



# Governing Board Elected Member Candidate Statement

Family name (surname):	<b>Franco</b>
First name(s):	<b>Juan Víctor Ariel</b>
Today's date:	<b>July 28 2020</b>
Are you a current member of the Governing Board standing for re- election?	<b>No</b>
Are you a citizen or resident of a Lower- and-Middle- Income Country or Territory	<b>Yes - Argentina</b>

## Questions 1-5: 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)?**

I have been an active member of the Cochrane Iberoamerican Network since 2015, participating regularly in regional meetings and Colloquia, and leading workshops for capacity building in systematic review production. I have coordinated or collaborated in research projects with Centres from Ecuador, Colombia, Spain, and Chile, which has allowed me to gain an understanding of the opportunities, needs and challenges faced by members of our region.

I have also authored several Cochrane reviews and I have served as an Editor for the Urology CRG for many years, which has allowed me to gain a profound understanding of the needs of authors and

editorial teams. My role as a clinically active family practitioner at an academic hospital helps me keep daily contact with healthcare professionals, students, and patients, and through that experience I am able to understand the importance of the knowledge translation activities carried out by Cochrane to make it “the home of evidence.” Finally, I keep up-to-date with Cochrane's innovations and organisational news, including policies and regulations, discussing them regularly with other Centre Directors and analysing their implications for our Region.

**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 name(s) of the organization(s), the roles you played and other relevant information (maximum 200 words).**

I was appointed member of the Geographic Group Directors' (GGD) Executive in 2019. Since then, I have developed a broader insight into the global needs of Cochrane in setting up and supporting Geographic Centres round the world and the specific challenges for Centres in Lower-Middle Income Countries (LMIC). Furthermore, I learnt to understand the need for policy development in areas such as the benefits and expectations for the Geographic Groups, and supporting Centres in the development of sustainable plans with their host institutions.

I was also recently appointed Vice Chair of the Research Department of my institution. My role includes the coordination of research activity across our different areas, accountability of research activity, regulation of academic appointments and serving as an external advisor to the Institutional Review Board. This has provided me with a greater understanding of topics beyond research synthesis such as regulatory affairs and funding schemes. Moreover, this has also helped me recognise the opportunities and challenges for the development of Cochrane activities at academic institutions with competing research agendas.

**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 charity. Please describe how you would fulfil this obligation, using examples from previous committee or other work (maximum 200 words).**

Whereas I have to learnt to appreciate the needs of individual Cochrane members and groups, I also understand that trustees need to take challenging decisions for the development of the organisation considering Cochrane's best interest as a whole. For instance, in my role as GGD Executive I have provided feedback to applications from aspiring Centres of my own region applying the highest rigour in accordance with Cochrane standards. At the same time, I see that diversity in views and backgrounds across the Governing Board can help the implementation and adherence to such standards. For example, constructive feedback considering the context-specific challenges of aspiring Centres can help them meet Cochrane standards. I also appreciate that complementary views of my peers can help in the understanding of the implications of each decision made.

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

I have a profound understanding of Cochrane principles. I am personally fond of the first two principles regarding the collaborative nature of the organisation and the need for it to be built on the enthusiasm of individuals. I think that my connection to the world of healthcare, authors, editors, and geographic groups can help me provide insightful input to the discussions that take place at the Governing Board. I am also a good listener and I like to put forward creative and pragmatic proposals in situations where there is dissent or controversy, considering their possible impact on Cochrane's mission and image. I am highly eager to engage in debates on conflict of interest, open access, diversity, and equity, considering that these are some of the challenges that Cochrane, as most organisations, face in this century. Furthermore, while Cochrane is facing the COVID-19 pandemic with a strong response as a leader in evidence-informed healthcare, I am eager to discuss the implications on Cochrane's organisation and long-term plans, including the strategy beyond 2020.

**5. What do you believe are the most important strategic challenges for Cochrane from 2020 onwards (maximum 200 words)?**

I believe that the most important challenges include:

- **Accessibility:** whereas reviews are available in more than 100 countries by one-click access, Cochrane faces a challenge to reach full open access, as it was set up in Strategy 2020.
- **Diversity and equity:** while there is an increased presence of Cochrane groups across the world, there is also a need to expand the effective representation of Cochrane in LMIC countries, reducing linguistic and cultural barriers, facilitating knowledge translation and increasing the number of reviews that address high-priority topics identified by those countries. Moreover, a greater autonomy and decentralisation of its activities and initiatives, providing the adequate resources to do so, could expand the Cochrane's outreach as an international organisation.
- **Methodological innovation:** Cochrane is characterised by its continuous methodological innovation, reaching high standards for review production. This needs to be implemented in a way to ensure equity across the Cochrane community, while at the same time guaranteeing a continuous production of high-quality and prioritised reviews.
- **Climate change and COVID-19:** we have faced the cancellation of two consecutive Colloquia due to the social uprising in Chile and the pandemic, which has highlighted the need to think creatively of diverse ways to interact as an international community, reducing face-to-face interaction while at the same time, reducing carbon footprint.

**Questions 6-12: Specific Skills**

To function optimally the Governing Board requires a range of experiences, knowledge and expertise amongst its membership. We cannot 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 these questions.**

If you do answer “yes”, please provide at least one example which best demonstrates your experience or expertise. You may wish to include:

- A description of the situation and the context
- What you did
- What skills and knowledge you deployed
- The outcome and your personal contribution

**6. Do you have experience of Knowledge Translation or science communication; and/or in widening access, participation, reach and impact of research?**

Yes or No? If Yes, please provide details and examples below (maximum 200 words).

