Nancy Fitton's Statement of Candidacy for the Cochrane Consumer Executive

I thank Anne Lyddiatt of the Cochrane Steering Group for her nomination of me as a candidate for the Cochrane Consumer Executive, Kay Dickersin of the US Cochrane Center for her second, and I accept the nomination.

My association with The Cochrane Collaboration began in 2010 when I became the coordinator of CUE – Consumers United for Evidence-based Healthcare, a national coalition in the United States of 37 consumer health advocacy organizations. CUE is an outgrowth of the US Cochrane Center and is a movement to educate consumers about evidence and involve consumers, in a meaningful way, in the development of research. My role with CUE included developing monthly and annual meeting agendas and minutes, planning the annual national meeting, and recruiting new groups to join CUE. I also coordinated the clearinghouse function of CUE, matching requests from various medical societies, government groups and others for prepared consumers to participate on guidelines panels, meetings, etc. I encouraged and facilitated the attendance of CUE members to Cochrane Colloquia. Many CUE members are also CCNet members. I retired from this position in August, 2013.

My contribution to the work of The Cochrane Collaboration has involved encouraging consumers to join CCNet, educating individuals and groups about the work of Cochrane, and participating in the improvement of Plain Language Summaries. As a volunteer in 2013 – 2014, I edited eleven Plain Language Summaries for the Cochrane Eyes and Vision Group with the objective of making highly technical writing understandable to the general public.

I was fortunate to attend three Colloquia: Keystone, Madrid and Auckland. I assisted in facilitating consumer workshops at each Colloquium and participated in the CCNet meetings. I am bilingual (English/Spanish) and served as translator at the CCNet meeting.

If elected to the Consumer Executive, I would like to contribute to a plan of assistance for review groups needing consumers, a plan to facilitate the communication between consumers and authors, and a plan to increase consumer/general public knowledge and use of, the Cochrane Library and resources. I would like to develop a plan of action and materials for CCNet members who wish to become Cochrane “ambassadors” to their organizations and communities. CCNet has done a great job of growing consumer involvement in Cochrane and I would like to build on the work that is already being done.

I am a member of the National Breast Cancer Coalition and the American Tinnitus Association, I am a former member of La Leche League of Costa Rica. I was a volunteer health promoter in Honduras, organized a village women’s health and nutrition club and worked in a volunteer capacity (as a Peace Corps Volunteer) with the Honduran Ministry of Health.

I have no financial or non-financial conflicts of interest.
January 17, 2014

TO Whom it May Concern

I wish to nominate Nancy Fitton as a candidate for the CCNet Executive (CE) election to be held in Feb 2014.

Nancy resides in Maryland, U.S. She has a strong background in program development and administration in both developed and developing countries and was administrator of the Consumers United for Evidence-based Healthcare (CUE) program for three years.

Nancy has been an active consumer advocate and volunteer for many years in the U.S and in several developing countries. She joined CCNet in 2010 and, since then, has attended Colloquia where she conducted workshops and also functioned as a translator. She is a peer reviewer for the Eyes and Vision Group and has written several plain language summaries (PLS) for them.

Her interest in consumer activities, organizational and background experience in developing and managing programs, would bring much depth to the consumer representation on the executive. Her linguistic skills would be a large asset to the CE as well as CCNet in our efforts to improve communications in countries where English is not the first language.

Anne Lyddiatt
January 17, 2014

Catherine Mellwain
CCNet Coordinator

Dear Catherine,

I am writing to second the nomination of Nancy Fitton for the Cochrane Consumer Executive. From August 2010 to August, 2013, Nancy served as Coordinator of CUE – Consumers United for Evidence-based Healthcare, a project of the US Cochrane Center. She also served as coordinator of the US Cochrane Center in this period. In this context, and through her current volunteer work with the Cochrane Eyes and Vision Group US Satellite, writing lay summaries for the systematic reviews we produce, Nancy learned a lot about how Cochrane operates and got to know the workings of the Consumer Network, especially.

Nancy is outgoing and her social skills help to bring people together, even when they have diverse points of view. She is enthusiastic but not too pushy, and her approach enhances teamwork. Nancy has attended three Colloquia (2010, 2011, and 2012), and while there she has assisted in facilitating consumer workshops and attended CCNet functions. Her experience and knowledge about the Cochrane Collaboration would be of much value in the work of the Consumer Executive.

Nancy is a member of two advocacy organizations and has many contacts with consumer advocates as a result of her work with CUE.

Thank you for the opportunity to second her nomination.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Kay Dickersin, MA, PhD
Professor

Distribution:
Chronologic file
Cochrane letters of support-N. Fitton