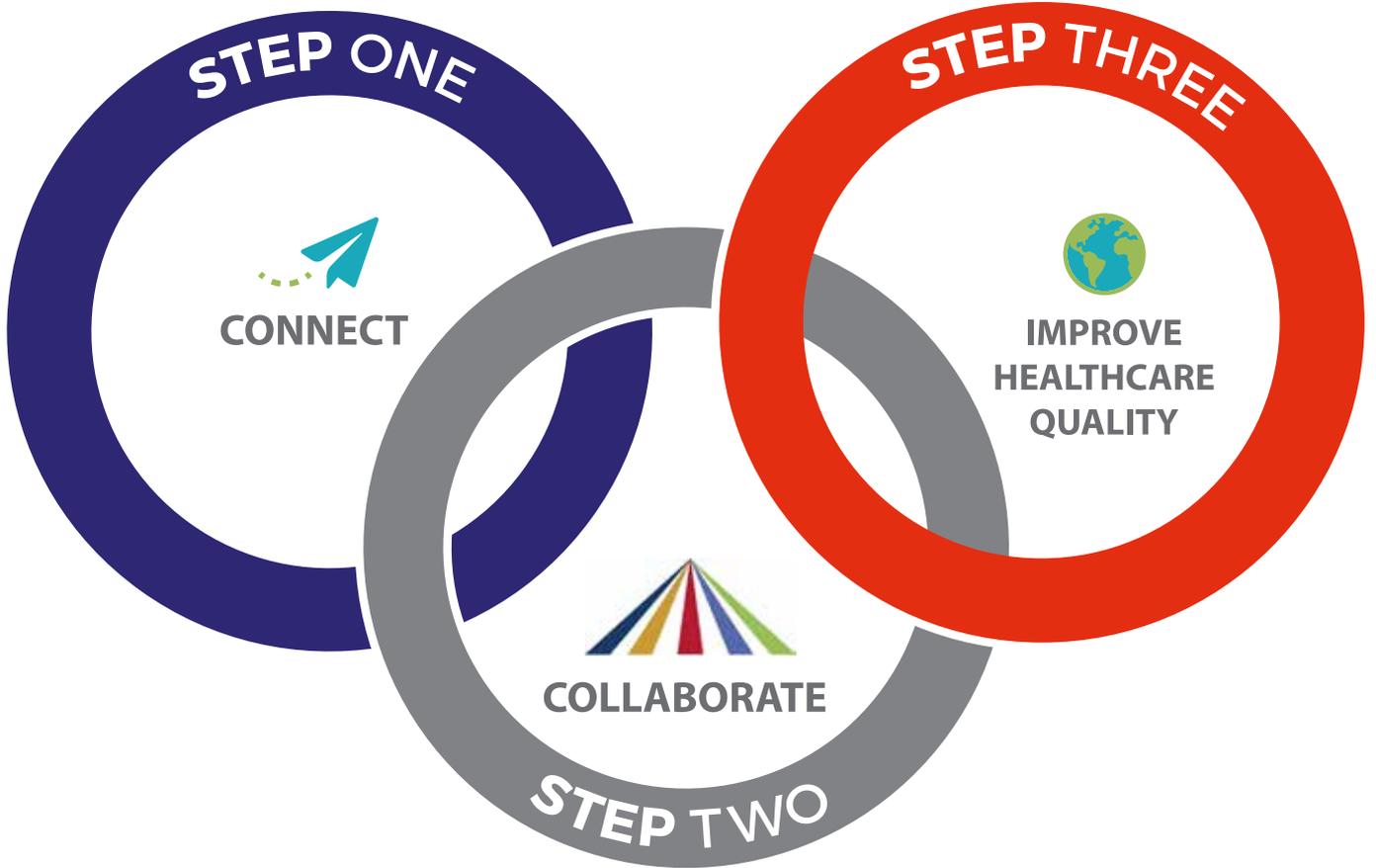
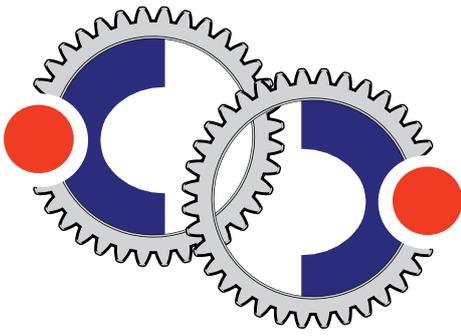


