

CHAPTER I – YING MISSION

The Young Investigator Network (YING) is a working group of the European AIDS Clinical Society (EACS). YING's mission is to encourage collaborations and provide support, education and a network for HIV clinicians and researchers at an early stage of their research career (*early stage* is what the 'young' of YING refers to – there is no age limit!) and is part of the EACS educational programme. The initiative involves healthcare professionals and will also involve community representatives to support and promote user involvement at all stages of research planning and development.

YING particularly wishes to support research in areas of implementation where collaboration and knowledge sharing helps to achieve better testing, prevention, access to care and patient outcomes. YING will aim, especially, to support researchers in areas of Europe where research structures may not be as strong or as well established and where the HIV burden is high or research needs unmet, such as in Eastern and Central Europe. YING aims to be less formal and overwhelming than a large conference environment and will encourage learning in a collaborative way.

CHAPTER II – YING MEMBERSHIP

ARTICLE 1 – CONDITIONS OF ADMISSION FOR YING MEMBERSHIP

Any EACS member can join YING by filling in the form on their EACS membership account. YING is aimed to help and support investigators at an early stage of their research and clinical careers. Eligibility is self-determined by those who feel it would help them, hence there is no specific age cut off. It is anticipated that YING benefits will be achieved by participation in YING over a 2 to 3-year period but there is no fixed term and YING participants may remain in YING for as long as they deem it helpful.

ARTICLE 2 – RETIREMENT AND EXCLUSION

Members shall be free to retire from YING by sending their resignation in writing to info@eacsociety.org.

The YINGER list may be reviewed from time to time and Yingers removed if they have not participated in at least one of the YING activities (webinar, survey, YING meeting, conference session) in a calendar year.

CHAPTER III – STRUCTURE

The Steering Committee consists of a Chair, a Vice-Chair, along with two additional members selected among the YING Scientific Committee based on regional representation. The Vice-Chair is appointed by the Steering Committee members and shall automatically become Chair at the end of their mandate. The Chair is appointed for a maximum term of three calendar years. This is a non-renewable position. Should a vacancy arise on the Steering Committee, the Chair and remaining members shall propose a member of the Scientific Committee to join the committee. Should the person decline, a Call for the position opening shall be made to the Scientific Committee who can propose themselves to stand for the vacancy. Should a vote be required then this will be conducted between members of the Scientific Committee and Steering Committee and the result determined by simple majority. The YING Chair reports to the EACS Education & Training working group Coordinator and is primarily responsible for all YING activities. The Chair shall attend the Education & Training meetings. If the Chair is not available to participate to an Education & Training meeting, the Vice-Chair or another member of the committee shall participate to it. The minutes of these meetings will be circulated to the committee. Steering Committee membership also carries a 3-year term.

The YING Faculty is comprised of approximately 16 participants. The Scientific Committee is reviewed and appointed by the Steering Committee through an open call to the EACS network or direct invitation. Scientific Committee members should be active EACS members. Consideration will be given an inclusive and diverse Scientific Committee representative of the EACS membership. Scientific Committee participation also carries a fixed term of 3 years which is renewable. The YING Scientific Committee will support the Steering Committee in the design and planning of all YING events, and will encourage colleagues to join YING.

All YING steering committee and scientific committee members are volunteers and must be EACS members in good standing.

Roles & Tenures

Group	Tenure	Notes
STEERING COMMITTEE		
Chair	3 years	Non-renewable
Vice-chair	3 years	Automatically moves up to chair
Two additional members	3 years	Renewable for one term
SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE		
16 members	3 years	Renewable for one term
YINGERS		
Unlimited participants	Unlimited	

Budget

Budget and fundraising fall under the responsibility of the YING Chair, reporting to the EACS Education & Training working group Coordinator.

CHAPTER IV – ACTIVITIES

Core YING activities are:

- Biennial YING meeting
 - 2-day event with plenary and workshop sessions to bring all YING participants together. Geographical location will vary. Usual date will be during the Spring immediately following the biennial EACS conference.
- Preconference YING educational event
 - One/half day event immediately preceding the biennial European AIDS Conference will be organised by YING.
- EACS Live! Journal Club

A monthly one hour live online journal club. The YING faculty is responsible to select, a recent and topical paper (or better still a pre-print) or related groups of papers for discussion. The format may include case-based discussions. A young clinician is nominated to present a summary of the manuscript which is followed by a discussion with an 'expert' group, including a scientist/ clinician familiar with the topic and a statistician.

CHAPTER VI- 2022 UPDATE

The Standard Operating Procedure document was updated in 2022, after many Scientific Committee members joined. There will be an interim period when some members may be in post for more than the maximum 6 years but all people appointed after this timepoint should be managed in line with the SOP

Ends of tenure will be 1st December each year so that thanks and welcomes can be announced in the EACS Annual Report/newsletter, (and at the next YING/EACS conference if appropriate).

Current Scientific Committee members have been in position since 2016 and 2021 and the proposed strategy for each group is as follows:

1. **2016:**
 - a. Contact after 2022 YING meeting to advise that we are refreshing membership under new chair in line with existing ToR
 - b. Ask people to indicate their preference:
 - i. To step down in 2023
 - ii. To extend past 2023 by 1, 2, or 3 years i.e. to step down in 2024, 2025 or 2026 (this will permit staggering of departures)
2. **2021:**
 - a. Contact after the 2024 YING meeting to advise their position expires in 2024 and outlining the timeline & mechanism for reapplication
 - b. There is a possibility to extend the term of the position in light of building a sustainable legacy of the YING group.