

Scientific Committee Committee Charter



<p>Purpose</p>	<p>The Scientific Committee supports the research component of AUGS’ mission by advising and facilitating the advancement of research through funding, education, and advocacy. The Committee focuses on increasing and maintaining the workforce of the urogynecology physician-scientists and researchers to catalyze the advancement of clinical practice with an end goal of improving care through impactful research. Members of the Scientific Committee represent the various research areas within urogynecology and serve as advocates to advance this mission.</p>
<p>Ongoing Committee Activities / Committee Charges & Strategies</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Advance the science by supporting the physician scientist and researcher in their pursuit of advancing clinical practice. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage the AUGS Research Survey process, approve research surveys requests, and provide guidance and mentorship to those seeking to survey the AUGS membership. • Serve as the primary link between AUGS and SGS with the Fellows Pelvic Research Network (FPRN). Provide mentorship, oversight, and guidance to the FPRN Steering Committee to help advance their work and mentor fellows in developing and implementing their research questions. • Develop and implement the long-term vision and sustainable program for a Junior Faculty Research Network (JFRN). Consider if a mechanism should be created that allows for members of the FPRN to graduate into the AUGS JFRN. • Engage with the Basic Science Subcommittee to ensure basic science is fully integrated into the overall AUGS research efforts. • Provide leadership for the UrogynCREST program to ensure it meets its goal of providing in-depth hands-on instruction for promising young physician-researchers in the field of pelvic floor disorders. • Develop research educational programs as needed for the general membership and broader community to continue to advance the science and improve care. • Serve as the primary liaison to NIH agencies, the NIH Center for Study Section Review, and other relevant branches of the NIH. Provide information and education to the membership on how to navigate the NIH and the value of the Center for Study Section Review. Identify potential members to serve on study sections. 2. Advocate for research funding to ensure adequate funds exist to support the research needs of the subspecialty. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain and foster relationships between AUGS leadership and the NIA, NIDDK, and NICHD to continue to increase funding for PFDs. 3. Establish research priorities that are based on an annual assessment of the research gaps and needs within the urogynecology field. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct an annual assessment of the research gaps and needs for the year to develop and establish research priorities for the field.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and provide feedback and recommendations to the various NIH agencies on their strategic plans and requests for comments on topics related to the field. • Develop a subcommittee to oversee and manage our research advocacy efforts and program. Activities will involve advocacy work at the federal and state level to increase research funding. Partnership with AUGS leadership will be a key part with the NIH meetings and other strategic funding partners. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ms. Jill Rathbun, AUGS health policy consultant, will provide support and guidance to the subcommittee on determining the annual research priorities, advocating with Congress and the NIH to increase research funding, as well as how best to utilize our grassroots network of physicians and patients.
Roles and Responsibilities	<p>Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help structure agenda for meetings. • Run an effective meeting to ensure involvement of committee members and the advancement of activities and charges. • Serve as the AUGS representative to outside research funding agencies such as the NIH, PCORI, NIA, NIDDK, NICHD, etc. • Communication with the Board liaison before and after each Board meeting to share updates from the Committee and to hear about new Board initiatives. Report back to the full committee on each discussion with the Board liaison. • Identify, mentor, and groom the next Chair of the Scientific Committee • Assist with structure and selection of committee members. <p>Vice Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the Scientific Committee Chair to ensure responsibilities are met in a timely manner. • Serve as interim Committee Chair in the absence of the Chair. • Recommend to the Governance Committee individuals to serve as the next Vice Chair. • Ascend to the position of Chair. <p>Members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be prepared and actively participate in all conference calls and meetings. • Suggest and foster the development of partnerships/collaborations with research funding agencies related to urogynecology research (such as NIH, PCORI). • Work on projects as delegated by the Chair
Workgroups and Other Committee Relationships	<p>The Scientific Committee oversees the Basic Science subcommittee and the Research Advocacy Subcommittee.</p> <p>The Basic Science Subcommittee has a chair (Gina Northington) and Vice Chair (Pam Moalli) and includes 6 members. The subcommittee is charged with holding a special meeting at PFD week focused on basic science research as it applies to PFDs.</p> <p>The Research Advocacy Subcommittee has a chair (Gena Dunivan) and includes 6 members. The subcommittee is charged with being the main AUGS liaison with legislative, research and funding entities.</p>

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	<p>The Research Committee also engages, as needed, with other AUGS Committees and networks to assist with the implementation of the Strategic Plan. These committees may include: SGS/AUGS Fellows Pelvic Research Network (FPRN) Steering Committee, Junior Faculty Research Network, among others.</p>
<p>Expected Commitment</p>	<p>The committee meets monthly via conference call and in person during the Annual Scientific Meeting. Committee members are expected to review all agenda/materials prior to each meeting, attend the conference calls as scheduled, and attend the in-person meeting held during the Annual Scientific Meeting.</p> <p>The estimated monthly time commitment is 7 hours.</p>
<p>Committee Composition</p>	<p>The AUGS Scientific Committee is comprised of a Chair, Foundation Grant Review Chair, Basic Science Subcommittee Chair, and 6-8 additional members. One position on the Committee should be filled by a junior member who is less than five years post training, as well as a fellow representative. An AUGS Board member will serve as a liaison to this Committee.</p>
<p>Committee Terms</p>	<p>All committee members serve a one (1) year term and are eligible for reappointment for up to two additional consecutive terms (up to three years of service). Terms run November 1 – October 31. The Committee Chair and Vice Chair each serve a three-year term.</p>
<p>Selection/ Appointment</p>	<p>Members are appointed by the AUGS Governance Committee with input from the Committee Chair. The Committee Chair is selected by the Governance Committee. Committee member selections are approved by the Board.</p>
<p>Committee Requirements</p>	<p>Committee Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Express desire to serve with a special interest in research. • Desire to advance the mission of AUGS. • Ability to make the necessary time commitment. • Must be a Society member in good standing. • Ability to attend and actively participate in conference calls. <p>Committee Chair:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In addition to the above requirements, when possible, the Chair should have previously served as the Committee Vice Chair. <p>Vice Chair:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In addition to the above requirements, when possible, the Vice Chair should have previously served as a Committee member.
<p>Committee Members</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair: Gena Dunivan, University of New Mexico • Vice Chair: Colleen McDermott, University of Toronto • Basic Science Subcommittee Chair: Gina Northington, Emory University • Foundation Grants Review Chair: Marianna Alperin, University of California San Diego • Bruce Kahn, Scripps Clinic • Melanie Meister, Barnes Jewish Hospital • Alex Berger, Barnes Jewish Hospital • Olivia Change, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center • Jens-Erik Walter, McGill University • Isuzu Meyer, University of Alabama, Birmingham • Sarah Boyd, Pennsylvania State University • Mary Ackenbom, University of Pittsburgh • Aparna Ramaseshan, Hartford Hospital • Kristin Jacobs, Brown University

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