# the **ENGINE**

The newsletter of the Guidelines International Network



# May 2017



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## Editorial

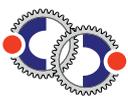


Welcome to the new edition of enGINE!  
We want this newsletter to be your source for what is new in the G-I-N community. Our members are so active and productive, but recognising that your time is valuable, we tried to focus on the most relevant and actionable items. We encourage you to join working groups or regional groups to stay abreast of particular issues you care the most about.

We have changed a few things to strike that balance in efficiency and comprehensiveness. In addition to rotating updates from Regional and Working groups, we organise by sections so that you can easily find items that are pertinent to you. Information, requests, and tips are provided for members. We highlight important dates and flag upcoming surveys. Please provide feedback to us on EnGINE by participating the survey in the “Have your say” section.

In the Chair update, Duncan highlights the upcoming Global Evidence Summit that G-I-N is co-hosting with four other organisations in Cape Town this September. In the G-I-N Africa update, Patrick highlights what is going on in Africa and the progress they have made and the challenges they face. We hope that you will be able to attend and contribute to the conversation! We highlight new members and our new Treasurer so that you can warmly welcome them at Global Evidence Summit.

In the Executive Officer report, Elaine highlights a strategic decision by the Board of Trustees to refocus on building G-I-N as an association of organisations. The strength of G-I-N is greater than its members and in what we can do together. A report by organisational member GIMBE Foundation highlights the influence that G-I-N standards have and the role they play in improving the delivery of care in Italy. We recap benefits of being a G-I-N member and invite you to highlight them to other organisations you may know.



# A Word from The Chair

2017 is shaping up to being another busy year, and the Trustees and I are committed to working together to ensure G-I-N continues to be at the forefront of the guidelines arena.



Later this year we will join forces with four other leading organisations – Cochrane, The Campbell Collaboration, the International Society for Evidence-based Health Care, and the Joanna Briggs Institute, and together we will hold the first ever 'Global Evidence Summit' in Cape Town, South Africa from 13-16 September 2017.

We are extremely fortunate to be collaborating with such esteemed organisations and are looking forward to sharing knowledge and expertise. The Summit will provide an excellent networking platform for all our members and delegates

The theme of this Summit, 'Using Evidence. Improving Lives' will highlight evidence-informed approaches to health policy and development, offering the most cost-effective interventions.

The summit will focus on the opportunities and challenges facing low and middle income countries - a reason why the GES is to be hosted in Cape Town, South Africa and a unique opportunity that G-I-N encourages as many members as possible to take advantage of.

With around 2000 delegates expected, the Summit really is a global event and I would like to take this opportunity to extend an invitation to you all to join us.

You can find out more information by visiting the [website](#).

*Duncan Service, G-I-N Chair*

## Executive Officer Update



### Secretariat update

Please join me in congratulating Jenna Docherty and welcoming Allison Smith.

Jenna gave birth to a beautiful, healthy baby girl on Thursday 30th March, named Kara Leigh Docherty – congratulations to Jenna and her husband, Allan.

Allison Smith joined the Secretariat team in January and will be covering Jenna's maternity leave, as well as providing a wider communications and marketing role. She will also be playing a key role in the project management of G-I-N 2018 in Manchester.



## Time to Participate in Trustee elections

This year, four of our Organisational Trustees and the Individual Trustee are due to retire from the G-I-N Board of Trustees or stand again for election. I would personally like to encourage all members to engage in the process to elect your board. Please cast your nominations and thereafter, vote, if there are more nominations than vacancies.

