



ISSWSH FELLOWSHIP

Fellowship Committee

Chair: Brooke Faught

Participants: Alan Altman, Johannes Bitzer, Katherine Williams

Rationale for ISSWSH FELLOWSHIP (IF)

In keeping with the mission of ISSWSH, the board of directors has developed a fellowship program. Designation of ISSWSH Fellow (IF) signifies training in the interdisciplinary, collaborative management of Female Sexual Health within a clinical or research track.

ISSWSH Fellowship is based on stringent and objective criteria as outlined below to determine both initial certification, renewal of certification and the grandfathering of fellows.

The ISSWSH Board of Directors (BoD) has voted to designate an appointed Board Position of ISSWSH Fellowship Chairperson which will be a three-year term. This position is an active voting member. The duties of the chair include an annual written report to the board as well as to the membership at the annual meeting. Duties and responsibilities will include overseeing the committee, developing the criteria for acceptance as fellow and the review of applications. The committee will meet in person at the annual meeting to review all applications and vote on new ISSWSH and maintenance applications. Electronic discussion will occur throughout the year and voting will occur on fellowship applications as they become complete. The ISSWSH Fellowship committee will be appointed by the ISSWSH BoD. ISSWSH Fellowship committee members will sit on the committee for 3 years.

Status Plus will monitor administrative costs and tracking of ISSWSH Fellowship. IFs will be responsible for their own renewal process and must keep their application valid and monitor their own expiration dates.

Requirements for IF Designation:

- 1) Applicant must be current ISSWSH member who is in good standing
- 2) Membership dues up to date and current
- 3) Cover letter with demographics (email must be included)*
- 4) Copy of current CV*
- 5) Copy of current professional license in specialty of designated profession, if applicable*
- 6) 2 Letters of recommendations from ISSWSH members in good standing and or fellows*
- 7) Statement of Work in the field of Female Sexuality (10 pages max)*
- 8) Statement of Education in Human Sexuality (1 Page)*



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9) Applicant will have completed a 3-day ISSWSH sponsored training course and an ISSWSH annual meeting OR 2 ISSWSH sponsored training courses, and have accumulated a total of 75 CME/CE credits related to Female Sexuality (or equivalent as approved by the Fellowship committee) over the last 3 years*

10) Letter attesting that the applicant has read and understands ISSWSH bylaws and code of ethics*

11) Application Fee

*IT IS REQUESTED THAT APPLICATIONS BE SUBMITTED BY EMAIL TO FACILITATE IF COMMITTEE ACCESS TO THE APPLICATION.

Initial Fellowship fee \$300 SUBMISSION (electronic or paper)

Renewal Fellowship Fee \$155 SUBMISSION (electronic or paper)

Initial and renewal applications need to be complete prior to sending them to the ISSWSH office for review. Applications are accepted throughout the calendar year and will be assessed and evaluated as they are submitted.

Applicants will be notified by e-mail of their IF status and receive certificate of Fellowship Designation once approved. Applicants who are granted fellowship status will be listed as IF on the ISSWSH website and allowed to utilize this title. Certificates will be issued on an ongoing basis.

Incomplete applications will not be processed and will be returned to the applicant. All applications must be completed upon submission.

Duration:

The duration of the IF is for a 5 years term. After the 5 year period recertification is required.

Active ISSWSH membership is required for the IF certificate to be remain valid. If the participant allows his or her membership to ISSWSH to lapse so too would the designation of IF lapse.



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Requirements for IF Maintenance

After the initial 5-year period, can maintain his/her fellowship by having completed **75 CME's/CEs within the previous five year period** (or equivalent as approved by Fellowship committee) and reapplying to ISSWSH.

Documentation of each aspect must accompany The Maintenance Application:

- 1) 75 CME/CE completed within the last 5 year period:** The participant must submit record of the completed CME/CE. Clinical field base lecturing to a health care professionals in topics that relate to sexuality can also be considered as CME/CE. Copies of the CME/CE certificates must be submitted. Some examples of CME/CE that are considered appropriate include ISSWSH, ISSM, ESSM, AASECT, WAS, SSSS, SSTAR. Annual meetings, CME events or clinical courses are also appropriate to consider. Copies of certificates of CME must be supplied with maintenance application. Sexuality Article published in Peer reviewed journal will be considered for 3 CE/CME credit per article. Articles must be included in maintenance fellowship application. Community or University Lecture in Field of Sexual Medicine are also considered for 1 CME hour. The date of the lecture, its topic, the audience and place of lecture must be documented and submitted with the application
- 2) The IF must maintain an active ISSWSH Membership in good standing with up to date annual dues paid.**
- 3) Current HCP License if applicable**
- 4) Current CV**
- 5) Appropriate Maintenance of IF Application Fee (see above)**

ALL APPLICANTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO SUBMIT THEIR APPLICATIONS ELECTRONICALLY TO FACILITATE REVIEW.

