To: IAVS Council

Subject: Financial support to IAVS Working Groups and Regional Sections

Background: The IAVS wants to improve its work and service to its members, who in most cases are organized in Working Groups and Regional Sections of the Association. As the financial recovery of the IAVS during the last years permits us to allocate more money to various activities, we should develop some basic principles and rules for financial support to Working Groups and Regional Sections that do not have their own income through membership fees or journals, and thus do not have their own assets.

Proposal

General pre-Conditions for support
A Working Group or Regional Section can only be financially supported if it has Bylaws approved by the IAVS Council that ensure that the chair/s is/are properly elected. [For the first year we can excuse lack of bylaws if there is a commitment to develop them over the coming year.] The group or section should also show some substantial activity, keep a website linked to the IAVS website and regularly report on its activities in the IAVS Bulletins.

Types of support

1) Participation of the chair or one of the officers of the group / section in the annual IAVS meeting
This would ensure good communication between the IAVS Council and the group / section. The support should normally be 1 000 EURO comparable to the support given to the Associate editors. The money can be shared between two or more officers of the group / section. An officer already receiving a honorarium as (Associate) Editor or GB member or via another group / section is not entitled to get this support (no double support), but the
funds can be transferred to allow a second person to attend. The respective chairs of the group / section decide about how the money is allocated in a manner consistent with their bylaws. This support should be requested by the chair before the symposium is held. If such support is awarded, it is suggested that the group/section holds a business meeting at the symposium.

2) Automatic support of 500 EURO per year to each group / section
The respective chairs of the group / section decide about how the money is allocated in a manner consistent with their bylaws. The money should not be spent for the participation in the annual IAVS meeting.

3) Each group / section can make applications for up to 3000 EURO annually for special activities
At most 2 of these will be funded per year.

4) Support for start-up meetings for new groups / sections or new initiatives of existing groups / sections
Applications can be made for up to 5000 EURO on a one-time basis. The application needs to indicate the purpose of the group and to provide evidence that there will be a critical mass of participants.

5) Support to IAVS Committees
Also Committees can apply for financial support, but these will be handled individually based on need and available money.

No regular support should be given to the organization of meetings, workshops, and excursions of the groups / sections. This would overstrain the IAVS, and these activities should basically be treated similar to the annual IAVS meetings which are also financially self-sustaining. Applications from members from low- or middle-income countries for financial support for participation in any activities of Working Groups or Regional sections should be addressed to the Global Sponsorship Committee.

Implementation
The evaluation of applications and decision is the responsibility of the Governing Board. The financial support for Working Groups, Regional Sections and Committees should be included in the annual budget to be approved by the Council.

Adopted by IAVS Council at Mokpo, Korea, 14 July 2012
Revision adopted by Council at Coffs Harbour, Australia, 5 September 2023