



## **ARO Membership Committee Meeting Minutes**

Date: Tuesday, June 25, 2024

Time 10:00 -11:00 AM ET

### **Attendance:**

Douglas Oliver (co-chair), Maria Chait (co-chair), Steven Eliades, Jason Brant (spARO rep) Leslie Gonzales (spARO rep), Samson Jamesdaniel, Jennifer Krizman, Vignesh RA, Rose Rizzi (spARO rep), Rhiannon McNeely (executive office)

### **Minutes:**

The committee commenced with brief introductions of new and returning members, providing detailed backgrounds and current roles. An overview of the committee's history and purpose was then presented.

The committee's primary objectives include attracting and retaining new members, particularly young investigators and those from the international community. Additionally, the committee aims to enhance networking, collaboration, and interaction opportunities for existing members beyond the Midwinter Meeting.

Feedback from the 2024 MidWinter Meeting evaluation regarding membership was reviewed. Concerns regarding the member directory were raised, with plans to address these issues upon the transition to a new member platform after the 2025 MidWinter Meeting. The committee discussed specific improvements needed and desired features for enhanced search capabilities.

Several focus topics for the year were deliberated, including recruiting international exhibitors for the MidWinter Meeting, member incentives to join ARO, strategies to increase international membership, remodeling the ARO website, and facilitating travel grants.

Improving meeting accessibility was also discussed, with suggestions such as providing meeting information via web links and enhancing engagement through initiatives like the buddy system and a TikTok-style video guide for navigating the MidWinter meeting.

The executive office proposed transferring responsibility for the ARO Member Spotlight initiative to the committee, formerly managed by the now-disbanded External Relations Committee. The submission page is already operational; modifications to interview questions were suggested. This is a great way to highlight international members.

The committee agreed to reconvene for the next meeting to finalize its focus areas for the year. The executive office committed to providing membership statistics and relevant materials to aid in this decision.