APDIM Guiding Principles

1. Name

The name of the group shall be known as the Association of Program Directors in Internal Medicine (hereinafter referred to as “APDIM”).

2. Purpose

APDIM is the international organization of accredited internal medicine residency programs. APDIM exists to advance medical education by benefiting and aiding approved institutions located in the United States of America, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and Canada which have internal medicine residency programs. This includes educating, supporting, empowering, and representing internal medicine program directors; supporting program directors in their career development; providing leadership for internal medicine through the development of program directors for the betterment of patients, teachers, and learners; representing the interests of program directors to all bodies whose activities and policies affect programs; and fostering excellence in medical education.

APDIM is a founding member of the Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as “AAIM” or the “Alliance”). AAIM was originally created as a consortium of five academically focused specialty associations representing departments of internal medicine at medical schools and teaching hospitals in the United States and Canada. In addition to APDIM, the founding members of AAIM are the Association of Professors of Medicine, the Association of Specialty Professors, the Clerkship Directors in Internal Medicine, and the Administrators of Internal Medicine. As the central financial, legal, and regulatory entity, AAIM’s bylaws establish the structure of APDIM and supersede any article in these guiding principles where there is a conflict.

3. Mission

APDIM is a professional organization designed to support the pursuit of excellence in graduate medical education for internal medicine.

APDIM, through its officers and council, interacts with accreditors, certifying bodies, federal and regulatory agencies, and other professional organizations as a means to promote excellence in the leadership and facilitation of graduate medical education training programs in departments of internal medicine.
4. Membership

The AAIM bylaws authorize each founding member in the Alliance to define its own membership criteria.

Membership in APDIM is offered to accredited internal medicine residency programs within a department of internal medicine from a qualifying institution. Individuals in key positions in accredited internal medicine residency training programs as outlined below represent these programs.

Qualifying institutions are:

- Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME)- or Committee on Accreditation of Canadian Medical Schools (CACMS)-accredited medical schools with an Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME)- or Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC)-accredited internal medicine training program housed in a department of internal medicine.

- Community teaching hospitals with an ACGME- or RCPSC-accredited internal medicine training program housed in a department of internal medicine.

Individuals may become a member of APDIM via their department or independent of their department. Internal medicine residency programs at institutions outside of the United States, Canada, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico may be included by action of the APDIM Council. Whenever possible, these programs should be accredited by a comparable accrediting entity for residency training.

Individuals who teach or have responsibility for teaching internal medicine to residents as well as individuals who do not have responsibility for teaching internal medicine to residents but support these residency training programs shall be designated as members. Such individuals may include, but are not limited to:

- Designated director of the residency training program as listed with the ACGME and RCPSC.
- Chair of the department of medicine responsible for a training program where there is a separately designated program director.
- Director of a three-year residency training program in internal medicine that is a component of a program listed with the Residency Review Committee for Internal Medicine as a single program under another program director.
- Director of any special track (e.g., medicine-pediatrics, primary care, etc.) in the approved residency program.
- Director of the medical clinics or other key faculty used as an integral part of the approved residency program.
- Associate or assistant directors of a residency training program.
- Core faculty in departments of medicine.
- Residency program administrator or coordinator or assistant.
Internal medicine residency programs in the US and Canada that are preparing to start the accreditation process or programs that have started the accreditation process but have not yet gained full accreditation by the ACGME or the RCPSC may be considered for temporary membership. Upon submission of application, applicants will be considered for membership by the APDIM Council.

5. Meetings

There shall be at least one regular meeting for the benefit of APDIM members annually. Educational programs, workshops, seminars, and virtual programs will be developed through support of the APDIM Council as a benefit to members.

6. Governance

APDIM shall be overseen by a council (APDIM Council). The APDIM Council reports to and is delegated its authority by the AAIM Board of Directors. Duly elected officers and councilors shall constitute the APDIM Council. The business and affairs of APDIM shall be managed by the council as outlined in the AAIM bylaws. The officers of the council shall consist of the President, President-Elect, Past President, and Treasurer. There will be nine councilors. There shall not be fewer than 13 council members (officers and councilors). The council also includes the Chair of the APDIM Program Administrators Advisory Council and a representative designated by the Medicine-Pediatrics Program Directors Association as ex officio voting members. No council member may hold more than one office at any one time. The council will meet at least quarterly, either in person or by conference call.

