

the ENGINE

The newsletter of the Guidelines International Network

Contents

Chairs report	3
Conference update – G-I-N 2016	4
Regional Communities & Working Group updates	6
Other news from around the network	7
Important dates	11
Watch for the next issue	12
Feedback	12



Editorial

Dear G-I-N members,

I am delighted to provide you with some fresh news about our network. Included in this edition of enGINE is the Chair's report with an update about the Board meeting of 14-15 March at the KCE offices in Brussels, while Amir Qaseem provides us with the latest news about the G-I-N 2016 conference in Philadelphia.

Several Regional Communities and Working Groups provided an update about their activities, and I would like to take the opportunity to thank them for their engagement. For more information on each Community or Group, please click through to our [website](#).

To receive more timely news about what is happening in our network, please remember to follow us on Twitter ([@gin_member](#)) and/or to become a member of our [LinkedIn Forum](#).

Joan Vlayen

Editor



Chairs report



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

“G-I-N has established itself as a well-known organisation in the field of clinical practice guidelines, in relation to networking generally and its conferences specifically”

How could the efforts of all G-I-N members, local hosts of conferences, Trustees and G-I-N staff to meet our vision and to let our network grow in the 13 years since its foundation be better summarised? Notably, this is not a self-reflection but the result of an evaluation by our company secretary Colin Liddell following the very dynamic and constructive mid-term meeting of the Board of Trustees in Brussels.

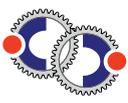
While we can be proud to recognise **G-I-N's progress**, achievements and maturity, we are still aiming at continuous improvement in order to implement our vision and ensure we meet the expectations of our old and new members around the globe. Therefore, this year's mid-term meeting focused on the following:

- Trustee training was provided along with evaluation and feedback from our company secretary, who is an accredited specialist in charity law, on opportunities to refine and further develop our activities as well as our governance
- Strategic sessions on how to further develop our Annual Conference strategy, e.g. by providing more support to hosts and to further increase membership value, e.g. by new products/deliverables

Other highlights of the meeting were the establishment of a new Regional Community - G-I-N Asia along with the opening of a G-I-N membership opportunity for patient and citizen organisations. In Asia, we look back at longstanding engagement of our individual and organisational members in the region as well as the Conference in Seoul in 2011. The new Regional Community enables us to fully engage in this location and provide further development opportunities.

Opening G-I-N for patient and consumer organisations is the logical consequence of the most fruitful collaboration within the G-I-N public working group and increasing engagement of these organisations in guideline work. Our vibrant network keeps growing, let us make best use out of the new developments!

Ina Kopp
G-I-N Chair



Conference update – G-I-N 2016

Individualised guidelines and clinical performance measurement in an era of personalised medicine

Planning for this year's G-I-N conference is well underway, and we are thoroughly excited to welcome you to Philadelphia. Our scientific program promises to be both interesting and educational, and we are honoured to announce the confirmation of our internationally renowned plenary speakers:

- Individualising Guidance in an Era of Personalised Medicine (Keynote)
 - Speakers: Douglas Owen, MD, PhD; Pierre Ongolo-Zogo, PhD; Richard Jackson
- Translating Guidelines to Performance Measures in an Era of Accountability
 - Panelists: Jacqueline Close, MD; Kate Goodrich, MD; Anke Bramesfeld, MD
- Incorporating Alternative Forms of Evidence into Guidelines
 - Panelists: Jane Noyes, Dphil; Marty Kohn, MD; Teun Zuiderent-Jerak, Research Fellow
- Innovative Efficiencies in Guideline Development, Maintenance, and Adaptation: A Look to the Future
 - Panelists: Paul Shekelle, MD; Mark Baker, MD, PhD; Joseph L. Mathew, MD
- Leveraging Technology to Promote Guideline Implementation
 - Panelists: Lawrence Mbuagabaw, MD; Kevin Larsen, MD; Lee Chien Earn, PhD

The gala networking event will provide attendees an opportunity to catch up with old friends and colleagues and form new connections and collaborations. This event will take place at the [National Constitution Center](#), which is in the middle of Philadelphia's rich historical area. Many of the country's [key historic events](#) took place right here in Philadelphia.



Late September is one of the best times in the year to visit Philadelphia with beautiful autumn weather as background to the countless culinary, artistic, and entertainment opportunities. Find out for yourself why Philly is [one of the next great cities](#). Rent one of the bright blue bicycles stationed around the city through the [Indego bike-share program](#) and check out the [City of Philadelphia Mural Arts Program](#), which has created 3,800 larger than-life works scattered throughout Philadelphia, or ride around [Fairmount Park, the largest municipal park system](#) in the United States (yes, bigger than NYC's Central Park). Explore tree-line side streets on foot or head out for some world class shopping and dining.



