

COVID-19 Evidence Coordination Initiative

Notes from the Zoom call on 8 April 2020

<https://zoom.us/j/6163788736>

1. INTRODUCTIONS

- a. Welcoming new collaborators, who are listed below in alphabetical order (see **‘participants’ attachment for the full list**)
 - i. Chris Mavergames, Cochrane
 - ii. David Gough, EPPI Centre and Evidence Synthesis International
 - iii. Edoardo Aromataris, Johanna Briggs Institute
 - iv. Elie Akl, SPARKS (American University of Beirut) and GESI
 - v. Julian Elliott, Cochrane Australia and National COVID-19 Living Evidence Task Force
 - vi. Maureen Dobbins, National Collaborating Centre for Methods and Tools
 - vii. Nikita Burke, Cochrane Ireland and ihealthfacts.ie
 - viii. Safa Al-Khateeb, RISE
 - ix. Tricia Greenhalgh, Oxford Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine (contributor)

2. FOLLOW-UP ON ACTION ITEMS

- a. All items were completed or are in progress
- b. Inventory of evidence sources is now available online and is being updated 1-2 times per weekday as new sources are submitted to forum@mcmaster.ca: <https://www.mcmasterforum.org/find-evidence/guide-to-covid-19-evidence-sources>

3. DISCUSSION ABOUT WORKING GROUPS

- a. Participants agreed with the five proposed working groups – scoping, engaging, digitizing, synthesizing, packaging – and added a sixth focused on ‘sustaining’
- b. Participants discussed many issues related to the terms of reference for these working groups and potential members and chairs – **see the ‘working groups’ document, which capture all of these points and which will be the focus of our Monday call**
- c. Participants generally supported the following points and encouraged that they be re-framed as principles (a draft of which are now included in the proposed terms of reference for the Scoping working group)
 - i. Aiming for one co-chair from a high-income country and another from a low- or middle-income country and for seeking gender balance across the full group of co-chairs
 - ii. Strongly encouraging review authors to register all reviews in PROSPERO and ensuring that PROSPERO has the capacity to rapidly upload these
 - iii. Setting up a global searchable database of 1) the questions that decision makers are asking synthesis groups and others that support them; 2) completed rapid responses, so that others can draw on these in their setting; and 3) completed COVID-related syntheses, again so that others can draw on these in their setting

4. DISCUSSION ABOUT SUPPORTING WORKING GROUPS

- a. Participants supported RISE (McMaster Health Forum and Ottawa Hospital Research Institute) acting as the secretariat for the initiative
- b. Participants supported the idea of uploading meeting materials to a website where they will be publicly available
 - i. **RISE to get these webpages up ASAP**

- ii. **Participants to share their logos if they are willing to be noted as active contributors to the initiative**

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a. Any other business
 - i. **All to connect Trish Greenhalgh to others engaged in qualitative evidence synthesis**
 - ii. **Maureen to share the slides describing a now-dormant platform that she established for addressing Ebola (with funding from the Public Health Agency of Canada)**
 - iii. **RISE to share the link to the slides from the WHO ad-hoc technical consultation on managing the COVID-19 infodemic (7 and 8 April 2020):**
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1HrsEd4uVM5woZxrLA9A4sihhlkyZKpdK>
 - iv. **RISE to proceed with the call with several key individuals involved in the U.S. Evidence-based Practice Centers to understand whether and how we can collaborate**