



April 2019

A word from The Chair...



For those of us in the northern hemisphere, April means that Spring has arrived. There is more warmth, longer days and trees in leaf. Spring also means that the G-I-N Board gets together for its two-day mid-term meeting, this year in Amsterdam. Most of the Board meetings are held remotely, with people coming together from a range of different time zones, so to have everyone together is a valuable opportunity for a strategic discussion.

This year we covered a range of important topics for the Network, including practical questions about development of the G-I-N website and the Guideline Library, as well as broader issues such as 'What is our vision for G-I-N in 10 years' time?' We have also been regularly listening to the views of the Regional Group chairs, to ensure we understand the views of the wider membership. We identified a number of areas where new developments are needed, and we will be looking for additional capacity to help us take this forward.

As I'm sure you're aware, the 2019 conference is being held jointly with the Joanna Briggs Institute (JBI) in Adelaide, hosted by the University of South Australia. Registration is now open, so please do take advantage of the 'early bird' offers. Abstract submission is open until 8 May, so do get writing! The value of the conference won't be just in the beautiful setting, but in the work we all share and learn from. We are also beginning to think about the second Global Evidence Summit with our colleagues from Cochrane, JBI and the Campbell Collaboration. This will build on the success of the first GES in Cape Town and should be a highlight of 2021.

And finally, we are really pleased to have agreed a joint initiative with the University of McMaster to provide credentialing for guideline developers from 2020. Training modules are being prepared for a range of key roles in guideline development, with appropriate certification. More details on how this will work will be provided in Adelaide, and I hope to see you there!

Gillian Leng, G-I-N Chair

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Chief Executive Officer's Report

The two days with the Board, at the annual mid-term meeting were, as always, intense, inspirational, energising and highly productive.



Amsterdam provided an interesting, if sometimes wet and windy, backdrop with vibrant side conversations and ideas emerging over coffee breaks and dinner, as well as in our formal meetings and break-out sessions.

Our main focus was on strategy, preparing G-I-N for the future, as well as taking care of "normal" G-I-N business. The topic that sparked the most discussion over the two days was our library and website. There is a strong desire from everyone to make a significant improvement to our

technology, in both how we support connecting and networking and in the library service that we provide. As a charity, with limited resources, this is an area that gives us a considerable challenge, as we look around at progress in the digital world in which we live. We recognise that developing digital resources is a significant undertaking, so we are embarking on an initial scoping and costing exercise to develop the G-I-N website. To provide added focus on the G-I-N Library, we think this needs to be separated from the website, which may benefit from a partnership arrangement with a third party. To take this forward, we will be seeking expressions of interest in a collaboration.

Time was also spent considering how we could better support the Working Groups; this resulted in some changes being proposed, in order to give the groups, the option of having a networking focus or being focused on outcomes, through papers or products.

As Gill has already reported, we will also be seeking temporary additional support to work on some very specific areas in the near future, with the goal of having the person in place by the Adelaide conference – keep your eye on the G-I-N Job Board for further information.

After last year's mid-term meeting, I reported that the Board was considering how G-I-N could develop and support education opportunities for our members, as we are frequently asked if we can provide this service. We have made substantial progress in this area and are working with a partner to develop then deliver modules for guideline developer training. There will be opportunities for members to be involved in this programme at various stages, starting soon. We will be in touch with members and posting more information on our website soon.

As summer approaches, we will be sending out information to our members on the election process for new Trustees; this year we will have openings for both an individual Trustee and Organisational Trustees, so all members will have the opportunity to participate. If we have more nominations than openings, then there will be an online election process. We always seek to encourage new blood and different perspectives into the Board, so if you would like to help shape the future of G-I-N, now is an ideal opportunity to get involved. Remember, in return for your input as a Trustee, you are supported to travel to and attend the annual conference, as well as the mid-term meeting. If you would like to find out more about what is required, please do get in touch informally with either myself or one of your Trustees.

