

Agenda of the meeting for ISHAM-affiliated organizations

1. Why affiliation? Why ISHAM?

Active affiliation leads to increasing 'ownership' of ISHAM: being part of a powerful organization. You will not just pay a fee, but will participate in the organisation, helping to shape it and run it. Feel part of a greater body with colleagues having similar scientific goals. ISHAM presently is the largest and most active organization in medical mycology, offering a basis for close international collaborations. Involvement enhances chances for funding.

2. International agenda.

You have free possibility to announce your activities on a worldwide basis. ISHAM e-alerts are very well received, and reach opinion leaders in many countries. Increased impact of and participation to your meetings and courses can be expected.

3. International networking.

ISHAM provides a discussion Forum for members, where you may post your queries. More than twenty Working Groups are active, focused on significant and specialized themes in medical mycology, ranging from clinical trials and susceptibility testing to processes of evolution of pathogenic species. New initiatives are welcome.

4. Website options.

The website is continuously updated with information that may be of use to anyone working in medical mycology: see Guidelines, Protocols, Links, etc. ISHAM may help you to start local or specialized websites, and provides facilities to make your information freely accessible to users via ISHAM pages.

5. Medical Mycology.

The journal profits from ISHAM activities in Working Groups, e.g. with 'special issues'. We are planning to initiate affiliated open-access publications, one of which, devoted to case reports, is expected to start very soon.

6. Transmission ISHAM items to your members.

We all benefit from a larger mycological community. Please transmit news items and publicity to your members.

7. Education and training.

Educational activities of affiliated organizations will be announced. ISHAM works on an educational infrastructure offering training possibilities and mechanisms for collaborations. Please specify your needs.

8. Priorities for fungal biology and disease research.

A document may be prepared for distribution to potential sponsors reflecting a consensus of affiliated organizations. Contemporary needs are specified that require investment (e.g. immunology, genomics, barcoding, diagnostics, high quality and independent clinical trials, education, data-base studies to define and measure burden of fungal infections, etc.). This could help affiliates to appeal to international and local organizations for funding.

9. Needs and wishes.

What else do you expect from ISHAM? Any ideas are welcome.