

TERMIS AM-Thematic Working Interest Groups (TWIGs)

Guidelines

Suggestions by the TERMIS-AM TWIG ad hoc subcommittee (Buddy Ratner, Robert Guldberg, William Wagner, Todd McDevitt, Bob Tranquillo, Rebecca Dahlin).

Initially, the Chair-Elect of the TERMIS-AM Council will oversee the establishment of the TWIGs. The TWIG Chairs will provide regular updates on the status of the TWIGs to the AM Chair-Elect in order for him/her to provide updates on the status of the TWIGs to the TERMIS-AM Council as well as to monitor interactions between the TWIGs and the annual conference's scientific advisory committee. As the TWIGs progress and develop, the overseer of the TWIGs may eventually become an elected position within the TERMIS-AM.

Preamble:

TERMIS-AM will integrate into the professional life of the society Thematic Working Interest Groups (TWIGs). The objectives of the TWIGs are:

1. to give all members of TERMIS-AM an opportunity to participate more directly in the life of the society
2. to provide support for programming in specific domains – this is important as the society grows in numbers of members and breadth of topics
3. to provide an opportunity to learn the workings of a professional society with the goal of readying talented, motivated individuals for leadership roles in TERMIS-AM and TERMIS Global
4. to address new and emerging areas impacting tissue engineering and provide a platform to introduce these areas into our meeting

Formation of TWIGs:

The TWIG program will be launched by the TERMIS-AM council. A suggested initial set of TWIGs is:

- Cardiovascular/Angiogenesis/Blood
- Neural and Spine
- Ophthalmologic
- Dental and Craniofacial
- Respiratory, Urologic and Gastrointestinal
- Skin, Wound Healing and Inflammation
- Scaffolds, Matrices and Biomaterials
- Stem cells and Cell Therapies & Developmental Biology and Cell Signaling
- Commercialization and Regulation
- Imaging and Assessment
- Biofabrication & Bioreactors (*relationship to the TERMIS TG, see section below*)
- Musculoskeletal (*relationship to the TERMIS TG, see section below*)

The council will chose leaders in each of these areas to become the first TWIG Chair. That individual will appoint other TWIG officers.

TWIG Officers

Each TWIG will have the following elected officers:

Duties of the TWIG Chair

- preside over meetings of the TWIG
- works with the TWIG representatives to organize a symposium or session at the annual conference
- serves as a member of the AM annual scientific advisory committee
- reports to the TWIGs Director - updates on the status of the TWIG
- submits regular pieces for inclusion in the TERMIS newsletter

Duties of the Vice Chair

- serves as an advisor to the Chair and to presides over the TWIG in the absence of the TWIG Chair

Duties of the Secretary

- keeps minutes of the TWIG meetings
- gives and serves notices of the TWIG

Duties of the Treasurer

- when appropriate to be responsible for all the funds for the TWIGs
- prepare an annual budget for consideration for the request of funds to the AM Council (*In the early stages of development, a TWIG budget will not be needed. As a need arises, this topic can be discussed and a budget formulated as needed.*)

SYIS Representative

- Each TWIG's SYIS representative will automatically become a member of the SYIS-AM Council.

Terms of the TWIG Officers

Each of the TWIG officers (Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer) will serve a term of two (2) years. At the end of the Vice-Chairs term, the Vice-Chair will become the next Chair.

TWIG Membership

Membership to a TWIG should be an easy process. An individual interested in joining a TWIG should contact the respective TWIG chair directly. In Atlanta, there will be prominently displayed sign-up sheets. Web sign-up will also be available.

As the TWIG system is launched, there will be no supplemental dues for TWIG membership. In time, there may be nominal yearly dues for membership (\$5 or \$10) to help fund the TWIG activities and initiatives.

Role of the TWIGs in the Annual Meeting and the life of TERMIS-AM

TWIGs will have an opportunity to propose special symposia and/or general sessions for inclusion to the program for the annual conference. Final approval of a special symposia or a general session proposed by a TWIG must be approved by the annual conference scientific advisory chair and the scientific advisory committee (on which the TWIG chair serves). TWIGs may also have business meetings and social events at the annual meeting.

New TWIGS (Proposing and Approving)

A petition with 50 names will be needed to launch a new TWIG. A brief description of the rationale for the TWIG and the opportunity will also be needed. The approval of the TERMIS-AM council will be required to launch a new TWIG. After the initial meeting of the TWIG, if the TWIG does not have 25 or more participants at their sponsored sessions at the annual meeting, the TWIG will be considered for termination.

TWIG budgets

TWIGs will have a budget available for social events, small TWIG awards, travel sponsorship, etc (exact list of approved TWIG functions will be formulated later)

TWIGs can apply for sponsorship for events. However, all sponsorship requests must be cleared through the TERMIS-AM council and the TERMIS-AM treasurer to avoid conflicts with primary TERMIS-AM sponsorships.

TWIG Termination

TWIGs can be terminated for lack of participation. Two (2) TWIGs might also be combined, where appropriate.

TWIG representative to the TERMIS-AM Council

A TWIG representative will be appointed by the TERMIS-AM Chair. This individual will be a non-voting member of Council and will represent the interests of the TWIGs.

TWIGs and TGs

TERMIS-AM members of existing TGs will automatically be members of the TWIG of the same name. ***Details of precise interactions between TWIGs and TGs will be discussed and decided by the TWIG chairs.***