



COVID-END partners coordination call

Notes from call on 16 July 2020

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

1. INTRODUCTIONS

Jeremy welcomed two guests who will be presenting later in the meeting, and both guests introduced themselves:

- 1) Promise Nduku is a synthesis expert at the Africa Centre for Evidence*
- 2) Cristian Mansilla led EVIPNet Chile for five years and is now completing a PhD on living systematic reviews at the McMaster Health Forum*

2. REVIEW OF COVID-END ACTION ITEMS AND BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

- a. Jeremy pointed partners to four documents*
 - i. COVID-END partners list (see attachment 2)*
 - ii. Review partner notes from July 9th (see attachment 3)*
 - iii. Review co-chairs meeting notes from July 14th (see attachment 4)*
 - iv. Review action items tracker (see attachment 5)*

3. COVID-END NETWORK UPDATES

- a. Promise described the development of the living hubs of COVID-19 knowledge hubs and Cristian provided a demonstration of its current functionality, which is powered by macros and does not yet work well on Mac computers (and John noted that the Secretariat hopes to have a fully functional search interface on the website within two weeks)*
- b. Laurenz acknowledged the superb contributions by Andile Madonsela, Nkululeko Tshabalala and Irvine Manyukisa who did lots of the heavy lifting in terms of screening and data extraction*
- c. Partners congratulated the team on its superb work*
- d. Partners to review the current prototype and the fully functional search as soon as it's launched, and share any suggestions for additional hubs with Promise and Cristian (which can be sent via covid-end@mcmaster.ca)*

4. MAJOR UPDATES FROM OTHER WORKING GROUPS

- a. Updates and inter-working group collaboration opportunities*
 - i. Scoping – Jeremy noted that Ruth and Lucy continue to push forward the proposed Lancet article on issues unique to low- and middle-income countries*
 - ii. Engaging – Laurenz updated partners about progress with the listserv and invited feedback on the criteria for community membership:*
 - 1. Creating and/or using evidence syntheses (ES), technology assessments, and/or guidelines as the focus of their support to decision-making about COVID-19*

2. *Engaging with decision-making about COVID-19 by citizens/service users, providers, health- and social-system policymakers*
 3. *Keen to learn from others about how to support decision-making about COVID-19 and willing to explore challenges and/or share experiences through online discussions*
 4. *Share the values of the COVID-END partnership (see [here](#))*
- iii. *Digitizing – Chris noted that he’s reviewing David Tovey’s draft use cases and Alfonso Iorio’s draft slide deck*
 - iv. *Synthesizing – David (Tovey) noted that the working group has been discussing the issues related to rapid reviews, will be meeting soon with the Digitizing working group, and have an upcoming conversation planned about addressing equity*
 - v. *Recommending – David (Tovey) stepped in for the co-chairs and noted that the group has been discussing three issues: 1) extreme rapidity with which guidelines are being prepared; 2) need for guidance and co-creation for guideline, HTA and CPG development ; 3) overlaps with Digitizing working group; Jeremy noted that Ivan and Newman are working with a colleague, Yasser, on his assessment of guidelines using AGREE II*
 - vi. *Packaging – John noted that he and Ben should be able to come back to the next partners meeting with a plan for the future of this working group, which has addressed its terms of reference and now is well prepared to transition to a new role*
 - vii. *Sustaining – David (Gough) noted that the group had another conversation about the logic model and how it fits into the evidence ecosystem (and the logic model is now with Declan Devane to improve its visual appeal) and has submitted the baseline research project for ethics review at the American University of Beirut*

5. NEWS AND INITIATIVES OF INTEREST TO PARTNERS

- a. ACTS COVID-19 Guidance to Action Collaborative’s Dashboard
 - i. *Jerry provided an update about the ACTS initiative and its COVID-19-related activities, additional details about which can be found [here](#) (and invited contributions from COVID-END partners)*
- b. *Evidence Synthesis Ireland: Rapid Review Methodology Priority Setting Project (see attachment 6)*
 - i. *Declan provided an introduction to this project that: 1) aims to improve how rapid reviews are prioritized, designed, executed and reported; 2) builds on the James Lind Alliance approach; 3)*
 - ii. *Declan also noted an upcoming webinar about building evidence synthesis knowledge, awareness and capacity:*
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_kyQq9irMTE2Uv2CagwkgTQ
- c. *Evidence Aid: Interest in collaborating*
 - i. *Ben noted that 337 summaries of relevant systematic reviews have been published on the Evidence Aid website, each of which is also available in French, Spanish, Portuguese, Arabic and Chinese (traditional and simplified), and they remain*

interested to hear from any COVID-END partners looking to develop joint initiatives (bhtaylor@evidenceaid.org)

- d. HTAi webinar: Intensive Care = Expensive Care: How HTA can Support Cost-effective Digitization in Hospital Settings*
 - i. Jeremy noted that this webinar will take place at 9:30 EDT on Thursday 16 July 2020*

- e. G-I-N webinar: Zac pointed partners to the upcoming G-I-N webinar on living evidence and guidelines: <https://g-i-n.net/covid-19/covid19-webinars-folder/living-evidence-webinar>*

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a. Lucy pointed partners (in the chat box) to an upcoming webinar about the International COVID-19 Data Research Alliance and Workbench: <https://www.hdruk.ac.uk/events/introducing-the-international-covid-19-data-research-alliance-and-workbench/>*
- b. Jeremy reminded partners about the adjusted summer meeting schedule, no partners meeting, co-chairs meeting or working group meetings scheduled for the weeks of*
 - i. August 3rd – August 7th*
 - ii. August 31st - September 4th*