

# Association of Clinical Research Professionals

## Board of Trustees Nominee Handbook



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Thank you for your interest in applying to serve on the ACRP Association Board of Trustees (ABoT). In reading this handbook, you are embarking on a new journey in leadership with an association dedicated to clinical research and the development of its professionals. While the challenges are numerous, so too are the opportunities to advance the practice, the profession, and the Association. One of the values of your membership in ACRP is the opportunity to lead the organization as a Board member.

ACRP is classified as a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation, and its affairs are governed by a Board of Trustees elected by its membership. The [ACRP Board](#) currently consists of thirteen (13) voting Trustees including the Chair, Immediate Past Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Public Member, and regular members. Additionally, the ACRP Executive Director serves as the non-voting Secretary.

It is the Board's duty to set strategies for the Association in order for it to meet the objectives and purposes of the Association, which include (i) defining, promoting and maintaining professional standards and best practices in the field of clinical research worldwide, (ii) promoting the dissemination of information, the exchange of ideas, and professional education for professionals in the field of clinical research worldwide, (iii) advancing and promoting the professional interests of its members, and (iv) conducting any lawful business and engaging in any lawful act or activity consistent with Federal and State law, including the Ohio Nonprofit Corporation Act.

This handbook will give you a better understanding of the opportunities for serving on the Board, the roles, responsibilities and commitments of leadership positions, and the process associated with the selection of candidates and the election. It is intended as a guide to help you determine how your knowledge, skills and expertise may contribute to the fulfillment and advancement of the mission of ACRP and the degree to which an elected office would align with your plans, professional goals, and desired experiences.

While most organizations value your leadership contribution in a professional association, it is recommended that you discuss your plans with your employer prior to applying for a position. Specific expectations and responsibilities for serving on the ABoT are included in the ACRP Leadership section on page six (6).

After reviewing this handbook, if you have additional questions or would like to learn more about serving on the Board, please contact ACRP's Associate Director of Governance, Kathleen Orem, at [korem@acrpnet.org](mailto:korem@acrpnet.org).



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## BOARD NOMINATIONS PROCESS

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Each year the [ACRP Nominating Committee](#), as charged by the ABoT, coordinates an open nominations process of the ACRP membership and compiles a slate of candidates in consideration of open seats on the ACRP Board. The number of candidates selected directly correlates with the number of vacant Board seats for the upcoming year. A thorough evaluation process of each nominee is conducted by the Committee for its initial ranking of potential candidates. Nominees are assessed on a combination of professional accomplishments, leadership skills, previous Board experience, and expertise that aligns with the ABoT’s needs that year. Final candidates may be contacted by the Committee for a telephone interview. The candidate slate must be approved by the current Board of Trustees, and once approved, put forth to the ACRP membership for election.

### *Nominations Timeline*

- Interested members complete an online application during the nominations period, May 1 – June 30.
- The ACRP Nominating Committee reviews all applications between May and August.
- A slate of candidates is presented to the ABoT in September for vote. Nominees can expect to be contacted about their nomination status after the Board has approved the recommended slate.
- The Board-approved slate is put forth to the membership for vote in October.



- Once the vote is finalized, new Trustees are contacted and welcomed to the ABoT with their term commencing January 1.

## **ELIGIBILITY OF NOMINEES: GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS**

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Those seeking election to the ABoT should have prior leadership and volunteer experience, as well as an understanding of nonprofit/association governance. Leadership attributes such as strategic thinking, ability to delegate, active listening, facilitation skills, and the ability to develop consensus are essential to the success of any governing body.

The ACRP Bylaws list the following general requirements of Trustees:

1. Only active members in good standing with ACRP shall be eligible to serve as Trustees.
2. Serving members must be at least twenty-one (21) years of age.
3. The Public Member of ABoT is an elected Trustee from a non-clinical industry that will provide an independent and external perspective that will contribute to a broader view of opportunities and threats to the organization and the industry and may or may not fill certain expertise gaps noted from year-to-year.

## **SERVING ON THE ASSOCIATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

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### *Term of Office*

The term of office for a Trustee is two (2) years, and a maximum of three (3) consecutive terms may be served. Trustees seeking re-election for a consecutive two-year term are identified by the ABoT and must be re-elected by the membership as part of the candidate slate. Trustees shall assume office at the commencement of the fiscal year immediately following their election and shall hold office for the term for which he or she is elected. Typically, terms of office begin January 1.

### *Meetings*

ACRP covers the costs of Board meeting travel-related expenses per the provisions in its [corporate travel policy](#).