Elaine Harrow

G-I-N CEO





Getting to know... Joseph Mathew

Joseph Mathew has been an active member of G-I-N for many years and leads the G-I-N LMIC (Lower and Middle Income Countries) Working Group, as well as being a member of the G-I-N Membership sub-committee.

Joseph is a leader within the evidence-based healthcare movement, with a special focus on scientific decision-making in low resource settings, a journey that took him in this direction, specialising in the field of Pediatrics in 1998. His search for scientific decision-making led him to the Cochrane Collaboration and he became an active Cochrane systematic reviewer. He was instrumental in setting up the South Asian Cochrane Network (now Centre) in Vellore (India) and serves as a member of the Steering Group since its inception.

However, Joseph soon realised that while systematic reviews provide evidence on efficacy of interventions, they don't usually offer advice on whether (or not) the intervention would work in the local setting. In his words, "Systematic reviews of efficacy outline what could be done in a given situation but are silent on what should be done. The disconnect between 'efficacy' and 'effectiveness' leaves a lot to be desired beyond systematic reviews."

Joseph's search for more effective tools to determine effectiveness in the local setting led him to Health Technology Assessment International (HTAi), where he founded the HTAi Developing Countries Interest Group and published - the KNOW ESSENTIALS tool to facilitate scientific decisions in resource limited settings.

His pursuit of "contextually relevant and locally applicable evidence-informed decision-making" led him to G-I-N, as he recognised a community focusing on "what should be done" rather than "what could be done". Joseph recognised that a barrier to scientific guideline development was prevalent in many developing countries, as well as a reluctance to change.

Seeking solutions for this, the G-I-N Board supported Joseph to initiate the LMIC Working Group, which is working to "develop locally applicable guidelines based on globally available evidence".

A typical day in Joseph's life revolves around his full-time clinical work and postgraduate teaching, in his capacity of Professor of Pediatric Pulmonology at a tertiary-care teaching hospital in Chandigarh (India). As well as this, he also leads several clinical research projects and is busy with diverse commitments to international scientific societies. He also travels extensively in India and abroad, conducting courses and workshops to empower healthcare professionals in evidence-informed decision-making.

Joseph describes himself as a "quiet guy" who enjoys the nostalgia of 70's music, playing guitar and experimenting with his culinary skills, for which he apologises to his wife and family in advance!

His wife, Preethy, is a Pediatric Anesthesiologist; and they spend any free time they have with their daughter Maria who is at the sweet age of 16 and hoping to pursue a career in the medical field – the medical gene certainly runs in the family.

Joseph loves G-I-N for the fellowship, warmth and bonding, especially given the great diversity among the individual and organisational members. "I'm always impressed by how people in G-I-N listen together, work together, and play together, especially at the annual conferences. I think that the human connections within the organisation take it much further than the scientific output alone. At G-I-N, we meet as strangers, but part as friends."

His vision of G-I-N is an organisation not just leading guideline development, implementation, dissemination and research, but also willing to go the extra mile to make it contextually relevant and locally applicable. He looks forward to widening the scope of G-I-N activities to empower healthcare systems in developing countries, who make up over 85% of the world's population – making the world a much better (and healthier) place.

G-I-N & JBI 2019 update



Preparations for our annual conference are going well and we look forward to welcoming you to Adelaide on 30 October – 2 November 2019.

There has been lots of activity going on behind the scenes as we continue to work in partnership with Joanna Briggs Institute (JBI)

and our local hosts, University of South Australia, to bring you a truly unique event.

The conference theme is: *Trustworthy Evidence for Questions That Matter - The value of guidelines in 21st century healthcare* and will be relevant to all health care professionals and anyone with an interest in addressing evidence-practice gaps by promoting best practice and improving the quality and safety of health care.

Held at the world class Adelaide Convention Centre alongside the innovative Biomedical Precinct, this conference will provide opportunities to listen, learn and share experiences and perspectives from around the world on the important role of guidelines in 21st century health care.

