

Name: Denise Thomson

Standing for position of: Fields representative

Nominated by Patricia Jabre (France) and Susan Wieland (USA)

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

I have been the Coordinator of the Cochrane Child Health Field since November, 2004.

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

I have never been an author on a Cochrane review, but I have contributed to reviews in many other ways. As Field Coordinator, I am regularly asked to provide peer reviewers for reviews and protocols, and I have helped many review teams find authors with child-relevant expertise.

As the Managing Editor of *Evidence-Based Child Health: A Cochrane Review Journal* since 2006, I have coordinated the production of over 30 overviews of reviews that have been completed according to the format laid out in the Cochrane Handbook. We have worked closely with the Cochrane Umbrella Reviews Working Group and its successor, the Comparing Multiple Interventions Methods Group, in preparing these overviews and our work has helped these groups develop recommendations for methods work in this area.

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

I have been the Chair of the Cochrane Fields Executive since its formation in October 2009. I have been a member of the Cochrane Innovations Board of Directors since April 2013.

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

In my first term on Steering Group, I have made it a priority to learn as much as I can about the breadth and scope of Cochrane's activities, and how other entities and staff types do their work. From this, I come to appreciate the complexity of Cochrane's organisational structure and the challenges of coordinating effort across a very large group of decentralised entities with highly variable funding arrangements, work contexts, etc.

I can also contribute to the current focus within Cochrane on becoming more outwardly focused. My experience as a Field Coordinator and a Director of Cochrane Innovations has given me a perspective on the practical nature of synthesizing and packaging Cochrane evidence for various communities, and insight into how end users react to and value these products. This experience has reinforced my feeling that Fields, with their unique connection to certain groups of end users, have an important role in broadening the audience for Cochrane evidence. This is just one of the reasons why I am working to raise the profile of Fields and increase the number of connections between Fields and other Cochrane entities.

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

This is a time of great change for Cochrane and, inevitably, for Steering Group as well. Among the many changes currently underway, I feel it is very important to maintain a persistent focus on how Cochrane can best be structured and organised in order to carry out its mission of producing and disseminating the highest-quality systematic reviews. There are a number of practical aspects of this. For example, I would like us to address the issue of how to register titles that are important to a stakeholder community, yet do not fit within the scope of a particular review group.

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

In the past few years, as Chair of the Fields Executive and the Fields representative on Steering Group, I have become even more aware than I was before of the extraordinary range of creative, valuable and valuable projects that various Cochrane Fields are undertaking. This work is often little-known and under-appreciated within Cochrane as a whole. It is very important to me to increase the profile of this work, in part to ensure that work on new products draws on the expertise Fields have in knowledge translation, and that organisational changes currently underway in Cochrane help to build more linkages between Fields and other Cochrane entities.

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?

My two priorities during my first term on Steering Group have been to advocate for initiatives that increase linkages within Cochrane, and to support Fields' important work in bringing Cochrane evidence to the communities they represent. I have consistently advocated for mechanisms to increase organisational learning within Cochrane, and continue to see it as a vital priority for us.

In this work, I feel my contribution has been

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: None

(b) Internal conflicts of interest: I am the Managing Editor of *Evidence-Based Child Health: A Cochrane Review Journal*, which is a derivative product of The Cochrane Library, so would have to abstain from any votes related to this publication.

(c) External conflicts of interest: None