We also invite you to peruse and [register](#) for the four pre-conference courses we will be offering this year on Tuesday, September 27, 2016:

- 1) Streamlining Guideline Development: Creating an Efficient Systematic Process to Meet Time and Resource Constraints
 - This course aims to teach guideline developers and systematic reviewers about methods to increase efficiency in developing and maintaining a systematic process under constrained time and resources.
- 2) Close Encounters of a Third Kind? Involving Patients and Consumers in Guideline Development: A Joint Workshop of G-I-N PUBLIC and CUE – Consumers United for Evidence Based Health Care
 - This workshop will provide practical support and share international experience to facilitate successful patient or consumer involvement for guideline developers.
- 3) Individualising Guidelines (Development, Dissemination and Application) in Resource Constrained Settings: Challenges and Opportunities
 - This workshop, presented by the G-I-N Low and Middle Income Countries Working Group (LMIC WG), will present case studies, discuss initiatives of the LMIC WG, and work towards developing a guide to 'developing guidelines' in LMIC countries.
- 4) GRADE and Guideline Development
 - This workshop provides an interactive, hands-on opportunity to use GRADE in guideline development.

For travel discounts, [book your flights](#) through oneworld, the official airline alliance of G-I-N 2016.

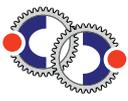
Unique sponsorship opportunities are still available but going fast. If your organisation is interested in exhibiting at or sponsoring G-I-N 2016, please [visit the website](#) or email Teresa Mattozo at sponsorship@ginconference.net.

Important dates

- ★ **Abstract Author Notifications: 10 May 2016**
- ★ **Deadline for Early Bird Registration: 20 June 2016**
- ★ **Deadline Online Registration: 21 September 2016**



Amir Qaseem, MD, PhD, FACP, co-president of G-I-N 2016 and Vice President of Clinical Policy at the American College of Physicians on behalf of fellow co-hosts Vivian Coates, MBA from ECRI Institute and Craig Umscheid, MD, MSCE, FACP from the University of Pennsylvania



Regional Communities & Working Group updates

G-I-N Africa Participates at SAGE Summit in Cape Town

The G-I-N Africa community was presented at the South African Guidelines (SAGE) Summit in February 2016 in Cape Town by Dr Okwen Patrick, lead of the African community of G-I-N. This summit, which was the first of its kind, attracted participants mainly from South Africa. It was sponsored by the medical research council and it sorted to provide a platform for dialogue, sharing, networking and exploration of perspectives.



The summit started with a richly educating workshop on GRADE moderated by Prof. Holger Schunemann. The summit saw a presentation of guideline projects within Africa, including how WHO informs guidelines with evidence, guidelines production and implementation in Africa, use of mobile technology for guidelines and the African G-I-N community amongst others.



The participants consisted of many unexplored stakeholders for the G-I-N Africa community and we are hoping many will come on board. This will also further bolster their participation in future G-I-N activities. The participants at the summit were provided with information on how to get involved with G-I-N so we hope to be welcoming some new members to the G-I-N family very soon.

Dr Okwen Patrick, Lead, G-I-N Africa Regional Community

G-I-N Africa Discussion Board – Call to Action!

G-I-N Africa is seeking ideas from G-I-N members from all over the world on how to engage stakeholders for the Africa community. We currently seek a variety of stakeholders including ministries of health, development agencies, healthcare consumers, clinicians and knowledge translation institutions. We hope that they can share their experiences and challenges and also link us with possible funders for some of our activities especially the capacity building in development and evaluation of clinical practice guidelines in Africa.

The objectives are:

- i) Learn from other communities and working groups their stakeholder engagement strategies
- ii) How to engage Stakeholders and turn it into a membership drive
- iii) Share experiences and challenges of stakeholder engagement and how to overcome them
- iv) How to put together stakeholder forums – methodologies to encourage membership

We would like to hear from members who could provide ideas and suggest strategies of stakeholder engagement and membership drives. If you would like to get involved please visit the [G-I-N Africa Discussion Board](#) or contact Irene Maweu at imaweu@yahoo.com or Sue Huckson at charmanrd@gmail.com.

Other Updates

Click on these logos to read further updates from a selection of our Regional Communities and Working Groups.





Other news from around the network

Updates from the AGREE Scientific Office

The AGREE research team remains busy at work with creating and testing tools to optimise the development, reporting, and evaluation of practice guidelines. Information about the work of the AGREE team can be found on the AGREE Enterprise website at www.agreetrust.org. You can also follow us on Twitter: @AGREEScientific.