We look forward to welcoming you all down under for this premier event – [register now!](#)

You can keep up to date with all the latest news on the conference [website](#).

All about Adelaide...



Voted Australia's most livable city, Adelaide is centrally located and home to great restaurants, premium food and wine, fast public transport and Australia's longest shopping mall - all of which are only a 10-minute walk from the centre.

It's a fantastic city to enjoy, whether you prefer 5-star dining, quirky laneway bars, exploring the bustling Central Market, cycling in the parklands, strolling in the picturesque Adelaide Hills or relaxing on a stretch of white sandy beach just 20 minutes from the city. There really is plenty to

keep you occupied during your stay. For great ideas and links to things to do in Adelaide click [here](#).

Adelaide is also only a stone's throw from South Australia's world-famous wine regions; the unspoilt wilderness of Kangaroo Island; and the Flinders Ranges, the most accessible outback experience in Australia. For more information about South Australia click [here](#).

We have secured a selection of hotel accommodation to suit all budgets. Click [here](#) for all the info and book today!

Conference Plenaries & Speakers

There will be three informative plenary sessions on offer:

- ❖ Clinical Guidelines in 21st Century Healthcare: Extinction or evolution?
- ❖ Perspectives on real world evidence and big data: is it trustworthy?
- ❖ Ensuring recommendations are implementable and implemented

There will also be special sessions, oral workshops and presentations centered around the overarching theme. We have also secured a number of esteemed international speakers. More info on the conference [website](#).

Submit your abstract today: Abstract submissions are now open. For a list of abstract themes and to submit your abstract [click here](#). All accepted abstracts will also be published in the International Journal of Evidence-based Healthcare.

Abstract Submission Closes	8 May 2019
Notification of Abstract Acceptance	26 June 2019
Early Bird Registration Closed	7 Aug 2019
G-I-N & JBI Adelaide Conference	30 Oct – 2 Nov 2019

Please note that the 2019 AGM will take place on 30th October 2019. Further communications will be issued in the near future to confirm timings and location.

Save The Date – Future Events

G-I-N 2020 will be taking place in Toronto, Canada from **30 September - 2 October 2020**, and our local hosts will be the McMaster University.

We look forward to seeing you in Toronto for #GIN2020.

Global Evidence Summit 2021 - Using evidence. Improving lives: Following the success of the inaugural Global Evidence Summit in Cape Town in 2017, G-I-N, along with three other global leaders in evidence-based policy and practice will again join forces to deliver the second [Global Evidence Summit in 2021](#). We are currently seeking a local host for this event. More details can be found on our [website](#).





G-I-N/NA Open Space Meeting

The [G-I-N North America Regional Community](#) gathered for its first full-day open space meeting designed to promote peer-to-peer learning and sharing. 60 members of the community met in Rockville MD on March 1st, the majority of whom were G-I-N members from the U.S.

Rich Rosenfeld ignited the attendees into action through his thoughtful reflection on the title “Diamond Guidelines on a Zirconia Budget” and its relevance to our current and future state of balancing cost, time and quality in the lifecycle of evidence-based clinical practice guidelines. Christi Zuber, an expert facilitator, brought new methods of convening allowing attendees to identify topics of importance, organise those topics into a program for the day, and synthesise the results.

Twenty-one 50-minute group discussion sessions were held addressing participant-selected topics including but not limited to translating evidence strength to recommendations; living guidelines; systematic reviews (best practice to reality); measuring impact of guidelines; meaningful patient/consumer engagement; public comment; managing conflicts of interest; ungraded recommendations. All sessions produced main discussion points, goals/aspirations, and action items.

Feedback from the event has been very positive and email testimonials include statements such as “Congratulations on an extremely successful meeting!!!!, I’m so thrilled that the weather was on our side, and thoroughly enjoyed the entire conference.....one of the best things that I’ve done”, “the facilitator did such a fabulous job!”, I enjoyed the meeting and the interaction. I’ve never been to a meeting utilising a similar format and it was a great way to facilitate discussion and collaboration.” Many thanks to everyone who supported and participated in this event!

