



COVID-END partners coordination call

Notes from 10 December 2020

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

1. INTRODUCTIONS

- a. Jeremy pointed partners to the notes from the last meeting

2. COVID-END NETWORK UPDATES

- a. Jeremy provided an update about:
 - i. Funding - we should hear soon from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research
 - ii. WHO ECC-19 paper – we are revising this now
 - iii. Canadian guidelines – we have been in discussions with Julian Elliott about leveraging the Australian living evidence syntheses and guidelines to support living Canadian guidelines
 - iv. Adjustments to working groups – we are drafting terms of reference for new working groups and approaching potential chairs

3. PARTNER PROFILE

- a. Highlighting partners' projects and efforts towards the COVID-19 response
 - i. Gabriel Rada gave a presentation about the work of the Epistemonikos Foundation, and particularly the key parts of the COVID-19 L*OVE platform that seeks to reduce the burden of search and screening
 1. Repository of all types of evidence documents (not just evidence syntheses) related to COVID-19 (one of around 10 in the world), which uses automated screening (and the current count of evidence syntheses is 2,897)
 2. Automated classifier that uses artificial intelligence
 3. Collective screening tool
 - ii. Partners asked the following questions:
 1. Is the automated searching/screening software proprietary or open source? Gabriel indicated that it's proprietary
 2. Is the software likely to perform as well with economic and social studies as it does with health studies? Gabriel's responded that they believe it is, and they will learn more about such coverage and take steps to improve as they move forward
 3. Does the database also include studies using qualitative methods and syntheses of these studies? Gabriel responded that it does
 4. Do you have, or plan, API access to the information in LOVE? Gabriel responded that they do have an API and interested groups should approach his team directly (contact@epistemonikos.org)

- iii. Maureen Smith noted that she appreciated that the website uses lay language and that it is great to have the ‘mouse over’ to explain the terms making it welcoming and easy for the public to use

4. NEWS AND INITIATIVES OF INTEREST TO PARTNERS

- a. Jeremy pointed partners to updates from four partners
 - i. Evidence Aid funding drive (see 5.a. below and attachment 2)
 - ii. Collaboration for Environmental Evidence’s monthly webinar series
 - 1. This week, 8 December 2020 at 10am EST - Plotting a course for strengthening the conservation evidence base
 - 2. Next month, 12 January 2021 at 10am EST - Evidence syntheses in “eco-health”
 - 3. Full schedule, recordings of past webinars and registration can be found [here](#)
 - iii. International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie) Evidence Dialogues webinar panel
 - 1. Evidence generation in challenging times: lessons learned using examples from impact evaluations of agricultural innovations during the pandemic
 - 2. 10 December 2020 at 10am EST (3pm GMT)
 - 3. Registration can be found [here](#)
 - iv. Librarian Reserve Corps
 - 1. Organizing an international group of information professionals, librarians, expert searchers, and methodological experts to develop a statement of best practices/recommendations for searching during public health emergencies and disasters.
 - 2. If you are interested in participating in either capacity, please contact Stacy Brody, LRC Co-Director (sbrody98@gwu.edu)

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a. Jeremy noted that there was no other business
- b. Ruth asked partners to contact clara.calvert@ed.ac.uk if they are aware of studies that could be used in a review about whether population levels, trends, risk factors and causes of maternal mortality changed with the emergence of COVID-19 (https://www.crd.york.ac.uk/PROSPERO/display_record.php?RecordID=219889)

4.a. Evidence Aid funding drive

From: Claire Allen Evidence Aid <callen@evidenceaid.org>

Sent: 01 December 2020 08:51

Subject: In case we get that earthquake...

Please, unless many of you can help, this really could be the last time we write to you....

I know that sounds dramatic, especially when many charities, like us, are struggling at this time. **But you, unlike most people**, understand what we do, so we're making no apology in asking you again.

Please have a look at the attached news release, which is being circulated widely.

Evidence Aid has excelled this year, thanks to the amazing work of our core team (with particular mention to Margaret Anderson, Zbys Fedorowicz, Anish Jammu, Ahmad Firas Khalid, Alexa Phillips, Jiewon Lim, Christine McKee and Jo Wood) and our numerous volunteers, particularly for our [COVID evidence collection](#) which currently includes summaries covering information from almost 600 systematic reviews. These summaries have been routinely translated into Arabic, Chinese, French, Portuguese and Spanish, and, for some, into Italian and German. Some **400,000** people have now seen these summaries this year, most of them in lower- and middle-income countries. We'd like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has helped create this unique platform, which is being widely used to inform decisions about the direct and spill-over effects of this world-wide pandemic.

Despite this success, our financial resources are diminishing. We should like to take the chance now, to ask you to consider donating to Evidence Aid. Your donation, big or small, will enable us to ensure our freely available materials can be used by all, no matter where they are in the world. You can donate securely via our '[Donate](#)' page using PayPal, opt for a monthly donation, or contact me for our bank details so as to make a direct bank transfer.

We thank you in advance for considering our request and for continuing to support Evidence Aid.

Please do contact me if you have any questions or want to know more about what we've been doing, and feel free to circulate this e-mail widely within your organisation and to your friends.

Best wishes,
Claire

Claire Allen, Operations Manager
Evidence Aid: Championing evidence-based humanitarian action.

Support our activities by donating [here](#).

Email: callen@evidenceaid.org | Skype: [claireallencochrane](https://www.skype.com/people/claireallencochrane) | Website: www.evidenceaid.org |
Twitter: [@EvidenceAid](https://twitter.com/EvidenceAid)