

STRATEGIC PLAN 2025-2028



OUR MISSION & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

IPPS MISSION

The International Pelvic Pain Society was established in 1997 by a group of healthcare professionals dedicated to improving the lives of persons living with chronic pelvic pain world-wide. Our mission is to:

- To promote healthcare professional education and research on interdisciplinary approaches to the evaluation and management of health conditions associated with chronic pelvic pain
- To support individuals living with chronic pelvic pain by improving access to care and supporting physical and emotional well-being
- To raise public awareness through education, outreach, and community engagement.

VISION

Improved access to healthcare professionals who provide just, equitable, patient-centered care, using evidence-based approaches, to persons living with chronic pelvic pain.

The International Pelvic Pain Society (IPPS) is a world-renowned organization of healthcare professionals who promote multi-disciplinary and biopsychosocial management of chronic pelvic pain as well as research and collaboration between providers and persons living with pain. IPPS was legally incorporated on March 28, 1997, as the Pelvic Pain Society and in July 1997, the name of the Corporation was changed to the International Pelvic Pain Society. Three founding members, Dr. C. Paul Perry, Dr. James Carter, and Dr. Fred Howard, established the non-profit organization and its charter, organized the initial scientific meeting, and maintained the society through its first 10 years. The society is composed of professionals engaged in pain management across multiple specialties including gynecology, urology, gastroenterology, physical medicine and rehabilitation, physical and occupational therapists, psychology, social work and other health professions.

In 2002 the Board of Directors changed the IPPS mission to include the diagnosis of and treatment of male pelvic pain and in 2019 the mission was updated to state that the society's mission is to promote the well-being of all individuals regardless of gender.

As a means for promoting pelvic pain education, from 1996 to 2024 the society has conducted 27 annual scientific meetings. The meetings are usually attended by providers from various specialties including but not limited to gynecology, urology and physical therapy. Lectures and post-graduate courses are conducted by renowned experts in the field. The annual meeting has been held in several national and international locations, including London, Istanbul, Cartagena and Sidney, and in collaboration with several international societies including the Turkish Pelvic Pain and Endometriosis Society (TPPES), and the Federacion Colombiana de Obstetricia y Ginecologia (FECOLSOG). The society and its members also developed regular educational affiliations and events with the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology (ACOG), the American Association of Gynecologic Laparoscopists (AAGL), PAINWeek, the International Association for the Study of Pain (IASP), Convergences-Pelvic Pain, and the Society of Laparoscopic Surgeons (SLS). Additionally, several educational webinars, videos, and an Integrative Pain Management course was developed in 2018 as well as a Chronic Overlapping Pain Disorders (COPCs) online CME was started in 2019. These educational opportunities are enduring and periodically updated.

The society developed several patient educational pamphlets covering most pelvic pain conditions, and patient intake and follow-up forms now available on www.pelvicpain.org and www.pelvicpaineducation.com. Clinical guidelines for the management of chronic pelvic pain were developed and published in 2021 and vulvodynia guidelines were published in conjunction with the International Society for the Study of Women's Sexual Health (ISSWSH) and the International Society for the Study of Vulvovaginal Disorders (ISSVD). The society also promotes research collaborations with academic institutions and the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Community events for healthcare professionals and patients, as well as podcasts and digital media campaigns are conducted annually, including May is Pelvic Pain Awareness Month (MPPAM) which was established by the IPPS in 2017. MAPPAM is now a national event that promotes pain education, awareness, and fundraising.

The IPPS promotes research through dissemination of monthly research news, research abstracts published annually, quarterly virtual journal club, and a recommended reading list for healthcare professionals which is updated approximately every 2 years. Researchers are encouraged to present at the annual meeting whose scientific presentations are published annually in PAINReports and accessible via open access. Since 2018 the society has been awarding several research grants including the Fred Howard Early Investigator Grant, the IPPS Research Development Grant, and the IPPS Resident Scholarship in Pelvic Pain Education. Winners of these awards are invited to present their findings at the IPPS Annual Scientific Meeting. In 2022, we also established the IPPS Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) Scholarship. To date the JEDI scholarship is the most popular with the largest number of applicants each year; in 2024, four JEDI scholarships were awarded.

