



SRNT



2025 Strategic Review: **GLOBAL PRESENCE**

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Guiding Principles & Boundary Standards

The SRNT 2025 Strategic Review is a 15 month-long process that the Board of Directors has undertaken in order to identify and address factors that we believe will impact the Society over the next 7 - 10 years. The goal is to arrive at member-informed conclusions, recommendations, and ultimately, Board actions that will set the stage for SRNT's future relevance, integrity, and sustainability.

The Guiding Principles and supporting Boundary Standards are the distillation of and key outcomes from the SRNT 2025 discussions, interviews, and the 2019 Membership Survey ([hot link to the timeline document](#)).

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GLOBAL PRESENCE: Guiding Principles & Boundary Standards

Guiding Principle 1: Membership

SRNT is an international membership association operating on the global stage. All members are entitled to the same benefits of membership, regardless of location.

Boundary Standards



1A: Membership Benefits

Membership benefits include, but are not limited to:

- Registration discount for the SRNT Annual Meeting (with eligibility for LMIC-designated travel awards; conference registration is waived for all researchers from LMICs)
- Complimentary online subscription to the SRNT journal, Nicotine & Tobacco Research
- Ability to participate in any of eight topical Networks
- Full access to all educational content housed on the web-based SRNT University
- Ability to participate in activities such as serving in volunteer leadership roles and on committees, task forces, and work groups

- Ability to comment on issues of concern to SRNT and/or its membership
- Ability to impact the future of the Society through feedback to the Board of Directors and, according to eligibility, to elect members to the Board representing specific geographical regions



1B: Focus on Supporting Researchers

Increasing membership should not be the primary measure of success; expecting all nicotine/tobacco researchers, regardless of country, to need the same benefits—or to have the same ability to access those benefits—assumes a one-size-fits-all Society. Cultural barriers, language barriers, financial barriers, technology barriers, and other unknown barriers may reduce the attraction of Society membership, notably for those working in lower- and middle-income countries. In those areas, SRNT should

focus on helping researchers access the support they need to succeed rather than requiring membership as the means for accessing support.

As part of Phase 2 of SRNT 2025 to be undertaken in 2020, an LMIC needs assessment survey will be conducted, which will help the Board to focus on actual, rather than assumed, needs and challenges.

Rationale

Deliberations by the Global Work Advisory Group identified that SRNT's focus on providing better access to resources and information for researchers in LMICs is a higher priority than increasing LMIC membership, which can be problematic because of barriers such as culture, language, viability of attending conferences, etc. SRNT's focus on building capacity through dissemination of the science to LMIC researchers is of greater benefit than focusing on getting researchers from LMICs to join the Society.



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Guiding Principle 2: LMICs and Building Capacity

It is generally accepted that differences in funding levels of research by country result in dissimilar levels of research undertaken across the globe. As a result, researchers in lower- and middle-income countries may require a greater level of support than researchers in higher-income countries. Always bearing in mind the Society's financial and volunteer resources, SRNT is committed to addressing the very real need for capacity building in LMICs.

Boundary Standards



2A: Researchers are SRNT's Priority

While there are many needs in the broader treatment and tobacco control communities, SRNT's priority is nicotine/tobacco researchers. Through SRNT University, SRNT will provide resources to help non-researchers understand research fundamentals, access and understand scientific literature, and incorporate research into their workplace. SRNT University may expand to include training specifically for people working in cessation and tobacco control.

As part of the 2020 LMIC needs assessment survey, non-research

professionals will be asked about how the research community can better support their work in adjacent communities.



2B: Fostering Capacity Building

The Global Research Network is SRNT's primary arm for outreach to researchers working in LMICs. It fosters capacity building through proactive involvement in regional meetings/events; working with the leadership of SRNT University to develop capacity-building educational modules; and, linking LMIC researchers with training, networking, and other opportunities.