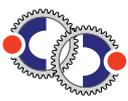
Formal notification of the elections will be sent to all organisations and individual members in early June, with a link to the full information and forms on the website. If you have interest in becoming a Trustee, I urge you to visit the [website](#) of the Scottish Charity Regulator before the election process begins, in order to find out the overarching expectations and responsibilities of a Charity Trustee. Specific information around the required commitment for the G-I-N board will be provided in June.

## Call for Conference Hosts – 2019 and 2020

We are actively seeking local hosts for the G-I-N conference in 2019 and 2020. All organisational members are eligible to serve as a local host as there are no regional requirements. If you are interested in finding out more about the role of a local host, please contact me directly ([EO@g-i-n.net](mailto:EO@g-i-n.net)) and I will be glad to discuss it with you informally. This will allow you to explore what is required in a bid before you dedicate the resources to do this. There is no financial commitment required or any financial risk associated with being a local host. The deadline for formal bid submissions will be 31 August 2017.

## On the horizon: Task Exchange

- We are currently investing in a significant IT project with our partner, Cochrane.
- The purpose of this project is to provide an interface to bring systematic reviewers and guideline developers closer together, encouraging engagement earlier in the guideline development process.
- The product will be a co-branded system, where guideline developers can post pieces of work, which can be picked up and carried out by systematic reviewers, as well as giving systematic reviewers the opportunity to seek input from guideline developers.
- Watch out for joint workshops where you can learn more and find out how you can use system to benefit your work at the Global Evidence Summit in Cape Town.



# A Renewed Focus on Organisational Members

At the recent mid-term meeting of the Trustees in Vienna, some important decisions were made regarding our membership strategy that we would like to share.

G-I-N has always been an association of organisations, funded predominantly by organisational membership fees – this is what makes us truly independent and free from influence from external funders – a fact that we are immensely proud of and have no desire to change.

Our focus will remain on organisational members and we have plans to actively market G-I-N to a wider audience, encompassing more professional societies, knowledge management professionals and other areas relevant to evidence-based health guidance.

We reviewed the individual membership criteria, to clarify when individual applicants would be more appropriate as organisational members, and we will be actively seeking organisations to join G-I-N. Individuals who are self-employed or active in the field of clinical guidelines, but not working for a guideline development organisation or commercial entity will remain most welcome.

Finally, the board has decided to implement a differential in conference registration fees for members, giving a greater discount to organisational members. This will be implemented at the next G-I-N conference in 2018.

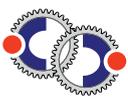
We will be conducting a membership survey in the very near future, where we will seek your views on various aspects of G-I-N membership – we hope to hear from as many members as possible with your ideas, suggestions and feedback.

The results will be presented at the annual meeting of members in Cape Town, as well as shared via the website.

*Elaine Harrow, Executive Officer*







4. Understand challenges in the post-truth world, related to providing best current evidence in clinical practice guidelines within highly controversial topics (e.g. vaccines and chronic borreliosis) and what to do about it
5. Learn how a digital and trustworthy evidence ecosystem is emerging, with guidelines being core tools and G-I-N Tech leading the way for guidelines fully linked to systematic reviews and downstream implementation efforts in a worldwide community of players
6. Understand how guidelines constitute key tools in emergent health crises
7. Be inspired by how the evidence community can conquer the post truth world, and the role of guidelines moving forward

Speakers include John-Arne Røttingen, Executive Director of the Division of Infectious Disease Control at the Norwegian Institute of Public Health, and Siphon Mthathi, Founding Executive Director of Oxfam South Africa.

We are also delighted that G-I-N Member and Chair of G-I-N Africa's Dr Patrick Okwen will be highlighting how guidelines and tools for decision-support work at the point of care in Africa.

Craig Lockwood, Chair of the G-I-N Implementation Working Group commented:

“No other conference offers an opportunity quite like this in such a fantastic location. This is a world first for guideline groups, systematic review groups, methodologists, policy makers, health and social scientists to all be in the same room.

The Global Evidence Summit is the perfect mix of skills, knowledge and professions for guideline

contributors seeking to maximise their impact (and learning). The program includes keynotes, special sessions, workshops and opportunities to engage within core themes.

