



## COMMITTEE DESCRIPTIONS

- The **Awards Committee** reviews and makes final selections on the Research Harmonisation Award, Research Fund Award, and honorific awards presented at the annual meetings. This includes the Global Schizophrenia Award, Lifetime Achievement Award, Distinguished Service Award, Outstanding Clinical and Community Research Award, Basic Research Award, Translational Research Award, Research Excellence Award, Rising Star Award and Poster Awards. The work of the committee requires a lot of time and effort; please consider your schedule when volunteering.
- The **Communications Committee** oversees the development, implementation, and evaluation of a communications plan within SIRS. The Communication Committee partners with the SIRS Executive Office staff to develop a consistent and active communication strategy to all stakeholders for the purposes of dissemination of relevant research and clinical practices on the SIRS website and social media platforms, development of content beneficial for fundraising purposes, and increasing the overall visibility of the organization internationally.
- The **Diversity Task Force** members support the SIRS commitment to diversity and inclusion by raising awareness, offering guidance to the organization and its members, and by participating in purposeful dialogues and activities.
- The **Education Committee** focuses on broader issues of education other than those dealt with in national and international scientific meetings. The committee addresses the education of the public and professionals in clinical practice across cultures and internationally in the latest advances in schizophrenia research. An important portion of their work is devoted to engaging early career researchers from underrepresented countries. The Education Committee reviews and scores all Early Career award applications; on average, the Society reviews 300-400 applications. The work of the committee requires a lot of time and effort; please consider your schedule when volunteering.
- The **Ethics Committee** reviews and responds to any member ethical issue that arises according to the bylaws and engages in discussion with the Officers and Board, as necessary.
- The **Finance Committee** oversees the audit of the Society finances conducted by an independent accounting firm to ensure Society finances are being handled appropriately.
- The **Membership Committee** works to grow the membership of the Society and develop new member benefits to enhance the member experience and retain current members.
- The **Program Committee** determines the scientific program for the annual congress. The Program Committee reviews and scores symposium and oral/poster submissions. The work of the committee requires a lot of time and effort; please consider your schedule when volunteering.
- **Social Media Editors:** The SIRS Communications Committee is seeking volunteers to be a member of the Social Media Editor's team for a 1-year term. SIRS uses social media to raise awareness for schizophrenia and related disorders and to highlight important work in schizophrenia research. All members with an interest in growing our social media presence are encouraged to volunteer for this opportunity. Serving as a Social Media Editor can be used on your CV and provides the opportunity to work closely with other SIRS social media volunteers from around the world.

Social media volunteers have a goal to submit a minimum of one to two posts per week from one of the three affiliated journals (Schizophrenia Bulletin, Schizophrenia Research, Schizophrenia) but can also submit interesting content from other peer-reviewed journals if it is of interest and related to schizophrenia research. As a Social Media Editor, you will be responsible for submitting an article of interest with a short blurb or description which helps explain the key takeaway from peer-reviewed journal articles.

---

- **Poster Judges – Congress Only:** Poster Judges will be asked to rank each top scoring posters and will receive a scoresheet onsite at the congress with judging criteria for each type of abstract. Judges score accordingly based on the assignments given and play an important role in poster presenters receiving feedback on their work in addition to potentially placing in the top three.