

11 December 2018

**Re: REPORT TO THE GOVERNING BOARD BY THE COCHRANE COUNCIL ON THE ISSUES ARISING FROM THE  
EXPULSION OF PROFESSOR PETER GØTZSCHE**

Dear Fergus and Miranda and members of the Council,

Thank you again for the helpful report which you sent us on 13th November 2018. The Board is grateful for the hard work that went into producing the report and for the suggestions you have made. This official response follows the Board's meeting on Monday 10th December 2018.

Over the last two months the Board has been committed to learning from recent events and from the feedback we have received from the Council and other Cochrane Groups. We have been struck, as you have, by the variety of opinions and views that have been expressed. There is evidence of wide diversity within Cochrane in many important areas, and we want to express the Board's recognition of, and support for, the open expression of differing views and opinions.

We now want to ensure that no opportunity is lost to develop a strategy that will make Cochrane better, stronger and more sustainable in the years ahead.

We are pleased to welcome four newly elected members to the Governing Board. We have a busy agenda for the next twelve months and we are looking forward to working with them. We are also very pleased to have been able to work with you to identify three priority areas for the Council to work on in the coming weeks and months.

We have set these out in the Joint Statement that follows and which we plan to publish tomorrow. These are currently our agreed priorities. But if at any time there are other more pressing matters that you think require attention, please do not hesitate to let us know.

With very best wishes,

**Marguerite Koster**  
**Martin Burton**  
**Co-Chairs, on behalf of the [Cochrane Governing Board](#)**

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