What am I most looking forward to? That's easy - a conference where I can share my work for the first time with a global audience that includes all the key partners and their methodologies for using evidence and improving lives. See you there! ”

You can find out more about all our speakers and the sessions they will be in, at: [www.globalevidencesummit.org/plenaries-and-speakers](http://www.globalevidencesummit.org/plenaries-and-speakers)

## G-I-N co-hosting a Special Session at GES

G-I-N will be co-presenting one of the “Special Sessions” with Cochrane, titled “Research synthesis priorities and guideline development: linking evidence synthesis production to evidence needs”.

Guideline developers across the world and across health and clinical disciplines often find it challenging to obtain relevant evidence synthesis to produce guidelines in a timely and high quality manner.

While some guideline developers maintain close relations with systematic review groups that can respond to their needs, others do not have these relations and rely on available evidence that often does not respond exactly to their needs. Establishing inclusive priority setting processes, involving researchers, guideline developers, health care

practitioners as well as consumers, is one essential strategy to bridge the gap between evidence synthesis production and evidence synthesis needs.

Presentations on the following will be available:

- ★ Living systematic reviews (Julian Elliott)
- ★ Cochrane Response/Targeted updates (Karla Soares-Weiser)
- ★ American Society of Hematology and McMaster collaboration (Holger Schünemann)
- ★ Cochrane ENT and NICE (Martin Burton)
- ★ Kaiser Permanente's use of Cochrane/AHRQ Evidence-based Practice Center systematic reviews (Craig Robbins)

## Updates from Regional and Working Groups

### G-I-N Africa - Making Steady Progress

There can be no doubt that Africa needs evidence-based guidance for clinical practice and public health interventions, and there has been significant growth in evidence synthesis by African authors on relevant topics.

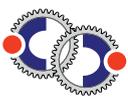


Increased investment by Cochrane has made a difference - investment in building capacity in local authors and providing opportunities through forums like the Cochrane African Network, the Learning Initiative for Experienced Authors (LIXA), the Aubrey Sheiham Award for Leadership in Evidence Based Healthcare for Africa, and various grants and awards that promote evidence synthesis in Africa.

However, getting this research evidence into practice for clinicians, patients and policy makers is challenging. Developing evidence based guidelines is rigorous and expensive and requires substantial financial and human resources.

In line with G-I-N's leadership role in promoting evidence based guidance, G-I-N Africa has explored some evidence based approaches for dissemination and implementation. These include guidelines contextualisation, using the WikiRecs approach, and the JBI GRiP approach.

In 2015, G-I-N Africa worked with Pan African Society for Cardiology (PASCAR), in collaboration with Centre for Development of Best Practices in Health (CDBPH) to create a hypertension guidelines clearinghouse in Africa.



These guidelines were then evaluated using the AGREE II tool, and the results submitted for publication. In general, these guidelines which were made available thanks to the work and support of WHO, scored weakly with the AGREE II tool.

G-I-N Africa is therefore currently working with the International Centre for Allied Health (iCAHE) in Adelaide, Australia to contextualise hypertension guidelines building on existing guidelines and local context.



In 2016, G-I-N Africa participated in the JBI 20th Anniversary conference where JBI LMIC clinical fellows were introduced to G-I-N, and encouraged to use the library and participate in activities. These 11 clinical fellows from 10 LMIC countries are using the JBI GRiP approach which is not only proving to be a key approach to promoting evidence implementation, but is also very good in promoting the use of evidence based guidelines.

In 2016, G-I-N Africa also commenced work with the Evidence Ecosystem project, which uses RapidRecs, WikiRecs and MagicApp amongst others to make trustworthy clinical guidelines available anywhere, anytime and on any device. This approach can make clinical guidelines available quickly and exploits the mobile phone technology which is currently

- becoming increasingly more popular and available to the African healthcare community.