The ABoT sets the meeting schedule anew each year. Typically, the ABoT meets by WebEx approximately six (6) times per year and face-to-face two (2) times per year. Face-to-face meetings are usually at (i) ACRP's headquarters in Alexandria, VA, and (ii) ACRP's Annual Conference. Face-to-face Board meetings are generally held on a Friday-Sunday pattern. Teleconferences typically take place during the work week and last up to two (2) hours. Trustees are expected to actively participate in all meetings.



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The time commitment of Trustees varies by assignments from as little as four to five hours per month to approximately three to four days per month. Trustees must be willing to assume additional duties/responsibilities, if necessary, and be able to independently follow through on tasks.

Board members are expected to attend and participate in ACRP's Annual Conference, including any scheduled Board meetings or events, plus the annual membership Business Meeting. Board members are encouraged to help contribute to the educational content as well. A complimentary registration is available for all ACRP Board members.

ACRP Board members should expect to serve on one or more regular ACRP committees, Board committees, Working Groups, and/or Task Forces. Time commitments for these committees vary but may include monthly teleconferences.

Finally, new trustees are required to participate in a Board orientation meeting which is held by WebEx at the start of service, usually in mid-January. At this time, Board members are also assigned experienced trustee mentors.

### *Responsibilities*

The affairs of the Association are managed by its Board and it is the Board's duty to carry out the objectives and purposes of the Association; to this end, the Board may exercise all powers of the Association.

The ACRP Board has the responsibility to support its mission and vision, serve as strategic decision-makers, and hold the legal authority of its organization. The Board must balance its role as an oversight body with its role as a force supporting the organization and has adopted three overarching principles of governance:

1. **Establish Strategic Direction** - developing and maintaining a focus on the organization's mission and vision and referencing them often during decision-making. Part of establishing strategic direction also includes ensuring effective planning through a philosophical and long-term approach.
2. **Ensure Necessary Resources** – ensuring adequate financial resources so that the organization remains financially viable; providing capable leadership at the board level through a board development plan as well as selecting, supporting and evaluating the executive director; and finally, enhancing the organization's public standing by promoting a positive public image.
3. **Provide Oversight** - monitoring and strengthening programs and services through thoughtful planning, monitoring, and evaluation. Financially, the board is also responsible for protecting the organization's assets through financial risk management oversight. Legally and ethically, the board must oversee the integrity of the organization and accept its fiduciary responsibilities of the Duty of Care, Duty of Loyalty and Duty of Obedience.



The ACRP Leadership section provides a general overview of the core values and expectations of conduct for ACRP Trustees as well as the duties and responsibilities for each elected position. Two key governance policies are also included for your reference.

## **BOARD APPLICATION: DIRECTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE NOMINATIONS APPLICATION**

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All individuals interested in applying for Board service must complete the [online application](#). Applications will be accepted starting on May 1, 2018. The deadline to submit a nominations application is June 30, 2018. It is important to answer all questions in the application and provide all requested information, as incomplete applications will not be considered.

In addition to basic personal contact information and professional experience, be prepared to provide brief descriptions about various leadership characteristics and governance responsibilities that potential Board candidates should possess. When completing this section, please describe your goals, strategies, and values as they relate to the vision and mission of ACRP. Questions to consider include: Why am I seeking office? What unique qualities can I bring to the Board? What do I hope to accomplish during my term in office? Applicants should also review the [ACRP Board Competencies Document](#) to complete this section.

### *Letters of Reference*

Applicants who have been selected by the Nominating Committee for further consideration and/or interview should be prepared to provide up to three letters of reference. Two references should include someone who knows you professionally, preferably someone with whom you currently work or have worked with previously, an individual from ACRP, and/or the Academy or someone you have worked with on a professional board, committee or in another volunteer capacity. The third reference is optional and may be someone who knows you personally. Applicants are encouraged to share the ACRP Board Competencies Document with references so that they can address the competencies the applicant would bring to the ACRP Board.

The completed online application must be received by June 30, 2018 at 11:59 pm US ET. Submit the following items as part of your nominations application:

1. CV - Your CV or Resume should include:
  - Education
  - Faculty or academic appointments
  - Certifications (*include dates*)
  - Work Experience (*describe any leadership positions held*)
  - Publications (*authored by you – include dates*)



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- Presentations (*regional, state, national, international*)
  - Abstracts (*poster and oral at national or international meetings*)
  - Awards (*include dates*)
  - Skills & Interests (*related to your occupation*)
2. Photograph – a high resolution (300 dpi or greater) professional head to waist photo. Do not send a full body picture.
  3. References with letters of recommendation (up to 3) may be required.

To ensure your application is complete and contains all the required materials, please reference the following Board document checklist:

- ✓ Completed Online Board Nominee Application
- ✓ Uploaded Current CV or Resume
- ✓ Uploaded Photograph (professional head to waist shot; at least 300 dpi resolution)
- ✓ References with letters of recommendation (up to 3) are optional unless requested by Nominating Committee.

