



MuSE *letter*

MuSE Newsletter - December 2025

Looking back on 10 years of the MuSE Consortium

We're celebrating a decade of MuSE!

The MuSE Consortium was established in 2015 when we noticed similar descriptions of interest-holders in research (the 6 Ps). The Consortium was initiated by Peter Tugwell and Thomas Concannon.

Over the past ten years, MuSE has grown into an internationally recognized community of patients and caregivers, researchers, guideline developers, policymakers, funders, trainees, and many other interest-holders and partner organizations around the world. All members are committed to advancing rigorous, equitable, and transparent approaches to engagement.

The Consortium has grown to include over 180 individuals from 22 countries who share an interest in strengthening the inclusion of diverse voices in a meaningful way for health research and decision-making.

As we celebrate this milestone, we extend our deepest gratitude to everyone who has contributed to the MuSE Consortium over the past ten years. Thank you for lending your expertise, challenging us to think differently, and helping build a stronger, more inclusive approach to evidence synthesis and health decision-making. Whether you participated in a single meeting or have been involved since the beginning, your contributions have shaped MuSE into the vibrant, impactful network it is today.

We look forward to the next decade of innovation, learning, and leadership in interest-holder engagement.



MuSE in Review

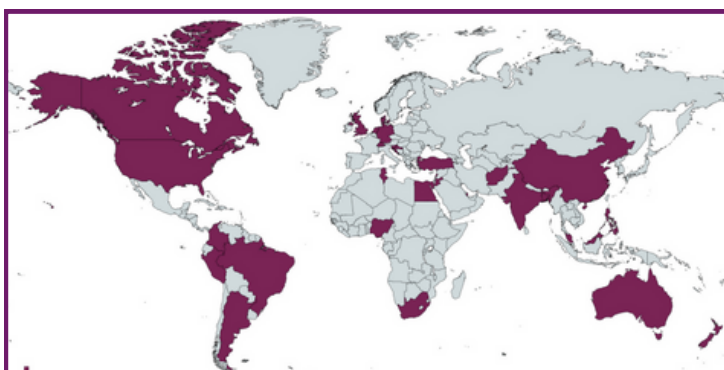
2015-2025 HIGHLIGHTS

**2 funded projects:
MuSE Guidelines
&
MuSE Evidence
synthesis**

**14 publications
(and 2 more in press)**

**615 citations
(and counting!)**

**178 Consortium
Members**



**MuSE Members
around the world**

MuSE photos: 2020

MuSE face-to-face meeting
Ottawa, February 2020



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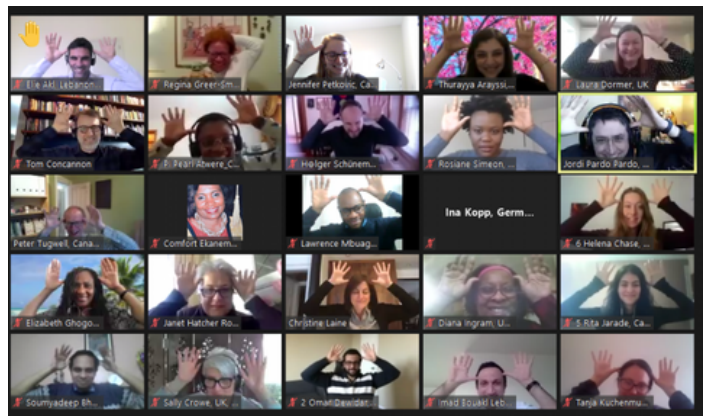
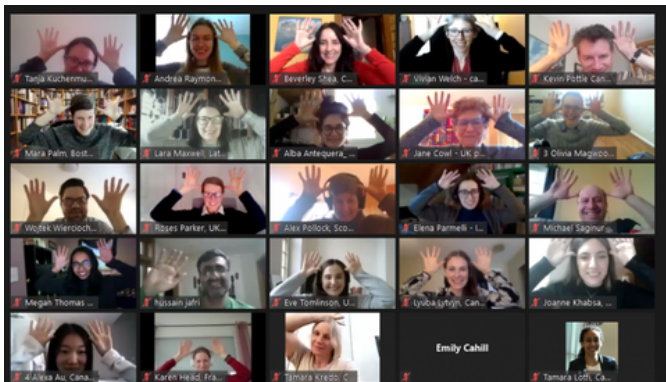
MuSE photos: 2020-2021



