

APPROVED BY BOARD OF DIRECTORS ON NOV 13, 2025

Scientific Program Committee

Committee Structure:

- The Scientific Program Committee shall be composed of seven ORS members appointed by the Volunteer Appointment Committee (VAC).
 - Six of the committee members will be a combination of Established members and Early Career members.
 - The seventh member of the committee will be a Post-Graduate Trainee member.
 - The Established and Early Career members of the committee will consist of two members who are biologists, two who are clinicians, and two who are engineers.
 - Three committee members will serve for two years, and three will serve three years so that the disciplines of biologist, clinician, and engineer rotate as the Chair of Scientific Program Committee.
 - The Early Career members are only eligible to serve a two-year term.
 - The Post-Graduate Trainee can be of any discipline and will serve a two-year term.
- In a perfect scenario we will have two/three new committee members, from different disciplines, join each year to help keep continuity within the committee. An example of the structure and rotation of the Scientific Program Committee is shown in Figure 1.

Fig. 1. Example of the structure of the Scientific Program Committee to ensure representation and rotation of chairs by the three disciplines (biologist, clinician, engineer).

	Discipline	Membership	Term	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028	2028-2029
1	Biologist	Established	3 yr	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3 (Chair)	Yr 1
2	Biologist	Early or Established	2 yr	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 1	Yr 2
3	Clinician	Established	3 yr	Yr 3 (Chair)	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3 (Chair)
4	Clinician	Early or Established	2 yr	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 1	Yr 2
5	Engineer	Established	3 yr	Yr 2	Yr 3 (Chair)	Yr 1	Yr 2
6	Engineer	Early or Established	2 yr	Yr 2	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 1

7	Any	Post-Graduate Trainee	2 yr	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 1	Yr 2
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Scientific Program Committee Chair:

The three-year members on the Scientific Program Committee will have the following path. They will serve the first year as a committee member, the second year as the Poster Chair, and the third year as the Scientific Program Chair. In the fourth year, they will assume the role of Chair of the Annual Meeting Committee outside of the Scientific Program Committee. Members serving on the Scientific Program Committee cannot serve on any additional ORS committees.

In the event of vacancy due to any inability to act as Chair or a member of the Scientific Program Committee, the Board of Directors shall fill the vacancy and appoint the Chair or member for the unexpired portion of the term.

Eligibility and Selection Process:

Eligibility to serve on the Scientific Program Committee as an Early or Established Member requires prior service as a Topic Chair (two-year term), as a Section Officer, or as a past Council Chair, as well as being a consistent abstract Reviewer. Eligibility to be a post-graduate trainee member involves having served on other committees or being involved as a section officer. Members that meet this eligibility criteria will receive an email inviting them to submit their name during the ORS Call for Volunteers to be considered for the Scientific Program Committee, if interested. Names of Members that have these past experiences and complete the ORS Call for Volunteers form, will be provided to the Volunteer Appointment Committee (VAC). The VAC will select new members based on the disciplines needed. Once a member has served on the Scientific Program Committee, they are excluded from serving again, unless they have served as a Post-Graduate Trainee member.

Responsibilities:

- Preparing the program for the Annual Scientific Meeting, including
 - the review and selection of papers for presentation (podium and posters),
 - selection of NIRA finalists from the abstracts submitted, and
 - other special podium sessions, such as the Resident/Fellow session or Translational session.
- Selection of Spotlight Speakers.
- Reviewing and selecting Workshops and Symposia.
- Discussion and selection of the topic/theme for the Debate, as well as the participants (one Moderator; one For the Motion, and one Against the Motion).

- Attend monthly conference calls.

General Timeline of Duties (based on meeting occurring in February):

March

- With staff liaison, set the day and time of monthly committee meetings.
- Committee meets virtually to review the draft format (shell) of the annual meeting/scientific program schedule for the upcoming annual meeting.
 - Determine the number of podiums sessions, which include spotlight sessions, slots for scientific workshops/symposia (can include section workshops also) and poster sessions.
 - Begin to discuss potential topics/themes for a Debate session.
 - Provide ideas/topics for potential workshops and this information will be added to the call for workshops.

