



Cochrane Thematic Group assessment panel member biographies

Lisa Askie

Prof. Lisa Askie (PhD, MPH, BN, FAHMS, FHEA) joined WHO Geneva Headquarters in 2020 as Scientist and Methods Lead within the Quality Norms and Standards Department, Science Division. Her role is to ensure best practice methods and standards for evidence underpinning WHO's global guidance. Prior to WHO, Lisa led a team at University of Sydney, which managed the Australian New Zealand Clinical Trials Registry, undertook Health Technology Assessments for the Australian Government, hosted two Cochrane entities (Breast Cancer, Prospective Meta-analysis Methods) and oversaw a medical test evaluation program. She undertook her postdoctoral fellowship at the UK Cochrane Centre, Oxford. Prof Askie has a long-standing interest in the methodology of clinical trials and systematic reviews, especially regarding increasing research transparency and reducing waste. She has published over 100 scientific papers.

Lisa Bero

Professor Lisa Bero is a researcher in evidence-based health care and is internationally known for her studies on the integrity of clinical and basic research evidence that is used to influence health policy. She is Professor, Medicine and Public Health and Chief Scientist, Center for Bioethics and Humanities, University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Center and Affiliate Professor, Sydney School of Pharmacy and Charles Perkins Centre. She has contributed to Cochrane as an author, editor, Centre Director, and member and Co-Chair of Cochrane's Governing Board. She is also a longtime contributor to the work of the World Health Organization, including serving as a member of the Guideline Review Committee, and as Chair of the Essential Medicines Committee.

Patricia Cassano

Dr. Patricia A. Cassano (MPH, PhD) is Professor and Director, Division of Nutritional Sciences, Professor of Healthcare Policy and Research, Weill Cornell Medical College, and Director of Graduate Studies for the Minor Field of Epidemiology in the Cornell University Graduate School. Dr. Cassano is also the Alan D. Mathios Professor in the College of Human Ecology. Dr. Cassano is an epidemiologist with interests in nutrition and genetics; she has specialized expertise in the etiology of respiratory diseases. She has methodological expertise in the design, conduct and analysis of analytical epidemiological studies, including long-term prospective cohort studies incorporating biological markers of nutrition and metabolism and molecular markers of genetic variation.

Robert Dellavalle

Dr. Robert Dellavalle (MD, PhD, MSPH) is the US Department of Veterans Affairs Executive Director for Dermatology, Office of Specialty Care Services.

Dr. Dellavalle also serves as Chief of Dermatology for the VA Eastern Colorado Health Care System. He is board certified in Dermatology. Dr. Dellavalle completed his residency and research fellowship in Dermatology at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. He holds academic appointments as Professor of Dermatology, University of Colorado School of Medicine, and Professor of Public Health, Colorado School of Public Health. He is Director of the University of Colorado Anschutz US Cochrane Affiliate, Joint Co-Ordinating Editor of Cochrane Skin, and a Co-Chair of Cochrane Council.

Declan Devane

Declan Devane is the Chair in Health Research Methodology and Deputy Dean of the College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences at the National University of Ireland, Galway. He is also the Director of Evidence Synthesis Ireland, Scientific Director of Cochrane Ireland and Scientific Director of the Health Research Board-Trials Methodology Research Network. Declan trained as a nurse and a midwife before making his way into trials methodology and evidence synthesis. His work now focuses on a blend across randomised trials and synthesising evidence across several clinical areas.

Davina Gherzi

Davina Gherzi joined the National Health and Medical Research Council as a Senior Principal Research Scientist in 2011 after 5 years as Team Leader with the Research Policy and Cooperation Department of the World Health Organization in Geneva. At NHMRC she provides methodological support across the agency on issues relating to the creation and translation of research evidence. Davina's main research and academic interests are in publication bias, selective reporting, research transparency and accountability, systematic reviews and meta-analysis, and the use of evidence in health policy. Davina is Adjunct Professor at the Sydney Medical School, University of Sydney. She has been involved in a number of Cochrane groups and activities over the years, the main ones being Breast Cancer and Prospective Meta-Analysis.

Eva Madrid

Eva Madrid is a Full Professor at the School of Medicine Universidad de Valparaíso, Chile. She earned her medical degree from the Universidad de Chile, and she holds a PhD degree in medicine from the Universidad de Granada, Spain. Eva holds a postgraduate degree in Molecular Biology and a postgraduate diploma in Biostatistics from the Universidad de Chile. She completed her post doctorate research program at the Harvard School of Public Health during 2014-2015. Eva currently researches on methodology and evidence-based medicine and is the Director of the Cochrane Associate Centre at the Universidad de Valparaíso. She is a member of the Institutional Review Board at Universidad de Valparaíso. She is

the director of the Interdisciplinary Centre for Health Studies (CIESAL). She is an associate editor of the British Medical Journal Evidence-Based Medicine.

Ana Beatriz Pizarro

Ana Beatriz Pizarro from the Cochrane Early Career Professionals Group. She is a registered nurse from Colombia, who works as a research assistant at Fundación Valle del Lili and as a Junior Researcher for Evidence Aid, UK. She coordinates the Cochrane US mentoring program and is a member of the Consumer Executive and Editorial Board. Her interests are to protect and improve the conditions of the individuals, and communities by generating programs, and actions in the Global South through multidisciplinary research to understand the specific health-disease problems, their impact, and possible application in public health.

Phillip Ravaud

Phillippe Ravaud is Professor of Epidemiology at Paris Descartes University and Adjunct Professor at the Mailman School of Public Health (Columbia University, USA). He is the Director of the INSERM-Paris Descartes Epidemiology and Biostatistics Research Center, Cochrane France and the French EQUATOR Center. Philippe's primary focus is methodological research to assess treatments in chronic diseases. His research activities are structured around the following themes: non-pharmacological treatments, innovative design of trials, evidence synthesis, burden of treatment, as well as research on research (and especially interventional research on research). He is working on meta-analyses, network meta-analyses, and more recently living network meta-analyses and is interested in questioning the methods used at all the steps of a systematic review. He also conducts research on new methods of meta-analyses, for example, methodological issues and quality of reporting in network meta-analyses.

Yemisi Takwoingi

Yemisi Takwoingi is Professor of Test Evaluation and Evidence Synthesis, and Deputy Director, Institute of Applied Health Research, College of Medical and Dental Sciences, University of Birmingham, UK. Her primary research interest is evaluation of medical tests to ensure they are fit for purpose. She undertakes multidisciplinary research and has published extensively, including chapters in major books such as the Cochrane Handbooks. Yemisi co-convenes the Cochrane Screening and Diagnostic Tests Methods Group, has several Cochrane editorial roles, and is one of the six members of the Royal Statistical Society Working Group on Diagnostic Tests and various scientific oversight committees.