

[COUNCIL PAPER 011221-4]

Constituency:	Managing Editors
Period of Report:	November 2021
From (names):	Gail Quinn and Liz Dooley

Managing Editors Report – November 2021

As per your request below, Gail & I are sending our constituency report to be included in the December agenda pack for information, under the following headings:

- Achievements since last formal meeting
- Challenges, including issues for the Council to discuss
- Priorities for the next three months

Achievements since last formal meeting

The Council ME Representatives have continued to communicate with their member constituents throughout this very difficult period in Cochrane. A marked achievement is raising awareness via Council of the very low morale/motivation felt by a large number of CRG staff internationally as they move towards the closure of their groups and job losses. This, coupled with grave concerns about moving to EMS, and the uncertainty over the new proposed ESU structure, have been the main talking points within the community. As Council Reps, we have received numerous communications, both formal and informal, and we have tried very hard to support our colleagues by bringing their comments to the Council.

Challenges, including issues for the Council to discuss

The major stumbling block on the review production side is the difficulties MEs and their authors experience when using the EMS. This would have been less of an issue if we did not have to support our colleagues who are facing devastating job losses. Our constituents have laid out numerous challenges in the attached Word document.

Other challenges include the lack of guidance for the whole community during this transition phase as specified in the attached PDF letter; *'Specifically, we need direction to prioritize workloads in the face of finite and, in some cases diminishing resources and time, as Cochrane makes the transition to a new model. We are grateful that specific issues raised around the new EMS have been acknowledged and that guidance was provided for UK groups contending with loss of funding. However, we lack clear communication on transition plans for those in other contexts impacted by the central changes — for instance, non-UK groups who may be losing funding, and those with sustainable funding uncertain of their place in a new Cochrane model moving forward'*.

Priorities for the next three months

It is imperative that we take this opportunity now to retain and support the highly skilled and experienced ME community within the new Governing Board approved structure. We will contribute to the forthcoming discussions early next month once the proposals are made public. In the meantime, our priorities as ME Council Reps will continue to focus on the wellbeing of our constituents, making sure all the initiatives in progress are clearly communicated, and guaranteeing their ideas and comments will be heard, as per the Council remit of ensuring that Cochrane Groups retain an effective voice in Cochrane's leadership and strategic high-level decision-making. This will allow our constituents to fully engage with any matters the Governing Board raises, and provide input to inform Governing Board deliberations.

Kind regards,
Gail & Liz