## ACRP LEADERSHIP

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This section provides a glimpse of the culture of the Association and highlights the leadership needs of ACRP. The Association expects leaders who will embrace a Leadership Code of Conduct, utilize knowledge-based decision making, and share ACRP's self-defined Board of Trustees' **core values**:

- **Integrity is the foundation of all we do as Board Members.**  
We value honesty, fairness, and transparency in advancing ACRP's mission without compromise.
- **Dedication to the clinical research profession and our stakeholders is our standard.**  
We value unwavering dedication to our profession, our stakeholders, and our mission and will demonstrate caring and passionate leadership in our Board activities.
- **Courage in furthering ACRP's vision and mission is required.**  
We value the courage to imagine what can be possible, to make difficult decisions, and to pioneer innovative and dynamic solutions.
- **Communication among ourselves and our members is honest, frank, and informed.**  
We value an open and active dialogue with our Board colleagues and our members, fostering a listen-and-learn environment that recognizes excellence.
- **Service to the clinical research community is our goal and objective.**  
We value service to our members that understand their needs, and acts on those needs with conviction, humility, and no self-interest, and builds trusted and lasting relationships.



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**Leadership Code of Conduct - Board Members, Volunteer Leaders, and Staff Shall:**

- Always be guided by ACRP's core values, envisioned future and strategic plan when making decisions for the Association.
- Be clear on outcomes expected and allocation of resources to be used to make those decisions happen.
- Demonstrate good faith, sound judgment, honesty, transparency and loyalty in our ACRP activities.
- In these activities, commit to ethical, strategic, and lawful conduct that exhibits uncompromising integrity and a lack of self-interest in a courteous and respectful manner.
- Do not engage in any conduct that is inconsistent with ACRP's best interest or that may impair any ACRP relationship, personal or business.
- Prepare for all meetings: read the materials well in advance and gather the information needed for full participation.
- Work toward a practical consensus: focus on issues, not people, listen and learn, especially by giving fair and full consideration to all viewpoints, be willing to sacrifice one's personal position and interest for the sake of the Association and its membership.
- Publicly support all Board decisions - raise any concerns in the Board room, not outside.

The following Leadership Responsibilities Descriptions provide detailed information on the role of the Board of Trustees each individual member of the Board, and each of the officer Trustees. Please click on the document titles below to view each description:

- [ABoT Responsibilities Description](#)
- [Individual Trustee Responsibilities Description](#)
- [ABoT Chair Responsibilities Description](#)
- [ABoT Vice Chair Responsibilities Description](#)
- [ABoT Immediate Past Chair Responsibilities Description](#)
- [ABoT Treasurer Responsibilities Description](#)





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- [ABoT Secretary Responsibilities Description](#)
- [ABoT Public Member Responsibilities Description](#)

## GOVERNANCE

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The Association focuses on excelling in best governance practices for nonprofit organizations, and volunteers on the Board are expected to support the governance policies established by the ABoT to support such practices. Important policies include The Principles of Good Governance Policy, the Fiduciary Responsibility Statement, the Trustee Compensation Policy, and the Conflict of Interest and Disclosure Policy.

**The Principles of Good Governance Policy** (BRD-06-02.05) was created to assist Trustees by enhancing their decision making, increasing their accountability, and enabling them to provide strong leadership. The intent of this policy is to provide balance to the ABoT in its role as an oversight body with its role as a force supporting ACRP. This policy is as follows:

The ABoT functions at its most effective level of governance when it (i) creates new opportunities that add significant value to the organization, (ii) engages in high-level strategy by challenging and supporting efforts to advance the mission of ACRP, (iii) draws from each Trustee's unique talents while fostering high levels of performance, and (iv) forges a dynamic relationship with the Executive Director.

To achieve exceptional governance, the ABoT will:

1. Govern in constructive partnership with the Executive Director, recognizing that the effectiveness of the Board and Executive Director are interdependent. This partnership will be built through trust, candor, mutual respect, and honest communication.
2. Shape and uphold the mission, articulate a compelling vision, and ensure the congruence between decisions and core values. The ABoT will treat questions of mission, vision, and core values as statements of crucial importance to be folded into deliberations.
3. Continuously engage in strategic thinking to hone the direction of ACRP. The ABoT will align organizational goals with strategic priorities as well as use them for assessing the Executive Director, driving meeting agendas, and shaping Board recruitment.
4. Institutionalize a culture of inquiry, respect, and constructive debate that leads to sound and shared decision making based on analysis.