A. Officers and their duties

President. The President will serve a term of one year and shall engage the council to lead the general direction and promotion of APDIM. The President shall preside over the meetings of the council, shall be assisted by the other councilors and may seek aid, as needed, from other individuals. The President may, during the absence of any councilor, and with the exception of voting rights, delegate said councilor’s duties to any other councilor on an interim basis.

President-Elect. The President-Elect will serve a term of one year and at the end of one year assume the role of president. The President-Elect shall in the absence or incapacity of the President, perform the duties of the President. The President-Elect shall perform other such duties as may be delegated from time to time by the President; and shall otherwise function as a member of the council.

Past President. The Past President will serve a term of one year and shall in the absence or incapacity of the President and President-Elect, perform the duties of the President, and shall perform other such duties as may be delegated from time to time by the President; and shall otherwise function as a member of the council.
Treasurer. The Treasurer will serve a term of three years and shall serve as council representative to the AAIM Finance Committee. The Treasurer’s primary roles are to monitor the financial health of AAIM, and advocate for fiscally responsible decision-making for AAIM. The Treasurer presents and advocates for the APDIM initiatives as recommended by the full council. The Treasurer will provide regular reports to the council on the work of the AAIM Finance Committee and the fiscal status of AAIM. The Treasurer will perform other duties as outlined in the Council Treasurer Job Description (Appendix 1).

Other Conditions

Should the current President or President-Elect cease to be an individual who teaches or has responsibility for teaching internal medicine to residents, but remains in an academic medicine position, he/she is eligible to complete his/her elected term through Past President, subject to the approval of the council. In such case, the individual is afforded the full rights and privileges of an active member through the duration of his/her elected term.

Vacancies in any office arising from any cause may be filled by the council by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Council. Alternatively, the council may remove any officer at any time by an affirmative vote of the members at a duly called meeting of the membership. The council may remove any councilor at any time by an affirmative vote of (2/3) of the Council.

B. Councilors

APDIM Councilors will be current and active member of APDIM as outlined in section four. Councilors must be physicians. There will be a total of nine (9) councilors of which each serve a term of three years.

If an active member serving on the council in any capacity other than President-Elect, President, or Past President leaves their resident educator position within internal medicine, but remains in an academic medicine position, he/she is eligible to complete their term, subject to the approval of the council. In such case, the individual is afforded the full rights and privileges of an active member.

Council Selection

An election is held annually for the President-Elect and three councilors. An election is held every third year for Treasurer. Each term is scheduled to begin the first day of the new fiscal year (July 1) following the election.
C. Committees

**Nominating Committee and Elections.** The President shall ensure a six (6) member Nominating Committee is appointed at the start of each fiscal year (July 1). The immediate Past President will serve as Chair of the Nominating Committee. The President will select two active members annually to serve on the committee for two years. The outgoing nominating committee chair continues to serve as a voting ex-officio member. Only physicians may serve on the nominating committee.

The Nominating Committee shall propose a slate of candidates consisting of the President-Elect and other council positions that may be eligible for election. All candidates must be current, active physician members of APDIM. Only physician members are eligible for any open officer or councilor positions.

**General Committee Participation.** Membership on committees shall be open to all current members. The President, with the advice of the council, may appoint a series of standing and ad hoc committees to address issues important to academic internal medicine and related to the mission of APDIM.

The President, with the advice of the officers, will also appoint the chairs of the committees. Terms for committee chairs and members will generally be for two years, unless otherwise directed by the President. The President and council have the option to renew membership on a committee following the completion of a term.

7. Finances

APDIM is a founding member of AAIM. On an annual basis, a budget will be developed and submitted for approval by the AAIM Board of Directors. All requests for non-budgeted expenditures must be submitted to the AAIM Finance Committee for consideration. The AAIM Finance Committee will submit appropriate requests to the AAIM Board of Directors for approval. The APDIM representative to the AAIM Finance Committee is the current APDIM Treasurer.

On an annual basis the financial records of AAIM are subject to audit. The audit is overseen by the AAIM Audit Committee. APDIM shall have at least one representative on the AAIM Audit Committee.

