Governing Board Elected Member Candidate Statement

The Candidate Statement, your photograph and names of your nominators will be published on the Cochrane websites during the elections process, and the Candidate Statement and photograph will remain on the websites against the names of new members for the duration of their terms on the Board. For this reason, this Candidate Statement document template must be used; and full addresses, email addresses and/or unencrypted e-signatures excluded.

Please submit this Elected Member Candidate Statement in Word format by the stated deadline. It should be shared beforehand with your two nominators.

Family name (surname):	**Piechotta**
First name(s):	**Vanessa**
Today's date:	**19.10.2021**
Are you a current member of the Governing Board standing for re-election?	**No**
Will you be 30 years old or younger on 29 November 2021?	**Yes** If yes, you will be asked to provide proof of your age following submission of your Candidate Statement

Questions 1-4: General experience and motivation

1. How and when did you first become involved in Cochrane and what has been your subsequent contribution to Cochrane's work (maximum 200 words)?

My background: Soon after graduation during my first fieldwork in Sub-Saharan Africa, I learned the importance of informed decision-making and evidence-based practice. I started looking for opportunities to improve global healthcare and became involved with Cochrane.

My start with Cochrane: In 2018, I started a researcher position in the Editorial Base of Cochrane Haematology, primarily as an author, but soon also became the Managing Editor of the group to manage our portfolio and organise networking activities.

My contribution: Ever since, my contribution focused on the *Cochrane concept* as a whole. This means that I engage with my colleagues and affiliates as a researcher and Cochrane author to form a vivid evidence-cycle from research prioritisation, production and knowledge translation (e.g., through active collaboration with guideline groups, via podcasts, or twitter). My activities and contributions focus on identifying and including the right audience and involving key stakeholders in every step of the cycle. I established a global network with whom I am working on the preservation of high review quality, method development, and capacity building. Thus, I engage to form new pathways of Cochrane, its response to Global Health challenges, and the young generation of Cochranians who will help achieve its visions.

2. What experience do you have serving as a member of a governing board, board of directors, management group or similar? This might be within a non-for-profit or charitable organization, or a hospital or university. Please include the roles you played and other relevant information (maximum 200 words).

My first committee work was as a voting member in a nominating committee for full professorships, where I represent the views of midlevel academics. In addition, I gained management and leadership experience in different roles for NGOs and academia.

During my day-to-day work, I engage as deputy location lead (since 2020) in the education and training of medical residents and junior researchers in basic and advanced EbM methodology to develop a pandemic preparedness infrastructure in Germany, as part of the German evidence network on COVID-19 (CEOsys). I further co-ordinate the collaboration between CEOsys and Cochrane Central to produce a series of living systematic reviews, as part of Cochrane's COVID-19 response.

As ME role of the Haematology group (since 2019), I manage our group's portfolio and provide methodological guidance to international author teams. As part of our priority setting steering group, I engage with stakeholders to ensure our group addresses high priority questions and communicates our evidence to the right audience.

I was a team leading fundraiser for one of Germany's largest environmental organisations (2012-2016). Next to my fundraiser position, my key responsibilities as team lead involved the operational planning of fundraising campaigns and training of colleagues. I supervised the team to adhere to the client's mission and ensure positive public representation.

3. Acting as a Board member requires a collaborative approach to decision-making, setting aside personal opinions and group affiliations and acting in the best interests of the organization as a whole. Please describe how you would fulfil this obligation, using examples from previous committee or other work (maximum 200 words).

I recognise the manyfold of personal interests and agendas of people involved in Cochrane. As a board member, I would proactively bring the ideas and interests of individuals of the Cochrane community at one table in order to explore constructive, inclusive, diverse, respectful, and viable solutions together that work for individuals, interest groups, and Cochrane as a whole.

If elected, I will stand up for the ideas and concerns of the community behind Cochrane to be heard; especially the views of our authors, consumers, and funders. Moreover, I will encourage people to speak up and make their words heard. For instance, within my role as environmental fundraiser, I was looking for the 1:1 discussion, to transfer the NGO's vision to the public. I learned to set aside my personal interests and focused on the ideals of the organisation as a whole. I would do the same as acting board member for Cochrane, and focus on our collaboration's ideals to overcome biased decisions through personal opinions or relationships.

