

ICS Scientific meetings survey – results

As part of the drive to be more responsive to the membership, the board of Trustees commissioned a survey about the current structure and format of the scientific meetings and given various options for change. Replies were received from 1037 members by the closing date on 29th May.

Of the 628 members who replied, 51.6% (324) favoured no change to the way in which our meeting locations are selected and (72.4%) wanted the meetings to be yearly and wanted no change to the timing. In the same way, 418 (67.1%) wanted the meeting to remain a week long.

Although most people were happy with the current mixture of activities in the meetings, voting for no change; there were some areas which Trustees felt should be considered (table). These will be examined again after this years meeting in San Francisco.

	More	Fewer	As Now
State of the Art Lectures	46.8% (283)	3.6% (22)	49.6% (300)
Podium Presentations	32.2% (192)	10.7% (64)	57.5% (343)
Discussed Posters	25.5% (150)	19.7% (116)	55.0% (324)
Non-discussed Posters	10.8% (63)	33.3% (194)	56.4% (329)
Moderated Video Posters	22.4% (129)	19.4% (112)	58.8% (339)
Debates Point Counterpoint	44.2% (259)	10.8% (63)	45.6% (267)
Educational Workshops	33.0% (197)	12.7% (76)	54.8% (327)
Industry Sponsored Symposium	8.9% (52)	39.1% (229)	52.3% (306)
Meet the Professors or Expert Lunches	31.5% (177)	22.1% (124)	46.4% (261)

Social aspects of the meeting

Most members were happy with current arrangement of an informal reception (503 (82.9%)) and a more formal Gala dinner (328 (55.6%)) with only the informal reception being included in the registration fee.

Registration

Members asked that fee reductions continue to be made for training grades, non physicians and those from less advantaged countries. The Board of Trustees will continue to make sure that, where possible, allowance will be made.

Summary and action

The Board of Trustees asked that there was an evaluation of the yearly scientific meeting on an annual basis; to receive more detailed feedback and to allow for future planning. The suggestions about content will be passed onto the local committee responsible for meetings organisation.

International Continence Society

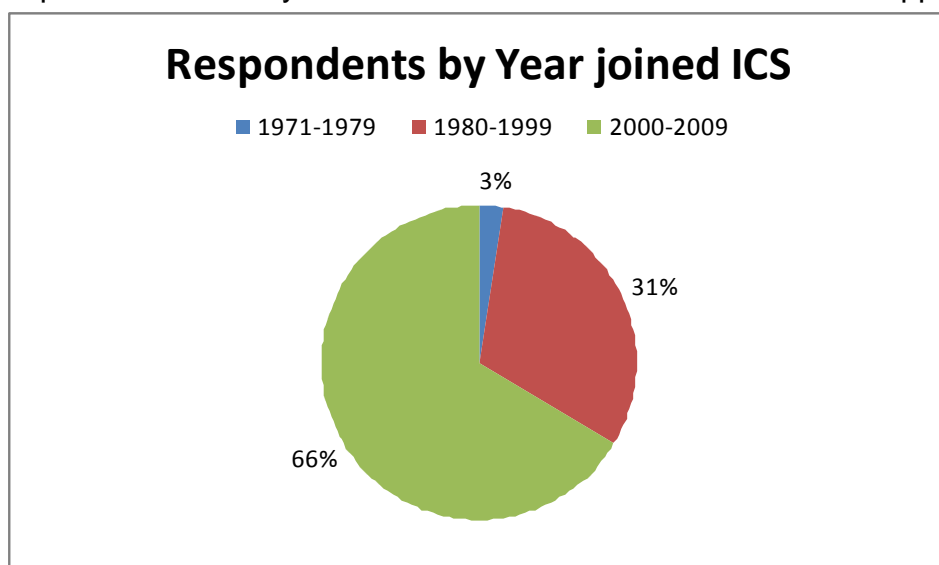
Meeting Survey Report and recommendations

Introduction

The membership was surveyed regarding its opinion on the current structure and format of the scientific meetings and given various options for change. The survey was felt to be required as part of a general move for the Society to be more responsive to the needs of its membership. The survey was web based, accessible via a link from the Society's website and was available until 29th May. Three central reminders were sent to the membership over this time.

Response

Replies to the survey were received from 1037 members from approximately 1700.



The questions:

Where?

Given the option to change the mechanism by which the location of the meeting is arranged, of the 628 members who replied, 51.6% (324) favoured no change to the current mechanism whereby the meeting continues to be at random locations following the receipt of bids from interested members. The second most favoured option, (18.9%) was a rotation between Europe- North America – Asia/ Pacific on a three yearly rotation. Other comments received (32) covered the quality of the venue and expressions of interest in more South American and Asian venues.

When?

627 members replied with a clear majority (72.4%) favouring annual meetings. Likewise, 390/624 (62.5%) favoured the current September – October timing for meetings.

Length

Of the 623 members replying, 418 (67.1%) favoured the current arrangement , opting for no change.

Structure

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State of the Art Lectures	46.8% (283)	3.6% (22)	49.6% (300)
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Although for each category, the majority favoured no change, I have highlighted options for which more than 30% of respondents voted. These request more state of the art lectures, podium presentations, debates, educational workshops and “meet the professors” lunches and fewer industry sponsored symposia and non-discussed posters. These options may bear some discussion.

Social aspects of the meeting

608 replies were received. The majority of responses favoured the current arrangement of an informal reception (503 (82.9%)) and a more formal Gala dinner (328 (55.6%)).

86.0% (521) favoured the informal reception being included in the registration fee and 365 (50.7%) favoured the Gala dinner being an additional charge. 59.3% (360) people felt that the current arrangement of the use of sponsorship for social events was appropriate.

Registration Fees

The available options produced a four way split as follows:

No change (current fee levels)	323 (33.3%)
Less expensive but without inclusive social activities	283 (29.2%)
Greater subsidies for AHP /trainee doctors	230 (23.7%)
Significant reduction for members with increase in Membership fee and fees for non-members	276 (28.5%)

Other comments

There were 157 other comments covering a wide number of areas including redirection of the journal; general praise for the society's conduct; the affordability of the meeting for some specialists; reduction in fees for senior members; more industry involvement; less industry involvement etcetera.

Conclusion

Of the survey respondents the majority appeared to be in favour of the status quo with regard to the timing, location occurrence, costing and structure of our meetings. There are some areas of content and fee structuring that might warrant further discussion.