



# IFMRS

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF  
MUSCULOSKELETAL RESEARCH SOCIETIES

# IFMRS Strategic Plan 2024-2026

## Our purpose

The IFMRS is an international, not-for-profit federation of musculoskeletal research societies. Our purpose is to promote excellence in the field of musculoskeletal science, in order to improve the prevention and treatment of all musculoskeletal conditions worldwide.

We do this by collaborating with, and fostering collaboration between, local, regional and international societies to share information and resources, raise public awareness, influence policy and provide education.

## Our values

- Scientific excellence & rigor
- Diversity, equity & inclusivity
- Global collaboration
- Transparency





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# Meeting the challenge for musculoskeletal research

The International Federation of Musculoskeletal Research Societies (IFMRS) is more than a membership body: it is a global alliance; a community of like-minded organizations with a focus on musculoskeletal (MSK) science; and a catalyst for change.

Despite their huge and well-documented impact on population health and global health economies, musculoskeletal (MSK) conditions continue to be universally under-recognised and under-prioritised. As a result, MSK research also remains widely under-recognised and under-resourced.

We want to achieve greater recognition and prioritization for MSK conditions, and MSK science and research, at national, regional and global level. Building a strong, diverse and inclusive community of MSK researchers is key to this.

Our 3 key goals are

- Trigger policy change to enhance recognition of MSK
- Improve cooperation and information by connecting networks across the MSK spectrum
- Adopt a systematic approach to understanding and addressing the diverse unmet research needs across the world, providing practical solutions and activities based on this understanding.

These are reflected in the 3 Pillars of our Strategic Plan:

## Influence, Network, Knowledge

To this, we have added a fourth Pillar - **Alliance** – to reflect the importance of growing the influence and value of our federation as a strategic aim in its own right.



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## Adding value

Our research community is very broad and varied, and brings together world-leading experts from across basic, clinical and translational MSK research. By working together, learning from each other and speaking with one voice we can make a huge impact in the advancement of learning and make a real difference to many millions of people across the world.

The IFMRS facilitates this effort by

- Providing a forum for multilateral discussion and cooperation on shared challenges
- Pooling and disseminating MSK knowledge
- Spearheading influencing at the international level

We work across the full range of MSK conditions, including rare diseases and “large population” ones such as osteoporosis and osteoarthritis, and the impact of MSK conditions on mobility.

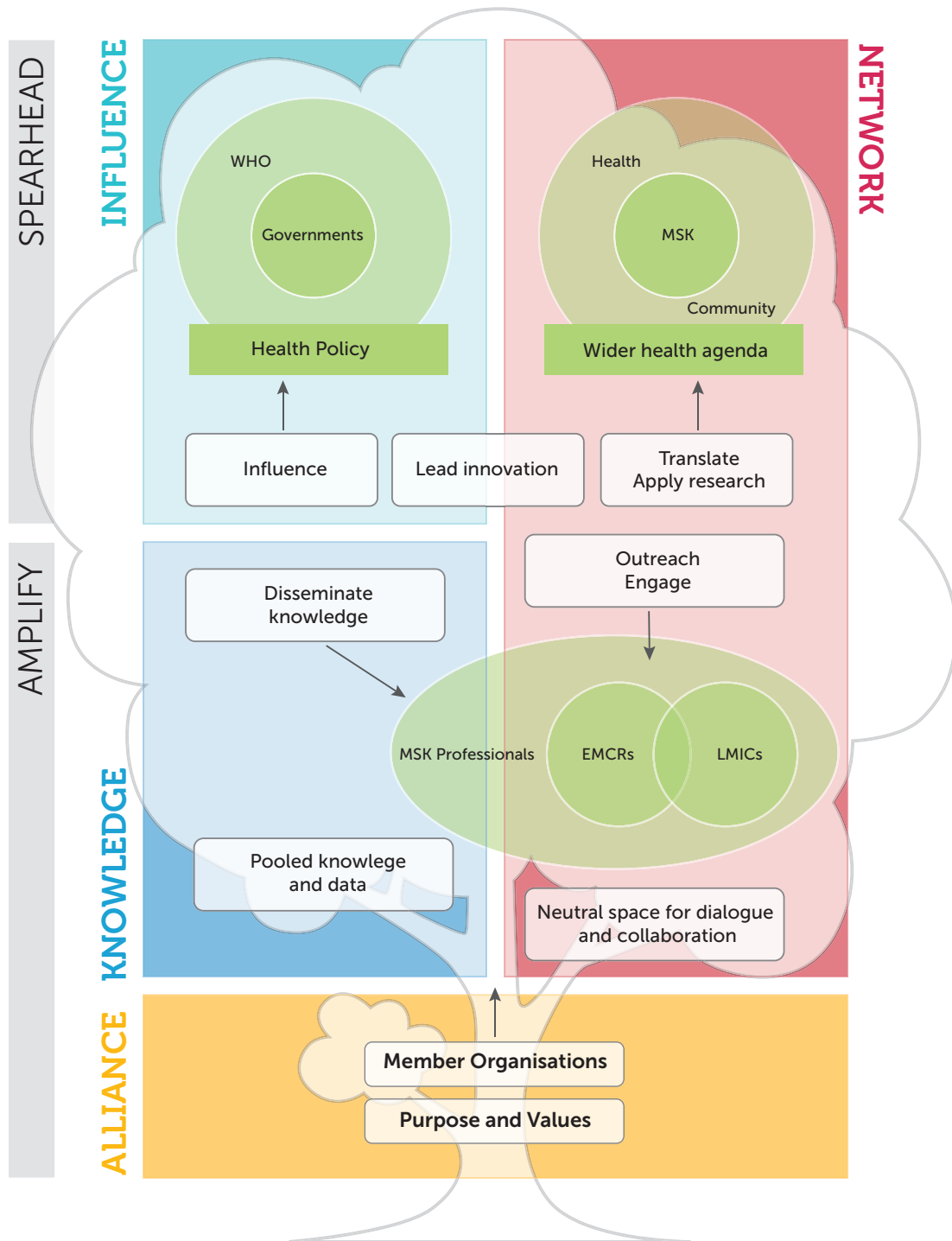
We add value by amplifying the work of our member organizations, and spearheading work in areas where we are best placed to lead a global effort.