I will proactively support the development of a new agenda which will reaffirm Cochrane's key role in evidence-based decision-making.

4. What do you think would make you an effective member of the Cochrane Governing Board (maximum 200 words)?

Personal enthusiasm: joining the Governing Board as a young and passionate researcher will allow me to support the integration of new ideas and perspectives in our collaboration and will add some fresh impetus to the upper lines of Cochrane. I always search for hands-on experience to get a full understanding of the mechanisms and strategies behind. For example, I author network meta-analyses, living systematic reviews, and scoping reviews, engage with members of the prognosis methods group and living evidence network to develop review methodology, or work with Cochrane's IT development team to pilot and develop our work instruments. I don't let me block by uncertainties, but thrive to identify new opportunities in demanding situations. Especially with the challenges Cochrane is currently facing, I am eager to elaborate together on how to redefine the *Cochrane concept*.

Early career insights: My open ear and mindset let me grow into the go-to person for concerns or ideas. Thus, key of my agenda will be to make the visions of my fellows heard. I value amicable relationships and low hierarchies. I represent this attitude and thus experienced that my network, independent from age or experience, are open to share and explore their ideas with me. I have a fresh and unblinded look at the methods and mechanisms within Cochrane.

Interface role: Through my involvement with various stakeholders, such as policy makers, funders, software developers, method experts, clinicians, and patient representatives, I have gained insights in several steps all around review development, and am thus able to identify problems that others may not be aware of. I contribute as an interface to connect relevant actors and can facilitate early development of strategies to shape the future of evidence-based medicine.

Questions 5-11: Specific Skills

The Governing Board needs a range of experiences, knowledge and expertise amongst its membership. We do not expect any single Governing Board member to have all the necessary skills and experience; we are looking for diversity.

We do not expect you to answer "yes" to more than one or two of the questions below.

If you do answer "yes", please provide at least one example which best demonstrates your skills or experience.

Desired skills and experience for this election:	Which means to you can:	Do you have skills and experience in this area? [YES/NO]	If YES, please provide an example:
5. **Publishing and Open Access**	Guide others through the complexities and opportunities for organizations in achieving Open Access to content and data	NO	
6. **Fundraising and business development**	Develop and implement opportunities for income generation, build organizational relationships and connections, access donor and partner networks	YES	• Development of organisational relationships and funding structures with important stakeholders, e.g., the WHO, European Haematology Association, or German guideline programme in Oncology • Project grant applications for national and international funding schemes • Door-to-door fundraising
7. **Digital product development**	Guide user-centred design, development and delivery of new digital products, understand informatics and structured data	YES	• Consultancy/advisory role to represent the user's perspective in a project to open the interfaces between RevMan Web, MAGICapp, and GRADEpro • Piloting and testing RevMan Web integrations (RoB 2 and GRADEpro)
8. **Financial management**	Oversee an organization's fiduciary, risk and audit duties, lead financial and investment planning	NO	

9. **Advocacy**	Act as an ambassador for an organization, influence and strengthen the commitment of public leaders or decision-makers to a cause, secure community support	YES	• Building connections between Cochrane Haematology and the WHO, cancer-related scientific societies, and patient organisations
10. **Science communications or public relations**	Build organizational brand and profile online and in person, lead crisis management, design effective external and internal communications processes; OR Educate and raise awareness of science-related topics, design strategies for effectively communicating complex ideas to different audiences, or lead the transfer of knowledge into action	YES	• Promotion of the Cochrane (Haematology) concept and output, e.g. through conference contributions, social media, newsletters, and as invited speaker during Cochrane's Editor-in-Chief Webinars • Work with funders, policy groups, consumers to communicate review findings to our target audience • Group internal and external methods training
11. **Making organizations more diverse and equitable**	Guide equity, diversity and inclusion assessments and target-setting or provide lived experience of addressing issues of inequality	YES	• Engagement with researchers and review authors to increase diversity in reviews and method projects, e.g., collaborations with individuals from EU/UK, Nigeria, Australia, Middle-East, Northern- and Southern America • Promotion of the visibility of young scientists, e.g. through first authorships

12. Anything else you'd like to say in support of your nomination (maximum 200 words)?

My key personal strength is to find the opportunity in the challenge. That's why I am keen to join the governing board and work with our community to find a way to guide us through the difficult times ahead. I am confident that, together, we can identify new openings that will let us grow as a global collaboration. I advocate that key to our community is bringing the people back together, connecting multidisciplinary actors, and promoting and retaining our global collaboration to thrive for health care excellence.