May-June

- Workshop and Symposium applications will be reviewed and scored by each Committee Member using agreed upon rubric provided by staff liaison
- Overall comments from all committee members will be shared at the monthly committee call, so that the committee can discuss and determine which workshops and symposia to accept.
 - The committee may request/propose changes based on the application (member speaker versus non-member speaker, gender, discipline, institutions, etc.).
- The committee may also review workshops submitted by organizers from the Guest Nation or a symposium from the Guest Clinical Society to ensure that they are appropriate for the program.

August

- Spotlight Speakers will be solicited from the Board of Directors, ORS Committee/Councils, ORS Research Sections and from other invited clinical societies (Guest Clinical Society) or international societies (Guest Nation). A form in MemberClicks (MC) is used each year for names to be submitted. Suggestions submitted for Spotlight speakers will be reviewed by the Scientific Program Committee and the number of speakers to invite will be determined.
 - 12 speakers are generally chosen.
 - Should a past Spotlight speaker be suggested, at least three or more years need to have passed since prior selection.
 - The committee is looking for speakers that are discussing new methods or novel concepts in topic areas and are considered an expert in the topic area.

- Spotlight speakers might be selected to cover a topic area that is not covered in selected Workshops or Symposia. The goal is to balance the scientific program.
- Spotlight speakers might also consist of invited individuals recommended from a clinical society (Guest Clinical Society) and an international society (Guest Nation).
- Discussion will begin on the Debate theme/topic as well as the participants.

October

- Select New Investigator Recognition Awards (NIRAs) based on top scoring abstracts that are eligible for the NIRA. Selected abstracts will be grouped into specific Podium sessions based on topics.
 - Generally, there are 5 NIRA sessions. NIRA finalists will also have a poster presentation.
 - Moderators will also be chosen for the NIRA sessions from a list of volunteers.
- Review all podium sessions proposed by the Topic Chairs. Committee members are assigned to select topics based on their topic preference/expertise and will review the proposed Podium sessions created by each Topic Chair within the assigned topics.
 - Each proposed session needs to be reviewed to eliminate the same authors, labs, or institutions presenting in the same session.
 - Add/replace abstracts from proposed sessions, if committee member feels that it is needed.
 - Un-sessioned abstracts can be selected to replace initially chosen abstracts for podium sessions.
 - Once all the proposed podiums sessions have been reviewed/edited, the committee will begin to layout/place each session on the Annual Meeting schedule.
 - To the best of their ability, they will create tracks of similar topics throughout each day.
 - Once all podium sessions have been slotted, the committee will again review to see any conflicts of speakers, institutions, or labs presenting multiple sessions during the same day or time.
 - Conflicts will be resolved by moving or replacing abstracts as needed.
 - Once the conflicts have been resolved, a title can be given to the session. The title should reflect the content of all abstracts in each session. The title may have been proposed by the Topic Chair and can be confirmed if appropriate, or a new title can be given to the session.

- All remaining abstracts that are not placed in podium sessions will be grouped by topic and will be split equally for the creation of two poster sessions (Poster Session 1, Poster Session 2)
- The committee will also determine how they wish to have the layout of the posters based on topic.
 - Example: A sample of the poster layout grouping for 2025 is listed below.
 - Area 1 - Cartilage, Multi-organ Crosstalk, Hip/Knee Arthroplasty and Infection
 - Area 2 - Biomaterials, Intervertebral Disc, Spine, Imaging and Education
 - Area 3 - Bone, Foot/Ankle and Tendon/Ligament
 - Area 4 – Knee, Meniscus, Hip and Tumor
 - Area 5 - Clinical Studies, Hand/Wrist, Skeletal Muscle and Shoulder/Elbow
- Select new Topic Chairs that will replace outgoing Topic Chairs.
 - A list of members interested in being a Topic Chair will be provided for discussion.
- Review current topic categories/subcategories. Modifications/changes to topic categories will be suggested, if needed. This is a yearly practice.
- Review keywords, considering how many times a selected ‘keyword’ has been chosen. Proposed modifications are discussed and confirmed by the committee.

December

- Review late-breaking abstract scores and determine cut-off for acceptance. Top scoring abstracts will be in one podium session dedicated to “Late-breaking abstracts”, others will be selected for poster presentation and the ones below the acceptance cut-off will be rejected. Abstracts selected to be posters will be split into two poster sessions (poster session 1 and poster session 2.)