



November 20, 2014

**ISSWSH Board of Directors  
2014 – 2015**

**President**

Sharon J. Parish, MD, IF, NCMP

**President-Elect**

Irwin Goldstein, MD, IF

**Secretary**

James A. Simon, MD, CCD, NCMP, IF, FACOG

**Treasurer**

David Portman, MD, FACOG, IF

**Past-President**

Andrew T. Goldstein, MD, FACOG, IF

**Directors**

Marianne Brandon, PhD, IF  
Anita Clayton, MD, IF  
William A. Fisher, PhD  
Murray Freedman, MD  
Shari B. Goldfarb, MD  
Debra Herbenick, PhD, MPH  
Marcel Waldinger, MD

**Fellowship Chairman**

Susan Kellogg-Spadt, PhD, CRNP, IF

**Online Services Chairman**

Crista E. Johnson, MD, MSc, IF

**Global Development Chairman**

Sue W. Goldstein, BA, CCRC, IF

**Scientific Program Chairman**

Noel N. Kim, PhD

**Scientific Program Co-Chairman**

Debra Herbenick, PhD, MPH

**Ex-Officio Member**

Sue W. Goldstein, BA, CCRC, IF

**Executive Director**

David Casalod

**Association Manager**

Tessa Benitez

Dear Members,

As President of ISSWSH, I am writing to you regarding recent public events that address ISSWSH's affiliations and reputation. It is essential to set the record straight following publication of an Op Ed piece in the LA Times which falsely characterized our relationship with the pharmaceutical industry.

With regard to ISSWSH's actions related to the FDA meeting referenced in the Op Ed, ISSWSH notified its members that they could inform their patients about FDA's Public Meeting on Patient-Focused Drug Development for Female Sexual Dysfunction on Monday, October 27, 2014. We also passed on information about availability of travel funds for patients. ISSWSH did not provide any financial support for patient travel, influence patients regarding the decision to attend, or provide content for their personal presentations.

Furthermore, while advocacy groups mentioned in the Op Ed, such as [eventhescore.org](http://eventhescore.org) and #womendeserve, address an important unmet medical need, ISSWSH has no financial ties with either of these organizations.

As the leader of ISSWSH, I take enormous pride in our mission, activities, commitment and tireless work on behalf of women worldwide. ISSWSH is the largest international multidisciplinary, academic, scientific society dedicated exclusively to research, clinical practice, and education in women's sexual health. We have a strictly enforced conflict of interest policy that protects our programs from undue industry influence. We champion high quality scientific meetings and comprehensive CME educational programs which have educated hundreds of practitioners across many disciplines. Moreover, we collaborate robustly and build consensus with numerous other North American and international societies dedicated to women's health and sexual medicine.

With this comprehensive mission, our society is primarily funded by our membership dues, with a small percentage of our operating costs coming from unrestricted grants from a variety of industry and other commercial sponsors. Some of our leaders serve as advisors to pharmaceutical companies. Partnerships with industry are critical to the advancement of



**ISSWSH Board of Directors  
2014 – 2015**

**President**

**President-Elect**

[info@isswsh.org](mailto:info@isswsh.org)

**Secretary**

**Treasurer**

**Past-President**

**Directors**

**Fellowship Chairman**

**Online Services Chairman**

**Global Development Chairman**

**Scientific Program Chairman**

**Scientific Program Co-Chairman**

**Ex-Officio Member**

**Executive Director**

**Association Manager**

