

Standardisation of Terminology of Lower Urinary Tract Function; working group of the International Continence Society (ICS) and collaborating professional societies to revise the ICS Standard.

The ICS Standardisation Steering Committee (SSC) invites applications from ICS members who wish to contribute to a Working Group with the remit to update and revise the ICS **Standardisation of Terminology of Lower Urinary Tract Function** [1]. The responsibility of the working group will be to revise the ICS Standard in line with contemporaneous research and stakeholder feedback into an up-to-date and evidence-based Terminology Standard as a basis for clinical practice and research. The selection of the chairperson and membership of the Working Group will be undertaken by a sub-group of the ICS Board of Trustees, chaired by the ICS General Secretary. **Deadline for receipt of applications is Monday 6th April, 2015.** All applications should be submitted electronically to nickie@ics.org. Your attention is drawn to the guidance on producing Standardisation reports available on the [ICS website](#) and published in *Neurourology & Urodynamics* [2]. A mentor from the SSC will assist the appointed chairperson with practical and procedural advice on the running of the Working Group. The final report of the Working Group will be expected within 18 months of commencement, comprising a detailed report intended for specialists, a brief “core” version for non-specialists, and supplementary outputs to encourage maximum engagement.

Applying to chair the working group

If you wish to be considered to Chair the Working Group, applications should take the form of a CV (max 4 pages), with a cover letter (max 600 words) describing how you would be suitable to Chair the Group, the areas you consider should be covered, and how the Working Group will interact with other organisations outside the ICS. Please also state whether you wish to be considered as a member of the Working Group, if not appointed to chair it.

Applying for membership of the working group

If you wish to be considered as a member of the Working Group, please send a CV (max 4 pages) and a cover letter (max 500 words) describing your potential contributions to the Group.

The working group's remit

The arguments for creating the Working Group and revising the documents are:

- ✓ New publications on LUTS have emerged
- ✓ Alignment of terminology is needed across the various patient groups
- ✓ Discrepancy in terminology potentially creates problems for care provision and interpretation of research
- ✓ Development of new therapies remains an issue in some key problematic conditions

Scope: It is envisaged that this report will consider:

- ✓ Definitions of terms in lower urinary tract function
- ✓ Consistency of application of definitions
- ✓ User feedback on terminology, applied in line with professional, patient, industry and regulatory requirements
- ✓ The Standard is not expected to make practice recommendations in regards to methods of assessment or treatment, but should ensure that terminology is developed in accord with current approaches to practice, and potential future modifications

Requirements

- Literature analysis will be the basis of the revision process; using published evidence (where available)
- Expert consensus will be transparently included where evidence is conflicting or lacking
- The Working Group will keep a digital working log of its activities through the ICS Office.

- The chairperson and the ICS Trustees/ SSC will make sure that the composition of the Working Group is well balanced, and that the process of standardization is transparent.
- The Working Group will use web-based and e-mail exchange of information and monitor the execution of assignments within the assigned timeline.
- The Working Group will report to the ICS SSC on request, and/ or spontaneously every 6 months.
- The Working Group will be responsible for production of a first draft of the report within 18 months after permission to start from the ICS SSC.
- A process of open consultation of the first full draft will be included in the development of the standard
- The chairperson and working group will be responsible for submission to journals for publication and dissemination.

References

1. Abrams P, Cardozo L, Fall M, Griffiths D, Rosier P, Ulmsten U, van Kerrebroeck P, Victor A, Wein A: **The standardisation of terminology of lower urinary tract function: report from the Standardisation Sub-committee of the International Continence Society.** *Neurourol Urodyn* 2002, **21**(2):167-178.
2. Rosier PF, de Ridder D, Meijlink J, Webb R, Whitmore K, Drake MJ: **Developing evidence-based standards for diagnosis and management of lower urinary tract or pelvic floor dysfunction.** *Neurourol Urodyn* 2012, **31**(5):621-624.