“Open space principles:

*Whoever comes are the right people.
Whenever it starts is the right time.
Whatever happens is the only thing that can happen.
When it’s over it’s over.*

Your job today is to Contribute to your maximum.”

Christi Zuber, PhD—Facilitator of Open Space meeting
Founder and Managing Director Aspen Labs

“Can you develop guidelines on a zirconian budget? Yes! You need the 3 Ps: Passion, planning, and persistence none of which cost a lot. Passion begins with you. You have to be a champion, a leader. Passion is contagious. Best way to be zirconian is to be focused from the start. Obsessively focused. This is an iterative process. You have to learn while you’re doing it. Avoid the mistakes of others. Nothing takes the place if persistence. You CAN build quality guidelines on zirconian budgets if you have passion, plan well and persist.”

Rich Rosenfeld, MD—Ignitor if Open Space meeting, Member Emeritus, G-I-N NA; American Academy of Otolaryngology

“Today is about innovation. We need to reconnect with our customers and user so that we learn what are their unmet needs We need to think and unthink what we know.”

Gopal Khanna—Director, Agency for Healthcare Research Quality (US)

“Getting to high quality is a journey, a marathon. You have great insight to share!”

Mary Nix—Chair, G-I-N NA



Working Group and Regional Community Reports

Click on the logos below to read an update from the groups including new publications from G-I-N Iberoamerica:



Introducing the new Chairs and Vice Chairs ... welcome to the following new Chairs and Vice Chairs of some of our groups. Best wishes to you all in your new roles and many thanks to the outgoing Chairs and Vice Chairs for their support and hard work.

 <p><u>Accelerated Guideline Development</u> Chair - Sophie Blanchard</p>	 <p><u>G-I-N Public</u> Co Vice Chair - Jane Cowl</p>
 <p><u>Implementation</u> Chair - Craig Lockwood (re-elected as Chair in Feb 2019)</p>	 <p><u>G-I-N Public</u> Co Vice Chair - Karen Graham</p>
 <p><u>Updating Guidelines</u> Chair – Emma McFarlane</p>	 <p><u>G-I-N Asia</u> Chair - Yaolong Chen</p>
 <p><u>Updating Guidelines</u> Vice Chair – Hector Pardo</p>	 <p><u>G-I-N Nordic</u> Chair - Maria Herlev Ahrenfeldt</p>

Partnership Updates

G-I-N partners with Covidence to provide systematic review support to members



Did you know that you can access Covidence to create systematic reviews and get 20% off your yearly subscription? Thanks to a partnership with G-I-N, members can now subscribe to the Covidence collaboration platform at a discounted rate to create one or more systematic reviews.

Details of the partnership:

Covidence standardises and streamlines the complex process of creating systematic reviews. It's a cloud-based solution, with an easy-to-use interface that guides users with all levels of experience through a gold standard systematic review methodology, Covidence is also a core component of Cochrane's review production toolkit. A 20% discount is available for G-I-N members when ordering Covidence online. Contact [Jenna Docherty](#) or [Allison Smith](#) to receive the code and visit <https://www.covidence.org/pricing/personal> to order.

How Covidence is bringing stroke guidelines to life: Clinical practice guidelines are essential for driving evidence-based clinical care to patients. In an era of ever-increasing research evidence, we know that keeping guidelines up-to-date is challenging and resource-intensive. But, evidence synthesis without ongoing surveillance is problematic; most guidelines are not updated regularly, with one in five guideline recommendations found to be out-of-date within three years. This lack of currency undermines their value and negatively impacts end user engagement, which is especially important now that research findings are evolving more rapidly than ever before.

