



Special Interest Groups

The WHS welcomes the formation of Special Interest Groups (SIGs) focused on advancing a specific scientific area of wound healing or wound care. The goal is to formally support members with common professional interests to network and gain more specialized professional development. Individual SIGs may provide additional member benefits through specialized conferences, private social networks, newsletters or other networking events. SIGs are encouraged to present collaborative project ideas to the WHS BOD and to develop proposals for submission to the Annual Meeting Program committee. WHS will endorse each approved SIG, will support SIG networking activities via access to a designated webpage on the WHS website and will assist with space and resources to meet and interact during the annual meeting. Although SIGs are expected to be self-sustaining and self-managed, financial support will be considered in special cases.

Mission/Charge

The mission of each Special Interest Group will support the Society's mission to improve wound healing outcomes through science, professional education and communication. Details can be found on their own webpage. (A list of current SIGs will be displayed with hyperlinks to their individual pages.)

Guidelines for Special Interest Groups

- 1) Membership
 - a. Any WHS member may initiate development of a SIG by submitting a proposal to the WHS Executive Committee via electronic application located on the WHS website.
 - b. The minimum membership to establish a SIG is 5, however, it is anticipated that viable SIGs will consist of at least 10 members
 - c. All members of the SIG must be WHS members, including Active, Senior, Honorary and student members.
 - d. The Chair must be an Active Member of the WHS in good standing

- 2) Application Requirements
 - a. Name of SIG
 - b. Name of Primary Contact for the SIG
 - c. Purpose of the SIG with a brief background of rationale
 - d. Mission and Goals of the SIG
 - e. Planned activities with details including budget

- 3) Requirements for established SIGs
 - a. Reporting
 - i. Annual written summary to WHS BOD via the Vice President one month prior to the Annual meeting. The report will include:
 - 1. Activities/accomplishments for the past year
 - 2. Objectives for the coming year
 - 3. SIG membership
 - ii. Quarterly reports to WHS BOD via teleconference
 - iii. Bi-annual reports to membership via newsletter
 - b. Website content will be submitted to the Communications Committee, including but not limited to:
 - i. Initial Content
 - 1. Description of the SIG
 - 2. Mission and Goals
 - 3. Activities
 - 4. SIG members
 - ii. Biannual updates

- 4) WHS Support and Review
 - a. Applications for SIG status will be reviewed by the WHS Vice President and presented to the BOD for approval within one month of submission
 - b. WHS will provide a webpage for the SIG, accessed via a hyperlink on the WHS website
 - c. Structural support for the SIG will be at the discretion of the BOD based on submitted proposals. Examples include but are not limited to:
 - i. Special topic session at the annual meeting
 - ii. Regional meeting based on SIG topic
 - iii. Advertisement in WRR to promote the SIG topic or activities
 - iv. SIG newsletter – biannual newsletter devoted to SIG activities
 - d. SIG activity will be reviewed annually. SIGs that are inactive or fail to submit an annual report may be dissolved by the BOD and the webpage and hyperlink will be removed from the WHS website.