



ISSM Awards and Named Funds Policy

1. Purpose

The International Society for Sexual Medicine (ISSM) recognizes and celebrates individuals who have made exceptional contributions to the field of **sexual medicine** and/or to **the society** itself.

Preference is given to candidates who have contributed not only to the field of sexual medicine but also to the advancement, operations, or strategic goals of ISSM as a society.

ISSM is committed to recognizing excellence across its global and multidisciplinary membership. The Grants & Prizes Committee will actively consider geographical and professional diversity when evaluating nominees, while ensuring all awardees meet the established merit-based criteria.

This policy outlines the eligibility, nomination, and selection process for all ISSM Awards, including the establishment of Named Awards.

Note: This policy governs ISSM awards only. Honorary Membership is a separate membership category defined in the ISSM Bylaws and is not considered an award.

2. Award Categories

For clarity, ISSM Awards are organized in three categories based on their focus and purpose:

- **Honorary Awards:** Recognize long-standing impact, service, and leadership within ISSM and the field. (Lifetime Achievement Award, Distinguished Service Award)
- **Achievement Awards:** Recognize excellence in research, innovation and emerging talent. (Excellence in Research Award, Rising Star Award).
- **Society Awards:** Recognize leadership, operational contributions, or actions that advance ISSM's mission and visibility. (President's Leadership Award, Recognition of Service Award, Society Contribution Award)

3. General Rules for All Awards

3.1 Eligibility

- Executive Committee members: Not eligible for any awards during their term.
- Editors-in-Chief of ISSM Journals: Not eligible for Honorary Awards during their editorial term. They remain eligible for Achievement Awards and for the ISSM Recognition of Service Award and the ISSM Society Contribution Award.
- Board of Directors members: Not eligible for Honorary Awards or Achievement Awards during their term. They are only eligible for the ISSM Recognition of Service Award and the ISSM Society Contribution Award.
- Former EC, BoD, and EiC members: Eligible for all awards once their term has ended.

3.2 Nomination Principles

- Any ISSM member may be nominated, depending on award criteria.
- No individual should receive more than one ISSM award in the same year, except in extraordinary cases approved by the EC.
- Awards are granted only when deserving candidates are identified. There is no requirement to award each category annually.
- The Grants and Prizes Committee will consider geographical and professional diversity when assessing nominees, especially when candidates meet comparable merit-based criteria.

3.3 Contribution to ISSM

- Across all award types, preference is given to candidates who have actively supported ISSM through leadership, volunteer work, education, committee service, or other contributions that strengthen the society.

- ISSM encourages nominations from all global regions and professional backgrounds to support broad and inclusive representation across its awards.

3.4 Committee Evaluation Considerations

- When making recommendations, the Grants and Prizes Committee will briefly document how geographical and professional diversity were considered during the review of nominees.

4. Honorary Awards

4.1 ISSM Lifetime Achievement Award

- Classification: This award is classified as an Honorary Award
- Purpose: To honor an individual whose distinguished career has profoundly advanced the field of sexual medicine. This award recognizes sustained contributions over decades, including groundbreaking research, clinical innovation, education, and leadership that have left a lasting legacy on the profession and on ISSM.
- Nomination: Proposed by the ISSM Executive Committee (EC) and Board of Directors (BoD).
- Frequency: Not necessarily annual; only awarded when a truly deserving candidate is identified.

4.2 ISSM Distinguished Service Award

- Classification: This award is classified as an Honorary Award
- Purpose: To recognize an individual who has provided extraordinary service to the ISSM and its mission. This award celebrates commitment, leadership, and significant contributions that have strengthened the society, enhanced its global impact, or advanced its strategic objectives beyond normal expectations of service.
- Nomination: Proposed by the ISSM Executive Committee (EC) and Board of Directors (BoD).
- Frequency: Not necessarily annual; only awarded when a truly deserving candidate is identified.