To address this problem, Covidence is proud to be working with The Stroke Foundation of Australia and Cochrane Australia on a three-year pilot project to build and evaluate a model of living guidelines. This initiative creates an opportunity to develop new models of guideline development which allow for continuous, rapid updates to recommendations as new evidence emerges. This project, funded by the Australian Government, will develop and refine evidence surveillance systems to scan monthly for new relevant research, develop evidence summaries, and rapidly update guideline recommendations as appropriate.

This exciting work will contribute directly to an ultimate vision of creating a centralised evidence synthesis and guideline “hub” that includes resources to assist individual countries, including low resource countries, to adapt guidelines to local contexts. An ambitious goal to be sure, but one that we're committed to achieving together.

For more information and latest updates on the living guidelines pilot program, visit:
<https://informme.org.au/en/Guidelines/Living-guidelines-for-stroke-management>.



Guideline information now available on reviews in the [Cochrane Library](#)

Cochrane reviews that have informed guidelines can now be identified on the Cochrane Library. Members of the Cochrane UK team have been analysing clinical guidelines to see if they have been informed by Cochrane reviews – checking not only for citations, but whether a review's outcomes have influenced a guideline's recommendations.

To check if a Cochrane review has been used to inform a guideline, first find it on the Cochrane Library. Then, click on 'related content'. If it has been used in a guideline, it will be under 'Guidelines' in this section.

[Visit an example of a Cochrane Review that has informed several guidelines.](#)

Getting to know the 8 Cochrane Review Group Networks

Cochrane has created eight new Cochrane Review Group (CRG) Networks, responsible for the efficient and timely production of high-quality systematic reviews that address the research questions most important to decision makers.

Each Network is thematic, bringing together several CRGs that fit within a particular topic. Their aim is to address challenges related to review production and editorial processes, ultimately improving the quality of Cochrane reviews. Find out more about each CRG Network, and access their strategic plans, on their websites:

- [Cochrane Acute and Emergency Care](#)
- [Cochrane Cancer](#)
- [Cochrane Children and Families](#)
- [Cochrane Circulation and Breathing](#)
- [Cochrane Long Term Conditions and Ageing](#)
- [Cochrane Mental Health and Neuroscience](#)
- [Cochrane Musculoskeletal, Oral, Skin and Sensory](#)
- [Cochrane Public Health and Health Systems](#)

The Cochrane Community Support Team – and how they can help you

The Cochrane Community Support Team provides advice and assistance on a wide range of Cochrane activities, from technical support to membership enquiries, translations to training.

The team has previously provided guideline developers with links to Cochrane resources related to 'Summary of Findings' tables and rating certainty of evidence. They also manage subscriptions to [Cochrane Interactive Learning](#), an online suite of modules on systematic reviews, which some guideline-producing organisations use for staff training and CPD.

Generally, the team is the first port of call for any queries about Cochrane's work, and can channel enquiries to subject matter experts, review groups and global geographic networks as needed.

Meet the team...

Ursula Gonthier - Senior Community Support Officer - I lead the Community Support team in providing front line response to queries. I am also involved in the membership scheme, helping to ensure that contributions from across the whole Cochrane community are rewarded and recognised.

Diane Gal - Community Support Officer - I am a Cochrane author, and an active volunteer in Cochrane Crowd and Task Exchange. I also helped to develop the first online learning courses for Cochrane UK.

Denise Mitchell - Community Support Officer - I am the Cochrane Information Specialists' and Managing Editors' Executives' Support Officer, and I am a Cochrane Copy-Editor.

You can email the team directly at support@cochrane.org or [visit the Cochrane Help and Support Centre](#).

CheckUp – a tool to help with reporting in updated guidelines

The Checklist for the Reporting of Updated Guidelines (CheckUp) is a tool produced for assessing the completeness of reporting in updated guidelines. It has been the result of a partnership of the [Iberoamerican Cochrane Centre](#), the [AGREE Collaboration](#) and the [G-I-N Updating Guidelines Working Group](#).