- G-I-N Africa has also contributed to BMJ RapidRecs on antiretroviral therapy in pregnant women living with HIV/AIDS and is exploring work on Malaria and nutrition using the evidence ecosystem approach.

- G-I-N Africa still faces a substantial challenge in recruiting more members. Despite the interest, there have been difficulties in payment of membership fees. This is due to bank charges often being greater than the actual membership fee. However, there is some good news on this issue -

- PayPal has expanded to include almost all African countries and G-I-N is now paying the transaction fees for all LMIC members to remove any additional financial burden.

- The full list can be found here: [www.paypal.com/us/webapps/mpp/country-worldwide](http://www.paypal.com/us/webapps/mpp/country-worldwide)

- G-I-N Africa will continue to focus on making an impact on providing guidelines to policy makers, clinicians and patients in Africa through a focused approach.

- We hope to concentrate on providing a single hypertension guideline which will use decision aids for national contextualization, explore using clinical audits as an approach to put the research into practice and develop decision aids for malaria and HIV using the MagicApp.

- There are many exciting opportunities to be a part of, so if you are interested in becoming part of our community we would love to hear from you, please email me at [okwenpatrick@yahoo.fr](mailto:okwenpatrick@yahoo.fr)

- *Patrick Okwen Mbah, G-I-N Africa*



# G-I-N Overdiagnosis Working Group publishes guidance on changing disease definitions

A group of international experts have released the first ever guidance for medical panels which make changes to disease definitions, in a landmark paper in the prestigious journal JAMA Internal Medicine. <http://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamainternalmedicine/article-abstract/2626860>

The international group came together because of growing awareness that medical panels are regularly widening disease definitions, labelling more and more of the healthy population as sick.

Recent examples covered in the paper include:

- Dramatic increases in the number of older women eligible for drug treatment for the bone condition osteoporosis
- Creation of the new 'pre-diabetes' label, claimed to affect more than one-third of all adults, and about half the population of China.

The group, including a representative from the WHO, was brought together by the international Guidelines International Network, and was led by Professor Jenny Doust, at Bond University in Australia.

“Our research suggests panels of experts frequently widen definitions without rigorously assessing the numbers of people affected or the potential harms – as well as the benefits – of the changes” said Professor Doust.

“Harms can be because the expected benefits of a label are overestimated in the wider group. This can lead to overtreatment, causing harm to those diagnosed.

“It can also divert resources to those with milder problems and make it harder for patients with more severe disease to get access to the care that they need.”

A previous study also found that panels which change disease definitions have a majority of members with extensive ties to pharmaceutical companies with an interest in those decisions.

““ Disease definitions should be modified only when there is strong evidence of benefit ””

The JAMA Internal Medicine article points to growing evidence that widening disease definitions is driving overdiagnosis and overtreatment across a range of conditions.

For more information contact:

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**Amir Qaseem**

[Aqaseem@mail.acponline.org](mailto:Aqaseem@mail.acponline.org)



## On the lookout for: G-I-N Tech Survey

The G-I-N Tech working group plans to send out a survey to hear about the electronic tools used in your various organisations.

We do this to better understand what tools are used by G-I-N members, and their benefits or drawbacks. G-I-N Tech will collect, analyse and add this material to the list of resources and tools we maintain for the benefit of G-I-N members.

Go to G-I-N Tech-> Resources ([www.g-i-n.net/working-groups/gintech/Resources](http://www.g-i-n.net/working-groups/gintech/Resources)) to see the list of tools.

## A Day in The Life of... Iain Grimmond, G-I-N Treasurer

When I was approached last year about joining the Board as Treasurer, it seemed a good opportunity to use my experience in charity finance to work with an interesting organisation.

While I don't have a specific background in guidelines, all charities face similar current issues of finance and governance with which I hope to be able to help.



I first became aware of G-I-N a few years ago when commuting from Glasgow to Edinburgh each day with Dr Sara Twaddle, a former Chair of G-I-N. There had been some teething troubles with OSCAR (the new Scottish Charity regulator) and I was able to advise on how to comply with their requirements.

