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***In this October 2020 edition... A Word from the Chair \* CEO update \* Pit Stop Webinars \*  
New GIN Library \* New GIN Board \* Recognising our long-term members \* Webinars &  
Collaborations \****

### **A word from the Chair...**

The annual GIN conference is one of those important annual events that mark the passage of time. I've some great memories of previous GIN conferences from many amazing places around the world, including Berlin, Amsterdam, Adelaide, and Seoul. But 2020 has been exceptional, with many expected conferences, sporting events and other activities stopping in the wake of the COVID pandemic.

Like many of you, I missed the annual conference this year and the opportunity to catch up with colleagues from around the world. I missed the face to face Annual General Meeting and the opportunity to thank long standing members in person. I missed the formal sessions and the events that mark the host country's history, but most importantly I missed the conversations over coffee and the networking over dinner. These informal discussions help to forge long-lasting friendships, professional links, and genuinely better collaboration in the challenging world of guideline development.

But, like everyone else, we made the best of the 'new normal' this autumn and replaced the face to face conference with a series of online webinars. The organisers of the webinars, and the contributors, are to absolutely be commended as the programme was extremely well received. The feedback was excellent, with over 95% saying the sessions were useful or very useful. This compares very favourably with feedback from face to face events at past conferences, and of course has the benefits of being easily accessible and great value for money.

The GIN Board is already thinking about next year and wondering what restrictions there will be on international travel. We're also looking at how technology can help, as there are many rapidly developing online conference platforms for either completely virtual, or hybrid events. As Winston Churchill once said, 'Never waste a good crisis', so if you have any ideas or suggestions about how GIN might use the opportunities raised by new virtual technologies to support guideline collaboration, then do let us know!



***Gillian Leng, GIN Chair***



## Chief Executive Officer's Update

**Dear colleagues,**

On September 30<sup>th</sup>, we held our first online Annual General Meeting (AGM) – it was quite unusual to present at a meeting, knowing that 61 of you were tuned in, yet have no visual or verbal feedback from the audience! While it is the current way of the world, which we have all had to adapt very quickly to, it highlights one of the biggest voids that I think we are all feeling – human interaction.

However, I have had the opportunity to chat and email with a number of you recently and find out more about your current situation – something that I have enjoyed and find valuable. GIN is after all, all about people. Our AGM is often the very first coming together at the GIN conference – I missed the eye contact and smiles, as we get together for the first time in a year. Many of us were looking forward to our annual meeting of the GIN family in the wonderful setting of Toronto and while the webinar series provided an opportunity to hear fantastic speakers present on very topical themes, we all missed the informal interactions and follow up chat and debate that brings the GIN conference to life. But this is the current modus operandi, and it will make our conference in Toronto in 2022 all the more special. GIN members, who would like to catch up with the AGM can login to the website and find the presentation [here](#).

At the AGM, we welcomed our new Trustees, bid a sad farewell to our outgoing Trustees and were able to launch both GIN's rebrand and our [new library and registry](#). Our work plan for this year remains on track – we have purchased and set up a new membership management platform and will be contacting members over the next two months to get everyone set up and conversant with it, in advance of it being embedded in our new website, which will launch early next year. The GIN/McMaster INGUIDE training, which was due to launch at the conference, was adapted to be fully online and the first course launched in September, with Level 2 being finalised, ready for launch at the end of January. This fantastic programme is a comprehensive, evidence-based, and up-to-date training program for guideline recommendation and development. [Full details can be found here](#) including how to enrol.

We will continue to update our Covid-19 pages with information and links that we hope will be helpful to members and colleagues. You can also find the link to our latest publication there: [Developing Guidelines Before, During and After the COVID-19 pandemic](#). If you have resources that would be helpful to others, please contact us on: [COVID-19@g-i-n.net](mailto:COVID-19@g-i-n.net).

Stay safe and well!



**Elaine Harrow**  
**Chief Executive Officer**



**Our recent “Pitstop in the COVID-19 marathon for the guideline community”** was a great success with almost 1000 attendees from 24 global locations joining us over the four sessions! Participants had the opportunity to pose questions to the presenters and obtain real time answers and feedback. The sessions also provided the perfect platform for information sharing!

Due to the ongoing pandemic we were unable to be in Toronto however, our 2020 Scientific Committee, chaired by Holger Schünemann, with Miloslav Klugar as vice chair, developed a unique and informative programme with many global experts presenting on the pressing issues affecting everyone in the guideline community today.

The webinars focussed on issues related to evidence synthesis and their impact on health recommendations and guidelines which have achieved much greater attention during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Session 1 - Quality of evidence for guidelines and recommendations

Session 2 - Rapid Guideline Development

Session 3 - Recommendation Mapping

Session 4 - Living Recommendations

Feedback on the sessions has been extremely positive with attendees agreeing that their expectations were met, and sessions were very useful indeed!