5. Achievement Awards

5.1 ISSM Excellence in Research Award

- Classification: This award is classified as an Achievement Award.
- Purpose: To recognize an established researcher whose body of work has made a significant and lasting contribution to the field of sexual medicine. The award honours excellence in scientific discovery and dissemination, demonstrated by high-quality publications, measurable research impact, and clear relevance for clinical practice and/or society.
- Preference will be given to individuals who have meaningfully supported ISSM through service, leadership, or active contribution to the society.
- Eligibility:
 - ISSM membership for at least 2 years prior to application.
 - H-index of 20 or higher (based on public Google Scholar data).
 - Significant research impact in sexual medicine.
 - Self-nominations are allowed but must include support from 1 ISSM member
- Nomination: Open via online application form.
- Deadline: Announced per cycle (annually)
- Selection: Reviewed by the Grants & Prizes Committee; recommendations submitted to the ISSM EC for final decision.
- Frequency: Annually, if qualified candidates are available.

5.2 ISSM Rising Star Award

- Classification: This award is classified as an Achievement Award.
- Purpose: To recognize an early-career professional who has demonstrated exceptional promise in the field of sexual medicine. The award highlights innovation, creativity, and meaningful

contributions at an early stage of one's career, with clear potential for future leadership and continued impact within ISSM and the wider field.

- Preference will be given to individuals who have meaningfully supported ISSM through service, leadership, or active contribution to the society.
- Eligibility:
 - In practice for less than 10 years at time of nomination.
 - Significant contribution to sexual medicine and/or ISSM.
 - ISSM membership for at least 2 years prior to application.
 - Self-nominations are allowed but must include support from 1 ISSM member
- Nomination: Open via application form.
- Deadline: Announced per cycle (annually).
- Selection: Reviewed by the Grants & Prizes Committee; recommendations submitted to the ISSM EC for final decision.
- Frequency: Annually, if qualified candidates are available.

6. Additional Society Awards

6.1 ISSM President's Leadership Award

- Purpose: Awarded to the outgoing ISSM President in recognition of their outstanding service during their presidential term.
- Nomination: Automatic.

6.2 ISSM Recognition of Service Award (previously: Special Service Pin)

- Purpose: To acknowledge members who have provided extraordinary service to ISSM through leadership, volunteer work, or long-standing dedication that strengthened the society and its operations.
- Nomination: Any BoD member; reviewed and approved by the EC by simple majority vote.
- Frequency: Awarded annually when deserving candidates are identified to the ISSM Office.

6.3 ISSM Society Contribution Award

- Purpose: To recognize members whose actions or initiatives have significantly advanced ISSM's mission, visibility, and reputation within the field of sexual medicine worldwide. This may include advocacy, educational outreach, or other forms of meaningful contribution beyond formal roles in the society.
- Nomination: Any BoD member; reviewed and approved by the EC by simple majority vote.
- Frequency: Awarded annually when deserving candidates are identified.

7. Presentation

- All ISSM Honorary Awards and Achievement Awards are presented during the Opening Ceremony of the ISSM Scientific Meeting.
- The ISSM Recognition of Service Award and the ISSM Society Contribution Award are presented during the Opening Ceremony or at the ISSM Business Meeting of Members.