My background is as a Chartered Accountant, working latterly for the Church of Scotland for 10 years as Finance Director. I retired in 2015 when I was 60 and am now Treasurer of Relationships Scotland, a



charity providing counselling and mediation services and my local church, as well as G-I-N. I am also involved with a former colleague in a consultancy firm working with smaller charities.

In my spare time (!) I play 5-a-side football and golf, and my wife and I now have more time to see our three young grandchildren who are all near Glasgow.

A typical day usually has several things happening, including regular G-I-N teleconferences, and I now know that it is true when retired (or semi-retired) people tell you that they don't know how they ever found the time to hold down a full-time job!

It was great to meet the Trustees in person in Vienna in March, and I hope that my experience will be useful as G-I-N looks ahead, with all the challenges which are around the world in these interesting times.

## Member Info

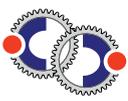
Please join us in welcoming our new members! G-I-N continues to grow and is enriched by the networking and participation of all members. Details and bios of our new members are available on our [website](#)

**Interested in becoming a Member? Know anyone interested in becoming a Member? Share these Benefits**

There are many benefits to being a member of G-I-N, including the unique opportunity to access shared knowledge and networking with many international experts through our informative website.

## Key benefits include:

- Share expertise in aspects of guideline development, implementation and research
  - Member Logins that will enable you to access the G-I-N website and the world's largest online guideline library – [www.g-i-n.net](http://www.g-i-n.net)
  - Access to additional resources such as literature updates, training resources, webinars and project sharing boards,
  - Opportunities for mentoring, professional development and training activities
  - Free access to the Cochrane library via the G-I-N website
  - Share news and highlight work through enGINE newsletter
  - Access to G-I-N Collaborations including login(s) for the DynaMed website and app
  - Sharing of systematic reviews and evidence tables to reduce duplication of effort and costs
  - Be part of our many working groups and regional committees to explore practical networking and collaboration with experts around the globe
  - Participate on our discussion boards, advertise projects, join webinars and contribute to debates via the website and our LinkedIn forum
  - Organisational members have the opportunity to vote in Organisational Trustee elections, vote in the AGM and stand for election to the Board
  - Individual members may stand for election to the Board and may vote for the Individual Trustee
- G-I-N members receive a discount in registration at G-I-N conferences, which is another fantastic benefit of membership!



Our Conferences provide a platform to explore the purpose and impact of guidelines, and is an exciting opportunity to reflect on what peers are doing in the field of evidence-based practice, what challenges we face in the digital age, and the role that guidelines play in driving and enabling high quality care.

So, if you would like to be a part of the growing G-I-N family, please complete out on-line registration form, which you can access [here](#):

## Tips for members

### Navigating the G-I-N Website

The G-I-N website contains three RSS feeds that will allow you to download the latest updates to the G-I-N website –

Literature Updates, an update of all relevant literature updates added to the G-I-N website. This feed can be found on the [Literature Updates](#) page.

Documents in the Library, an update of all new guidelines added to the G-I-N library. This feed contains guidelines at all publication states and can be found on your My Dashboard page.

What's New, a selection of various website updates such as upcoming webinars, Board Meeting minutes and Working Group news. This feed can be found on your My Dashboard page. If anyone requires help using these feeds please contact G-I-N [here](#).

Please remember that if you are an employee of an organisational member, you should get your own unique login. Please contact Anne Docherty, G-I-N Secretary at [office@g-i-n.net](mailto:office@g-i-n.net) to obtain your login.

### Hints & Tips – Updating Guidelines

- The G-I-N library does not only include published documents, but also guidelines “In development”, “Planned” or “Under Review”.
- Adding documents: When you add a document under your organisation in the guideline library you should only select the relevant Publication Status from the list of choices.
- Guidelines added as “In development”, “Planned” or “Under Review” require a date to be added when the guideline is expected to move to the next Publication State. These dates will trigger Reminder emails to help you keep your guideline up to date.
- When searching the library, guidelines at all publication states are returned, however, you can then use the advanced search form to select guidelines at a specific publication status, such as in development, published.
- You can order your search results by clicking on the column title.

