

International Society for Gender Medicine (IGM) Bylaws

ARTICLE IV: Membership

The IGM is an international society and acts as an umbrella organization for professional and national societies and individuals who are not members of such societies.

1. All members of IGM, either as individuals or as members of professional or national societies are considered general members unless stated differently.
2. **General members** are individuals who have a terminal degree(s) (e.g. Ph.D., M.D., D.V.M., M.P.H.), who have demonstrated an interest in the study of sex/gender differences (including involvement in related areas such as education, training and research) and who are wishing to subscribe to the objectives of IGM according to Article II. General members have all membership right as set forth below excluding individual voting rights. General members have the right to elect delegates with voting rights as set forth below.
3. **Professional or National member societies** are associations with an interest in Gender Medicine. These associations should have regulations (statutes, bylaws, standing rules) indicating the objectives of their association and a representative board. Professional and National member societies shall be represented by delegates with voting privileges as set forth below. Members in good standing of professional or National societies are considered general members of IGM.
4. **Associate Membership** is open to any person interested in the study of sex/gender differences who does not meet the conditions for general membership. Associate members have all membership right as set forth below excluding individual and delegative voting rights.
5. **Honorary members** are individuals who need not be members of IGM, who have been nominated in writing by a member of IGM and whose nomination has been supported by a majority of the executive board and approved by the general assembly. The nomination proposal has to be addressed to the executive board to include appropriate justification as to the outstanding contributions of the nominee to the promotion of medicine in general and gender medicine in particular. The executive committee will vote on these proposals and if accepted will submit a proposal to the general assembly. Honorary members shall be exempt from paying membership fees and from paying registration fees at scientific meetings.

1. Application for Membership

1.1. General members

1. Any individual who conforms to article 2 and article IV shall be eligible for membership without relation to gender, sex, race, language, religion, politics, or country of origin.
2. Applications for general membership shall be addressed in writing to the Secretary of IGM stating the applicant's status in relation to Article IV, Section 1.2, his or her intention to join IGM, to approve, support and in no way undermine the objectives of IGM.

3. It is the Secretary's responsibility to approve the application according to the bylaws in due time and if in doubt, consult with the Executive Committee for a final decision.
4. Where the application is rejected, the applicant may appeal to the Executive Committee at which stage s/he should provide supporting evidence or documentation .
5. Members of professional societies which are members of IGM need not apply for additional membership in IGM.
6. General members who do not belong to a professional or national society will have one vote each at the General Assembly. There will be no proxy vote allowed.
7. General members will pay membership fees either to their professional or national societies or directly to IGM in such form and within such time limits as decided by the executive Committee.

1.2. Professional or national Societies

1. Professional or national societies applying for membership shall submit a copy of their constitution, bylaws, statutes and a complete membership roster. They shall also provide information on procedures to elect delegates for the general assembly.
2. Applications from professional or national societies shall be addressed in writing to the Secretary of IGM. It is the Secretary's responsibility to approve the application according to the bylaws in due time and if in doubt, consult with the executive Committee for a final decision. Upon final and written approval, professional or national societies shall become member societies effective immediately.
3. Where the application is rejected, the society may appeal to the Executive Committee at which stage it should provide supporting evidence/documentation .
4. After approval of membership, all members of good standing of the membership society shall be considered general members of IGM and they shall have all the rights and privileges of general membership.
5. Member societies are required to notify IGM in due time of any changes in their membership roster and present to IGM updated membership rosters on an annual basis.
6. Member societies will pay dues in such form and within such time limits as decided by the Executive Committee.
7. Member societies must have a minimum of twenty five members to qualify for a Delegate representative . They shall have one voting delegate for each complete block of twenty five members but no professional or national member society shall have more than 8 delegates.
8. The Executive Committee can give special consideration for small societies (< 10 members) related to the election of their Delegates and their term of office.
9. At least 14 days before a general assembly, member societies shall submit to the executive committee the names of their delegates.
10. Proxy: At any general assembly, a Delegate elected by a professional or national member society is entitled to vote by proxy provided that the replacing delegate is affirmed in writing by an officer of his professional or national society at least 14 days in advance. No proxy shall be valid after one month from the date of its execution unless otherwise provided in the proxy.

2. Membership rights

All members of IGM will have the following rights:

1. Participation at the general assembly

2. Participation at scientific meetings at reduced registration rates, as published from time to time
3. Subscription at a reduced rate to the official scientific publication which is defined from time to time by IGM
4. To be included in the general mailing list and to receive updates from time to time
5. To submit nominations for membership and committees including for the executive committee
6. To serve on various committees
7. The right to elect delegates as stipulated in article IV

3. Membership fees:

1. The Executive Committee shall determine from time to time the amount of membership fees payable to the organization by members of each category and shall give appropriate notice to the membership.
2. Each general member and each society will pay membership fees which shall be payable in the month of each year in which a statement is received by each member organization.
3. Changes in the amount of membership fees have to be approved by the GA
4. General members who are not members of professional or national societies will pay an annual fee to IGM as determined from time to time by the executive EC and ratified by the general assembly.
5. General members who are members in good standing in a professional or national member society shall pay their fees to that society and not to IGM, provided that the respective societies have provided IGM with the appropriate membership information and are in good standing.
6. Professional or national societies will pay an annual fee which is calculated on a per capita basis of its regular members.
7. When any member of any category is in default in the payment of dues for a period of 12 months from the beginning of the period for which such dues became payable, the membership may thereupon be terminated by the Executive Committee as provided herein above .

4. Termination of Membership

Membership shall be terminated by:

1. Notice of resignation.
2. Failure to pay membership fees for more than 2 years.
3. The dissolution of a membership society.
4. Expulsion, voted by two-thirds (2/3) majority of the Executive Committee.
5. Appeal process: Where membership is terminated, the member concerned shall have the right to lodge an appeal against the decision with the Executive Committee.