In March 2016, the AGREE team published the AGREE Reporting Checklist, a checklist based on the AGREE II to improve the reporting of clinical practice guidelines, in the BMJ (<http://www.bmj.com/content/352/bmj.i1152>). While the AGREE II was intended to inform the reporting of guidelines, it is formatted as an evaluation tool and is thus not commonly used for reporting purposes. The AGREE team hopes that by reformatting the content of the AGREE II into the AGREE Reporting Checklist, it will be more widely adopted by guideline developers to ensure that they have reported all necessary components in their guideline documents. The AGREE Reporting Checklist is meant to complement, not replace, the AGREE II evaluation tool.

Other ongoing projects at the AGREE Scientific Office include refinement and testing of the AGREE-Recommendation Excellence (AGREE-REX), a tool to optimise and evaluate the clinical credibility and implementability of clinical practice guideline recommendations, and the AGREE-Health Systems (AGREE-HS), a tool to inform the development, reporting and evaluation of health systems guidance. If you are interested in participating in the testing of either of these tools, please contact the AGREE Scientific Office at agree@mcmaster.ca.

Dr Okwen Patrick wins the Joanna Briggs Evidence-Based Clinical Fellowship Award for LMIC for 2016

Dr Okwen Patrick Mbah, lead of the African G-I-N Community, has won the prestigious JBI Evidence-Based Clinical fellowship award for Low and Middle Income Countries for the year 2016. He is a medical doctor currently practicing in Cameroon but with keen interest in promoting evidence based practice in resource limited settings. Along with his work with G-I-N, he is also active in the Cochrane Collaboration through the Cochrane African Network (CAN). His work within G-I-N and CAN is believed to have contributed greatly in his winning of the award.

The JBI award is a six-month work place, evidence-based, implementation program involving two 5 days intensive training workshops at the Joanna Briggs Institute in Adelaide, and a work place evidence implementation project in the intervening months.

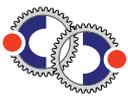
It is offered to clinicians from LMIC who show leadership in EBHC and who have good ideas on how to promote EBHC. Dr Okwen PM will use the opportunity to do a clinical audit to evaluate the cost of treating children under 5 years who present with a fever without use of clinical practice guidelines. In the process he also plans to mentor peer clinicians on EBHC practice.

Partner News

Cochrane Steering Group announces appointment of two external members



We are delighted to confirm that Cochrane has announced the appointment of the first two external members of the Cochrane Steering Group (CSG): Marguerite Koster, G-I-N member, and Catherine Marshall, G-I-N Honorary Patron. The CSG has undertaken



these appointments within its existing powers to co-opt external members as required, and potentially as the first step in Cochrane's proposed re-structure of the CSG into the Cochrane Board. The governance re-structure is undergoing consultation with the Cochrane community during 2016, and Cochrane Groups will have the final vote on the proposal at the 2016 Annual General Meeting, during the Cochrane Colloquium in Seoul. For more information on this project, please see the [Governance re-structure project pages](#) on our Community site. To view the full article including information on Marguerite and Catherine, please click [here](#).

In addition to the above announcement, Cochrane has also confirmed that Cochrane Canada has returned to McMaster University in Hamilton and will be led by new Director, Dr Holger Schünemann who is also a G-I-N Trustee. To view full details on this announcement please click [here](#).

Quality and trustworthiness of clinical practice guidelines in Italy: G-I-N endorses the study of GIMBE Foundation

In Italy the development and use of clinical practice guidelines (CPGs) are limited. The National Guidelines System – Sistema Nazionale Linee Guida (SNLG) – launched at the end of the '90s, was interrupted due to lack of funding.

The Italian Parliament is currently going to approve a law which will link medical responsibility and CPGs developed “only” by medical societies registered in a Ministry of Health's list. The risk of a proliferation of low quality guidelines is very high, as in Italy there are several hundreds of medical societies. For example, nowadays there are 47 Italian obstetrical and gynecological societies and their number has quadrupled in the last 35 years, increasing at a mean rate of one additional society per year. Additionally, transparency of medical societies regarding financial issues and competing interests is almost non-existent.

GIMBE Foundation - founding member of G-I-N - has published and disseminated at every level of the Italian NHS the G-I-N guidelines as the gold standard for the development of CPGs and for disclosure and management of conflicts of interest. GIMBE Foundation has also been convened to Italian Parliament to express its position and underline critical issues of the text of the law under discussion.

Finally, in order to build an evidence base of the quality and trustworthiness of CPGs currently developed in Italy, GIMBE has recently assigned the “Giacchino Cartabellotta” scholarship to Antonio Simone Laganà (University of Messina) to conduct a survey to verify if CPGs developed by Italian organisations match both G-I-N standards. The study will be conducted with the endorsement of G-I-N and Italian National Institute of Health.