Fellowship Revocation

The IF will be revoked if

- 1) The applicant fails to pay their annual ISSWSH membership dues
- 2) The IF is not a member in good standing
- 3) The IF fails Fail to complete the maintenance requirements in the appropriate time frame
- 4) The IF fails to complete CME/CE in the time appropriate time frame
- 5) The IF is engaged in or convicted of illegal, unprofessional behavior as reviewed by the IF Committee and the Board of Directors of ISSWSH

Although the ISSWSH training course is not mandatory for the designation of IF, it is strongly recommended, as it provides a solid educational background in female sexual medicine



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ISSWSH Training Course Outline

- 1) Identification of Sexual Problems
- 2) Classification of Sexual problems
 - a. ICD-9 coding
 - b. Paraphilia's
 - c. Sexual compulsivity
- 3) Communication Skills
- 4) Psychological Assessment
- 5) Partner Assessment and impact on FSD
- 6) History and Physical Examination
- 7) Laboratory testing and Advanced Testing
- 8) Anatomy, physiology
- 9) Hormones and sexual function
- 10) Neurobiology Process of Sexual Behavior
- 11) Special Circumstances and Female sexual Behavior
 - a. Breast and gynecological Cancer
 - b. Hysterectomy and endometriosis, and other pelvic surgeries or injuries
 - c. Contraception
 - d. Pregnancy and postpartum
- 12) Sexual Pharmacology
 - a. Hormones: androgens estrogens
 - b. Non hormonal medications
- 13) Sexual Non Pharmacology
 - a. Lubricants
 - b. Moisturizers
 - c. Nutraceuticals
 - d. Eastern Medicine
 - i. Yoga
 - ii. Acupuncture
- 14) Surgical Management of FSD
- 15) Importance of physical therapy in FSD
- 16) Sex Therapy and Psycho Educational Approach
 - a. Mindfulness
 - b. CBT
 - c. Other therapeutic Approaches
 - d. How to recognize, refer to, and co-ordinate care with qualified sex therapists
- 17) Management of Medication Side effects
- 18) Case Presentations



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IF Designation by Special Circumstances

Eligibility

ISSWSH recognizes that professionals can achieve competency in female sexuality and education through avenues other than the above. Special circumstances do exist, where it is possible to verify that a candidate's knowledge, skill, experience, and ethical standards has meet the IF and ISSWSH standards for competency.

Certification under Special Circumstances will be offered to health care professionals who are recognized by their peers locally, regionally, nationally or internationally, as highly competent in female sexuality and who can meet the following criteria:

- 1) Active Current Membership in ISSWSH
- 2) The candidate has read the ISSWSH Code of Ethics and documents in writing agreement to be bound by the ISSWSH Code of Ethics
- 3) Academic and Professional Experience. The candidate has earned a Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university and has completed a minimum of 15 hours of graduate work, or clinical experience related to Human Sexuality. A supportive document stating this experience should accompany the application under special circumstances
- 4) The candidate has also accrued ten (10) years of professional experience (post Bachelor's degree)

Application

In addition, the appropriate application fee which is non-refundable. Only completed applications will be reviewed. Incomplete applications will be returned to the applicant.

Participants are strongly encouraged to submit their application electronically.

Required Materials for IF under Special Circumstances

- 1) A Cover Sheet including:
 - a. Candidates name and address email and phone number
 - b. Academic degrees
 - c. Academic Titles and affiliations
 - d. Licensure.
2. An official transcript from program(s) where degree(s) were earned
3. Copy(ies) of state certificate(s) and license(s)
4. Current Curriculum Vitae
5. A letter outlining the candidate's work and training in the field of sexuality education. (Further documentation should be supplied upon request). (7 pages maximum)



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6. A letter stating that the candidate has read the ISSWSH Code of Ethics and agrees to be bound by the ISSWSH Code of Ethics
7. Two letters of recommendation from Current IF or ISSWSH members who are in good standing

Please note that all documentation and all completed application that are submitted to ISSWSH, will become the property of ISSWSH and cannot be returned.

Presidential Privilege

In appreciation for their commitment and service to ISSWSH and women's sexual health, the current Board Members will be given Fellowship Designations without the need to submit an application. The current Board Members do need to submit the application fee (\$300) in order to get designation of IF for a period of 5 years and must renew as per the above rules every 5 years.

Presidents (Elect, Current and Past) will be given Fellowship Designation as per guidelines current Board Members. Past Presidents with a Fellowship designation will receive their Fellowship for life and are not subject to renewal. They are awarded permanent status as Fellows for life, which means they do not have to renew every 5 years and therefore also do not have to submit the renewal fee.

The Current President of ISSWSH, is allowed to designate 4 ISSWSH members for special designated **Presidential Appointed ISSWSH Fellowship** per term of their presidency. All Presidential appointed ISSWSH Fellows are subject to submit the application fee (\$300) in order to get designation of IF for a period of 5 years and must renew as per the above rules every 5 years.

The President can also use his or her discretion to designate **Fellowship for Life**. Fellowship for Life can only be designated to a current ISSWSH Fellow. The President would designate a candidate a Fellow for Life, for his or her outstanding Service and contribution to ISSWSH as an organization, female sexual dysfunction or sexual medicine research. Fellows for life do not have to renew every 5 years and therefore also do not have to submit the renewal fee.