CheckUp was developed through a comprehensive process, including the use of systematic reviews, assessment of updated clinical guidelines, and engagement of the international guideline community through semi-structured interviews, a Delphi consensus survey, and an external review. Adherence to CheckUp will likely enhance the

comprehensiveness and transparency of clinical guideline updating for the benefit of patients and the public, health care professionals, and other relevant stakeholders.

Robin Vernooij, who led the production of CheckUp as part of his PhD, explained: “CheckUp can be used for methodological and reporting inspiration when updating a guideline. The needs of guideline developers are very diverse; we wanted to step away from being too prescriptive and to create something that would be realistic for people. We see CheckUp as a dynamic instrument – if members of the community have specific needs or suggestions, we would really like to hear them and are happy to consider modifications”. A paper detailing the CheckUp process has been published in *PLoS Medicine* and the CheckUp instrument has been published on EQUATOR. CheckUp is currently available in English, Chinese, Dutch and Spanish, and could be translated into further languages if there is interest.

[Access the CheckUp paper in *PLoS Medicine*.](#)

Contact [Robin Vernooij](#) to find out more about CheckUp or to share feedback.

AllTrials Campaign



G-I-N supports the AllTrials campaign. To keep up with the latest developments, visit their [website](#).

CMAJ Editorial News



Some excellent news on the management of competing interests has just been announced.

As of January 2020, the Canadian Medical Association Journal (CMAJ), will be implementing the principles developed by G-I-N regarding disclosure of competing interests and their management in clinical practice guidelines.

The purpose of this new policy is to reduce the likelihood that recommendations of guidelines published in CMAJ are influenced by competing interests held by developers, funders and others involved in their production.

This is an exciting development and we are delighted that our policy has been adopted. AWMF also adopted this policy as a rule in January 2018 and we are sure that others will follow.

To view the full CMAJ editorial click [here](#).

Member Benefits

Welcome to all our [new members](#) who have joined us since the last edition of enGINE! As a valued member of G-I-N we want to ensure you get the most from your membership and utilise all services that may be beneficial to you. In addition to the newest collaboration with Covidence, G-I-N organisational members can also access the Cochrane Library and DynaMed. Full details can be found [here](#).

As an organisational member of G-I-N, we actively encourage you to highlight your membership on your website. Please contact a member of the [secretariat staff](#) to obtain the logo file. If you are in a regional community, you can also highlight that on your website, and we will provide the logo.

Did you know that organisational members can advertise job vacancies and projects, where input is sought to the whole G-I-N network, targeting a highly qualified, relevant pool of candidates? Contact [Jenna Docherty](#) for more details.

Our Organisational members also qualify for a **referral discount**. Please do refer organisations that you work closely with, for G-I-N membership. If the organisation joins G-I-N, the referring organisation will be eligible for a 40% discount on a registration for a staff member for the next annual G-I-N conference. For more information please contact a member of the [Secretariat](#).

All members are also eligible for discounted registration for the [G-I-N conference](#) where you can network with experts in guidelines from all over the world. We have a number of [Working Groups](#) and [Regional Communities](#) who are always looking for members to join them. Visit the webpages to find out more. You are also encouraged to visit the [Publications](#) web page to view papers or publications that may be of interest to you.

G-I-N Library survey results

Thanks to everyone who completed the G-I-N Library member survey which was issued in late December. Feedback from the survey suggests that the library is reasonably well utilised. It was pleasing to see that 81% of respondents considered the library to be an important element of the membership. The most important feature of the library is considered to be a comprehensive range of relevant guidelines.

73% of respondents used the Cochrane reviews when developing a guideline with 91% stating they would want to align the Cochrane reviews with their guideline development if an appropriate review were available.

Some of the popular potential changes to the library included an improved search function, a wider range of guideline content and quality assurance of guidelines in the library.

Newsletter Production & Editorial Team

[Allison Smith](#)



[Jenna Dochery](#)



To submit any articles for inclusion in the next edition of enGINE, to unsubscribe or to provide feedback on the newsletter, please contact [Allison](#) or [Jenna](#).

Happy Easter from everyone at G-I-N!

