

## Call for INS Special Interest Group applications

In August 2016, the INS Science Task Force conducted a survey of INS members about the possibility of establishing Special Interest Groups (SIGs). SIGs would provide a forum for INS members with common interests to come together during INS meetings for the purpose of sharing recent research, discussing professional issues, and interacting informally. SIGs might also engage in various activities between meetings. SIGs are intended to foster international collaborations and interactions among INS members.

The survey was completed by nearly 700 members from around the world (19% from outside North America). The majority of respondents indicated that they would be interested in joining and attending a SIG, and more likely to attend INS meetings if there were SIGs of interest to them. Over 90% endorsed breakout sessions for SIGs at INS meetings. SIGs with a focus on science or clinical practice were most strongly endorsed, although those with a focus on training/supervision or policy/advocacy also garnered support. SIGs can be general or specific, depending on members' interests. The top 10 topic areas that members indicated interest in from the list provided on the survey were as follows:

- Neurocognitive disorders/dementias
- Traumatic/acquired brain injury
- Cognitive rehabilitation
- Neurodevelopmental disorders
- Neuroimaging
- Child/adolescent neuropsychology
- Geriatric neuropsychology
- Validity testing
- Ecological validity of test results
- Advocacy/policy of neuropsychology

Based on the strong interest in SIGs among the membership, the Board of Governors has endorsed the establishment of SIGs. The INS Science Task Force is therefore pleased to issue this call for applications to establish INS SIGs. We encourage interested members to download the application form at this link: [https://www.the-ins.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/INS\\_SIG\\_Application-alternate.pdf](https://www.the-ins.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/INS_SIG_Application-alternate.pdf). A proposal will require the names of 20 INS members (regular, associate, or student), and subsequent approval by the Science Task Force. Preference will be given to proposed SIGs that include Chairs and Co-Chairs from different countries, and applications reflecting multinational representation in an effort to promote international collaborations. Participation of trainees at all levels is also encouraged. The number of SIGs that are approved may be limited by the availability of meeting space at INS meetings. More information about SIGs and the application process is provided with the application forms. Questions about SIGs can be directed to Lena Dobson, INS SIG Liaison, at [INSScientificCommittee@gmail.com](mailto:INSScientificCommittee@gmail.com)

We are currently planning to hold the first formal meeting of SIGs during the INS annual meeting in Washington, DC in February 2018. The deadline for initial submissions of applications is 15 December 2017, 11:59 pm EST.

Important information:

- 1) Applications for SIGs are due 15 December 2017, 11:59 pm EST. [Download the application](#) from the INS website and email the completed form to [INSScientificCommittee@gmail.com](mailto:INSScientificCommittee@gmail.com)
- 2) The selected SIGs will be expected to meet at the next INS meeting in Washington, DC. Rooms will be provided over the lunch hour. SIG chairs will be asked to meet with the INS SIG Liaison.
- 3) In the event that multiple applications are submitted for the same topic, the SIG Liaison may contact the proposed chairs to discuss consolidating the SIGs.
- 4) Applications will be rated based on number of interested INS members listed on the application, multinational representation, and other criteria listed on the [SIG Review Form](#)
- 5) For any remaining questions, please email Dr. Lena Dobson at [INSScientificCommittee@gmail.com](mailto:INSScientificCommittee@gmail.com)