

International Committee

Mission

To further the strategic plan by (1) fostering and promoting cooperation with international and foreign medical and scientific organizations concerned with gastroenterology and gastroenterologists; (2) facilitating dissemination of contemporary medical and scientific information abroad; (3) operating an international advisory council, consisting of representatives of non-U.S. national gastroenterology societies, whose purpose shall be to advise the AGA Institute on development of meaningful international programs and facilitate implementation of international programs approved by the AGA Governing Board.

Pursuant to a business plan, approved by the governing board, the committee is also responsible for increasing AGA's international membership and for increasing the AGA/AGA Institute's involvement, visibility and prestige within the international community of digestive disease researchers, academic physicians and physician-educators, and practicing gastroenterologists. Specific charges to the committee are to develop and oversee (approved) programs to:

- Increase international membership.
- Provide international members and the international gastroenterology community with relevant and meaningful services and products.
- Provide training and research opportunities in the U.S. to young, international scientists.
- Help make Digestive Disease Week® the most prestigious and important meeting for the international gastroenterology community.
- Facilitate the flow of scientific and clinical information developed/published by the AGA Institute to the international community.
- Conduct or participate in relevant international postgraduate courses and ensure that they give AGA/AGA Institute sufficient recognition and visibility.
- Develop mechanisms to secure regular input and valid data on the unmet needs of the international gastroenterology community.

In pursuing its missions the committee should always strive to: (1) make AGA/AGA Institute an important resource for international gastroenterology; and (2) to propose and operate programs that are fiscally prudent.

Committee Structure

The committee consists of twelve members plus a chair all of whom serve three-year terms, with one-third expiring annually. A chair-elect (who shall not count against the maximum membership) shall be appointed one year before the end of the term of the chair. The AGA Institute Vice President (who shall not count against the maximum membership) shall serve as the governing board's liaison to the committee and shall serve as a non-voting *ex-officio* member.

Committee Chair

The chair must be an AGA member and should meet the following guidelines:

- A relatively senior physician with strong international contacts and an international reputation.
- Experience in AGA/Institute activities, especially those relating to the work of this committee.
- Ability to spend the time and energy needed to direct the work of the committee.

Organizational Statement International Committee

- Ability to build consensus and manage committee meetings.
- Understanding of the organization's mission and ability to relate and apply it to diverse international needs.

Committee Functions

- Implements relevant strategic directions from the strategic plan assigned to the committee; reviews the strategic plan to determine new and better ways to achieve association goals.
- Provides input on strategic trends and opportunities and suggested adjustments to the strategic plan for the chair to communicate to the AGA Leadership Cabinet.
- Plans and proposes programs to achieve its mission, including reasonably specific justifications, implementation plans, and budgets. The committee will oversee implementation of approved programs.
- Recommends changes to the AGA Institute strategic plan, objectives and programs to meet the needs of the international gastroenterology community.
- Works with other organizational elements with primary jurisdiction over publications, services, or programs where directed or necessary to fulfill its mission.
- Maintains contacts and communications with the international gastroenterology community to identify appropriate new initiatives and to critically evaluate existing programs.
- Serves as an advocate for AGA/AGA Institute to international members and the international gastroenterology community.
- Other functions as assigned by the governing board

Responsibilities of the Committee Chair

- Provides leadership and oversight of committee activities.
- Convenes and directs meetings and conference calls of the committee.
- Establishes ad hoc “working groups” as needed and assigns committee members to specific tasks as needed.
- Acts as the liaison to the governing board via the leadership cabinet.
- Acts as the liaison to other committees and organizational components.
- Coordinates the submission and review of international course proposals through the committee.
- Ensures that committee programs are carried out in a timely and appropriate manner.
- Prepares committee budgets, reports and meeting agendas and minutes.
- Evaluates the performance of committee members.

Meetings

The committee will have meetings and/or teleconferences as deemed necessary by the chair.