

## IADMS Dance for Health Committee Charter (Operational Committee)

**Purpose:** As stated in the IADMS Bylaws (Section 10.11), "the Dance for Health Committee shall promote innovative research and best practice in the field of dance for health; facilitate the implementation of dance-based interventions within existing and evolving healthcare structures; advocate for dance as a life-long partner for health and well-being, communicating with healthcare policy makers and influencing national and international policy. The committee shall make recommendations and report to the board of directors."

The IADMS Dance for Health (DfH) Committee promotes innovation in research and best practice, bringing together the healthcare and dance sectors to facilitate the implementation of dance-based practices within evolving health and social structures. Advocating for dance as a life-long partner for health and well-being, we build collaborations among multidisciplinary stakeholders to influence national and international dance for health policy.

**Mission:** The IADMS DfH Committee promotes innovative research and dance practice, cultivating medical, scientific, and artistic excellence in the field of 'dance for health'.

**Vision:** Promoting dance as a life-long partner for health and well-being.

### Definition of 'Dance for Health'

'Dance for Health' provides holistic, evidence-based activities for the individual to manage and adapt to physical, mental, and social health challenges.

In 'Dance for Health' sessions, trained teaching artists engage people as *dancers*, rather than patients, in joyful, interactive, artistic practice.

### Committee Membership:

- **General:** The DfH Committee is a multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary team of international teaching artists, dance educators, researchers, and health care professionals. The committee will consist of a chair and a minimum of three members, but a complement of nine to fifteen members is ideal. When possible, an odd number of members shall be selected to avoid tie votes. Membership is open to all IADMS membership categories, including students.
- **Leadership:** The chair shall be appointed by and report to the board. The board may also appoint a vice-chair, as needed, in consultation with the chair.
  - Prior to the nomination deadline, at the beginning of the chair's second term, committee members will cast a vote for or against the chair continuing for a second term. This will be organized by one leading member of the committee and results communicated to the chair, the committee, and the board. If given a 'vote of no confidence' by more than 50% of the members of the committee, the chair shall voluntarily step down from the role.
- **Applying for Membership:** The chair will review applications to join the committee during the official IADMS call for applications or as needed.

- Candidates complete a letter of motivation and submit their CV for review by a representative review panel made up of five volunteer committee members and the chair.
- Existing committee members are asked to renew their statement of intent and commitment to the committee in writing during each new member recruitment period.
- The review panel will submit a list of candidates for final vote of the whole committee. Committee members are appointed by the board after reviewing the committee's recommendations and candidate application materials.
- The committee may prioritize searches for new members to achieve equal and broad representation of diverse disciplines, specialties, or regions (geographical, cultural, or linguistic). The committee aims to maintain a balance between researchers and academics, dance educators and teaching artists, advocates and strategists and health care professionals.
- All committee members must be an IADMS member in good standing.
- IADMS is committed to a diverse, inclusive, and equitable environment where all committee members feel respected and valued; thus, we foster inclusion of different genders, ages, ethnicities, nationalities, sexual orientation or identities, abilities, education, or any other biases that exclude individuals.
- Unsuccessful candidates are offered to join the active Dance for Health '*Champions*' group as an alternative means to contribute and become involved in specific projects and activities of the Dance for Health committee.

**Terms of Office:** The chair and committee members are appointed for two-year terms. Appointments are made by the board every two years during the year between board elections (currently even years). There is no term limit for committee members, though the chair is expected to serve no more than two terms in that role (four years).

**Duties and Responsibilities:**

- Serve as a voice for the larger 'dance for health' network, bringing forth ideas from both members and non-members.
- Collaborate with the IADMS Publications Committee to spread the word about the work of the DfH Committee and innovations in the field.
- Host networking and brainstorming events during the annual conference to identify priorities in areas of 'dance for health' and to inform the work of the committee for the subsequent year.
- Assist with organizing professional development opportunities and live events for members and non-members. This work is performed in collaboration with other committees after approval from the board or director of operations.
- Appoint named liaison members to interface with each of the other operating committees. These liaisons may facilitate communication, alignment, and cross-fertilization of ideas. Liaisons are encouraged to meet regularly with their liaison committee, either through regular meetings or as needed for project-based work.

**Subcommittees:** Committee members may volunteer for service on one or more subcommittees, which are formed as needed to accomplish specific projects, tasks, or goals. These subcommittees are responsible to and report to the chair. The following is a list of subcommittees and their responsibilities at the time this charter was published.

**Advocacy Subcommittee:**

- Assist the IADMS DfH Research Subcommittee in managing the IADMS Dance for Health '*Champions*' program.
- Enhance awareness of the work of IADMS DfH initiatives to the global community.
- Manage the private IADMS Facebook 'Global Dance for Health Community' group by posting research, studies, professional development opportunities, and international political developments relevant to Dance for Health.
- Collaborate with the Promotions Committee to identify opportunities and produce appropriate and regular social media content.
- Monitor the 'dance for health' content of [IADMS website](#) and make recommendations to the director of operations for updates.

**Research Subcommittee:**

- Serve in guiding or advisory role, rather than actively conducting research under the umbrella of IADMS.
- Maintain transparency in its actions, acting with fairness and integrity, declaring conflicts of interest, and proactively reaching out to all 'dance for health' researchers.
- Work to become a hub to support and further research in this field.
- Identify gaps in existing research and brainstorm ways of promoting relevant research and contents.
- Connect with researchers and institutions across the globe.
- Encourage IADMS 'health for dancers' researchers to join the conversation and get involved.
- Create a network of research champions and assist the IADMS DfH Advocacy Subcommittee in managing the IADMS DfH '*Champions*' program.
- Collaborate with the IADMS Research Committee on matters of academic and research protocols, ethics, or potential conflicts of interest.
- Serve as a resource for the Journal of Dance Medicine & Science Editor in Chief when there is a need for suggestions of qualified members of the editorial board, a register of potential reviewers, parameters for research article submissions, and ideas for special focus editions related to 'dance for health'.