Members of the Council or APDIM will not be compensated beyond the reimbursement of reasonable expenses for related travel or other business, as outlined in the AAIM Expense Reimbursement Policy, or otherwise gain financially from service in APDIM or AAIM.
8. Voting

A. All issues requiring a vote of the membership will be conducted by an electronic ballot. The total number of votes received shall constitute a quorum. Nominees for each council position who receive a simple majority of votes will be offered a position on the APDIM Council. For a vote taken on any other matter, except as otherwise provided in the Guiding Principles, the matter shall be acted upon affirmatively according to the largest number of votes cast.

B. At all meetings of the Council and committees, a simple majority of the Council or committees shall constitute a quorum. If a vote is taken on any matter during a meeting, except as otherwise stipulated in the Guiding Principles, the matter shall be acted on affirmatively following a favorable vote by a simple majority of voting Council or committee members.

9. Amendments to Guiding Principles

Amendments to the guiding principles may be made in accordance with the following procedures:

A. Proposed amendments may be offered by any APDIM Council member.

B. APDIM Council will review proposed amendments and vote to make recommendation to the AAIM Board of Directors.

C. Proposed amendments will be submitted to the AAIM Board of Directors for review and approval.

D. The proposed amendment(s) will be adopted upon the affirmative vote of the AAIM Board of Directors.

Changes presented to APDIM Council: January 24, 2013
Changes approved by APDIM Council: January 24, 2013
Approved by AAIM Board of Directors: February 11, 2013
Effective date: February 11, 2013
Appendix 1

Council Treasurer Job Description

**Position Title:** Council Treasurer

The Council Treasurer (Treasurer) is elected for a three (3)-year term, or until a successor is elected and qualified. The Treasurer is elected by a majority of members polled by ballot each spring. Actual service may be less than three (3) years if the Treasurer is elected to another position on Council or resigns,

**Requirements:**

1. Financial management training, experience, or aptitude sufficient to fulfill the responsibilities.
2. Ability and willingness to devote the time necessary to learn and train in order to perform the necessary responsibilities.
3. General understanding of financial accounting for nonprofit organizations, specifically associations.
4. Ability to review materials provided in a timely manner.
5. A willingness to ask questions, even if this challenges staff or financial advisors.

**Responsibilities:**

1. Submit requests for financial resources to fund Council supported initiatives in accordance with the instructions of the Council in a timely manner.
2. Regularly report to the Council on the work of the AAIM Finance Committee and the financial health of AAIM.
3. Monitor the financial health of AAIM and advocate for fiscally responsible decision-making for AAIM.
4. Support the Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer in preparing the annual AAIM budget which the AAIM Finance Committee shall submit to the AAIM Board of Directors for approval.
5. Work with the AAIM Treasurer to develop fiscal policies and financial strategies for recommendation to the AAIM Board of Directors to ensure the financial integrity and sustainability of AAIM.
6. Actively participate in conference calls hosted at defined intervals with the other Council Treasurers to conduct the business of the AAIM Finance Committee.
7. Meet in person once per year with the other Council Treasurers to review and develop an AAIM Finance Committee recommended operating budget for approval by the AAIM Board of Directors.
Duties:

The primary purpose of the Treasurer is to serve as liaison to the AAIM Finance committee in addition to advocating for the initiatives supported by Council members. A treasurer has several important duties, including:

- Bank and investment account maintenance – Overseeing the selection of bank(s) and investment of excess funds.
- Financial transaction oversight – Is knowledgeable about who has access to the AAIM funds, and any outstanding bills or debts owed, as well as monitoring systems for keeping cash flow manageable.
- Budget development and monitoring.
  - Working with other leaders to develop the annual budget and fiscal philosophy;
  - Throughout the year, comparing actual revenues and expenses to what was budgeted.
- Financial policies – Ensuring the development, maintenance, and timely review of the organization's financial policies
- Reports.
  - Working with the Executive Vice President and the Chief Financial Officer to ensure that appropriate financial reports are made available to the Council on a regular basis.
  - Providing regular updates to the Council regarding key financial events, trends, concerns, and assessment of fiscal health.

These duties are executed with the support and assistance of the Executive Vice President and the financial staff.