

MINT Incorporated Board of Directors Candidate Questionnaire

The mission of the Board of Directors is to oversee and guide the development of MINT Incorporated and establish mechanisms for long-term growth that recognize the realities of being a multinational, multilingual and multi-professional group. Board members are required to actively participate in ongoing Board listserv discussions and join biweekly, 2-hour Board conference calls. They are also expected to attend two in-person meetings annually, a 1-day meeting immediately prior to the Forum and a 3-day retreat held midyear at a place and time agreed to by all Board members. Members are expected to devote a substantial portion of time to MINT projects and working groups, and to lead efforts in important areas of MINT development. Members—committed to MINT values of quality, generosity, openness and respect—need to be able to differentiate between personal preferences and a viewpoint that considers the interests and concerns of MINT at large.

In order to ensure that MINT members have sufficient knowledge to cast their votes in an informed manner, each candidate for Board membership must complete a Candidate Questionnaire. If you wish, in addition to responding to the specified questions, you may also add any other information that you believe is relevant in supporting your candidacy. Please remember that MINT members whose first language is not English will read what you are writing. Completed questionnaires will be posted to the website for all members to review prior to the election.

Thank you!

MINT Nominating Committee 2016 Cristiana Fortini, Chair
Jeff Breckon
Margo Bristow
Joel Porter
Karen Ingersoll, MINT Board liaison

1. Please describe your experience in MI in any or all of the following roles:
practitioner, trainer, supervisor, researcher, and/or administrator.

I have been applying MI skills to my practice since I was a social work student in 1993. As a practitioner, I have had the experience of working with people in mental health, substance misuse, domestic violence, criminal justice, youth leaving care, older adults, physical disabilities and private practice settings. I was fortunate enough to attend the 2001 TNT in Italy, and have been training people working across a range of practice areas including the aforementioned.

I am also linked with a small group of UK MINTies working together to promote and improve research, practice and training in MI.

As part of my pro-bono work, I have facilitated practice skills development and clinical supervision for staff in substance misuse settings and people working with spinal cord injured patients.

1. Please describe your involvement in MINT and any activities that demonstrate your

commitment or service to MINT.

Over the past 15 years, I have presented at several MINT forums and ICMI, worked with international colleagues approving and vetting TNT applicants, participated in the committee work and have served as a TNT co-trainer (Atlanta, 2014). In addition, I was selected as one of the lead trainers for Montreal. I was also involved in the the implementation of the UK MINT. I am keen to continue to contribute to the development of the MINT and promote MI spirit through my endeavours.

1. Please describe your vision of MINT, its essence and its mission.

MINT is at an exciting organizational and developmental stage. We are poised to move forward from a stable base and outreach to a position in which we can promote more diversity, engage hard-to-reach groups, expand our support towards education in other countries and engage more diverse populations across existing MINT areas.

My vision for MINT includes the following areas:

- Promote anti-discriminatory practice,
- Improve accessibility to the MINT and MI training for under-represented populations globally,
- Build partnerships with specialist organizations to develop accessible training materials in more languages (including braille and sign language)
- Support outreach efforts to achieve these goals, and
- Explore ways to evolve online training via live streaming to communities and potential trainers around the world.

I am fully committed to quality training, for us to have a gold standard of practice to include coaching and supervision for trainees.

1. What do you view as the main issues facing MINT since incorporation? What are your ideas for addressing these issues?

I see the main issues facing MINT as indicative of a growth spurt. The organisation has changed, grown and developed and perhaps having come through the difficult storming stage. There are many individuals within the organisation who have worked so hard and done the tough stuff to get us to this important point in time. I am very grateful to each of them for their time and commitment. We are now well into a forming/norming stage, which provides us with an opportunity to really play with becoming an outstanding, creative and inspirational organisation.

The possibilities of creating a new organisational model that promotes the wellbeing of its members, alternative working structures, creative sharing and development of models of practice, training and managing talent. I would like to explore possibilities of creating an arm of the MINT, registered in Europe that is governed by alternative legislation and therefore provides greater scope for growth and development.

1. Please describe any experiences you have had in serving on other committees or boards, either in a professional or personal capacity that might support your candidacy. Specifically, include dates of involvement, positions held,

experience of working as part of a team, challenges of the positions held, successes and frustrations. How have these experiences prepared you for serving on the MINT Board?

From 2005 through 2008, I served as Chair of the Friends for Poet in the City (PiC) that involved developing a strategy to promote greater support for the charity. This program works in inner city schools bringing poetry alive in the classrooms and encouraging creativity in children and young people. PiC hosts monthly events in central London which are open access to the public and sponsored by law firms, the role of Chair was to engage with people and encourage them to become active supporters in the work of the organisation.

From 2007 through 2010, I served as Chair of NorthWestTWO Residents Association. As a local organization, we built relationships with councillors, local residents, schools, our local park and businesses to improve social and environmental factors effecting our community. We successfully set up a website, database, newsletter and core team. I led on Charing large public meetings with the police, local government officers, councillors and business people. In addition, I successfully negotiated an allotment space, growing fruits and vegetables for community use, and secured funding for tools and seeds. The allotment is still thriving, as is the organisation.

I recently served dharma at a 10-day Vipassana retreat, this involved working in a kitchen with 16 strangers and catering for 279 people daily. As a server, you are required to practice noble speech, have no physical contact with others, maintain discipline and attend 3 hours of group meditation daily between serving. This experience has increased my ability to respond to difficult situations/conflicts/clashes with care and compassion.

I have worked in social work teams and multi-disciplinary teams as a practitioner, manager, senior manager and consultant, I know the value of teamwork and how important it is to value each individual within the team.

All of these positions required skills in being with people, to bring out the best in everyone and to deal with difficult situations or personality clashes. By practicing compassion, non-violent communication and being authentic, I believe I can bring qualities to the Board that will assist in progressing and building on tremendous amount of work that has gone before.

1. Board work currently consists of both operational tasks (keeping the organization functioning day to day) and strategic tasks (overseeing and planning). Describe your interest in and capacities in both these areas.

Having run my own business for 15 years, I understand the importance of both strategic planning and managing practical tasks. As a strategic thinker, my skills and experience will take into account all that has gone before and explore ways to improve or redirect energies and resources for the best outcomes. I like to work alongside people to get them onboard with ideas, aims and practical tasks. I am equally happy to work autonomously to follow through on practical tasks. I believe I can motivate (I would hope so ☺) and excite MINT members and other organisations to assist in the development of MINT as an organisation known for integrity, sorority, fraternity and equality.

1. The typical Board member spends 5-10 hours per week on MINT Board matters.
Please indicate how you will integrate this commitment with your ongoing professional and personal activities.

As a small business owner, I get to plan my work and have greater control over my time than I would in a large organisation. I already have experience working with other MINT members internationally and locally between 5-10 hours per week.

1. Please send a current CV and also provide the contact details (email and telephone number) of two references that we may approach as part your nomination process. These people should be able to provide information about your suitability for this position.

Please send the completed questionnaire to Cristiana.Fortini@chuv.ch by 23rd September 2016.