

ISAPS HUMANITARIAN AWARD

SELECTION CRITERIA

1. INTRODUCTION

The ISAPS Humanitarian Award recognizes extraordinary humanitarian contributions in plastic surgery – contributions that restore dignity, rebuilds lives after trauma and expand access to high-quality surgical care in underserved communities worldwide. This award affirms that excellence within ISAPS encompasses not only scientific and artistic skill, but also compassion, integrity and global responsibility.

2. PURPOSE OF THE AWARD

The ISAPS Humanitarian Award aims to:

- Honor surgeons or teams who demonstrate exceptional commitment to humanitarian action through plastic surgery.
- Highlight the transformative power of plastic and reconstructive surgery in post-traumatic, reconstructive and low resource settings.
- Inspire ISAPS members by affirming the value of compassion, service and ethical leadership.
- Strengthen ISAPS' identity as a globally responsible and ethically conscious society.

3. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To be eligible for consideration, nominees must meet the following criteria:

3.1 Who May Be Nominated

- Individual ISAPS members or surgical teams led by an ISAPS member.
- Nominees must be in good standing with ISAPS and free of current disciplinary action.

3.2 Nature of Work

Eligible humanitarian work may include, but is not limited to:

- Reconstructive or aesthetic procedures delivered in underserved or crisis-affected communities.
- Programs focused on treatment in low resource or disaster settings, e.g., trauma care, burn reconstruction, congenital conditions or complex reconstruction.
- Sustainable humanitarian initiatives involving training, mentorship and capacity-building.

3.3 Evidence Requirements

- A project summary (maximum 500 words)
- Curriculum vitae of the nominee(s)
- Supporting documentation (photos, videos with appropriate consent, published reports, data, testimonials)
- Optional: letters of support from local partners or institutions

3.4 Exclusions

The following are not eligible:

- Self nominations
- For-profit, commercial or promotional activities
- Work conducted without appropriate patient consent or ethical safeguards

4. SELECTION PROCESS

The award selection process consists of three phases:

Phase 1 – Nominations

The call for nominations will take place via an official ISAPS channel/platform – at this initial stage, the requirements are only:

- Name of the ISAPS member being nominated
- Name of the Program
- Region Served
- Program Summary (maximum 500 words)

Any ISAPS member may submit a nomination via the designated online platform. Nominators are strongly encouraged to review the evaluation criteria and scoring guidelines in advance to ensure a comprehensive and competitive submission.

Phase 2 – Review and Shortlisting

A designated sub-committee, including the Humanitarian Committee and at least two members of ISAPS' Board of Directors (BoD) reviews all nominations. Those ISAPS members who are shortlisted will be contacted and asked to provide the additional information outlined above in 'Evidence Requirements'.

Phase 3 – ISAPS Awards Committee Review / BoD Ratification

Finalist submissions are presented at the meeting of the ISAPS Awards Committee for final selection.

All Award recommendations to be ratified by the ISAPS BoD.

Note: All reviewers and committee members involved in the selection process must disclose any personal interest in any program and comply with ISAPS' Code of Ethics and conduct policies.

Process Advantages

- **Democratic and inclusive** – all members participate.
- **Transparent** – criteria and process are clearly defined.
- **Merit-based** – winners are chosen on the strength of the work, not personal reputation.
- **Uplifting** – finalists receive recognition and visibility.

5. EVALUATION CRITERIA & SCORING GUIDELINES

Reviewers score each criterion from 1 to 5, giving a maximum of 20 points. Reviewers may add narrative comments to support their assessment.

These criteria align with the four dimensions approved by the ISAPS BoD: Impact, Sustainability, Innovation and Integrity.

5.1 Humanitarian IMPACT (1–5)

Definition: The measurable, meaningful effect of the work on patients, communities, the local plastic surgery community and access to care.

Consider:

- Population served and level of demonstrated need
- Tangible improvements in access to plastic and reconstructive surgery
- Numbers of surgeon involved and/or trained
- Number of patients or communities reached and directly impacted
- Documented clinical outcomes (functional, aesthetic, psychosocial)
- Improvements in affordability, accessibility or availability of care for vulnerable or underserved groups
- Long-term quality-of-life improvements and community benefit

1-5 Scale:

1 = Minimal, limited or unclear impact; 3 = Clear and moderate impact with measurable benefit;
5 = Major, transformative, well-documented impact

5.2 SUSTAINABILITY & Long-Term Commitment (1–5)

Definition: The long-lasting and continuing impact of the work.

Consider:

- Multi-year engagement or ongoing humanitarian commitment
- Collaboration/integration with local surgeons, hospitals, NGOs and authorities
- Shared decision-making and community involvement
- Training, mentorship or infrastructure that supports capacity building and local autonomy
- Continuity plans beyond initial interventions
- Integration with local healthcare systems
- Measurable long-term outcomes
- Model promotes self-sufficiency rather than dependency

1–5 Scale: 1 = One-off project; 3 = Continuity demonstrated; 5 = Durable, self-sustaining impact

5.3 INNOVATION & Leadership (1–5)

Definition: Creative approaches or leadership that advance outreach, capacity building or humanitarian impact.

Consider:

- Novel solutions for low-resource or crisis settings
- Innovations in technique, logistics or program delivery
- Leadership that mobilizes others or shapes capacity building or wider humanitarian practice
- Development of new service models or partnerships
- Adaptation to complex environmental or resource challenges

1–5 Scale:

1 = Limited innovation; 3 = Some innovation/leadership; 5 = Significant innovation or influence

5.4 INTEGRITY: Alignment With ISAPS' Mission, Ethics and Values, and Program Integrity

Definition: The extent to which the project reflects ISAPS' commitments to professionalism, empathy, ethical practice and global responsibility.

Consider:

- Ethical conduct consistent with ISAPS values
- Cultural sensitivity and respect for local communities
- Contributions to global humanitarian ethics
- Education or training aligned with ISAPS' mission
- Representation of ISAPS' humanitarian leadership internationally
- Adherence to best practices and international safety standards
- Follow-up care and continuity
- Integrity: transparency, professionalism, respect for local culture and regulatory frameworks
- Documentation of outcomes and safety protocols

1–5 Scale: 1 = Weak alignment; 3 = Moderate alignment; 5 = Strong alignment