We would like to extend our thanks to all our presenters and moderators who took time out from their extremely busy schedules to make these sessions possible.

Presentations and recordings from all sessions are now available on our [website](#).



**With thanks to the 2020 Scientific Committee:**

**Chair - Holger Schünemann**

**Vice Chair – Miloslav Klugar**

**Eddy Lang**

**Yaolong Chen**

**Markus Follmann**

**Rodrigo Pardo**

**Julian Elliott**

**Susan Norris**

**Tamara Kredo**

**Christine Laine**

**Zach Munn**

**Nancy Santesso**



## Announcing the 2020 Najoua Mlika-Cabanne Innovation Winner - Hector Pardo Hernandez



We are delighted to announce Dr Hector Pardo-Hernandez as the 2020 Guidelines International Network (GIN) recipient of the Najoua Mlika-Cabanne Innovation Award. Hector is currently a consultant at the WHO Regional Office for Europe and a Methods Editor for the Cochrane Common Mental Health Disorders group at the University of York (York, UK). He was formerly a Researcher at the Iberoamerican Cochrane Centre.

Hector has worked in the advancement of the clinical guideline (CG) updating enterprise, specifically in the development of a tool for prioritising clinical questions for updating within a CG. This tool, endorsed by the GIN Board in December 2019, consists of six items scored using a 7- point Likert scale:

1) impact of outdated recommendations on safety, 2) availability of new relevant evidence, 3) context relevance of the clinical question, 4) methodological applicability of the clinical question, 5) user's interest, and 6) impact on access to health care. It also includes detailed guidance for passing the tool, rating priority items, calculating and ranking priority scores, and summarising results. The tool is pragmatic and can be adapted to meet the specific needs of different clinical guideline developing organisations.

The development of the UpPriority Tool consisted of a multistep process and was based on a systematic review of prioritisation strategies for CG, systematic review and health technology assessment updating.

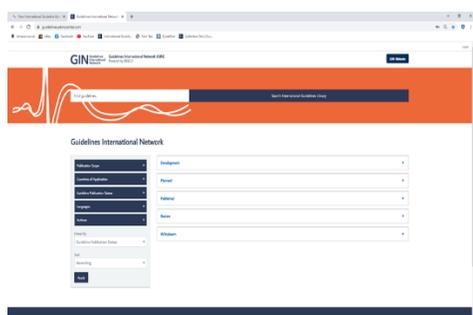
As Vice-Chair of the GIN Updating Guidelines Working Group, Hector has also coordinated the development of other projects related to the CG updating enterprise, including a glossary of terms related to CG updating and continuous literature surveillance for CG updating. He is also a member of the Living Evidence Network Steering Group and is currently involved in a systematic review of methods of conduct and reporting of living systematic reviews. For full details on Hector's award [click here](#).

*¡Felicidades!*



## New GIN Library and Registry of Guidelines in Development

The new GIN library and registry was launched at the GIN Annual General Meeting and it can be found at <https://guidelines.ebmportal.com/>. The new library has been developed in partnership with EBSCO, a long time GIN member and collaborator, and we are very grateful for all their hard work in getting the library and registry to this point. We will be working with EBSCO over the coming months to enhance the library and develop additional functionality for our members.



The library project started almost a year ago, with interviews with GIN members to find out what they were looking for in a library and registry of guidelines in development. While we haven't been able to accommodate everything that was suggested, we have streamlined the data items included and simplified the uploading process. New data fields have been added and are available to use immediately. We are very keen for the registry to become the 'go to' place to register guidelines in development. Members organisations are able to upload these directly. Non member organisations can send a request to [library@g-i-n.net](mailto:library@g-i-n.net) and we will upload these free of charge. Don't forget to indicate whether you are interested in collaboration; we have a field for that!

The library project is now moving into the implementation phase. If there is anything you wish to share about the new library and registry, if you need help in using the library or if you would like me to run a short training webinar, please get in touch using [library@g-i-n.net](mailto:library@g-i-n.net).

engine October 2020

### From G-I-N to GIN.... announcing the GIN 2020 rebrand, keeping you connected on a global platform.

Since April, we have been working on a comprehensive rebranding programme within the organisation, which has now come to fruition, and was launched at our recent AGM and shared with our members. Our new brand identity, which can be seen on all GIN platforms including the website, our new library and our partner's websites represents our commitment to continuous improvement and shows we:

- Present a professional image, both internally and externally
- Demonstrate our passion for what we do
- Continue to provide trustworthy and reliable data
- Lead, support and participate in global collaborations
- Network, communicate and most importantly, connect

We would love to hear what you think of the GIN rebrand – tweet us on [@gin\\_member](https://twitter.com/gin_member), using #dropthedashes



**Announcing our new 2020-21 Board!**

During the AGM, the results of the Trustee Elections were announced, and we welcomed the new elected Organisational Trustees to the Board.

