COVID-END partners coordination call
Notes from 10 September 2020
https://zoom.us/j/6163788736

1. **INTRODUCTIONS**

   a. *Jeremy welcomed three new participants in the call:*
      i. *Ivan Florez from Colombia, who is the head of the AGREE Collaboration and co-chair of COVID-END's Recommending working group (but who cannot normally join the partner's call because of its timing)*
      ii. *Yasser Amer from Saudi Arabia, who has been conducting research on the quality of the first wave of COVID-19-related guidance*
      iii. *George Wells from Canada, who is replacing Andrea Tricco on the partner calls*

2. **REVIEW OF COVID-END ACTION ITEMS AND BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

   a. *Jeremy pointed partners to the partner notes from August 20th* (see attachment 2) *and the co-chairs meeting notes from September 8th* (see attachment 3)

3. **COVID-END NETWORK UPDATES**

   a. *John and Jeremy provided a debrief about:*
      i. *the horizon-scanning panel held on August 26th, and they encouraged partners to review the inputs to and most importantly the outputs from the panel* (see attachments 4, 5 & 6)
      ii. *the last WHO ECC-19 webinar, and they noted that there appears to be a groundswell of interest in supporting a pivot from sprint to marathon in the evidence response to COVID-19*
      • *Ruth McQuiillan asked about the mechanics of how we will operationalize the call to action to address gaps in living evidence syntheses emerging from the combination of the priorities emerging from the global horizon-scanning panel and the existing stock of 'best evidence syntheses' represented in the COVID-END inventory, and Jeremy and John noted that we need to additional thinking about this and bring back our thoughts to the partners for discussion (and Ruth volunteered to contribute to the thinking)*
      • *Per Vandvik noted that a critical question is what role COVID-END should play in orchestrating/governing and supporting all the actors involved in the COVID-19 evidence response and stressed the importance of contextualizing this role in an evidence ecosystem model (and he pointed partners to a recent paper by WHO, MAGIC and BMJ folks: https://blogs.bmj.com/bmj/2020/09/04/trustworthy-and-living-guidance-for-covid-19-time-to-join-forces-in-the-evidence-ecosystem/ and also volunteered to contribute to the thinking)*

- **ACTION**: *COVID-END Secretariat to engage Ruth, Per and others in conversation about a draft proposal for how COVID-END can support the creation of a global stock of living evidence syntheses that address all of the key recurring and emergent issues related to COVID-END, and then bring the draft proposal to a partners meeting for discussion*
  b. *Jeremy introduced the issue of how to efficiently handle COVID-END publications, including a first draft of group authorship guidelines and a first example of a proposed COVID-END 'group' publication (for the Cochrane Library)*
     i. *Per noted a 'red flag' on the manuscript, namely the missing link to guidance and suggested, and suggested adding a sentence or two to highlight the connection between evidence synthesis efforts and trustworthy guidance (HTA, clinical practice guidelines, and public health guidelines)*
     ii. *Jerry Osheroff agreed and suggested also mentioning guidance adaptation and implementation as examples of key steps downstream from evidence synthesis*
     iii. **ACTION**: *Jeremy to draft an email with a structured set of questions about the draft manuscript (e.g., agree or don't agree to be listed as part of the group author list, red flags about issues to address in the manuscript)*
  c. *Baseline project led by Sustaining Working Group*
     i. *David Gough and Amena El-Harakeh described the current status of the project and noted that partners would soon be receiving an email about participating in the project*

4. RECOMMENDING WORKING GROUP PRESENTATION

  a. *Yasser Amer from King Saud University in Saudi Arabia gave a presentation about the AGREE II ratings of 45 rapid guidelines on the management of critical care patients with COVID 19 (see attachment 7)*
  - *Partners asked a number of questions in the chat box, which Jeremy encouraged Yasser to respond to by email given the limited time available:*
    - *How do you think your AGREE II scores compare with TRUST scores (IOM trustworthy guideline criteria tool, as used by ECRI Guideline Trust)?*
    - *Given AGREE II was developed for standard guidelines and rapid guidelines use a number of "shortcuts," do you think AGREE II is optimal for assessing rapid guidelines?*
    - *Did you measure or do you plan to explore if the recommendations were up to date (e.g. based directly or indirectly [through reviews] including all of the available trials)?*

5. NEWS AND INITIATIVES OF INTEREST TO PARTNERS

    a. *Epistemonikos is collaborating with a team of journalists across Latin America to create <u>a user-friendly and interactive online dashboard describing available treatment options for COVID-19</u>. Currently available in Spanish ([link](#)), will be translated into English in coming weeks.*

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

    a. *No other business*