October, 2019

Dear Colleagues,

The time for Member Comment on the initial SRNT 2025 Strategic Review recommendations has arrived!

It has been a long year (we began this process in October of 2018), but the SRNT 2025 Timeline has included member surveys, personal interviews, meetings of three Board-appointed Work Advisory Groups (Purpose & Role, Global Presence, and Industry Participation), leadership discussions, and countless hours to pull all the data together into a format that is clear and as concise as possible.

The outcome of the SRNT 2025 Review will be a strategic path forward for SRNT to navigate the issues we face as a Society as we look to the future.

Every member of SRNT is aware of the rapid changes we are encountering in the field of nicotine and tobacco research, and the challenges those changes present to our organization. The Board of Directors has made every effort to make sure that we respond to these challenges in a thoughtful, inclusive manner.

To that end, the Board would like your comments on a series of Guiding Principles that articulate SRNT’s role and purpose, our place in the global field of nicotine and tobacco research, and how the Society will engage with the tobacco and ENDS industries moving forward.

The Work Advisory Groups have also contributed significantly to the development of a series of Boundary Standards that will give much needed guidance to the Board as we anticipate drafting new policies to operationalize the Guiding Principles. The Guiding Principles provide guardrails, if you will, to keep the Board on track as we move from ‘principle’ to ‘practical.’

The SRNT 2025 web page includes the link to the Member Comment mechanism and supporting documents, including:

- The Guiding Principles, combined;
- the detailed Purpose & Role Guiding Principles and Boundary Standards, the detailed Global Presence Guiding Principles and Boundary Standards, and the detailed Industry Participation Guiding Principles and Boundary Standards;
- an Executive Summary of the 2019 Membership Survey results;
- a White Paper on The Edge Effect and how that concept applies to SRNT’s interaction with other organizations and sister communities in the broader field; and
• the detailed SRNT 2025 Timeline showing the activities (surveys, meetings, etc.) undertaken as part of the strategic review.

Although this is a lot of information to digest, the Board wants to be transparent about the process and how we have gotten to where we are today. Which documents you choose to read is entirely up to you, but I strongly encourage you to pay particular attention to the combined Guiding Principles document, as that is really the heart of the project and what we most need you to comment on.

Also, please take some time to review the Work Advisory Group reports, which include the recommended Boundary Standards. The Guiding Principles and Boundary Standards are the foundational documents that will become part of SRNT's decision making process once finalized and approved by the Board.

I want to reiterate that while this has been a lengthy process, it has also been a thoughtful and inclusive process. The Board has done its absolute best to make sure the attitudes and opinions of our members have been gathered across disciplines, across career stage, across geography, inclusive of gender and ethnicity, and across self-identified communities within the broader Public Health community (such as treatment, tobacco control, harm reduction, etc.).

It is now time for you, the members of SRNT, to review all of the background and supporting documents and provide comments. Your comments on the Guiding Principles are of most importance, as those are the high-level statements behind which SRNT will stand for the near future. However, please feel free to comment on the information contained in ANY of the supporting documents.

Members’ comments will be reviewed during one final round of meetings of the Work Advisory Groups, who will then forward their final recommendations on Guiding Principles and Boundary Standards to the Board of Directors.

It is important to note that any recommendations accepted by the Board will be for full implementation in 2021.

The member comment period will remain open through Sunday, November 3, 2019.

Thank you for your support of SRNT during this lengthy and important review. I am grateful to those of you who responded to the Membership Survey earlier this summer, and would like to thank each of you for your review of the SRNT 2025 documents and for your own thoughtful comments.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Colby, President
SRNT