A focus on expanding clinician resources began with the establishment of 'Find a Healthcare Provider', followed by an online community forum where members can discuss difficult cases. In 2019 the Pelvic Pain Observership Program (PPOP), and a corresponding virtual program is currently being trialed. An international ambassadorship program was also started to encourage healthcare professional representation from all regions of the world. Lastly, with the assistance of IPPS Board members, the Pelvic Pain Specialty Designation program was created in 2022, and in 2024, the application and testing requirements were released to the public.

CORE VALUES GUIDING THE IPPS

VISION

Improved access to healthcare professionals who provide just, equitable, patient-centered care, using evidence-based approaches, to persons living with chronic pelvic pain.

CORE VALUES

1. **Patient-Centered Care:** Prioritizing the needs and well-being of individuals affected by pelvic pain.
2. **Interdisciplinary Collaboration:** Promoting teamwork among healthcare providers across various specialties.
3. **Innovation in Research:** Fostering groundbreaking research that leads to better treatments and outcomes.
4. **Education & Training:** Providing ongoing educational opportunities for healthcare professionals.
5. **Global Accessibility:** Ensuring that information, resources, and treatments for pelvic pain are accessible worldwide.

STRATEGIC GOAL	OBJECTIVES	KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
<p>Enhance Global Awareness and Education</p>	<p>Objective 1.1: Expand global educational initiatives to improve awareness and understanding of pelvic pain among healthcare providers and the public.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop online courses, webinars, and training for professionals in diverse geographic regions. Create patient-friendly educational resources in multiple languages to raise awareness and promote early diagnosis. <p>Objective 1.2: Increase the visibility of IPPS through partnerships, conferences, and digital media.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Host and sponsor global pelvic pain conferences and symposiums. Engage in social media campaigns and partnerships to raise awareness. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand Ambassador program by 2 countries each year Ambassadors to establish a quarterly pelvic pain webinar or journal club specific to their area and language. Global reach through translated materials and training programs in at least 3 additional new languages over the next 3 years. Increase international membership by at least 5% each year Promote May is Pelvic Pain Awareness Month in all ambassador countries
<p>Support and Improve Clinical Practice</p>	<p>Objective 2.1: Create and update evidence-based clinical guidelines for the management of pelvic pain.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborate with leading experts and multidisciplinary teams to develop and disseminate clinical best practices. Develop patient management tools and resources for healthcare providers to improve consistency in care. <p>Objective 2.2: Promote the adoption of interdisciplinary care models in treating pelvic pain.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foster partnerships with urologists, gynecologists, gastroenterologists, pain specialists, physical therapists, and mental health. Provide resources and guidelines for effective team-based approaches to care. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and update best-practice guidelines for multidisciplinary management of pelvic pain Develop a pelvic pain curriculum that can be used by fellowships and residencies to better educate residents about multidisciplinary, trauma-informed, biopsychosocial evaluation and management of pelvic pain Update the IPPS questionnaires (e.g., convergence-pp scale) Develop a guideline for establishment of multidisciplinary care teams
<p>Advance Research and Innovation in Pelvic Pain</p>	<p>Objective 3.1: Establish a robust research network focused on pelvic pain.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate funding and grants for innovative research projects and clinical trials. Develop collaborative research opportunities with universities, research institutions, and pharmaceutical companies. <p>Objective 3.2: Identify and promote new diagnostic tools and treatment modalities for pelvic pain.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the exploration of novel technologies (e.g., AI, biomarkers) for early diagnosis and personalized treatments. Advocate for the development and clinical testing of non-invasive and effective treatments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fund at least 3 major research projects over the next 3 years. Promote the publication of at least 3-5 high-impact research papers or clinical guidelines within the next 5 years. Identify at least 3 academic research projects supported by the IPPS and promote their findings Identify industry collaborators who need pelvic pain SMEs and guidance in research development
<p>Increase Access to Care for Underserved Populations</p>	<p>Objective 4.1: Partner with global health organizations to provide resources and support for underserved communities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop outreach programs focused on areas with limited access to specialized pelvic pain care. Advocate for increased funding and resources for pelvic pain research and treatment in low-income and rural areas. <p>Objective 4.2: Ensure equitable access to treatments and healthcare services for all patients.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborate with healthcare, insurance, and advocacy groups to address barriers to care for underserved populations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand the 'Find a Healthcare Provider' program by 10% per year, including international members Disseminate free educational materials to underserved clinics and communities Expand the JEDI program and collaborate with winners to expand resources in their communities Develop a conference of stakeholders to identify health systems and insurance barriers to care and advocate on behalf of our patients
<p>Strengthen IPPS Membership and Community Engagement</p>	<p>Objective 5.1: Grow and diversify the membership base of IPPS.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offer membership from nursing, physician assistants, and primary care physicians Implement mentorship programs to engage new members and foster the development of young professionals in the field. <p>Objective 5.2: Enhance the sense of community and networking opportunities for members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create virtual and in-person networking events, discussion forums, and interest-based groups. Develop a members-only online platform for sharing research, case studies, and patient experiences. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Separate the Foundations course into a CME, online program. Increase the number of CME educational programs that can be accessed virtual and are specialty specific, e.g., for primary care and nursing. Create an 8-hour CME opioid and pain management program. Alternate annual meeting with virtual annual meeting, change the annual meeting to better locations and smaller hotel contracts, move meeting to early February or late January Market and increase access to Pelvic Pain Designation Program.
<p>Foster Advocacy and Policy Change</p>	<p>Objective 6.1: Advocate for better insurance coverage for pelvic pain treatments and services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with policy makers to secure insurance reimbursement for pelvic pain management therapies and treatments. Provide resources to healthcare providers on navigating insurance barriers and advocating for their patients. <p>Objective 6.2: Raise public awareness of pelvic pain as a critical health issue.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launch national and international campaigns aimed at highlighting the impact of pelvic pain on individuals' quality of life. Advocate for pelvic pain to be recognized as a priority area in national and international health agendas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase patient advocacy and policy impact, aiming for at least 3 policy changes or public health initiatives related to pelvic pain Develop 3 additional marketing and awareness campaigns aimed at highlighting the impact of pelvic pain Contact 5 national societies and request that pelvic pain be recognized as a national health priority

