

COVID-19 Evidence Coordination Initiative

Agenda for Zoom call on 8 April 2020

<https://zoom.us/j/6163788736>

1. INTRODUCTIONS a. Welcoming new collaborators (see ‘participants’ attachment)	5 min
2. FOLLOW-UP ON ACTION ITEMS a. Reproduced below for reference b. Inventory of evidence sources is now available online and is being updated 1-2 times per weekday as new sources are submitted to forum@mcmaster.ca: https://www.mcmasterforum.org/find-evidence/guide-to-covid-19-evidence-sources	5 min
3. DISCUSSION ABOUT WORKING GROUPS a. Do the five proposed working groups – scoping, engaging, digitizing, synthesizing, packaging – make sense and capture key functions (see the ‘functions’ attachment) b. Are you comfortable with aiming for one co-chair from a high-income country and another from a low- or middle-income country and for seeking gender balance across the full group of co-chairs? c. Do you support the key recommendations from GESI and, if so, can the related work be allocated to the right working groups? i. Strongly encouraging review authors to register all reviews in PROSPERO and ensuring that PROSPERO has the capacity to rapidly upload these ii. Setting up a global searchable database of completed COVID-related syntheses iii. Setting up a global searchable database of: 1) the questions that decision makers are asking synthesis groups and others that support them; 2) completed rapid responses, so that others can draw on these in their setting iv. Promoting use of the above as widely as possible	30 min
4. DISCUSSION ABOUT SUPPORTING WORKING GROUPS a. Secretariat role played by RISE b. Supporting communication across working groups	15 min
5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS a. Any other business b. Items to bring forward to next meeting on 13 April	5 min

Action items from meeting on Monday April 6th 2020

- 1) All to review these notes, identify actions that you can take individually with others involved in similar functions (e.g., share search strategies), and propose ways to strengthen the proposed working groups and inventory of functions
- 2) All who are interested to participate in the WHO ad-hoc technical consultation on managing the COVID-19 infodemic (7 and 8 April 2020)
- 3) GESI to circulate a summary about the Open Synthesis Working group – **completed**
- 4) RISE to send an email confirm a meeting for the same time of day this Thursday (addendum: also confirm meetings for the same time on Mondays and Thursdays for the weeks of 13-17 April and 20-24 April, by which time we can confirm whether there's a need for this group to continue meeting and/or hand off to other better positioned groups) - **completed**
- 5) RISE to propose a set of working groups that could support key functions and come together periodically for cross-group discussions (addendum: see the sub-points below to get the conversation going on Thursday's call) – **completed and the focus for agenda item 3**
 - a. Possible working groups:
 - i. **Scoping** (confirming focus on reviews versus reviews and primary studies, confirming focus on human studies versus human and animal studies, finding existing taxonomies and crafting a workable hybrid) – e.g., Jeremy
 - ii. **Engaging** (mapping evidence groups out there and what they're doing, engaging them in contributing to more streamlined processes) – e.g., Laurenz, Lesley, Maureen
 - iii. **Digitizing** (sharing and optimizing searches, sharing data, using machine learning to 'break the back' of work with meta-data) – e.g., Alfonso, Gunn, James, Jon
 - iv. **Synthesizing** (creating evidence tables, conducting rapid reviews, updating systematic reviews, conducting systematic reviews, developing living guidelines)
 - v. **Packaging** (identifying intermediaries already providing evidence to key target audiences, documenting and incorporating innovations from the structured guides / derivative products / portals that they're using, and proposing more streamlined packaging processes that combine best global evidence and best locally contextualized information), by target audience
 1. Citizens
 2. Providers
 3. Policymakers and managers
 4. Researchers, synthesizers and guideline developers
 - b. Possible functions – **completed (see table 1 in meeting notes)**
 - c. Possible need to distinguish short- and long-term priorities
- 6) RISE to update the pre-circulated structured guide with additional evidence sources based on input received by email and during the call – **completed and now posted online and updated 1-2 times per weekday**
- 7) RISE and others to continue to identify and liaise with organizations that are attempting to support similar coordination (e.g., ACE with its hub of hubs, GESI with its task group and emergent working group, and WHO with its evidence collaborative) – **in progress; also in contact with the U.S. Evidence-based Practice Centers**
- 8) RISE and others to explore the possibility of formalizing the name of the group (e.g., COVID Global Evidence Alliance) and finding a global entity to host the key webpages – **in progress**
- 9) [RISE internal – to liaise with Ontario and broader Canadian efforts in this space (e.g., ministry, Ontario Health) about what processes are in place), prioritize local efforts, and explore budget re-allocations to support them – **in progress**