

OTIS Committees- 2025

Abstract Committee:

Chair:

Mara Gaudette

mgaudette@fetal-exposure.org

Duties:

The Abstract Committee evaluates all abstracts submitted for poster and platform presentation at the OTIS annual meeting and selects abstracts to be presented. The abstract selection process is held each year in the Spring before the annual meeting in June.

Education Committee:

Co-Chairs:

Sura Alwan

alwans@bcchr.ca

Gretchen Bandoli

gbandoli@health.ucsd.edu

Duties

The Education Committee is responsible for selecting topics and speakers for webinars throughout the year and the Lunchbox Session at the Annual Meeting. They also coordinate and send out a quarterly Research Newsletter.

Nominations Committee:

Chair:

Al Romeo

alfred.romeo@gmail.com

Duties:

The Nominations Committee is responsible each Fall for soliciting nominations for positions that will become vacant on the Board of Directors for the upcoming year. Nominations of suitable candidates are submitted for a vote to the membership in the Spring of the year of the election. The Elections Committee calls for the vote, receives and qualifies ballots, and announces results to the Board of Directors and the membership.

Fundraising Committee:

Co-Chairs:

Lauren Kozlowski lauren.kozlowski@emory.edu

Duties:

The Fundraising Committee works to identify and pursue avenues which will help to financially support the work of OTIS/MotherToBaby.

Meeting Planning Committee:

Co-Chairs:

Sura Alwan alwans@bcchr.ca
Claire Coles ccoles@emory.edu

Duties:

The Meeting Planning Committee will be named in the Spring of each year, for the following year's meeting. The Executive Director serves as Chair of the Meeting Planning Committee, and will be responsible for coordinating the planning activities, providing continuity and procedural support, and working with the other members of the committee on the meeting program. Additional members of the committee will include but not be limited to OTIS representatives who may be located near the meeting site. The Meeting Planning Committee will also have responsibility for soliciting meeting sponsorships and may designate meeting planning committee members to pursue these sponsorships.

Marketing/Website Committee:

Co-Chairs:

Lori Wolfe lori.wolfe@unt.edu
Ashleigh Blomfield-Villarba ablomfieldvillarba@health.ucsd.edu

Duties- Marketing:

The Marketing Committee works to actively market and promote OTIS to target audiences and potential partners.

Duties- Website:

The Website Committee is responsible for reviewing all new updates or additions to the OTIS website and approving these before submission to the webmaster for uploading. The Website Committee also reviews the content, appearance, functionality, and appeal of the website and recommending upgrades or revisions to the Board of Directors. The Website Committee will also monitor web activity through the webmaster and provide statistics on number of hits with the semi-annual committee report. The Website Committee will also monitor and approve listserv requests and monitor and respond to emails sent to webmaster@mothertobaby.org.

Membership Committee:

Co-Chairs:

Myla Ashfaq myla.ashfaq@uth.tmc.edu

Reka Muller rekamuller@usf.edu

Duties:

The Membership Committee maintains criteria for OTIS individual membership and participation in the OTIS National Routing System for TIS. The Membership Committee facilitates communication between individual TIS and OTIS as an organization.

Public Affairs Committee:

Co-Chairs:

Joan Garey joan.garey2@gmail.com

Duties:

The Public Affairs Committee is responsible for selecting public health or current event topics that are of relevance to the mission of OTIS, and outlining the committee's stance or recommendations on these topics either through published position papers, or other media. The Public Affairs Committee may also encourage or support research projects or other activities that address these public health concerns.

Research Committee:

Co-Chairs:

Robert Felix rfelix@health.ucsd.edu

Debra Kennedy debra.kennedy@health.nsw.gov.au

Duties:

- a. Search for and propose funded research opportunities (e.g., the CDC proposal that was submitted by AI).
- b. Provide input for research opportunities as subject matter experts.
- c. Convene research coordinators twice a year to go over research activities and progress
- d. Take the lead in organizing the agenda for the annual mid-year research meeting either in person or virtual.
- e. Write position papers when deemed appropriate.

Scientific Affairs Committee:

Chair:

Tina Chambers

[*chchambers@ucsd.edu*](mailto:chchambers@ucsd.edu)

Duties:

The Scientific Advisory Committee is a subcommittee of the Research Committee. It is comprised of 10 members representing both ENTIS and OTIS. The subcommittee is responsible for developing a process for building a partnership between ENTIS and OTIS that would include the establishment of a formal guidance document to maximize the benefits of collaborative research between the two organizations, while maintaining their core missions of research, education, and service. The advisory committee will also provide strategic advice on all ENTIS/OTIS collaborative research endeavors.