Nino Cartabellotta, MD, President GIMBE Foundation

References

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- ² Qaseem A, Forland F, Macbeth F, Ollenschläger G, Phillips S, van der Wees P; Board of Trustees of the Guidelines International Network. Guidelines International Network: verso standard internazionali per la produzione di linee guida. *Evidence* 2012;4(6): e1000022 doi.
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- ⁴ <http://www.gimbe.org/pagine/1112/it/art-5-ddl-resp-professionale>
- ⁵ Assegnazione della borsa di studio “Giacchino Cartabellotta” 2016. Available at: www.gimbe.org/conferenze/nazionale/2016/relazioni/pomeriggio/00B.Borsa_Giacchino_Cartabellotta_2016_PRO.pdf. Last visit: 4th April 2016



Get Social!

To ensure our members are kept up to date with activity at G-I-N, we are consciously increasing our level of activity on our social media forums.

A new G-I-N member Twitter account has been created and can be followed at [@gin_member](#). This Twitter account will be used to share information from across the network and to notify members of changes and postings made to our website.

The [@GINConference](#) Twitter account is still live but will be used solely for updates regarding the G-I-N conferences. Please follow [@gin_member](#) to ensure you are kept updated!

In addition to our Twitter pages we also have a dedicated member forum on LinkedIn. To join this forum please click [here](#) (or search for G-I-N Forum when logged in to your LinkedIn account). Alternatively you can click on the logos below or email [Jenna McEwan](#) to be added to the group.



Guideline Library updates

You may have noticed some key icons are now being used in the guideline library. These are noted below along with an explanation of what they mean to help you navigate your way around the library more easily:



This will be displayed when a Guideline Publication Date OR the Last Modification Date of a guideline is over 5 years ago. This badge will be automatically displayed.



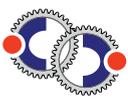
This badge will be displayed whenever a G-I-N Standards Reporting Form is completed for a guideline. Details of the Standards Reporting Form can be found by clicking [here](#). We are carrying out a catch up exercise to display this badge on relevant guidelines. We will shortly be introducing an automated feature to upload a Standards Reporting Form and display the badge.

G-I-N Guideline Library Access for LMIC's

Did you know.....

that the [G-I-N guideline library](#) is available on a complimentary basis for non-members in all low and lower middle income countries. Contact Richard, our [webmaster](#) or Anne, the G-I-N [secretary](#) to find out more and get your guest access.

We hope that by providing this access, we can support future G-I-N members in LMICs and help them to reduce duplication of efforts. Please share this with your contacts to help spread the word!



Other News

The European Commission Initiative on Breast Cancer (ECIBC) is pleased to announce the launch of a call for guidelines for all breast cancer care processes, including the non-disease specific but relevant ones, e.g. palliative care.

Within the ECIBC project a **Guidelines Platform** will contain guidelines and recommendations for all breast cancer care processes to support with evidence the selection of requirements and indicators to be included in the **European Quality Assurance** scheme for breast cancer services.

The search for evidence-based guidelines for breast cancer services has been performed by an external service provider from available medical and guideline databases. You will find more detailed information and the online submission button by clicking [here](#). This **call** will be open until 5 June 2016 (midnight CET).

Project Board

At G-I-N, we are committed to providing channels to support the networking and collaboration of our members. One of the tools that we have available in order to achieve this is our Project Board.

The Project Board is located on the G-I-N website, www.g-i-n.net, and is accessible to members and non-members, although you must be a G-I-N member to post on it.

The Project Board could be used in a variety of ways including:

- ★ Providing our members with the opportunity to join Working Groups
- ★ Getting involved with the network
- ★ Highlighting calls for collaboration or action within the guideline community
- ★ Share or request resources

At present the Project Board is underutilised so we encourage you to consider if it is something you could use to your benefit. The Project Board can viewed [here](#).

If you have something that you would like to post on the Project Board or to find out more please email Jenna McEwan at admin@g-i-n.net.

Organisational Member Logos

We are now pleased to be able to display the **logos of our organisational members** on our website. To include your logo and let everyone know that you are a member of G-I-N, please send your logo in jpeg or png format to [Jenna](#).

Welcome to our new members!

Welcome to all of our new members who have joined G-I-N since the beginning of 2016. To read about some of our new members visit our website or click [here](#).

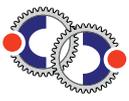
External events

To view external events that may be of interest visit our website or click [here](#).



Important dates

★★★★★★★★★★★★	G-I-N 2016 Philadelphia, USA	★★★★★★★★★★★★
Notification of acceptance of abstracts	10 May 2016	
End of Early Bird registration	20 June 2016	
Online registration closes	21 September 2016	
Conference	27 September – 30 September 2016	



Watch for the next issue

Articles to be included in the next edition of enGINE should be emailed to Jenna McEwan at admin@g-i-n.net



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