MuSE face-to-face meeting
Ottawa, February 2020



MuSE Virtual meeting -
February 2021



*“Show us your
MuSE Moose”*



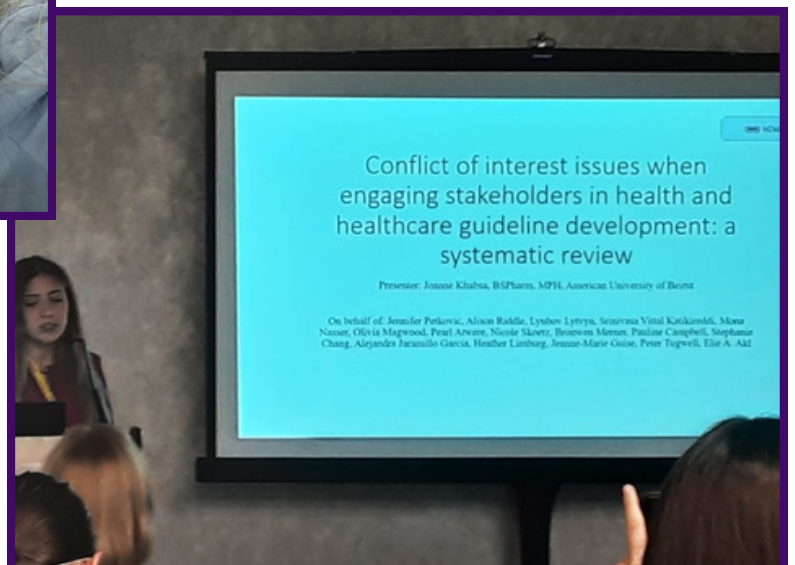
MuSE photos: 2022-2023



MuSE face-to-face at the GIN Conference, Toronto, 2022

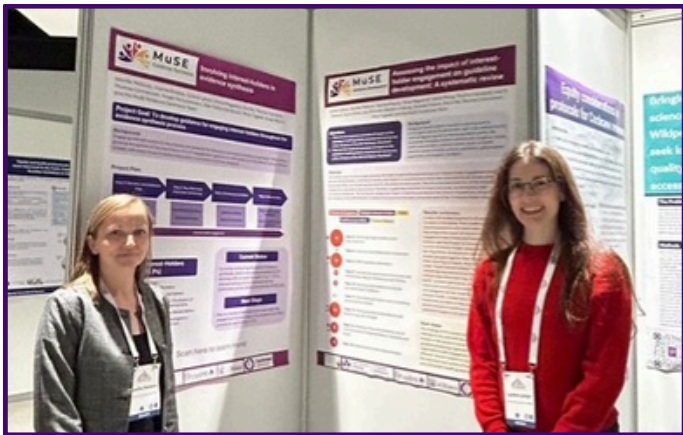


MuSE at the Cochrane Colloquium, London, 2023

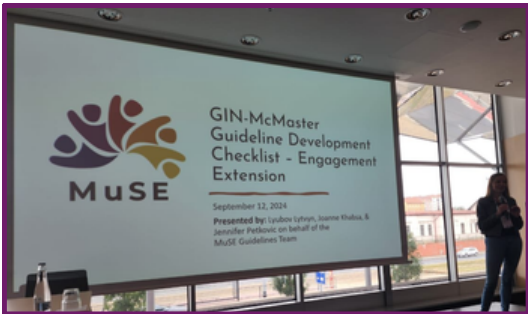




MuSE photos: 2024



MuSE at the Global Evidence Summit, Prague, 2024



MuSE Papers by Topic

MuSE Papers

Definitions and terms	Guidance for primary researchers	Guidance for engagement in guidelines	Guidance for engagement in evidence synthesis
Defining engagement for patients and non-researchers	Guidance for engaging interest-holders in health research	The GIN-McMaster Guideline Development Checklist extension for engagement	Introducing a series of reviews assessing engagement in evidence synthesis
"Interest-holders": A new term to replace "stakeholders" in the context of health research and policy	Factors to consider when inviting individuals to engage	Key issues related to engagement in guidelines	Protocol for the development of guidance for engagement in health care evidence syntheses
		Protocol for the development of reporting guidance for interest-holder engagement in practice guidelines: the RIGHT-MuSE checklist	Methods of engaging people in evidence syntheses
		Guidance for engagement in health guideline development: A scoping review	Conflict of interest issues when engaging interest-holders in evidence synthesis: a protocol for a scoping review
		Protocol: Assessing the impact of interest-holder engagement on guideline development: a systematic review	The impact of engagement in evidence synthesis: A protocol for a systematic review
		Protocol: Guidance for engagement in health guideline development: A scoping review	Factors affecting engagement in evidence synthesis: a mixed methods review (protocol)
		Protocol: Barriers and facilitators to engagement in health guideline development: A qualitative evidence synthesis	
		Protocol: Conflict of interest issues when engaging in health and healthcare guideline development: A systematic review	



