



WUWHS 2026
WORLD UNION OF WOUND HEALING SOCIETIES
Global Paradigm Shift: Wound Care Specialty & Recognition
23rd - 27th SEPTEMBER 2026
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Hosted by



WUWHS 2026 EXECUTIVE BOARD

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WORLD UNION WOUND HEALING SOCIETIES: Supporting Societies Bylaws

Background

WUWHS Supporting Societies was developed to encourage participation and involvement in the WUWHS World Congress that is held every four years. Through the years since the first Congress in Melbourne in 2000, the function and the criteria to participate has evolved. The adoption of the 2025 bylaws recognises the changing world and has followed due process through development by the Supporting Societies Committee and ratification at the WUWHS Executive Council.

1.1 Purpose

The purpose of the Supporting Societies is to participate in and promote the the WUWHS World Congress and to collaborate on WUWHS related activities. This includes actions such as promotion of the formal WUWHS World Congress scientific resources, encouragement of members to attend the congress and distribution of calls to participate in abstract and poster submissions.

Participation beyond promotion includes:

- 1) Societies will be recognized on the WUWHS website, WUWHS formal banners and other activities part of the WUWHS world congress.
- 2) Members will have the opportunity to volunteer to participate in WUWHS projects.
- 3) Supporting societies are entitled to have two nominated voting members in attendance of the General Assembly meeting for discussion of matters pertaining to the WUWHS and voting for the next WUWHS congress venue.
- 4) Supporting Societies will have the opportunity to participate in activities leading up to the WUWHS World Congress.
- 5) Supporting Societies will annually provide a written report updating on their activities and structure. This report may be featured in the Global Wound Care Journal (the official journal of the WUWHS).
- 6) At the WUWHS World Congress, Supporting Societies can apply for designated timeslots and meeting spaces to host satellite meetings for their respective organizations. These sessions are integrated into the WUWHS Association Congress Scientific Program.
- 7) At the WUWHS World Congress, Supporting Societies can apply for an exhibition booth table at a reduced cost.



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1.2 Definition of a WUWHS Supporting Society

National, Supra-national and International* Societies/ associations who accept to help develop / promote the WUWHS Association World Congress content and share information about the WUWHS Association activities.

National: Relating to or limited to a single country. It pertains to affairs, organizations, or regulations that exist within and are governed by a specific nation. Example: New Zealand Wound Care Society.

Supra-national: Extending beyond a single nation, often referring to organizations or agreements that transcend national boundaries. Example: The European Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel.

International: Involving two or more continents, typically referring to interactions, agreements, or organizations that operate across national borders without overriding national sovereignty. Example: The World Council of Enterostomal Therapists.

1.3 Criteria to participate or nominate as a Supporting Society Member

Societies can assume the status as a WUWHS member if they meet the following criteria:

1. They are a not-for-profit entity and are legally registered as such.
2. They are of a national, supra-national or international dimension.
3. They are legally established within the guidelines in their respective countries or international body.
4. Their purpose is to conduct and promote scientific research, provide education, and/or disseminate knowledge related to wounds and tissue repair in the broadest sense.
5. They operate under a statute that ensures adherence to democratic principles and good governance.
 - Good governance requires that a board be elected through a fair, transparent, and merit-based process that upholds accountability, diversity, and stakeholder representation. This should include clear and transparent election process, defined eligibility and qualifications, open nomination process, democratic voting system, term limits and rotation, with defined fixed terms, accountability and review.
6. Societies' membership process should be transparent and visible on their website, including eligibility and requirements.



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7. Must hold an annual general members meeting (held every one or two years according to local constitutional requirements).
8. Scientific associations focused on the study, dissemination, and research of disciplines not directly related to wound care are not automatically excluded. However, their inclusion requires executive board approval, contingent upon the submission of sufficient supporting documentation to assess their relevance and merit.

1.4 Application Process

Each country in the world will be entitled to have three (3) national societies as voting members of the WUWHS. If a country population exceeds 300 million people, one (1) additional voting national society may be added as Supporting Society of the WUWHS. Applications MUST be received at least six (6) months ahead of the WUWHS congress. All applications will be reviewed by the Supporting Societies committee and approved by the WUWHS executive board. Supporting Societies must seek renewal every four (4) years. If a country has more than three applications, the applications will be reviewed by the Supporting Societies Committee and recommendations put forward for executive board approval.

The process is as follows:

1. Submit the completed application form (form # XXX), indicating they meet the criteria by the application deadline, late applications will not be accepted.
2. Applications must include the following supporting documentation:
 - a. Copy of annual report, including approved financial report
 - b. Screen shot of website
 - c. Contact information for chief executive officer/ executive director/ chair/ president (Most responsible person (MRP)).
 - d. Membership numbers

1.5 Voting Eligibility

Voting members

Voting members are those who have met the eligibility criteria and are approved by the WUWHS executive board as supporting society.



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Non-voting Members

Previously known as sister societies, non-voting members are societies which either do not meet the edibility criteria, or are located in a country that has exceeded their number of voting societies, but wish to continue to participate.

Voting Process for WUWHS

- 1 Each Supporting Society may appoint two (2) voting members to represent them in the General Assembly meeting and make decisions on their behalf. Societies from countries with a population of less than 300 million are allocated six (6) votes, while those from countries exceeding this population receive eight (8) votes. All Supporting Societies have equal rights in participation and voting within the General Assembly.
- 2 Supra-national or International Societies that comply with eligibility may join as WUWHS Supporting Societies, each with two (2) voting members, regardless of their country of domicile. Their participation is independent and does not count toward the three (3) National Societies permitted per country. However, if a Supra- or international Society operates multiple chapters under different names across various countries, it must designate one (1) chapter as the official representative within the WUWHS Association.
- 3 If a supporting society is not able to send delegates to the WUWHS congress for voting in person, they may send a proxy vote. The supporting society must nominate a proxy voter (see form XXX) one month prior to the general assembly to be held at the WUWHS congress by submitting the proxy voter form to the WUWHS secretary general. Proxy voters would be responsible to submit the proxy vote form at the time of voting. If an exception is required applications should be made to the secretary general with supporting documentation.

1.6 Losing or resigning Supporting Society Status

- 1) Supporting societies can submit in writing to withdraw at any time without penalty.
- 2) Supporting societies which are deemed no longer eligible by the board will be notified in writing and will have the opportunity to appeal the decision in writing to the executive board. A formal appeal letter should be sent to the attention of the WUWHS President.



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- 3) Any society which has not applied for renewal or met the renewal criteria will be considered withdrawn and will be notified in writing and will have the opportunity to appeal the decision.

WUWHS Secretary General
secretary.general@wuwhscongress.com
<https://wa.me/27826587760>

Professor Dato' Dr. Harikrishna K. R. Nair DMIJ S.I.S. KMN
President, World Union of Wound Healing Societies