

Ombudspersons

Ombudspersons: J.L. Koprowski, J.E. Light.

Charge: The members of the Office of Ombudspersons are appointed at the discretion of the President to hear and respond appropriately to complaints of unprofessional behavior by any member of the ASM at its annual meeting or in the governance of the ASM through its committee structure. All issues brought before either (or both) of the appointed individuals are resolved as discreetly as possible. The Ombudspersons are entrusted to deal with each situation as they best see fit.

Information Items:

(1) In the past year, the Ombudspersons worked in consultation with President Doug Kelt and President-Elect Enrique Lessa to update the society's Course of Action for Alleged Misconduct, provide additional resources on related issues to the membership, and increase the visibility of these materials in the ASM website. These documents were extensively overhauled, with approval from the Board of Directors.

(2) In the past year, several members of the Society independently consulted the Ombudspersons for reassurance regarding safety at annual meetings.

(3) Action was necessary to address two cases of alleged sexual misconduct.

(4) One case relative to editorial policy was reviewed and a recommendation issued.

Action Items:

(1) There is a general need for sufficient contingency funds, or a separate allocation of funds, for issues that may come to the Office of the Ombudsperson that require input from consultants and/or lawyers.

Respectfully submitted,

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