

Council Paper 140421-2

Early Career Professionals representation on the Cochrane Council

Context

The [Early Career Professionals Network](#) was started in 2019 as a way to bring together this community within Cochrane.

This group aims to provide its members opportunities to enhance their knowledge, skills, and expertise by providing a platform for international networking with early career professionals or other members in the Cochrane community. We aim to focus on the development of leadership skills for the early career members of the Cochrane community and encourage active involvement of the Early Career Professionals in shaping the mission and vision of the Cochrane community.

The group has a core of around 20 “steering committee” members who oversee and organize the work of the group. They run regular events for early career professionals including journal clubs and online meetups. They also produce a regular newsletter. This newsletter now has 1,250 subscribers, which gives an indication of the interest in this area.

Representation of this group within Cochrane

Over the last 2 years we have looked at ways to give this group representation across Cochrane and also to give these individuals opportunities to develop their leadership skills. Examples of this include two seats on the Governing Board sub-committee for future events and we are currently recruiting two early career members to shadow the Editorial Board.

We hope that by connecting this group with opportunities like this, we can help to develop their understanding of how Cochrane works and give them the chance to build their skills in order that they can take on positions of responsibility in Cochrane in the future.

We also hope that they will bring new perspectives to the groups they participate in.

Request to the Council

The Council are asked to consider establishing two seats (to match other represented groups) on the Council for the Early Career Professionals Network, so that we can further this agenda of including these individuals and giving them opportunities to develop their skills and understanding of Cochrane.

This proposal has the support of the Governing Board Co-Chairs.

Paper written by Chris Champion, April 2021.