

Announcement re Brighton Collaboration Science Board Election

The Brighton secretariate and existing Science Board would like to thank all those who submitted their candidacy to stand for election to the Science Board as 3 members (Kathy Edwards, Dan Salmon and Barbara Law) complete their second term.

There were a total of 16 excellent candidates who agreed to stand for election as follows:

Existing SB members agreeing to stand for a second term;

- Sonali Kochhar
- Wan-Ting Huang
- Nick Wood
- Clare Cutland

Previous SB members who have been off the board for > 5 years and thus are eligible for re-appointment:

- Hector Izurieta
- Jim Buttery
- Najwa Khuri Bulos

Candidates for their first term on the SB:

- Jane Gidudu
- Nicky Klein
- Bob Wise
- Karina Top
- Matt Dudley
- Azucena Bardaji
- Alejandro Cravioto
- Denny Kim

After consideration of all the candidates and given current unique circumstances (COVID-19, evolution of Brighton Collaboration from its base in Switzerland to the Task Force for Global Health) and the clear need to focus on global vaccine safety standards and harmonization in terms of infrastructure, human and financial resources, the nominating committee (which consisted of the 3 outgoing SB members) has proposed that all candidates be appointed to a provisional Science Board for the next two years rather than have an election that would result in only 10 of the 16 being appointed to the board.

In the past there were 5 key areas of focus for Brighton Collaboration: **Standards and Harmonization** (case definitions, guidelines and safety templates), **Clinical assessment** (Improving individual case management; CAFÉ; Networks of CISA-like Centers), **Capacity Building** (in Low and Middle Income countries; building a network of excellence; fundraising), **Public Confidence** (promoting the understanding of public concerns) and **Data Sharing**

(Improving risk assessment; networks of large-linked databases). As part of the transition from Brighton 1.0 to 2.0 the constitution and regulations were amended and now there are 8 areas of focus with the three new additions being: **Regulatory Authorities** (enhancing the network with regulatory expertise); **Evaluation** (of Brighton Documents/Tools) and **Communication** (Vaccine Safety Quarterly).

In the transition process of the last 2 years the need for expanding educational activities has been recognized by the SB. At this critical juncture, in stressful times, expertise and new approaches are needed. As such it is felt that the entire slate of SB candidates will bring a new energy along with needed expertise to the Science Board. It is also important to maintain institutional memory and thus we also propose changing the election paradigm to ensure that no more than 1/3 of members rotate off at any given period. Thus we would plan to review and revise the election timing and methodology and seek input for same from the entire network. It is proposed to hold elections in the fall of 2023 at which point 5-6 of the board at that time would rotate off and 5-6 new members be elected. Elections would be held every 2 years at a minimum, and possibly annually, provided an efficient process can be devised to do so.