

Cochrane Council

Teleconference (informal)

14 April 08:45-10:30 BST

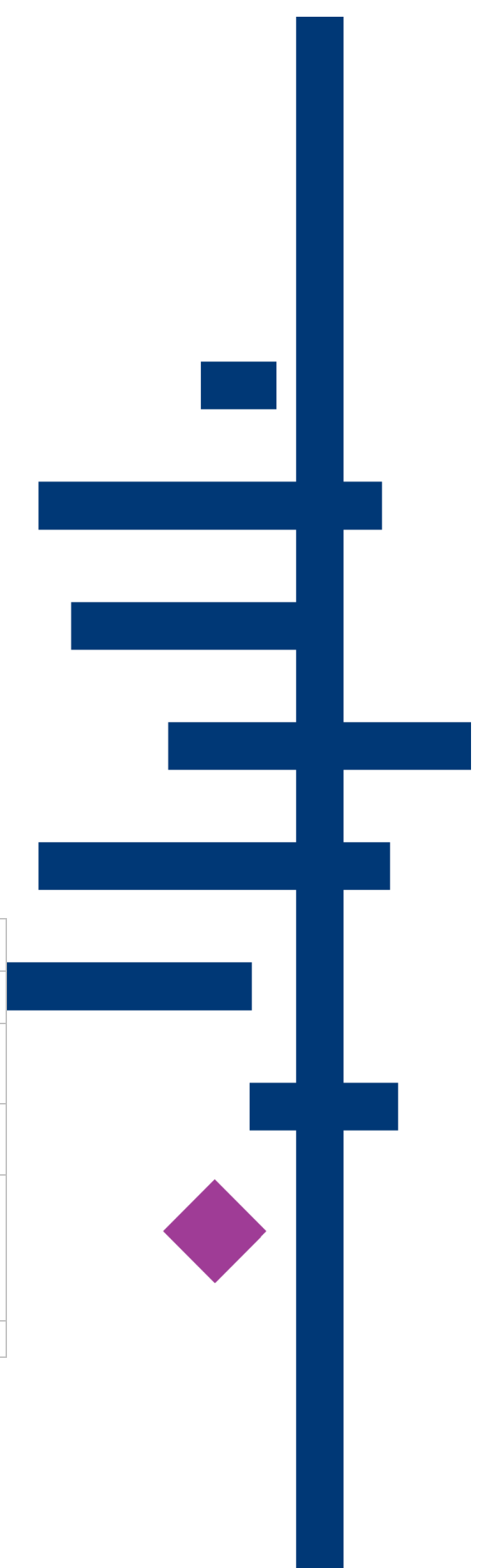
Council Members present: Representing:

Vanessa Jordan	Authors
Stefano Negrini	Fields & Co-Chair
Montserrat Conde	Fields
Lotty Hooft	Geographic Groups
Liz Dooley	Managing Editors (MEs)
Gail Quinn	Managing Editors (MEs)
Silvia Minozzi	Methods
Cinzia Del Giovane	Methods
Rene Spijker	Information Specialists (CISs)

Non-voting attendees

Lucie Binder	Head of Governance
Veronica Bonfigli	Administrative Officer
Tracey Howe	Governing Board Co-Chair
Catherine Marshall	Governing Board Co-Chair

	ITEM	INTRODUCED BY:
1.	New CEO update	Board Co-Chairs
2.	Council input on future of evidence synthesis, especially thematic groups	Stefano
3.	Governance review and Council Terms of Reference	Lucie
4.	Communications – reporting schedule for Council members to change to only when there is an update to provide and reminder that Sylvia will attend May meeting to discuss communications plan	Stefano
5.	AOB	Stefano



Notes from 14 April 2022 Informal Council Meeting

Council meeting schedule:

A reminder to refer to the [Council meetings page](#) on Cochrane Community for the dates and times of all Council calls planned this year. At the end of 2021, the Council decided to increase calls to monthly and to alternate timings to accommodate global participation.

Appointment of a new Chief Executive Officer:

Catherine Spencer will join Cochrane on 11 July 2022. She has extensive, international leadership experience, including leading organizations through change.

Future of evidence synthesis:

Those Council members on the call gave the following messages to Board Co-Chairs, Tracey and Catherine:

- The different elements of the future of evidence synthesis program need to be clarified. There's a lot of confusion about what plans relate to Evidence Synthesis Units (ESUs) versus Thematic Groups.
- Cochrane Groups understand that the decision to establish ESUs and Thematic Groups has already been taken – this is not being challenged.
- There is a perception that the role and remit of Thematic Groups are being decided by the Board and Executive Leadership Team 'behind closed doors', with insufficient consultation. Some people are apparently already being invited to put together applications for developing a Thematic Group, but this appears to be based on conversations with the Editor in Chief rather than a transparent and open process. The opportunity to apply needs to be extended to everyone.
- There is a perception that Cochrane is being turned into a more traditional journal focussed only on high impact health topics, taking it away from the global collaboration that it has always strived to be. What will motivate high-experienced and qualified people to continue to contribute in the future if this is the case?

Council Terms of Reference:

- The Council needs to review its own Terms of Reference as a representative body for Cochrane Groups in light of the forthcoming changes to the structure of the organization. Therefore, this review won't take place until we know more about Cochrane's new structure overall. However, Lucie Binder will be starting work on a review of organizational governance, focussed on clarifying decision-making authority across the organization, and will report back to the Council in May.

Council communications:

- Council members have a responsibility to represent the views of their constituents. There's a mismatch between those members who consult with their constituents and provide reports to the Council, and those who don't appear to be doing that. Even if Council members have consulted with their constituents and no issues were raised, this should be reported back to the Council. This issue needs further discussion at the next Council meeting in May, as does the issue of how questions raised by constituents are dealt with by the Council or the respective Executives, where those Executives exist.