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Proposal for an Update to the “European Stroke Organisation (ESO) Standard Operating Procedure for the Preparation and Publishing of Guidelines” in order to expand inclusivity.

As delineated in the current SOP (PMID: 34746429) under the section titled "Structures Involved in the Development of ESO Guideline Documents", *MWG members are suggested by the MWG leader or can be selected through a call to ESO members by the GB.*

Also, as described, the selection of MWG members “will be approved by the GB and the EC based on the following criteria: scientific integrity, publication record, clinical expertise, professionalism, self-motivation, availability, and conflicts of interest”. As voting MWG members will be involved in expert consensus statements, they should have specific expertise in the topics covered in their guideline. Additionally, all MWG members should have taken part in an ESO Guideline Development Workshop prior to commencing their duties. As voting members of the MWG, they must possess specific expertise relevant to the guideline topics they will address.

However, to enhance the recruitment process within ESO and foster greater diversity, including appropriate gender and geographical representation, the Guideline Board proposes the following modifications:

- Upon formation of a new MWG, subsequent to the appointment of the chair and co-chair by the GB as stipulated in the existing SOP, an open call for participation will be issued to all (junior and senior) ESO members;
- At least three out of ten members should be selected from this open call;
- The call for members will be properly advertised through the ESO newsletter;
- The call will stay open for two to four weeks;
- Interested candidates will be required to submit a comprehensive CV and a letter of motivation;
- All candidates need to be ESO members and participation in an ESO Guideline Development Workshop is mandatory before starting to work on a Guideline (not by the time of the application);
- Current members of ESO Guideline Board and ESO Executive Committee involved in other Guideline Board projects should refrain from applying to this open call that aims to give the opportunity to ESO members with limited or no previous involvement in ESO guideline production to become Module Working Group members and actively participate in ESO guideline development process.
- The MWG chairs will review and propose potential candidates from these submissions based on the following criteria: scientific integrity, publication record, clinical expertise, professionalism, self-motivation, availability, and conflicts of interest. This proposal will be approved or modified accordingly by the ESO Guideline Board, the ESO Executive Committee and the Chair of ESO Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) advisory council in alignment with the above outlined criteria and after taking into account both gender and geographical representation;
- The MWG chairs may chair a Guideline twice (original guideline and update).

On behalf of the ESO Guideline Board,

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