Yes, I do. The greatest part of my work as an Associate Centre Director has been to disseminate Cochrane evidence for which I have devised different strategies in undergraduate medical education. My team and I currently teach over 450 medical students every year from two Universities:

- Using problem-based learning scenarios in which Cochrane reviews can provide input to promote the critical appraisal of primary research.
- Leading the local Cochrane-Wikipedia project, inserting the key messages of plain language summaries.
- Working with the local evidence-based medicine journal (*Evidencia*) in publishing *Patient Centred Evidence* portfolios written by students incorporating Cochrane evidence.

The main skills involved in these activities are those related to formal education planning, evidence-based practice, editorial experience, and leadership.

During the COVID-19 pandemic I have also been involved in disseminating Cochrane evidence:

- Providing summarised evidence (including Cochrane’s emerging resources) for the development of local evidence-based recommendations for the treatment of COVID-19
- Being interviewed by local TV news programmes on controversies regarding the use of convalescent plasma and testing, for which I used Cochrane evidence; then I also coordinated a question and answer (Q&A) activity with the community (via Instagram Live).

The main skills involved in these activities included evidence synthesis and translation, use of social media and communication in plain language.

**7. Do you have experience in evidence-informed policy making?**

Yes or No? If Yes, please provide details and examples below (maximum 200 words).

No, I do not.

**8. Do you have legal experience?**

Yes or No? If Yes, please provide details and examples below (maximum 200 words).

No, I do not.

**9. Do you have experience of advocating for evidence?**

Yes or No? If Yes, please provide details and examples below (maximum 200 words).

Yes, I do. Besides my work with undergraduate medical students and the COVID-19 pandemic (see above), I have been called to participate in seminars regarding systematic reviews, evidence synthesis and uptake in several undergraduate and postgraduate programmes and national conferences of different specialties (Oncology, Dermatology and Family Medicine). Furthermore, I have worked closely with the Hospital associated to our University and their departments: General Surgery, Urology, Neurosurgery, Dermatology, Family Medicine, Psychiatry and Traumatology.

The competences involved in liaising with different stakeholders included interpersonal skills and tailored communication understanding the information needs of each target audience.

**10. Do you have knowledge or experience of the issues around Open Access to research output?**

Yes or No? If Yes, please provide details and examples below (maximum 200 words).

I have little experience in this area, however our Research Department is working in fostering open access throughout the research process and across research areas, including the registration and publication of protocols and policies surrounding data sharing, although this is in a preliminary phase.

**11. Is there anything else you would like to say in support of your nomination (maximum 200 words)?**

Being part of Cochrane has tremendously helped my professional development. Cochrane's rigorous methods, quality, innovation, evolution as an organisation, and openness to a collaborative and enthusiastic work have built up in me throughout this time. This has helped me reflect upon and

address issues surrounding my professional activities outside Cochrane. Now I think that it is time to put these principles embedded in my skills to the service of the organization.

### 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 <a href="#">Terms and Conditions of Cochrane Membership</a> 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 <a href="#">National Council for Voluntary Organisations</a> in the UK: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is a charity</li> <li>• What is a charity trustee</li> <li>• What trustees must do</li> <li>• How trustees look after the charity</li> </ul>	Yes
3. Accept the <a href="#">Governing Board Charter</a>	Yes
4. Accept and will adhere to the <a href="#">Code of Conduct for Trustees</a>	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 <a href="#">UK Charity Commission for all Trustees</a> (Annex 2 of this document)	Yes
<b>NAME: Juan Víctor Ariel Franco</b>	
<b>DATE: July 28<sup>th</sup> 2020</b>	

### 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:

<p><b>1. Financial interests</b></p> <p><b>In the last three years, have you:</b></p>	<p><b>Yes/No (If yes, please provide details)</b></p>
<p>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?</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>b) Had paid consultancies: any paid work, consulting fees (in cash or kind) from a related organization?</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>c) Received honoraria: one-time payments (in cash or kind) from a related organization?</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>d) Served as a director, officer, partner, trustee, employee or held a position of management with a related organization?</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>e) Possessed share-holdings, 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)?</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>f) Received personal gifts from a related organization?</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>g) Had an outstanding loan with a related organization?</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>h) Received royalty payments from a related organization?</p>	<p>No</p>
<p><b>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?</b></p>	<p>No</p>

**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	Yes
Understand Cochrane's purposes (objects) and rules set out in its <a href="#">Articles of Association</a>	Yes
Am not prevented from acting as a trustee because I: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Have an unspent conviction for one or more of the offences <a href="#">listed here</a></li><li>• Have an Individual Voluntary Arrangement, debt relief order and/or a bankruptcy order</li><li>• Have been removed as a trustee in England, Scotland or Wales (by the Charity Commission or Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator)</li><li>• Have been removed from being in the management or control of any organization in Scotland (under relevant legislation)</li><li>• Have been disqualified by the Charity Commission</li><li>• Am a disqualified company director</li><li>• Am a designated person for the purposes of anti-terrorism legislation</li><li>• Am on the sex offenders register or equivalent in any country</li><li>• Have been found in contempt of court for making (or causing to be made) a false statement</li><li>• Have been found guilty of disobedience to an order or direction of the Charity Commission</li></ul>	Yes
Will provide true, complete and correct information to the Charity Commission if elected as a Board member	Yes
Understand that it's an offence under section 60(1)(b) of the Charities Act 2011 to knowingly or recklessly provide false or misleading information	Yes
Comply with my responsibilities as a trustee that are set out in the <a href="#">Charity Commission guidance 'The essential trustee (CC3)'</a>	Yes