outreach to other key stakeholder groups such as guideline developers and decision-makers to make sure Cochrane evidence in used for decision-making leading to better health for citizens, as also highlighted in the Strategy to 2020. Ever since I have been involved with Cochrane, I have been trying to interact with guideline groups in particular to facilitate the transfer of evidence into practice.

6. **What would you wish to achieve as a member of the Steering Group?**

I would like to contribute to making Cochrane content available in non-English languages. Also, because of my co-location with part of the IKMD (Informatics and Knowledge Management Department) team, I would like to contribute to making the best use of technology for faster and smoother processes for the conduction of Cochrane Reviews (semi-automation of processes, linked-data, etc.). Finally, due to my interest and experience as a clinician and my work with guideline panels, I would like to contribute to the developments in exploring the role of other types of systematic reviews such as NRS, prevalence, risk factors, which are often of equal importance when deciding on the best course of action both for individual patients as well as for public health policy-making.

7. **For individuals seeking re-election: What do you think you have contributed to the work of the Steering Group during your previous three-year term of office?**

Does not apply.

8. **Please state any potential conflicts of interest that might limit your participation in Steering Group discussions and decision-making:**

(a) Core conflicts of interest: I have no financial conflicts of interest.

(b) Internal conflicts of interest: I am the Deputy Director of the German Cochrane Centre, member of the advisory board of the Cochrane Child Health Field, editor of the Cochrane Haematological Malignancies Group, and author with several Cochrane Review Groups.

(c) External conflicts of interest: I am member of the GRADE Guidance Committee, member of the WHO ICTRP advisory board, and member of the board of the German Network for Evidence-based Medicine (DNEbM).