			
Amir Qaseem ACP	Zac Munn JBI	Roberta James SIGN	Sophie Blanchard HAS
Organisational Trustee	Organisational Trustee	Organisational Trustee	Organisational Trustee
2010 – 2019 2020 - 2023	2017 - 2023	2020 - 2023	2016 – 2019 2020 - 2013

Details of the full 2020/2021 Board of Trustees can be found [here](#).

We would also like to thank our outgoing board members Per Olav Vandvik and Stephanie Chang for their hard work and deduction to GIN during their time as Trustees.



Per Olav Vandvik



Stephanie Chang



### Recognising long term members

During our AGM we recognised our members who have now been with us for 10 or 15 years.

We have 3 organisations that we would like to thank for having been with us for 15 years:

- Agency for Quality in Dentistry within the Institute of German Dentists (Germany)
- Medical Information Network Distribution Service Centre, Japan Council for Quality Health Care (Minds Centre) – Japan
- Therapeutic Guidelines Ltd – Australia

We also had organisations and individuals to recognise for their 10-year commitment to GIN:

- Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics – USA
- Kaiser Permanente, Care Management Institute – USA
- Zorginstituut Nederland – Netherlands
- Dr Valerie King – USA
- Dr Joseph Mathew – India
- Dr Loes Meijer – Netherlands
- Dr John Pilla – Canada
- Prof Airton Stein – Brazil
- Ms Sally Welham – UK

**Thank you to all for your continued contributions and support of GIN.**



### Save the Date – North America Systematic Review Methods Virtual Research Day! (Oct 30)

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality Evidence-based Practice Center (AHRQ EPC) program, Guidelines International Network - North America (GIN/NA), Cochrane Canada, and Cochrane US have been working together to bring you the North American Systematic Review Methods Virtual Research Day on October 30th, 2020.

We will be hearing from North American speakers across a breadth of topics relevant to the production of systematic reviews, with a desire to focus on early career investigators. This Virtual Research Symposium aims to provide a venue for collaboration and dissemination of research projects relevant to the systematic review community.

The event will be taking place on October 30th, 2020 from 11:30 am – 3:30 pm ET (8:30 am – 12:30 pm PT). Please reach out to [methods@epc-src.org](mailto:methods@epc-src.org) for more information or to be included on the calendar event invite. We look forward to your participation!

Full details can be found [here](#).





## GIN Collaborations!



### World Evidence-Based Healthcare Day 2020 – 20 October 2020

Evidence-based Healthcare Day is a global initiative that raises awareness of the need for better evidence to inform healthcare policy, practice and decision making in order to improve health outcomes globally

It is an opportunity to participate in debate about global trends and challenges, but also to celebrate the impact of individuals and organisations worldwide, recognising the work of dedicated researchers, policymakers and health professionals in improving health outcomes.

We are asking any organisation who would like to be a Supporter to commit to an activity listed below:

- Use the Social Media Toolkit to promote awareness of World EBHC Day and/or your organisation's work, achievements, mission/vision for EBHC
- Host an event (i.e. webinar/seminar/workshop/twitter chat) on 20 October, related to EBHC and register on the World EBHC Day website
- Submit an impact story

**Full details on the day are available [here](#).**



**GIN is delighted to be partnering with McMaster University on the recently launched INGUIDE programme** - a comprehensive, evidence-based, and up-to-date training program for guideline recommendation and development.!

Despite the important role of practice guidelines in assisting complex healthcare decisions, guideline development processes vary substantially, and many do not meet basic quality criteria. INGUIDE's mission is to improve the quality of practice guidelines globally, as well as reduce the amount of time and resources required to produce guidelines.

If you are interested in enrolling your guideline panel in INGUIDE training or obtaining additional information about INGUIDE please visit [inguide.org](http://inguide.org) or contact [inguide@mcmaster.ca](mailto:inguide@mcmaster.ca).



### Important Dates

Event	Date
GIN Office Christmas Shutdown	23 December 2020 – 5 January 2021
Global Evidence Summit 2	5 – 8 October 2021
G-I-N Conference Toronto	21 – 24 September 2022

### Newsletter Production & Editorial Team



We would love to hear your feedback, please forward and comments or suggestions via email to: [Allison Smith](#) or [Jenna Docherty](#)