Award	Category	Core Purpose	Eligibility	Requirements / Criteria	Nomination / Selection	Presentation
Lifetime Achievement Award	Honorary Award	Recognizes a career with profound, long-term impact on sexual medicine.	Must meet general ISSM eligibility rules (no EC, no BoD, no EiC).	Sustained, career-long contributions; preference for contributions to ISSM.	Proposed by EC and BoD; awarded only when an exceptional candidate is identified.	Opening Ceremony of ISSM Scientific Meeting
Distinguished Service Award	Honorary Award	Honors extraordinary service that significantly strengthened ISSM or the field of sexual medicine.	Must meet general ISSM eligibility rules (no EC, no BoD, no EiC).	Exceptional, long-standing service that benefited ISSM; preference for meaningful leadership or involvement.	Proposed by EC and BoD; awarded only when a deserving candidate is identified.	Opening Ceremony of ISSM Scientific Meeting
Excellence in Research Award	Achievement Award	Recognizes established researchers with high-impact scientific contributions.	ISSM member for \geq 2 years; EiCs eligible; no EC / BoD members.	H-index \geq 20; measurable research impact; preference for ISSM involvement; self-nomination allowed with 1 supporting member.	Open application; reviewed by Grants & Prizes Committee; EC approval required.	Opening Ceremony of ISSM Scientific Meeting
Rising Star Award	Achievement Award	Recognizes early-career professionals showing strong promise and future leadership.	< 10 years in practice; ISSM member for \geq 2 years; EiCs eligible; no EC / BoD members.	Contribution to sexual medicine and/or ISSM; clear potential for future leadership; self-nomination allowed with 1 supporting member.	Open application; reviewed by Grants & Prizes Committee; EC approval required.	Opening Ceremony of ISSM Scientific Meeting
President's Leadership Award	(Automatic) Society Award	Recognizes leadership and service of the outgoing ISSM President.	Outgoing ISSM President.	None (automatic).	Not applicable.	Opening Ceremony of ISSM Scientific Meeting
Recognition of Service Award	Society Award	Recognizes extraordinary service, volunteer work, or operational contributions to ISSM.	EiC and BoD members eligible during term; no EC members.	Significant volunteer service or operational contribution; strengthens ISSM's work.	Nominated by any EC and BoD member; reviewed and approved by EC.	Opening Ceremony or ISSM Business Meeting of Members
Society Contribution Award	Society Award	Recognizes impactful actions advancing ISSM's mission, visibility, or reputation.	EiC and BoD members eligible during term; no EC members.	Initiative or action that advanced ISSM globally or strategically.	Nominated by any EC and BoD member; reviewed and approved by EC.	Opening Ceremony or ISSM Business Meeting of Members

8. **Named Funds and Named Awards**

8.1 Purpose and General Principles

- Named funds and named awards recognize individuals or initiatives that have made exceptional contributions to sexual medicine or to ISSM.
- Establishing a named fund or a named award must fully align with ISSM's mission, values, and strategic priorities.
- All proposals require approval from the ISSM Board of Directors, based on recommendations from the ISSM Executive Committee and the Finance and Audit Committee.

Definitions

- A **Named Fund** is a designated financial reserve created through a donor contribution to support ISSM programs, awards, or activities. The fund has a name, but this does not automatically create a new award.
- A **Named Award** is an ISSM award that carries a specific name. It may be funded by a Named Fund or by another designated contribution. Creating a Named Award means ISSM commits to running an award under that name.
- A named fund may support an existing ISSM award or, if appropriate, a new named award.

8.2 Financial Requirements

- Establishing a named fund or a named award requires a minimum cash contribution of **100,000 USD**, unless the ISSM Board approves a different amount.
- Contributions must be provided as cash or equivalent assets. Pledges alone cannot establish a fund or award.
- All funds are placed in a designated reserve under ISSM's financial management and follow ISSM's investment and reserve policies.
- The fund must be large enough to support the award or activity on a long-term basis, ideally through investment returns without reducing the principal.
- A portion of the fund will be invested each year to help maintain and grow the fund over time.
- Awards or programs with higher costs (for example, annual lecture series, honoraria, or travel support) may require a larger initial contribution to ensure sustainability.
- ISSM provides basic administrative support, such as nomination management and award presentation. No additional operational or staffing resources will be committed unless approved by the Board.
- A formal financial agreement must be drafted, reviewed by the Finance and Audit Committee, and approved by the Board of Directors.

8.3 Naming Criteria

- Named Awards may honour:
 - A deceased individual with significant contributions to sexual medicine or ISSM, or
 - In exceptional cases, a living individual approved by the ISSM Board.
 - Donor contributions do not automatically entitle the donor to name an award after themselves.
 - If appropriate, donor recognition may be included in ISSM communications (for example, "Supported by a generous contribution from..."), but the official award name remains ISSM-branded.
 - Donor or sponsor names will not be printed on award certificates or plaques.
 - Donors and sponsors have no influence on award criteria, nominations, or selection.

8.4 Establishment Process

- Proposal submitted in writing to the ISSM Office, including:
 - Award or fund name and justification.

- Proposed funding source and confirmation of the donor commitment.
- Purpose of the award or fund and how it aligns with ISSM's mission.
- Review process:
 - Initial guidance by the ISSM Executive Committee.
 - Financial review by the Finance and Audit Committee.
 - Final approval by a two-thirds majority of the ISSM Board of Directors.

