

Scientific Committee Committee Charter



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| Purpose | <p>The Scientific Committee serves the Society 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.</p> |
| Ongoing Committee Activities / Committee Charges & Strategies | <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. • Engage with the Basic Science Subcommittee to ensure basic science is fully integrated into the overall AUGS research efforts. • Serve as liaisons to 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 a regular assessment of the research gaps and needs within the urogynecology field. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish research priorities for the field by regularly assessing the research gaps and needs in the field and completing regular (at least every three years) updates to the National Urogynecology Research Agenda. (Next revisions in 2025). • 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. |
| 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 |

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| | <p>updates from the Committee and to hear about new Board initiatives. Report back to the full committee on each discussion with the Board liaison.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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> <p>Maintain confidentiality and avoid sharing AUGS information, processes, and work product outside of AUGS</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.</p> <p>The Basic Science Subcommittee has a Chair and Vice Chair and includes up to 6 additional members. The subcommittee is charged with holding a special meeting at PFD week focused on basic science research as it applies to PFDs.</p> |
| Expected Commitment | <p>The committee meets monthly via conference call. Committee members are expected to review all agenda/materials prior to each meeting and attend the conference calls as scheduled.</p> <p>The estimated monthly time commitment is 2 hours.</p> |
| Committee Composition | <p>The AUGS Scientific Committee is comprised of a Chair, Vice Chair, 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>Members of the Scientific Committee represent the various research areas within urogynecology and serve as advocates to advance this mission.</p> <p>Members to the Grants Committee and Basic Science Sub-Committee are invited to participate in the monthly Scientific Committee meetings.</p> <p>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.</p> |
| Committee Terms | <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 January 1 – December 31. The Committee Chair and Vice Chair will each serve a two-year term. The Vice Chair should ascend to the role of Chair upon completion of their term as Vice Chair.</p> |
| Selection/Appointment | <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> |

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| Committee Requirements | <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.• Must adhere to AUGS Conflict of Interest and Disclosure policies. <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. |
| Staff Liaison(s) | Stacey Barnes CEO Stacey@aug.org |