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5. Apply rigorous conflict-of-interest procedures and place the interests of the organization above themselves when making decisions. The ABoT will not allow their votes to be unduly influenced by loyalty to any one person or by seniority, position, or reputation of fellow board members or staff.
6. Promote an ethos of transparency by ensuring that stakeholders and interested members of the public have access to appropriate and accurate information regarding finances, operations, and results. The ABoT will also extend transparency internally, ensuring that every Board member has equal access to relevant materials when making decisions.
7. Promote strong ethical values and disciplined compliance by establishing appropriate mechanisms for active oversight including an independent audit to ensure accountability and sufficient controls; to deepen their understanding of the organization; and to reduce the risk of waste, fraud, and abuse.
8. Link bold visions and ambitious plans to financial support, expertise, and networks of influence. The ABoT will link the annual business plan and budget to strategic planning and approve activities that can be realistically financed with existing or attainable resources, while ensuring that the organization has the infrastructure and internal capacity it needs.
9. Measure the organization's progress towards its mission and evaluate the performance of major programs and services. The ABoT will gauge efficiency, effectiveness, and impact, while simultaneously assessing the quality of service delivery, integrating benchmarks against peers, and calculating return on investment.
10. Purposefully structure the Board to fulfil essential governance duties that support organizational priorities and invest in practices that can be thoughtfully adapted to changing circumstances.
11. Evaluate their individual and collective performance of the Board and Executive Director and assess the value that is added to the organization. The ABoT will embed learning opportunities into routine governance work and in activities outside of Board meetings.
12. Utilize the correlation between mission, strategy, and Board composition to energize itself through planned turnover, thoughtful recruitment, and inclusiveness of diversity, experience, and fresh perspectives.

**The Fiduciary Responsibility Statement** (BRD-06-02.04) states that all members of the Association Board of Trustees have the responsibility to act prudently in their handling of the Association's resources. As a fiduciary of ACRP, Trustees must maintain financial accountability of the organization



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and exercise due diligence to oversee that the association is well-managed. Fiduciary responsibility of the ABoT requires each Board member to stay objective, responsible, honest, trustworthy, and, as stewards of public trust, always act for the good of the association rather than for the benefit of themselves. Trustees should exercise reasonable care in all decision making, without placing the organization under unnecessary risk.

Further, the legal standards by which all actions taken by non-profit Board leaders are judged – both as individual members and as a collective board – are defined as the duty of care, duty of loyalty, and duty of obedience. ACRP, through its purchase of Directors and Officers Insurance, may be able to hold its Trustees harmless from lawsuits as long as they operate within the legal bounds of their fiduciary responsibilities.

### **The Duty of Care**

Duty of care requires Board members to be reasonably informed about the Association’s activities, participate in decisions, and do so in good faith and with the care of an ordinarily prudent person in a similar position. ACRP Trustees may exercise the duty of care by reading relevant documents, preparing in advance for Board meetings, obtaining information before voting in order to make sound decisions, exercising independent judgment, reviewing the Association’s finances and financial policies, and ensuring compliance with state and federal filing requirements.

### **The Duty of Loyalty**

Duty of loyalty requires Board members, when acting on behalf of their organization, to give undivided allegiance to the organization, without regard to personal interest, business interest, or the interest of any other region or organization. In practice, ACRP Trustees may exercise the duty of loyalty by adhering to the ACRP Conflict of Interest policy, signing the Annual Disclosure Form, avoiding the use of corporate opportunities for personal gain or benefit, and maintaining the confidentiality of information about ACRP.

### **The Duty of Obedience**

Duty of obedience requires that Board members act within the scope of legal authority of federal, state and local laws, as well as adhere to the organization's articles of incorporation, bylaws and mission. ACRP Trustees may exercise their duty of obedience by ensuring compliance with all regulatory and reporting requirements, examining all documents that govern ACRP and its operations, and making decisions that fall within the scope of the mission and governing documents of ACRP.

[ACRP’s Trustee Compensation Policy \(BRD-02.03\)](#) prohibits compensation to Trustees: “Members of the Board, excluding the Secretary when occupied by the ACRP Executive Director, shall serve without compensation for their service as Trustees, Committee members, and Officers. Trustees shall be allowed reasonable reimbursement of expenses incurred in the performance of their board-related duties, including attendance at board-authorized meetings and conferences. Upon election and for the duration of his/her term on the Board, a Trustee may not receive any honorarium for non-board related



ACRP activity. Further, Trustees requesting reimbursement of travel expenses must adhere to the ACRP Corporate Travel Policy (Policy #FIN-06-01.01).

Finally, ACRP asks all its volunteers and Board members to annually disclose potential conflicts of interest per the [Conflict of Interest and Disclosure Policy \(ETH-06-02.04\)](#).