### Activating Guidelines

- When adding a Guideline, don't forget to change the document Status from “Pending” to “Active” using the blue management menu (see below)
- Keep up to date with what's happening by clicking on the link to our website here:  
[www.g-i-n.net/conference/external-events](http://www.g-i-n.net/conference/external-events)



# External Events and Dates to Remember

## **Global Evidence Summit - Cape Town - Using Evidence, Improving Lives**

[Website](#)

**13-16 September 2017**

Co-hosted by G-I-N, Cochrane, The Campbell Collaboration, the International Society for Evidence-based Health Care, and the Joanna Briggs Institute

## **8th International Conference of EBHC Teachers and Developers hosted by GIMBE Foundation**

**25th-28th October 2017**

Built on seven previous highly successful meetings, the Conference is an excellent opportunity to network with worldwide EBHC leaders in the wonderful frame of Taormina, the pearl of the Mediterranean Sea.

[www.ebhconference.org/index.php](http://www.ebhconference.org/index.php)

## **2017 iCAHE Allied Health Conference**

University of Australia

**7-8 November 2017**

The Conference will be a celebration of new work by academics, clinicians, and policy makers in the area of service delivery and implementation for Allied Health.

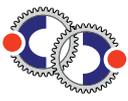
[Website](#)

## **G-I-N Conference – Manchester**

**Why we do what we do: the purpose and impact of guidelines**

**11-14 September 2018**

Please mark your calendars for the G-I-N 2018 conference in Manchester, co-hosted by The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) and Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network (SIGN)



Item	Yes
3. Conflicts of interest	17%
1. Composition of Guideline Development Group	63%
11. Financial support and sponsoring organization	64%
2. Decision-making process	65%
6. Evidence reviews	67%
10. Guideline expiration and updating	67%
5. Methods	71%
9. Peer review and stakeholder consultations	72%
8. Rating of evidence and recommendations	81%
7. Guideline recommendations	95%
4. Scope of a guideline	100%

# G-I-N Standards for Guidelines used to evaluate Italian clinical practice guidelines

## A project by the GIMBE Foundation

The Italian Parliament has recently approved a law to link medical responsibility to clinical practice guidelines (CPGs) developed by medical specialty societies and other organisations accredited by the MoH.

However, in Italy a national guidelines program has really never taken off, there are hundreds of medical specialty societies with inadequate transparency on financial issues and competing interests and there is no evidence about quality and trustworthiness of their CPGs.

For this reasons GIMBE funded and conducted this study to verify if Italian CPGs match Guidelines International Network Standards for developing CPGs and for disclosure and management of conflicts of [interest](#). The study was endorsed by G-I-N and Italian National Institute of Health.

In Italy, the law on medical responsibility relies on a key role on CPGs, but preliminary results from our study shows that few CPGs developed by Italian medical specialty societies are trustworthy.



Therefore, GIMBE is recommending a governance revolution in CPGs development, with a pivotal role of the Italian National Institutes of Health to set priorities, avoid duplication, promote multi-professional and multi-disciplinary CPGs, standardise quality criteria and define strategies for managing conflicts of interests.

Preliminary results: Adherence to G-I-N standards of 75 Italian clinical practice guidelines published in 2015-2016

## Have Your Say

The Editorial Team would love to hear your feedback on enGINe – specifically your thoughts on the frequency, layout and general content?

Any additional general feedback you would like to give would also be welcome!

Please click on the link to take part in this 2 minute survey: [www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Y97PNKZ](http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Y97PNKZ)





## Watch for the next issue

Articles to be included  
in the next edition  
of enGINE should be  
emailed to Allison Smith  
at [comms@g-i-n.net](mailto:comms@g-i-n.net)

## Newsletter Production Team

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Stuart Neville (designer)

Allison Smith (G-I-N  
Communications)



## Feedback

- Send this newsletter to a colleague
- Send us your feedback, news, comments
- Unsubscribe to the newsletter
- Join G-I-N!

