International Headache Society

Ethics Committee Report
September 2023

Morris Levin (chair)

San Francisco, California, USA

Outline

- Ethics Committee Aims

- IHS Conflict of Interest policy

- Recent Ethics committee activities

- Ethics related sessions IHC

- Selecting new committee members and other future plans for EthCom

Why should medical organizations adhere to high ethical values?

- Avoids lawsuits

- Builds public trust (we need that to fulfill IHS education goals)

- Builds public and political credibility (for advocacy goals)

- It feels right; makes members want to belong to and work for the society

IHS Ethics Committee Aims

Identify, interpret, and manage current challenging ethical issues pertaining to headache medicine at three levels:

1: Headache patients and their families

To promote the welfare of people with headache disorders by publishing advice, guidance and recommendations on ethical issues relevant to research, practice and treatment of headache disorders

2: Headache Treatment and Research

To draft statements which will bring the relevant ethical concerns in the field of headache medicine to the attention of governments, the medical and allied professions, the pharmaceutical and insurance industries, lay and charitable organizations and any other relevant parties
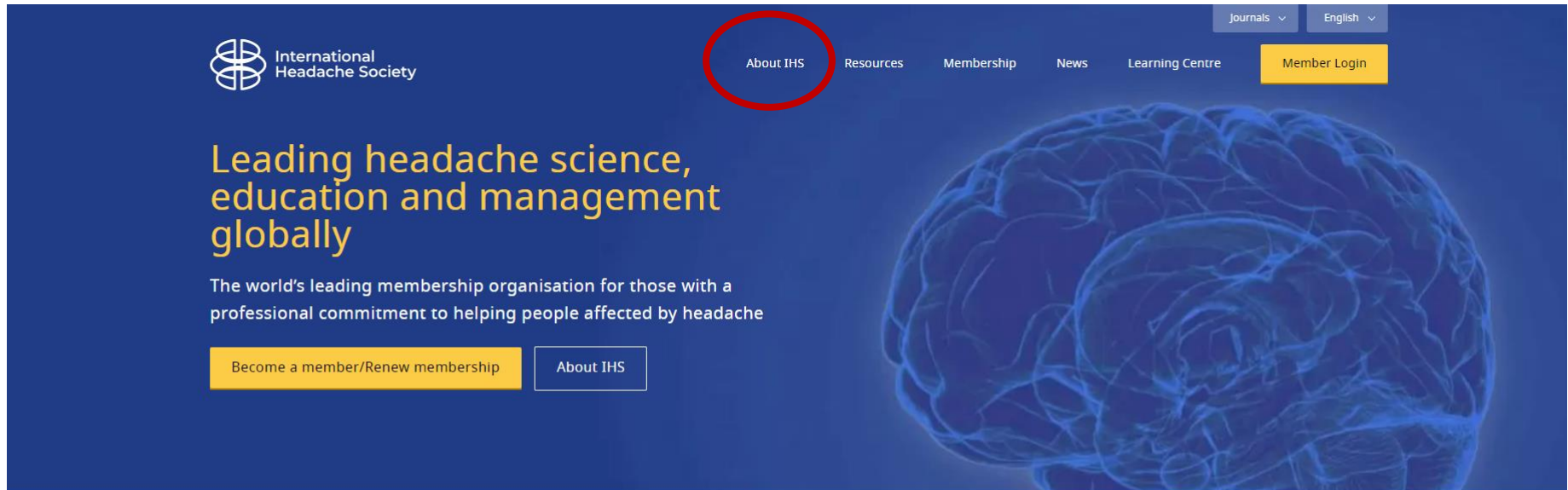
3. IHS Membership and Organization Activities

To address ethical concerns of International Headache Society members regarding IHS activities, and to initiate reviews of IHS activities that raise ethical concerns that are referred to or identified by IHS Ethics Committee

Recent activities of Ethics Committee

- Vetting IHS Board of Trustees conflicts of interest
  - Not on industry Board of Directors
  - No ownership of stock in medical companies
- Reviewing IHC program
  - Separation of industry designed programs from main courses and presentations
  - Speakers' management of COI including full disclosures
  - Limiting industry presentations by speakers to 1 each
- BoT and Adv Council should observe and point out any concerns when attending the IHC in Seoul

Ihs-headache.org → About Us

Articles and Policies

International Headache Society

About IHS   Resources   Membership   News   Learning Centre   **Member Login**

Home   >   About IHS

About IHS

Meet the President

IHS Board of Trustees

Standing Committees

Special Interest Groups

Honorary Life Members

Affiliate Member Societies

International Headache Academy (iHEAD)

Articles and Policies

Annual General Meeting/Annual Accounts

IHS Global Patient Advocacy Coalition (IHS GPAC)

We are the International Headache Society

IHS is an international professional organisation working with others for the benefit of people affected by headache disorders. As a charity, the purpose of IHS is to advance headache science, education, and management, and promote headache awareness worldwide.

Our values

1. Commitment to Excellence

IHS strives for excellence in its activities, and will set challenging but achievable goals.

2. Respect for Expertise

IHS values expertise and the full range of skills and disciplines that are needed for the realisation of its objectives.

3. Respect for Science

IHS recognises that good healthcare is based on evidence, and that the origins of evidence lie in responsible research and scientific method.

4. Commitment to Independence from Inappropriate Influence

IHS COI policy

Conflict of Interest policy

A responsible and productive alliance with pharmaceutical and other medical technology companies ("industry") is both possible and desirable in pursuit of our organisation's goals. However, there are areas in which conflicts of interest, or the perception of such conflicts, may arise. These areas generally involve the potential for bias in our policies, educational programmes, and research. In order to minimise this potential, we endorse the following guidelines:

General

1. IHS shall maintain complete control over its policies. To this end, no representatives of pharmaceutical or medical device companies will participate in formulating or revising these policies.

2. IHS will strive to provide a balanced impartial view of data pertaining to commercial products. IHS will not endorse specific products.

3. IHS will establish industry-sponsored programs only when they align entirely with the IHS's missions.

4. IHS will make reasonable efforts to use multiple industry sponsors for sponsored programmes.

5. Corporate roundtables are acceptable as long as round table members do not exercise control over or otherwise dictate any aspect of IHS policy or its programmes

Educational Programmes

Future plans

- Dr Mo Levin remains as interim chair until replacement can be found.
- Mo and IHS president will collaborate to nominate new Ethics committee members

- *Thanks to the IHS Board of Trustees, IHS Advisory Council and Members!*