**Benchmarking Subcommittee:**

- Develop and present a board proposal to create an international benchmarking of 'dance for health' programs. If approved by the board, work under the director of operations to help implement the project.

**Chair Responsibilities:**

- The chair will provide regular updates to the committee to keep all members equally informed on current work.
- The chair will additionally meet with other committee chairs quarterly, submit reports to the board of directors quarterly, and meet with the board of directors once annually. Updates will be provided to the committee members, as necessary, following these meetings.
- The chair is encouraged to attend all subcommittee meetings.
- Oversee any updates to this charter (goal: annually) in consultation with other committee members.

**Expectations:**

- All committee members are expected to familiarize themselves with and abide by IADMS Bylaws and policies (posted online).
- All committee members are expected to be in attendance for committee meetings unless an unforeseen conflict arises. Barring extenuating circumstances, any committee member attending fewer than three meetings per year will be asked to consider stepping down.
- All committee members are expected to acknowledge and respond to IADMS-related emails/communications in a timely fashion, as outlined in the IADMS Committee Member Handbook.
- Committee members who are consistently (more than three months) unable to meet their committee responsibilities should discuss their circumstances with the chair as soon as feasible.
- Any committee member who does not meet minimum requirements of attendance in meetings, discussions, voting, and review of all necessary documentation as provided by committee chair, board, and staff for a period of three months without notification may forfeit the right to serve as a committee member.

**Authority:** Operational committees are not independent decision-making bodies. Operational committees work directly with IADMS staff and indirectly with the IADMS board. The committee chair is responsible for communicating relevant committee business with the director of operations, the board, and other committee chairs. If there is inconsistent language between this committee charter and the IADMS bylaws, then the bylaws will be considered the more authoritative source.

- The chair is responsible for defining the current goals of the committee in consultation with committee members. These should be submitted to the board for approval and should reference organizational priorities from the IADMS strategic plan.
- Committee activities or recommendations that involve the day-to-day IADMS operations shall be approved by the director of operations.
- All budgetary requests as well as programming or policy recommendations should be submitted to the board for consideration and approval.
- For new initiatives or changes to procedures, proposals are reviewed by the director of operations and put forward for board approval.
- Per IADMS policy, prior to distribution, the Publications Committee must review, edit, and standardize the format for all formal, outgoing publications including, but not limited to, press releases; annual conference abstracts; The IADMS Bulletin; Resource Papers; the Quarterly Newsletter; Infographics, and new pages/sections of the IADMS website, with the exemption of JDMS. The Publications Committee does not routinely review eblasts, social media posts, or the IADMS blog.

**Quorum and Meeting Procedures:**

- The Dance for Health Committee holds approximately five meetings per year, including one potential in person meeting held at the time of the Annual Conference.
- Informal optional working meetings may also be scheduled to share workload and ensure timely completion of tasks.
- Sufficient notice should be given such that all who wish to participate may attend. There should be respect for scheduling meetings appropriate for all participant work schedules and time zones.

- The board liaison, liaisons from other operational committees, and director of operations shall be invited to attend all committee meetings as a non-voting guest participant, but they are not expected to attend every meeting. The board liaison can help facilitate communication between this committee and the board. The board liaison may offer institutional perspectives but should not take a dominant role in any of the committee work, activities, conversations, or decisions.
- Meetings may be held in person, via telephone, or electronic means (like videoconference).
- A quorum shall be greater than 50% of the voting committee members (e.g., for a committee of eleven members, quorum would be six.).
- Committee business, including electronic discussions, is confidential and must not be discussed outside the committee.

**Governance:** Recommendations and decisions of this committee and subcommittees shall be made by consensus when possible. When votes are required, decisions are made based on the majority vote of the entire committee, with electronic voting (e.g., email) taking place if a member is not present at a meeting. Electronic voting may be utilized if a decision is needed between meetings. Less significant qualitative, directional motions may be passed with a majority of those present in a meeting. Quorum shall be required at all meetings where a decision is made.

When there are recommendations for substantive changes related to the Dance for Health Committee (e.g., committee mission or vision, definition of 'dance for health'), the committee is encouraged to seek opinions and feedback from the other operational committee chairs, committee liaisons, and the director of operations. If multiple options are considered, the top two or three should be presented to the board for final consideration.

**Record-Keeping:**

- Meeting agendas are posted in a shared IADMS cloud-based folder. Meeting notes, action items, timelines, and responsibilities should be noted in real time by a designated note taker, organized on a rotational basis.
- All meeting action times, timelines, committee documents, committee reports, research, photos, voting outcomes, and meeting minutes shall be stored on the shared IADMS cloud-based storage service in accordance with current IADMS policy.
- E-mails regarding official business of the committee should be retained during the transition from one committee chair to the next at the end of each term.
- For new members and existing members, a Power Point has been created and stored in the shared Google Folders, "All you need to know about the Dance for Health Committee" where they can access all significant definitions, milestones, and accomplishments of the Dance for Health committee.

*This charter was approved by this committee on February 4, 2022, and by the IADMS Board of Directors on February 13, 2022. It should be reviewed for updates and re-approval at the start of each committee term. The charter may be amended by a simple majority vote of the board at any time.*