

## Why Your ISAPS Membership Matters to Patients

As a top aesthetic plastic surgeon, you've earned membership in one of the world's most prestigious medical societies – and your patients need to know this! Being an ISAPS member indicates more than your exceptional level of experience, training and qualification; it's also tangible proof of your commitment to patient care and safety.

With so many different plastic surgery organizations out there, patients can mistakenly assume that all of them are more or less the same. It's vital for your patients to understand that ISAPS isn't a society that anyone can join with the click of a keyboard or a simple payment. There's a rigorous process of applying for and maintaining membership, which not every eligible surgeon will meet. It isn't easy... and it shouldn't be! Your membership tells the world that you have achieved a level of proficiency, skill and service that puts you in the top tier.

All applicants for membership must already have good standing in a national plastic surgery society that is recognized by ISAPS. In addition to completing formal training (obviously), applicants must have practiced in the field of plastic surgery for at least three years to be eligible. New members are admitted monthly, and must be sponsored by two current Active or Life Members to be approved.

Full ISAPS members are encouraged to offer their skills in reconstructive and necessary aesthetic plastic surgery free of charge for those in need. Let your patients and colleagues know all you do in this regard: publish updates about your service activities in your practice newsletter. Include the ISAPS logo on your website, professional stationery and marketing materials to reflect your level of professional achievement. Share photos of your humanitarian work on social media, so others can pass them along and expand your network of contacts.

Maybe you're not yet at the point in your career where you're eligible for full ISAPS membership, but you can still apply for Associate membership. Associate Members do not have the right to attend biennial business meetings, to hold office, to sponsor applicants for membership, or to serve on committees of the society. A subscription to the ISAPS Journal, *Aesthetic Plastic Surgery*, is a benefit of membership for Associate members. Associate Members shall have completed all training, but will have been in practice less than three years. Your Associate Membership shows patients that you are committed to the continual process of professional development and improvement.

Your ISAPS membership is a way of proving to your patients that you hold a level of credentialing that exceeds the standards of the country in which you practice. They will know that you belong to a leading national society in your country, that you have a strong record of ethics and safety, and that you've been practicing plastic surgery for at least three years. They'll also appreciate email announcements and newsletter content about the ISAPS Symposia and instructional courses you attend, and assurance that your [surgical facility](#) meets the highest international standards of safety.