8.5 Periodic Review and Sustainability

- Named funds and named awards will be reviewed periodically to confirm they remain financially sustainable, relevant, and aligned with ISSM's mission and priorities.
- If a fund or award is no longer sustainable or no longer meets ISSM's standards, the Board may amend, suspend, or discontinue it.
- Named funds and awards are not automatically perpetual. They continue only as long as they remain viable and appropriate for ISSM.
- If a fund or award is discontinued, the Board may invite donors to support continuation, restructuring, or renaming of the fund at its discretion.

8.6 Safeguards and Restrictions

- Named awards and funds may not be created for the purpose of promoting an individual's personal theories, models, or legacy. The focus of the award must be consistent with ISSM's scientific, clinical, and educational mission.
- Donors or sponsors shall have no influence over the content, scope, or selection of awardees. All decisions on criteria, nomination, and selection rest solely with ISSM.
- The minimum donation of USD 100,000 applies only to establish a fund; ISSM reserves the right to require a higher endowment if the proposed fund or award would entail ongoing financial obligations (e.g., lecture series, honoraria, or travel support).
- All proposals are subject to a reputation and alignment review by the ISSM Executive Committee and the ISSM Board of Directors to ensure that the fund or award strengthens ISSM's standing in the field.
- ISSM may decline or discontinue a named fund or award if it:
 - does not meet financial sustainability standards,
 - risks reputational harm to the society, or
 - is inconsistent with ISSM's mission and values.

8.7 Donor Recognition and Engagement

- ISSM values and acknowledges the generosity of donors who support Named Funds and Named Awards.
- Donors may be recognized through appropriate ISSM channels, such as the ISSM website, official programs, meeting materials, and public announcements related to the supported activity or award.
- Recognition may include written acknowledgment of the donor's contribution (for example, "This award is supported by a generous contribution from..."), provided that such recognition remains consistent with ISSM's branding and professional standards.
- Donors may be invited to attend award or lecture presentations supported by their fund, at the discretion of ISSM.
- Donor recognition does not include any role in award selection, governance, presentation, or decision making.
- ISSM reserves the right to determine the format, wording, and placement of all donor recognition.

Attachment A. ISSM Named Funds and Named Awards Proposal Review Checklist

When reviewing a proposal for a Named Fund or a Named Award, the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors should confirm that the following criteria are met.

1. Alignment & Purpose		
	Does the proposed fund or award align with ISSM's mission, values, and long-term goals?	
	Is the purpose broad enough to benefit the field or society, rather than supporting one person's theory or legacy?	
	Does the proposal fill a clear need, or does it duplicate an existing program or award?	
2. Naming Criteria		
	If naming after an individual, is the person deceased, or approved by the Board as an exceptional case?	
	If donor recognition is requested, is it limited to communications and not included in the formal award or fund name, certificate, or plaque?	
	Does the naming follow ISSM's standards for neutrality, professionalism, and independence?	
3. Financial Requirements		
	Does the proposal meet or exceed the minimum required contribution for establishing a named fund or award (100,000 USD or more if needed)?	
	Is the contribution provided as cash or equivalent assets (not pledges)?	
	Is the fund sufficient to support the intended activity or award on a long-term basis, ideally through investment returns without reducing the principal?	
	If the proposal includes recurring costs (for example, lecture series, honoraria, travel support), is the endowment large enough to sustain these expenses?	
	Will the funds be placed in a designated reserve and managed under ISSM's investment and financial policies?	
	Has the Finance and Audit Committee confirmed the financial sustainability of the fund?	
4. Governance & Safeguards		
	Does ISSM retain full control over the purpose, criteria, and use of the fund or award?	
	For awards, is the nomination and review process aligned with ISSM's awards framework?	
	Is the proposal free of reputational risk, conflicts of interest, or appearance of donor influence?	
	Are safeguards in place to ensure donors have no role in decision making or selection processes?	
5. Periodic Review and Sustainability		
	Is there a clear plan for periodic review of the named fund or award?	
	Is it clearly stated that the fund or award is not automatically perpetual and may be amended, suspended, or retired if needed?	
	Is there a plan for what happens if the fund becomes insufficient or if the award or activity is discontinued?	