Governing Board Paper: Reports

Title:	**Council End of Year Report 2021**
Period covered by this report:	January to December 2021
Date and period of last report:	January to December 2020
Purpose of the report:	A report on the activities and achievements of the Council in 2021; and plans for 2022
Paper Number:	GB-2022-03
From:	Bob Dellavalle and Stefano Negrini, Council Co-Chairs Lucie Binder, Head of Governance
People Involved in the developing this report:	
Date:	20 February 2022. For Consideration at 9 March Board meeting
For your:	Information
Access:	Open

Members changes in 2021:	**Members who stepped down:** • Miranda Langendam, representing Methods Groups, Co-Chair • Craig Lockwood, representing Fields, Co-Chair • Rachel Plachcinski, representing the Consumer Network **Members appointed:** • Santiago Castiello, representing the Early Career Professionals Network • Ndi Euphrasia Ebai-atuh, representing the Consumer Network • Silvia Minozzi, representing Methods Groups • Ahmad Sofi-Mahmud, representing the Early Career Professionals Network • Jack Nunn, representing the Consumer Network **Executive appointments:** • Bob Dellavalle, Co-Chair • Stefano Negrini, Co-Chair
Summary of activities and achievements in 2021:	1) **Improved representation:** The Council established representation from the Early Career Professionals network with two seats. 2) **Informed organizational strategy:** The Council contributed to the 2021 Governance Meetings by providing summarized constituency feedback on the challenges and opportunities for Cochrane [Council paper COU-2021-6]; and input on the topics for the strategic sessions. The

	discussions at these Governance Meetings informed the final version of the *Strategy for Change*.
	3) **Face of the community:** The Co-Chairs chaired the inaugural Cochrane Connects online event in November 2021.
	4) **Improved Council-Governing Board connections:** The Co-Chairs met regularly with the Governing Board Co-Chairs to discuss organizational priorities and ensure the Council's voice is considered by the Board. In addition, the two sets of Co-Chairs now attend Board and Council meetings.
	5) **Provided operational feedback:** The Managing Editor and Information Specialist representatives provided in-depth feedback to the Central Executive Team on the: 1) rollout of the new Editorial Management System; 2) initial plans on the future of evidence synthesis.
	6) **Contributed to working groups:** Council representatives were members of working groups for the following organization initiatives: Editorial Independence and Efficiency project; organizational Monitoring & Evaluation, Diversity Initiative; Colloquium, Meeting & Events.
	7) **Improved meeting structure and frequency:** The Council decided on a monthly meeting schedule for 2022, alternating between formal and informal meetings in line with the Governing Board's approach. The times will rotate to take account of the Council's global membership. Written constituency reports and a 'consent agenda' have also been introduced to free up more time for substantive discussion during meetings. The Council's agendas and all papers are now published on the Community website, and news items are published to allow members of the community to contribute ideas and issues for Council discussion. https://community.cochrane.org/organizational-info/people/cochrane-council.
	8) **Organizational values:** The Consumer Executive representatives on the Council are leading a multi-stakeholder project to establish an organizational set of values.
Priorities for 2022:	1) Support the operationalization of plans to restructure the organization under the *future of evidence synthesis* program of work and ensure the voice of Cochrane Groups is heard as this work is progressed.
	2) Reconsider the Council's own role, representation, and terms of reference in light of the changes to the organizational structure.
	3) Deliver a set of organizational values for Governing Board approval.
	4) Improve Council communications to Cochrane Groups and the wider community.
	5) Contribute to the strategy to deliver Open Access to Cochrane Reviews whilst maintaining the financial sustainability of Cochrane Groups and the Charity.
Proposed changes to remit and/or other elements of the Terms of Reference:	To be made as part of priority 2, above.