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| Position | Candidates | Result |
| Non-English Language Representative  (1 vacancy) | Silvana Simi (Italy)  Nominated by Sara Yaron (Israel);  seconded by Anne Lyddiatt (Canada) | Elected Unopposed |

Silvana Simi: Candidate Statement

I joined the Collaboration on 1999. Since then I feel committed to increase consumer involvement in the Collaboration, and more broadly to patient-centered-medicine. To this goal, I am also collaborating with the Regional (Tuscany) Authority to Multidisciplinary Health Educational Projects for lay people.

I served in the Collaboration Steering Group as a consumer representative (2001-2004) and in the Consumer Network Governing Council (later called CCNet Coordinating Team) since 2003. In 2010 I was called as a member of the Consumer Involvement Advisory Group which helped to prepare the strategic meeting on consumer involvement in Auckland (March 2010). At present, beside WHO/Patients for Patient Safety Champion, I am Member of the CCNet Geographical Advisory Board; Editor and Consumer Representative of the Multiple Sclerosis Cochrane Review Group; Member of the Italian Cochrane Centre, and Member of the CCNet Executive.

I have collaborated to organise Cochrane Colloquia (very recently I have been invited to join the Advisory Committee for the 20th Cochrane Colloquia, Quebec City, 2013) and other Conferences, I have run training workshops for consumers also during Cochrane Colloquia, I have given seminars and talks to International/ National Bio-medical Meetings and to Continuing Medical Education Masters, and I am also Co-Author of two systematic reviews. Furthermore I act as referees for systematic reviews for several CRGs, paying special attention to Plain Language Summaries (PLS), and I have written papers/articles always stressing the pivotal role of patients both in healthcare and in research and acting to make patients to become able to speak up for themselves. Furthermore, living in a not-English-speaking country, I am very aware of the difficulties these persons have to face, so I work to translate into Italian PLS and other documents, so contributing to make them available to a greater number of persons. I do consider the PLS of the reviews the Cochrane product that fit best for consumers/patients/citizens information and "formation", offering good, evidence-based information.

At the moment, to improve the quality and consistency of PLS is one crucial engagements of the CC, being well known that PLS is the most read section of a review not only by consumers, who are its "natural" target, but also by professionals, policymakers, and journalists. So PLS is assumed as stand-alone document, and consumers can help a lot to make it clear, complete, transparent, really in plain language so understandable for the average of the public, and available and acceptable in all the different social/cultural settings.

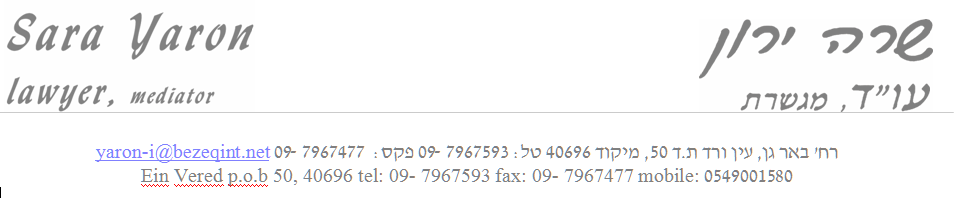
For these reason I am really happy to have been invited to join the Plain Language Expectations for Authors of Cochrane Summaries group (PLEACS), where new standards for PLS should be developed. I do hope to bring on that table the needs and preferences not only of Cochrane Consumers, but of patients/citizens in general.

Working to a continuous improvement of PLSs will be one of my main tasks for the next two years. Furthermore, although progress have been made for consumer involvement in CRGs, I think there is still a gap, especially in not-English first language countries and in lower and middle income countries as well: I hope that my efforts can help to make consumers an ever more significant resource for the whole Collaboration.

**DECLARATION OF CONFLICT**

Silvana Simi had a stable position as a senior researcher at the Italian National Research Council (1972- 2010).

As far as she can remember, she had never received funding direct from manufacturers of health care products in her research carrier. She does not act as a consultant to any for-profit organization and has no shares in any company with health care interests. A member of her family is suffering from a severe disease which can influence choices in the work she does.



February 4, 2012

To whom it may concern,

I would like to nominate Silvana Simi to the Consumers’ Executive, for the following reasons:

I have known Silvana Simi since 2001 when I first met her at the Cochrane colloquium in Lyon, France. She immediately ‘caught my eyes’ because of her enthusiasm and her activity for medical consumers, as consumer’s advocate.

During all those years, I was very much impressed by Silvana’s abilities and capabilities as a consumer’s representative in many levels: As an active advocate within the CCNet, always willing to help others to promote consumers’ needs for medical information: As a very efficient team member in the CCNet govern council, always raising the consumer’s voice and ready to listen: her commitment to CCNet, and to the idea of ’centered patient’s medicine’, is absolute:

I have had the opportunity to work with Silvana, also, while collaborating to the Patients for Patient Safety action, a WHO/ World Alliance project, and found her as an excellent representative, always raising consumer’s interests and voice, as equal partners in every medical issues that concerns consumers and patients. Her determined and wise standing is very much appreciate and significant for consumer’s success.

For these reasons I think Silvana is the perfect candidate to give voice to consumers, as lay people, in the Consumers’ Executive.

Sara Yaron

Israel

Att’n – Cochrane Consumer Co-ordinator

Re nomination

I wish to nominate Silvana Simi for a second term as a member of the CCNet executive.

Over the years I have known her, Silvana has exhibited an unfailing interest in consumer issues and gone above and beyond to participate in and contribute to these in any way she can.

Silvana ‘s professional background in research gives her the ability to provide consumer input from the researcher as well as the consumer side. Her involvement in other consumer groups (Patients for patient Safety) also enables her to bring different perspectives to the consumer issues within Cochrane.

As English is her second language Silvana has a firsthand knowledge and understanding of the problems CCNet faces as a global organization and contributes ideas to help us overcome these barriers. During her first term on the executive she exhibited not only her willingness to work on behalf of all consumers but also to be available to us if we had problems or issues we felt needed to be addressed by the executive. I believe we would benefit greatly by having her as a representative for the next term and ask the members of CCNet to join me in supporting her.

Anne Lyddiatt