MuSE publications

2025

- Petkovic J, Khabsa J, Lytvyn L, Todhunter-Brown A, Magwood O, Campbell P, Ask EA, Concannon TW, Shunemann H, Welch V, Tugwell P. Introducing a series of reviews assessing engagement in evidence syntheses. Cochrane Evid Synth Methods. 2025;3(6):e70057.
- Petkovic J, Magwood O, Concannon TW, Akl EA, Khabsa J, Lytvyn L, Welch V, et al. The GIN-McMaster Guideline Development Checklist extension for engagement. J Clin Epidemiol. 2025;181:111727.
- Yu X, Estill J, Akl E, Khabsa J, Petkovic J, Zeidan L, Bian Z, Chen Y. Protocol for the development of reporting guidance for interest-holder engagement in practice guidelines: the RIGHT-MuSE checklist. medRxiv, 2025.02. 13.25322255

2024

- Petkovic J, Riddle A, Lyubov L, Khabsa J, Akl EA Welch V, Magwood O, et al. Guidance for engagement in health guideline development: A scoping review. Campbell Systematic Reviews. 2024;20(4):e70006.
- Akl EA, Khabsa J, Petkovic J, Magwood O, Lytvyn L, Motilall A, Campbell P, et al. “Interest-holders”: A new term to replace “stakeholders” in the context of health research and policy. Cochrane Evidence Synthesis and Methods. 2024;2:e70007
- Lytvyn L, Petkovic J, Khabsa J, Magwood O, Campbell P, Graham ID, Pottie K, et al. Protocol: Assessing the impact of interest-holder engagement on guideline development: A systematic review. Campbell Systematic Reviews. 2024;20(4)31444.

2023

- Tugwell P, Welch V, Magwood O, Todhunter-Brown A, Akl EA, et al. Protocol for the development of guidance for collaborator and partner engagement in health care evidence syntheses. Systematic Reviews. 2023;12:134.
- Petkovic J, Magwood O, Lytvyn L, Khabsa J, Concannon TW, Welch V, Todhunter-Brown A, et al. Key issues for stakeholder engagement in the development of health and healthcare guidelines. Research Involvement and Engagement. 2023;9:27.



MuSE publications (continued)

2022

- Petkovic J, Riddle A, Lytvyn L, Khabisa K, Akl EA, Welch V, Magwood O, Atwere P, Graham ID, Grant S, John D, Katikireddi SV, Langlois E, Mustafa RA, Todhunter-Brown A, Schünemann H, Smith M, Stein AT, Concannon T, Tugwell P. PROTOCOL: Guidance for stakeholder engagement in health guideline development: a scoping review. Campbell Systematic Reviews. 2022. DOI: 10.1002/cl2.1242
- Magwood O, Riddle A, Petkovic J, Lytvyn L, Khabisa J, Atwere P, Akl EA, et al. PROTOCOL: Barriers and facilitators to stakeholder engagement in health guideline development: A qualitative evidence synthesis. Campbell Systematic Reviews. 2022. DOI:10.1002/cl2.1237
- Khabisa J, Petkovic J, Riddle A, Lytvyn L, Magwood O, Atwere P, Campbell P, et al. PROTOCOL: Conflict of interest issues when engaging stakeholders in health and healthcare guideline development: A systematic review. Campbell Systematic Reviews. 2022. DOI: 10.1002/cl2.1232
- Parker R, Tomlinson E, Concannon TW, Akl E, Petkovic J, Welch VA, Crowe S, et al. Factors to consider during identification and invitation of individuals in a multi-stakeholder research project. Journal of General Internal Medicine. 2022. DOI:10.1007/s11606-022-07411-w

2020

- Petkovic J, Riddle A, Akl EA, Khabisa J, Lytvyn L, Atwere P, Campbell P, et al. Protocol for the development of guidance for stakeholder engagement in health and healthcare guideline development and implementation. Systematic Reviews. 2020;9:21.
- Frank L, Morton SC, Guise JM, Jull J, Concannon TW, Tugwell P. Engaging patients and other non-researchers in health research: defining research engagement. J Gen Intern Med. 2020;35(1):307-314.

2019

- Concannon TW, Grant S, Welch V, Petkovic J, Selby J, Crowe S, Synnot A, Greer-Smith R, Mayo-Wilson E, Tambor E, Tugwell P for the MuSE Consortium. Practical guidance for involving stakeholders in health research. J Gen Intern Med. 2019 34(3):456-463.



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Have you used the GIN-McMaster
Guideline Development Checklist
Extension for Engagement in your work?
We'd love to hear your story! Your
experience can help us showcase the
value of engagement in guideline
development



Want to get involved? Contact Jennifer
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