2C: Undertaking New Activities

The cost and sustainability of new programs, as well as barriers to accessibility and success, must be considered before any action is undertaken. SRNT should not start projects or programs that do not have local interest/support, a plan for financial sustainability, or regional partners/volunteers that will help with implementation and oversight.

The SRNT Board will periodically review the multiple barriers in engaging LMIC researchers, including the cost of membership, the visibility and perception(s) of SRNT, language barriers,

lack of funds to attend the SRNT Annual Meeting, and barriers to meaningful participation in Networks.



2D: Extending SRNT's Reach

The Board must rely on non-dues external funding, partnerships, and other creative solutions when considering new programs to build LMIC research capacity. Whenever possible, SRNT will rely on the SRNT University platform or other centralized information resources to provide no-cost education, as well as capacity building activities for researchers working in lower- and middle-income countries.

Rationale

SRNT has long had the goal of increasing its global presence, and the membership survey showed significant support for a continued focus on LMICs and research capacity building. However, members were not in favor of paying higher dues to expand current efforts. Therefore, the Board must be creative in funding and use of centralized, web-based programming to address this goal without raising dues for members in high-income countries.



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Guiding Principle 3: Ability to Impact Global Policy

SRNT recognizes the value of partnering with adjacent communities (e.g., public policy groups and NGOs working to impact policies, regulations, and/or legislation) in LMICs. SRNT will support groups working to change policies, regulations and laws, as financial and volunteer resources, and member engagement allow.

Boundary Standards



3A: Taking Action

SRNT may take action in countries/regions where SRNT members reside or work based on a specific request or identified need; availability and interest of partner organizations; and, the level of volunteer, financial, and staff resources necessary to make a measurable impact.



3B: Commenting on International Legislation

SRNT will consider endorsing or commenting on legislative and regulatory questions in any country, provided SRNT is made aware of a local need in a timely manner (See Purpose & Role Guiding Principle 5A: Advocacy, Allies and the Field). Local members

or other concerned researchers or advocates may engage the Global Health Network or SRNT's Nicotine Policy Action Committee to request support in identifying the appropriate scientific response when legislative or regulatory issues arise.



3C: Reliance on SRNT Members for Action

SRNT members must take the lead on initiating large-scale regional projects such as conferences, creating networking groups, or starting a new chapter. Such activities are unlikely to succeed if they are implemented with a top-down approach, and without local support, such endeavors are unlikely to be sustainable.

SRNT will not undertake new programs or activities in countries without members who work or reside in-country unless there is a very specific reason that would benefit SRNT or the nicotine/tobacco research community.



3D: Centralized, Customizable Resources

As a society that relies heavily on its volunteers in order to have a local impact, SRNT will support researchers and, to a lesser extent, professionals working in adjacent fields, by providing a centralized repository of resources including customizable templates, educational programming, and other tools and resources that support local dissemination and other efforts.

Rationale

SRNT has limited financial and volunteer resources. And, as learned from the Membership Survey and articulated in the Purpose and Role document, SRNT's role is to work with adjacent communities and organizations rather than take on advocacy initiatives on its own. The Work Advisory Group identified SRNT's role as providing resources and information in support of LMIC policy activities, rather than taking on those activities as a Society.



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Guiding Principle 4: SRNT Chapters

(For Future Development)

The role of Chapters as an extension of the Society in specific geographic regions is a critical subject which has not been addressed formally since 2010. Since that time, the European chapter has grown and a new chapter, SRNT Oceania, has been created. The SRNT Board will appoint a task force to address and document the role of Chapters and the relationship between SRNT and Chapters as part of Phase II of SRNT 2025. The Guiding Principles and Boundary Standards relating to SRNT Chapters will be developed at that time.



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NOTE ON RATIONALES:

All rationales underscore SRNT's unique position as a scientific society dedicated to the research and dissemination of excellent science on nicotine and tobacco.

Results from the Membership Survey informed the Work Advisory Group discussions, both of which informed the development of the Guiding Principles and related Boundary Standards.