

Scientific Committee Committee Charter



<p>Purpose</p>	<p>The Scientific Committee fosters community among researchers and physician-scientists dedicated to advancing urogynecology and reconstructive pelvic surgery. The committee identifies research gaps and priorities in urogynecology, provides education and resources for early career investigators, supports the development of physician-scientists across career stages, and advocates for increased research funding through both governmental (e.g., NIH) and non-governmental sources.</p>
<p>Ongoing Committee Activities / Committee Charges & Strategies</p>	<p>The committee undertakes the following activities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Foster a sense of community among physician scientists and researchers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify opportunities for networking and collaboration among researchers (i.e., virtual networking on research topics of interest, research exchange virtually or during Annual Meeting). • Ensure basic, clinical and translational research are represented in AUGS research efforts. • Develop a research-focused workshop to be held during the Annual Meeting with a focus on the relationship between basic science and its importance to clinical practice (currently Basic Science Day, expand focus to appeal to larger audience). • Identify opportunities to create AUGS community at other research focused meetings (i.e. informal urogyn meet up at SRI, SUFU, etc.) 2. Support the development of physician scientists across career stages with a focus on early-career investigators <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. • Provide resources and education to members on research related topics via the AUGS website and other virtual opportunities (Examples include navigating NIH reporter, importance of basic science, becoming a reviewer for the Center for Study Section Review, feedback on grant proposals, etc.). • Expand resources and information related to non-federal funding agencies and private foundations. • Serve as the primary link between AUGS and SGS with the Fellows Pelvic Research Network (FPRN). Identify opportunities for engagement and education. • Assign members to serve as a liaison between AUGS and external advisory boards for major grant-funded initiatives (e.g., PCORI and other large-scale research efforts).

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	<p>3. Establish research priorities for the field</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regularly assess the research gaps and needs in the field and identify research priorities for the field and update the National Urogynecology Research Agenda every three years. (Next revisions in 2026). • Identify mechanisms for distribution of research priorities to funding agencies, government agencies, private foundations and researchers. • Communicate funding priorities to AUGS/SGS FPRN. <p>4. Advocate for increased research funding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the development of issue briefs, comment letters and appropriations requests in line with the identified research priorities • Maintain and foster relationships between AUGS and relevant NIH agencies including NIA, NIDDK, NICHD, ORWH, and the Center for Study Section Review. • Identify and engage with non-federal funding sources and private foundations to promote funding of pelvic floor disorders research.
<p>Roles and Responsibilities</p>	<p>Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structure agenda for meetings. • In conjunction with the committee staff liaison, develop committee report for AUGS Board (3x per year). • Run an effective meeting to ensure involvement of committee members and the advancement of activities and charges. • Maintain open communication with assigned Board liaison regarding committee activities • Identify and mentor the next Chair of the Committee. • Assist with the selection of committee members. • Serve as the AUGS representative to outside research funding agencies such as the NIH, PCORI, NIA, NIDDK, NICHD, etc. <p>Vice Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the 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 AUGS 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"> • Maintain confidentiality and avoid sharing AUGS information, processes, and work product outside of AUGS • Be prepared and actively participate in all conference calls and meetings. • Work on projects as delegated by the Chair. • Actively participate in ongoing committee activities as outlined above under ongoing Committee activities, charges, and strategies. • Suggest and foster the development of partnerships/collaborations with research funding agencies related to urogynecology research (such as NIH, PCORI).

Scientific Committee Committee Charter



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serve as a liaison between AUGS and external advisory boards for major grant-funded initiatives as assigned.
Workgroups and Other Committee Relationships	The Basic Science Subcommittee is a sub-group within the Scientific Committee. The group may meet independently from time to time to focus on opportunities specific to basic science (i.e. workshop planning).
Expected Commitment	The committee meets monthly via conference call. Additional committee calls may be necessary throughout the year as needed to fulfill the committee charges. Committee members are expected to review all agenda/materials prior to each meeting and attend the conference calls as scheduled.
Committee Composition	<p>The Scientific Committee is comprised of a Chair, Vice Chair, and 8-10 additional members. One position on the Committee should be filled by a junior member who is 0 - 8 years post training. It is recommended that the committee is balanced across clinical and lab-based research, including a balance between the Chair and Vice Chair. The Chair of the Grants Committee is invited, but not required, to join Scientific Committee meetings.</p> <p>Optional: 1-2 additional committee slots may be open to a Fellow at the discretion of the Governance Committee. Total committee size should be considered.</p>
Committee Terms	<p>Terms run January 1 – December 31.</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).</p> <p>Fellow representatives must rotate off after three years or upon graduation from fellowship, whichever comes first.</p> <p>The Committee Chair and Vice Chair will each serve a two-year term. The Vice Chair ascends to the role of Chair upon completion of their term as Vice Chair.</p>
Selection/ Appointment	Members are appointed by the AUGS Governance Committee with input from the Committee Chair and Vice Chair. The Committee Vice Chair is selected by the Governance Committee with recommendations from the current Chair and Vice Chair.

Scientific Committee Committee Charter



Committee Requirements	<p>Committee Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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.• Members should have experience with clinical and/or lab-based research. <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.s.org