

IFAA College of Representatives – 5-Year Plan (2025–2030) Draft

A Collaborative and Practical Path Forward for the Global Anatomy Community

Introduction

The College of Representatives (CoR) serves to connect IFAA member associations, foster communication, and support the advancement of anatomical sciences globally. This 5-year plan outlines realistic and inclusive actions that align with the College's mission, focusing on strengthening collaboration, resource-sharing, and member engagement.

Strategic Focus Areas and Goals

1. Strengthening Internal Communication and Participation

Goals:

- Maintain regular email updates and/or zoom meetings (2–3 per year) with summaries of IFAA activities.
- Explore light and accessible platforms (e.g., Google Group or email list) for member exchange.
- Invite brief updates from associations twice a year to share with the College. **(for Plexus)**
- Invite member associations to share brief examples of *applied anatomical practice*, including interdisciplinary or clinically relevant applications of anatomical knowledge, for optional inclusion in College communications.

Outcome:

Improved connection and engagement across the College with minimal resource requirements.

2. Encouraging Celebrations of World Anatomy Day

Goals:

- Provide ready-to-use materials (banners, poster templates, sample posts).
- Encourage small-scale local activities to mark the day.
- Gather photos and reports to showcase in a shared highlights summary. **(for Plexus)**
- Encourage associations, where appropriate and feasible, to include interdisciplinary or clinically oriented public engagement activities (e.g., joint talks, panel discussions, or lectures illustrating the applied relevance of anatomy), while maintaining scalability and inclusivity across regions.

Outcome:

Broader and more inclusive participation in World Anatomy Day without requiring major resources.

3. Supporting Visibility and Connectivity for Emerging Anatomical Leaders

Goals:

- Share announcements and updates about leadership development opportunities offered by IFAA committees, programmes, and member associations.
- Highlight stories of emerging leaders and successful local initiatives within CoR communications to increase visibility across member societies.
- Encourage associations to put forward early-career anatomists to engage in IFAA networks, working groups, and collaborative exchanges.
- Highlight opportunities—offered through existing society or institutional platforms—that facilitate networking and visibility between early-career anatomists and clinicians or other applied anatomy stakeholders, without providing formal training or structured programmes.

Outcome:

Greater visibility and connectedness for early-career anatomists through communication and networking support—without providing direct training or programmes, which remain under the remit of relevant IFAA committees.

4. Facilitating Advocacy Awareness and Public Engagement Across Member Associations

Goals:

- Support member associations by collecting and sharing short, adaptable advocacy materials or examples that they have already developed or used successfully in their local context.
- Share examples of effective public outreach and science communication.
- Encourage **low-barrier public engagement activities**—such as open lectures, community discussions, or demonstrations—by showcasing examples and providing optional communication templates contributed by associations.
- Share examples illustrating how sound anatomical knowledge contributes to public understanding, professional practice, and patient safety, while ensuring that all formal advocacy frameworks and policy positions remain within the remit of the appropriate IFAA Committees and Programmes.

Outcome:

Member associations become more aware of diverse outreach and advocacy practices through CoR-facilitated information exchange and visibility, while all formal advocacy frameworks or ethical guidance remain within the remit of the appropriate IFAA Committees and Programmes.

5. Supporting Inclusion of Less-Represented or New Associations

Goals:

- Reach out to associations that have been less active in recent years with personal invitations to re-engage.
- Provide simple onboarding materials for new representatives or associations (What is the CoR, how to participate, etc.).
- Encourage more equitable participation in nominations and initiatives.

Outcome:

A more inclusive and representative College with greater participation from all regions and association types.

Implementation and Review

- The Chair of the College will coordinate actions, with voluntary task-sharing among interested members.
- A short annual report will be prepared and shared with the IFAA Executive and General Assembly.
- A mid-term review in 2027 will help evaluate progress and make adjustments as needed.
- As part of the annual reporting process, a brief, structured feedback snapshot may be invited from Representatives to highlight key observations, priorities, or emerging issues across member associations.

Conclusion

This 5-year plan aims to strengthen collaboration, inclusion, and shared learning across the IFAA's member associations. With realistic goals and collective effort, the College of Representatives can continue to support the growth, visibility, and resilience of the anatomical sciences worldwide.