Declarations:

To be eligible to stand for election, candidates must confirm the following by putting a 'tick' (✓) or their initials in the boxes below:

I hereby confirm that I:

1.	Have accepted the Terms and Conditions of Cochrane Membership and have been a Cochrane Member for at least 30 days prior to the close of voting in this election	YES
2.	Have read the following guidance produced by the National Council for Voluntary Organisations in the UK: • What is a charity • What is a charity trustee? • What trustees must do • How trustees look after the charity	YES
3.	Accept the Governing Board Charter	YES
4.	Accept and will adhere to the Code of Conduct for Trustees	YES
5.	Have completed the Cochrane 'Declaration of Interest' Statement (Annex 1 of this document)	YES
6.	Have completed the 'Trustee Eligibility Declaration' required by the UK Charity Commission for all Trustees (Annex 2 of this document)	YES

NAME: Vanessa Piechotta

DATE: 22.10.2021

Annex 1: Cochrane Declaration of Interest Statement

Candidates must make a declaration of conflict of interest, including financial or non-financial relationships with other organizations, professional relationships to other members of the Board, and other Boards she/he may sit on. In writing this statement, candidates should refer to Cochrane's conflict of interest policy (for Cochrane Groups) and the declarations of existing members of the Board.

Please answer the following questions:

1. **Financial interests** **In the last three years, have you:**	**YES/NO (If YES, please provide details)**
a) Received funding: any grant, contract or gift, commissioned research, or fellowship from Cochrane or a related organization (i.e., any organization related to health care or medical research) to conduct research?	NO, but my position is supported via non-industrial project grants from e.g., the Federal Ministry of Research and Education in Germany that are paid to the institution.
b) Had paid consultancies: any paid work, consulting fees (in cash or kind) from a related organization?	NO
c) Received honoraria: one-time payments (in cash or kind) from a related organization?	NO
d) Served as a director, officer, partner, trustee, employee or held a position of management with a related organization?	NO
e) Possessed shareholdings, stock, stock options, equity with a related organization (excludes mutual funds or similar arrangements where the individual has no control over the selection of the shares)?	NO
f) Received personal gifts from a related organization?	NO
g) Had an outstanding loan with a related organization?	NO
h) Received royalty payments from a related organization?	NO
2. **Do you have any other competing interests that could pose a conflict of interest that would reasonably appear to be related to the primary interest?**	NO

Annex 2: Trustee Eligibility Declaration

As required by the UK Charity Commission
Please tick or initial in the boxes below to confirm the following:

I declare that I:

Am willing to act as a trustee of The Cochrane Collaboration	VP
Understand Cochrane's purposes (objects) and rules set out in its Articles of Association	VP
Am not prevented from acting as a trustee because I: • Have an unspent conviction for one or more of the offences listed here • Have an Individual Voluntary Arrangement, debt relief order and/or a bankruptcy order • Have been removed as a trustee in England, Scotland or Wales (by the Charity Commission or Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator) • Have been removed from being in the management or control of any organization in Scotland (under relevant legislation) • Have been disqualified by the Charity Commission • Am a disqualified company director • Am a designated person for the purposes of anti-terrorism legislation • Am on the sex offenders register or equivalent in any country • Have been found in contempt of court for making (or causing to be made) a false statement • Have been found guilty of disobedience to an order or direction of the Charity Commission	VP
Will provide true, complete and correct information to the Charity Commission if elected as a Board member	VP
Understand that it's an offence under section 60(1)(b) of the Charities Act 2011 (United Kingdom) to knowingly or recklessly provide false or misleading information	VP
Comply with my responsibilities as a trustee that are set out in the Charity Commission guidance 'The essential trustee (CC3)'	VP