

AUTM Membership

RE: A note about this year's election for the AUTM Board of Directors

As a follow up to my email on June 1, I want to remind all AUTM members of changes to our upcoming Board nominations and elections process. As noted previously, these proposed changes to the AUTM Board and Bylaws are the result of over a year of careful deliberation and thoughtful discussion; although approved and recommended by the current AUTM Board, these changes will not be formally implemented unless ratified by you, the Membership, at the 2017 Annual Meeting.

The proposed changes affecting upcoming elections of your AUTM leadership include the following:

1. No one will be slated for President-elect in the upcoming election because that position is proposed to be retired and replaced by a new Chair-elect role.¹ Assuming the Membership ratifies this proposed change at the Annual Meeting next March, it does not make sense to go through the motions of voting for a position that may not exist next year. However, our current President-elect, Mary Albertson, will serve next year as AUTM President until the conclusion of her elected term.
2. The upcoming election this fall will be an open election for five “at-large” Board members. All Members who are interested and qualified to run for the Board will be placed on the ballot for your consideration. As a result, every AUTM Board Member elected during this and all future election cycles will be selected by direct vote of our Members. The AUTM Board believes this change will greatly increase participation in AUTM elections by prospective candidates and, most significantly, by you, the Members of AUTM.
3. Under the proposed new structure, the AUTM Board in March, 2017, comprised of both the returning and newly-elected members, will select a Chair from among its members by a majority vote, with the stipulations that (a) the Treasurer may not serve as Chair and (b) the Chair must be an individual “employed by an academic, teaching, governmental, or a non-profit entity,” as required in our Bylaws. As described below, the Chair will have duties different from those formerly performed by the President. This transition in AUTM Board leadership will take place during the next two years. As with the current President position, the Chair will serve a three-year term on the AUTM Board as Chair-elect, Chair, and Immediate Past Chair.
4. The position of AUTM Executive Director will be transformed into a Chief Executive Officer (CEO), with a more prominent role in AUTM’s leadership. Some duties formerly performed by the President will be transferred to the CEO, while others will be handled by the Chair.

5. While not applicable for this year, in future years when the position is open, the AUTM Treasurer will be chosen by the Membership in an open election.
6. The Board will be expanded to a maximum of 17 Directors (up from 15) to encourage a more diverse representation of the membership, to conform to AUTM Bylaw provisions regarding Board turnover, and to allow for adjustments resulting from the proposed new Chair structure.
7. Beginning with the upcoming election, Board terms will be extended from the current two years to three years, to provide greater continuity and to establish a regular rotation schedule.
8. In this year's election, there will be several special election slots for current Board members (with two-year terms) willing to serve for one additional year. This special election process will allow the Board to (a) comply with AUTM Bylaws regarding staggered terms and allowable turnover, (b) retain an adequate number of experienced Board members, and (c) move to the recommended three-year term for all Board members. The AUTM membership will be asked to vote whether to retain each such individual for one additional year.
9. In the event AUTM membership does not approve the proposed Bylaw changes, the Board will have in place, in advance, a formal procedure to ensure that AUTM reverts to and continues to follow policies and a governance structure which are in compliance with existing Bylaws.
10. Assuming these changes are ratified by the Membership at the Annual Meeting in March, 2017, the new governance, nomination and elections process will be implemented during 2017 and 2018.

¹Responsibilities formerly handled by the AUTM President will move to either AUTM's Executive Director/CEO or the Chair. For more detailed information about the proposed new role for the AUTM Chair, [see position descriptions](#).

For additional information on the nomination process, please visit the AUTM election website, www.autm.net/2017-elections, which will provide the election timeline, Board position descriptions and other required and useful information on running as a candidate. The deadline for candidates to submit nominations is **October 31, 2016**.

As you can clearly see, our nominations and elections process will have numerous changes and both 2016 and 2017 will be transitional years requiring adjustments and flexibility. I am confident, however, that these changes will increase the opportunity for all Members to participate as leaders in our profession and will enhance the benefits that AUTM provides to all of you as you work to create a better world by bringing research to life.

Sincerely,

David Winwood, PhD, RTTP

AUTM President