

Governing Board Meeting Minutes

8 November 2021 GMT – Meeting held by videoconference

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Board members (Trustees) present:

Name:	Attending from:
Tracey Howe (Co-Chair)	UK
Catherine Marshall (Co-Chair)	New Zealand
Xavier Bonfill Cosp	Spain
Juan Franco	Argentina
Karen Kelly (Treasurer)	UK
Marguerite Koster	USA
Tamara Kredo	South Africa
Rae Lamb	New Zealand
Jordi Pardo Pardo	Canada

Board members having sent apologies:

Sally Green	Australia
Karsten Juhl Jørgensen	Denmark

Others present:

Name:	Role:	Attending from:
Ginny Barbour	Open Access consultant	Australia
Lucie Binder	Head of Governance & Strategy	Germany
Judith Brodie	Interim Chief Executive Officer (CEO)	UK
Robert (Bob) Dellavalle	Council Co-Chair	USA
Casey Early	Head of Finance	UK
Stefano Negrini	Council Co-Chair	Italy
Charlotte Pestrige	Head of Publishing, Research & Development	UK
Karla Soares-Weiser	Editor in Chief	Israel

Restrictions:

Board Minutes are open access unless content is restricted when the Board considers it confidential and/or commercially sensitive. **Restricted access content is highlighted in yellow** and is made available to the Board and Senior Management Team only. Minutes of the closed sessions of the Board, which are attended only by Trustees, are recorded on behalf of the Co-Chairs, and are only made available to the Trustees.

Actions Arising:

Minute:

GBMIN-2021-74	Co-Chairs to thank the Fields Executive for its paper [Council paper 151121] and request that the Council consider it in the context of the future role of all Group-types
GBMIN-2021-75	In Quarter 1 2022, conduct an informal review and reflection of the Central Executive Team's review and reorganization inform future restructuring activities

---MEETING START---

GBMIN-2021-72 Welcome, Apologies, declarations of Interest for this meeting, Board Code of Conduct and Board Charter

Tracey Howe was in the Chair. Ginny Barbour attended as a consultant on Open Access and was welcomed to the meeting.

Formal vote of thanks to outgoing Board members:

It was noted that Nicky Cullum had resigned from the Board prior to this meeting as she had completed her three-year term and was not seeking re-election. This would be the last meeting for Xavier Bonfill, who was also not seeking re-election. Both Nicky and Xavier were formally thanked by the Trustees for their important and generous contributions to the Board and to Cochrane.

No changes to attendees' declarations of interest (posted on the Cochrane Community website) were required for this meeting but the following Trustees declared potential conflicts of interest in item GBMIN-2021-73:

- Bob Dellavalle: Editor in Chief, *JMIR Dermatology*
- Juan Franco: Editor in Chief, *BMJ Evidence Based Medicine* and Associate Editor, *Cochrane Clinical Answers*
- Stefano Negrini: Chief-Editor, *European Journal of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine*
- Jordi Pardo Pardo: Husband of Editor in Chief of *Campbell Collaboration*

The Trustees were reminded of their duties as set out in the Board Code of Conduct and Board Charter.

GBMIN-2021-73 Ginny Barbour was thanked for her contribution and left the meeting.

GBMIN-2021-74 Approval of the Agenda, including the papers and decisions in the Consent Agenda

The remainder of the Agenda was approved. The papers on the Consent Agenda were noted. The Co-Chairs would write to thank the Fields Executive for its paper [Council paper 151121] and request that the Council consider it in the context of the future role of all Group-types.

ACTION: Co-Chairs to thank the Fields Executive for its paper [Council paper 151121] and request that the Council consider it in the context of the future role of all Group-types

GBMIN-2021-75 Chief Executive Officer Report

The Interim CEO noted her update to the Board by email the previous day. She encouraged Board members to attend the forthcoming Cochrane Connects event. The Trustees agreed that the Charity's leaders needed to interact with Group funders and not just leave this relationship management to Groups alone.

The Central Executive Team review & reorganization continued to make progress. The Trustees requested an informal evaluation of the process be undertaken to inform future restructuring activities. The Chair advised Trustees that all material made available to the Central Executive Team would be made available to Trustees upon individual request.

ACTION: In Quarter 1 2022, conduct an informal review and reflection of the Central Executive Team's review and reorganization inform future restructuring activities

GBMIN-2021-76 Editor in Chief Report

The Editor in Chief had met with the Treasurer and Casey Early, who were providing input on the preparation of the proposal for the future of evidence synthesis production, which would now be presented for the Board's consideration at a special meeting in January 2022. The Chair thanked the Editor and Chief and her team for all their work to date on consulting with the community on this proposal.

The Complaints Resolution Committee of the Board had met to advise the Editor in Chief on how to manage the reputational and safety risks associated with a decision on whether to proceed with updating the Cochrane Review on 'Exercise therapy for Chronic Fatigue Syndrome' (as per GBMIN-2021-58 and GBMIN-2021-68). This Committee was satisfied that due process had been followed in all issues related to managing complaints about conflicts of interest related to the review authorship and supported the Editorial Board's recommendation to proceed with the update of this review. The Editor in Chief had been asked to put together a risk mitigation plan regarding publication of the update, which would include an editorial on the special process Cochrane had devised to maintain the highest standards of research integrity.

GBMIN-2021-77 Date of Next Meeting

14 December 2021 GMT.

The Chair thanked everyone present for their attendance and closed the meeting at 21:10 GMT.

---MEETING END---