



CALL FOR NOMINATIONS: IRMA Steering Committee

The [International Rectal Microbicide Advocates](#) (IRMA) is a global network of scientists, advocates, and policy makers promoting the research and development of safe, effective, and acceptable rectal microbicides for both women and men. The IRMA Nominations Committee invites you to consider applying for a position on its new global Steering Committee. We have up to 10 seats available, and are seeking dedicated individuals from around the world. **Please apply today or nominate someone, and forward this Call through your networks.**

DEADLINE TO APPLY: December 8, 2008

PLEASE SEND your application to Marc-André LeBlanc, IRMA Secretary, at maleblanc27@yahoo.ca by NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 8, 2008.

BACKGROUND

IRMA has seen tremendous growth and accomplishments over the past two years. With the valuable contribution of its extensive membership, the generosity of its donors and the guidance of its Steering Committee, IRMA has accomplished the following:

- Significantly increased its membership, which now includes over 650 advocates, researchers and policy makers from over 50 countries. Impressive growth for an original group of four (4) co-founders from two (2) countries!
- Created an informative and vibrant web site, blog and highly active listserv thus disseminating a wealth of resources and information to advocates around the globe, including a [basic fact sheet](#), [PowerPoint presentation and palm card](#)
- Published two groundbreaking reports on the state of the rectal microbicide research, advocacy and funding landscape: [Rectal Microbicides: Investments and Advocacy](#) and [Less Silence, More Science: Advocacy to Make Rectal Microbicides a Reality](#)
- Hosted dozens of [global teleconferences](#) attended by hundreds of participants from dozens of countries, and featuring the world's foremost leaders in rectal microbicides research and advocacy and related fields

- Supported the creation of two regional groups: IRMA-Lagos in Nigeria and [IRMA-ALC](#) (América Latina y Caribe) which has also translated *Less Silence, More Science* into Spanish
- Created the highly successful John Shaw Memorial Scholarship Fund to bring advocates from several countries to the Microbicides 2008 conference
- Conducted the world's largest survey on anal sex, with nearly 9,000 respondents from over 100 countries participating in the survey on lubricants used for anal sex
- Raised the profile of rectal microbicides from relative obscurity to have it included on the global HIV research agenda

THE STEERING COMMITTEE

As you can see, getting involved in IRMA can present you with an exciting opportunity to join in ground-breaking efforts to increase HIV prevention options. In order to guide IRMA's future actions and development, we are now looking to renew the mandate of half our current Steering Committee, and we wish to invite new members to join. **Up to 10 seats are available to YOU! Please consider applying TODAY!**

SC positions are purely voluntary. Because SC participation requires communication by internet and telephone, so members of the SC should have e-mail access, telephone access, and availability to attend SC meetings and to volunteer time for SC responsibilities. The SC meets 3-4 times per year via free conference calls. SC members will be strongly encouraged to participate in working groups and/or provide input on special projects.

Please refer to the [IRMA Steering Committee Terms of Reference](#) for more information.

IRMA wishes to thank the current Steering Committee for its leadership and dedication.

The following members will be staying for an additional term:

Julie Davids (US)

Dr. Jerome Galea (Peru)

Bridget Haire (Australia)

Rick Jones (Netherlands)

Jeremy Kwan (Malaysia)

Marc-André LeBlanc (Canada)

Dr. Ken Mayer (US)

Dr. Ian McGowan (US)

Jim Pickett (US)

Roy Wadia (Canada)

The following members will be stepping down:

Jonathan Berger (South Africa)

Manju Chatani (Ghana)

Dr. Pamina Gorbach (US)

Dr. Rowena Johnston (US)

Kim Mulji (UK)

APPLICATION PROCESS

Please submit your application (maximum 300 words) by providing a description of:

- Why you or the person you are nominating are interested in serving on the IRMA SC?
- What contributions you think you or the person you are nominating can bring to IRMA and the SC?
- How you or the person you are nominating meet some of the attributes and qualities mentioned in the section, below, titled "IRMA Steering Committee Attributes"? Please note that we do not expect any individual to meet all these criteria. Rather, we are seeking to have a SC membership that has all these attributes as a group. Please indicate which qualities and attributes relate to you, so the Nominations Committee can make the best recommendation for a SC with a good balance of attributes and qualities. Include what skills would be brought to the SC, any organisational affiliations, and the world region(s) of experience. (We won't be asking for additional information so we appreciate having a statement that has enough information to evaluate a person's candidacy).

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If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact either Jim Pickett (IRMA Chair) at jpickett@aidschicago.org or Marc-André LeBlanc (IRMA Secretary) at maleblanc27@yahoo.ca.

IRMA Steering Committee Attributes

In our application, please indicate how you meet some of the attributes and qualities mentioned below.

Please note that we do not expect any individual to meet all these criteria. Rather, we are seeking to have a SC membership that has all these attributes as a group. Please indicate which qualities and attributes relate to you, so the Nominations Committee can make the best recommendation for a SC with a good balance of the following attributes and qualities.

RESEARCH

- Experience and understanding around microbicides
- Expertise in translational research in HIV prevention
- Expertise in clinical evaluation of microbicides
- Experience in international health
- Experience in behavioral research as it pertains to microbicide development

COMMUNITY & ADVOCACY

- Experience and understanding around microbicides
- Experience with community advocacy in HIV prevention research
- Community mobilization and advocacy experience
- Strategic thinking, visioning, nurturing skills needed to grow our network
- Policy development experience

COMMUNICATIONS

- Experience with media and communications

RESOURCE MOBILISATION

- Fundraising experience, connections to resources

DEMOGRAPHICS & REPRESENTATION

- Demographic/geographic/gender/race/orientation/HIV status diversity
 - Representation (does the person represent a segment or sector of the community and audience that one is seeking to support, or seeking to draw resources from, or direct resources to)

- Continued good mix of researchers and advocates

SKILLS & CHARACTERISTICS

- Highly engaged, TIME to give to work of IRMA and SC, enthusiastic
- Technical skills (related to professional expertise/content expertise/et al)
 - Good writing ability
 - Language skills – given the international nature of the work, ability to communicate in English, but also fluency in languages beyond English
- Group Skills (the ability to work with a diverse range of individuals, on a team, both in person and virtually -- online, teleconference – good interpersonal communication skills)
- Commitment and dedication (both in terms of passion and an investment of time)
- Capacity and ability to keep abreast of ongoing developments in field
- An IDEA person who is also an IMPLEMENTER/DOER