



# Global Commission on Evidence to Address Societal Challenges

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**John N. Lavis**

Co-Lead, Evidence Commission Secretariat

**Jeremy Grimshaw**

Co-Lead, Evidence Commission Secretariat

**Jenn Thornhill Verma**

Executive Lead, Evidence Commission Secretariat

- Two main **goals** of the report
  - Provide the context, concepts or vocabulary that underpin work in this area
  - Provide recommendations about how we can and must improve the use of evidence, both in routine times and in future global crises
- Many **versions** of the report
  - Online executive summary
  - Online full report
  - Online chapters
  - Online sections / infographics
  - Print-on-demand full report (available through Amazon) in most languages
- Available now
  - **Executive summary:** Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish
  - **Online full report:** English and French
  - **Online chapters and sections:** English and French
  - **Print-on-demand full report** (through Amazon): English and French
- What will be online by mid-March
  - **Versions in all seven languages:** Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish



# Some recent coverage of the report

- [Wanted: Better systems for turning evidence into action](#) (Nature, 28 February 2022) – an editorial spurred by the commission
- [Getting rid of Joe Rogan won't solve the health misinformation problem](#) (The New York Times, 8 February 2022) – a guest essay co-written by commissioner Julia Belluz and secretariat co-lead John Lavis
- [5 ways to tackle ignorance about evidence during and after the COVID-19 pandemic](#) (The Conversation, 6 February 2022) – an article written by secretariat co-lead John Lavis
  - ❑ Stop chasing the latest study
  - ❑ Stop accepting unquestioningly the personal opinion of experts
  - ❑ Stop relying on recommendations from old-school expert panels
  - ❑ Stop engaging in the groupthink that can come from simply asking what other countries are doing
  - ❑ Start building the processes so evidence is a consistent feature in decision-making
- [The rise of evidence-based policymaking?](#) (Behavioural Insights Team, 31 January 2022) – a blog post written by commissioner David Halpern



# Next steps at the country level: Systematize what went well and address what didn't during (and before) the pandemic

- Participate in a rapid jurisdictional **assessment** and contribute to a cross-jurisdictional **network** of government entities engaged in a similar process of systematizing and filling gaps in evidence-support systems
  - Jurisdictions: Australia, Canada's federal / BC / ON governments, China, Indonesia (TBC), Ireland, Israel, and UK, plus additional LMICs
  - Within-jurisdiction focus: Central agencies (bringing a whole-of-government perspective) and three departments/topics (one of which is **health** and others could be **digitally supported economic transformation, education, gender-based violence, humanitarian emergency, and net-zero emissions**), as well as related UN system entities' country, regional and global offices
  - Methods: website/document review and 10 interviews → prioritization of what to systematize and what gaps to fill
  - Example of a prioritized list of next steps:
    - Adapt the UK cabinet office approach to eliciting 'areas of interest' where political leaders have unanswered questions and then flow evidence funding to these priorities
    - Start a conversation among evidence producers about reducing duplication and increasing quality, caution them about expert opinion and old-school expert panels, and expose them to new approaches (like living syntheses & guidelines) and to domestic and global assets
    - Adapt the COVID-END model for domestic evidence-demand and evidence-supply coordination (e.g., a one-year investment of \$1.34M yielded 86 products on 34 topics – keeping in mind that some of these topics are massive, like what do we know about vaccine effectiveness against variants – as well as the intake / scoping / commissioning process, inventory of best evidence syntheses, twice-per-month spotlights, and monthly horizon scans to identify emerging issues)
    - Experiment with new evidence products (including infographics) that bring together many forms of evidence, continue to innovate in stakeholder- and citizen-engagement processes and begin supporting the government's many advisory groups, and use a collective-impact approach in all of this work (only in line departments like health or in partnership with other units in central agencies)
    - Influence the prioritization of and leverage evidence-related global public goods directly (e.g., through domestic contributions) and through what we hope will be future multi-lateral bodies' investments (e.g., Cochrane, Campbell, CEE, and PROSPERO)
    - Institutionalize evidence use by build capacity for it, prompting it (e.g., evidence checklist and advisory-group procedures), documenting it, and ideally rewarding it

# Next step at the global level: Systematize what went well and address what didn't during (and before) the pandemic

- G20 briefing note and advocacy effort focused on securing both a soft commitment by all members and a hard commitment by select members (with the latter likely built around priority topics, including now a humanitarian emergency)
- UN system
  - Secretary-General (e.g., meeting to re-establish a scientific advisory board on 7 and 8 March)
  - WHO chief scientist
  - UNICEF executive director
  - UN resident coordinator in countries like China
- World Bank
- Global evidence producers
- Funders' networks