IPPS COMMITTEES ALIGNED WITH KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

EPE Committee

- Expand the JEDI program and collaborate with winners to expand resources in their communities

Membership & Marketing Committee

- Increase the number of CME educational programs that can be accessed virtual and are specialty specific, e.g., for primary care and nursing.
- Create an 8-hour CME opioid and pain management program.
- Market and increase access to pelvic pain designation and mentorship programs by 10% each year
- Expand the 'Find a Healthcare Provider' program by 10% per year, including international members

Fundraising Committee

- Develop 3 additional marketing and awareness campaigns aimed at highlighting the impact of pelvic pain
- Develop an online financial and fundraising report

Program Committee

- Alternate annual meeting with virtual annual meeting, change the annual meeting to better locations and smaller hotel contracts, move meeting to early February or late January
- Separate the Foundations course into a CME, online program.
- Promote meaningful themes to each meeting

Social Media Committee

- Develop 3 additional marketing and awareness campaigns aimed at highlighting the impact of pelvic pain

International Liaison Committee

- Expand Ambassador program by 2 countries each year
- Ambassadors to establish a quarterly pelvic pain webinar or journal club specific to their area and language.
- Global reach through translated materials and training programs in at least 3 additional new languages over the next 3 years.
- Increase international membership by at least 5% each year
- Promote May is Pelvic Pain Awareness Month in all ambassador countries

Executive Committee

- Develop a pelvic pain curriculum that can be used by fellowships and residencies to better educate residents about multidisciplinary, trauma-informed, biopsychosocial evaluation and management of pelvic pain

Past Presidents Committee

- Contact 5 national societies and request that pelvic pain be recognized as a national health priority
- Identify industry collaborators who need pelvic pain SMEs and guidance in research development
- Develop a conference of stakeholders to identify health systems and insurance barriers to care and advocate on behalf of our patients

Medical Education Committee

- Develop and update best-practice guidelines for multidisciplinary management of pelvic pain
- Update the IPPS questionnaires (e.g., convergence-pp scale)
- Develop a guideline for establishment of multidisciplinary care teams

Patient Education Committee

- Develop 3 additional marketing and awareness campaigns aimed at highlighting the impact of pelvic pain
- Increase patient advocacy and policy impact, aiming for at least 3 policy changes or public health initiatives related to pelvic pain
- Disseminate free educational materials to underserved clinics and communities

Research Committee

- Fund at least 3 major research projects over the next 3 years.
- Promote the publication of at least 3-5 high-impact research papers or clinical guidelines within the next 5 years.
- Identify at least 3 academic research projects supported by the IPPS and promote their findings