National Academy of Medicine (NAM)

The NAM has more than 2,000 members elected in recognition of professional achievement and commitment to volunteer service in activities of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine ("the Academies"). The NAM elects no more than 70 regular members and 10 international members annually. For those at the top of their field, NAM membership reflects the height of professional achievement and commitment to service.

Veterinarians in the National Academy of Medicine

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NAM Sections

The National Academy of Medicine membership is organized in twelve membership sections. Each represents an area of professional endeavor that includes two or more sub-disciplines. Every NAM member belongs to ONE section and ONE subsection within that section.

Each membership section has a chair and vice chair (appointed by the President for two-year terms). These leaders represent the section on the Membership Committee and serve as liaisons to suggest potential study committee members and report reviewers.

Any member may send a message to all other members of the same section via a single listserv email address. Members are cautioned to use this only for communications appropriate to the concerns of the section.

SECTION 1: Physical, Mathematical, Computer, Information, Engineering Sciences

SECTION 2: Biochemistry, Cellular & Developmental Biology, Medical Microbiology and Immunology, Genetics

SECTION 3: Anatomy, Neurobiology, Physiological and Pharmacological Sciences

SECTION 4: Internal Medicine, Pathology, Dermatology

SECTION 5: Pediatrics, Obstetrics/Gynecology

SECTION 6: Surgery, Anesthesiology, Radiology, Ophthalmology

SECTION 7: Psychiatry, Neurology

SECTION 8: Family Medicine, Emergency Medicine, Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation

SECTION 9: Public Health, Biostatistics, Epidemiology

SECTION 10: Dentistry, Nutrition, Nursing, Allied Health Professions, Pharmacy, and Veterinary Medicine

SECTION 11: Social Sciences, Humanities, Law

SECTION 12: Administration of Health Services, Education, and Research

Membership in the National Academy of Medicine is based upon:

- Distinguished professional achievement in a field related to medicine and health
- Demonstrated and continued involvement with the issues of health care, prevention of disease, education, or research
- Skills and resources likely to contribute to the Academy's tasks of assessing current knowledge, conducting studies, and considering policy issues
- Willingness to be an active participant in the Academy

The Academy's Articles of Organization stipulate that at least one-quarter of the membership be selected from outside the health professions, from such fields as the natural, social, and behavioral sciences, as well as law, administration, engineering, and the humanities.

The election of individuals to the National Academy of Medicine (NAM) begins with a confidential nomination by NAM members who are well-acquainted with the candidate's work. In sponsoring the nomination, the NAM member affirms his or her personal assessment that the candidate meets NAM's primary criteria of excellence and outstanding professional achievement in a field relevant to the mission of the NAM. Each year, up to 70 regular and 10 international members are elected to the Institute of Medicine by the active membership body at large. The annual nomination cycle begins on November 1 and closes on February 1. The election takes place in late summer with new members announced in conjunction with the NAM Annual Meeting in October.

Overview of The NAM Election Process

Who Is Elected?

- Individuals meeting the primary criterion: Excellence and Professional Achievement in a field relevant to the mission of the National Academy of Medicine
- Eighty (80) new members each year, including:
    - up to 65 Regular Members <66 years of age
    - up to 5 Regular Members 66+ years of age
    - up to 10 International Members
- The "best of the best." The majority of the (>600) candidates would enhance NAM membership

Who Is Responsible for The Process?

The Membership Committee:

- Is composed of a committee chair plus chair and vice chair of each section.
- Develops policies and procedures for Council approval
- Develops the final ballot
- Relies primarily on Section Priority Ballot results in selecting candidates for the final ballot
- Consistently works hard and exercises sound judgment to ensure fairness to all candidates and to serve the interest of the National Academy of Medicine

The Council:

- Approves the final ballot
- Approves policies and procedures
- May designate emphasis areas for annual election.

The Membership Office:

- Manages all administrative functions of the nomination and election process
- Ensures confidentiality and integrity of the process
- Supports the Membership Committee and Council to monitor and enhance effectiveness

All NAM Members:

- Must maintain confidentiality and exercise caution with privileged information
- Are expected to consider the best interests of the NAM when nominating and evaluating candidates

What Is the Timeline for Elections?

- November 1 through February 1: Submit Nominations
- February: Straw polls in some sections
- Mid-March through mid-April: Section Priority Balloting
- May: Section leaders review priority ballot results and prepare for the Membership Committee meeting
- June: Membership Committee meets to develop the final ballot
- July: Council approves final ballot
- Late August through late September: Members vote on final ballot
- October: New members announced at NAM Annual meeting

NAM Membership Composition - Current Statistics

Regular	1806
Emeritus	171
International	154
Total Membership	2131