# The IFMRS "Tree"

Our role and our work can be represented as a tree rooted in our Purpose & Values, with our members at the base (see diagram on the next page).

Our trunk represents our core strength, which resides in pooling knowledge and providing a neutral space for dialogue and collaboration (the "trusted broker" role). Our work and added value is captured in the orange boxes in the trees' leaves, and falls into three main areas (or pillars) – Influence, Network and Knowledge, with the fourth – Alliance – encompassing everything. Our core audiences and stakeholders are represented in yellow.





# Aims and Focus areas for 2024-2026

PILLAR	GOALS	AIM
<b>INFLUENCE</b>	Make MSK an international priority	1. INCREASE profile and priority for MSK and MSK research in global health policy
<b>NETWORK</b>	Improve collaboration, broaden our community, provide added value to member organizations	2. ENABLE genuinely collaborative and interdisciplinary dialogue and work 3. ENABLE MSK researchers - particularly EMCRs - in all parts of the world - including LMICs - to access the best possible resources to support excellence in MSK research 4. GROW and STRENGTHEN our community
<b>KNOWLEDGE</b>	Deepen and disseminate knowledge in MSK research	5. ADVANCE knowledge and innovation in MSK research
<b>ALLIANCE</b>	Build and provide a home for a genuinely global, diverse movement	6. GROW our influence and value as a federation

Each Aim constitutes a “workstream,” most of which are supported by a dedicated committee or working group(s), with nominated Board members to provide a conduit between these and the Board.

Items in italics are cross-cutting, ie they don’t represent distinct workstreams so much as priorities which underpin our overall work. Work in these areas is primarily “staff-led,” but rests as always on the participation of our members and stakeholders.

(NB Sustainability and income are not listed here as they are requirements for our long-term effectiveness, but are not externally-facing goals)



# Priority activities 2024-2026

## **Aim 1 INCREASE profile and priority for MSK and MSK research in global health policy**

INFLUENCE

PRIORITY ACTIVITY:

- Actively participate in and shape the agenda of a WHO high-level meeting
- Deliver a World Summit
- Capture evidence to create report on “Global state and strategies for MSK research”

## **Aim 2 ENABLE genuinely collaborative and interdisciplinary dialogue and work**

NETWORK

PRIORITY ACTIVITY:

- Identify key areas of scientific added value from collaboration across key MSK intersections, including:
  - Muscle and bone
  - Orthopedics, Endocrinology and Rheumatology (Basic and clinical)
- Outreach and integration of diverse MSK professionals in all workstreams



# Priority activities 2024-2026

## **Aim 3** ENABLE MSK researchers - particularly EMCRs - in all parts of the world - including LMICs - to access the best possible resources to support excellence in MSK research

PRIORITY ACTIVITY:

- Support practical delivery of the Global Action Plan
- Deliver an annual program of virtual roundtables
- Develop a mentoring network (There is currently a *task and finish group* for this project)
- Webinar/workshop series in partnership with a) ORS, b) AFLAR-GMUSC
- Support a thriving online discussion forum
- Fleisch Workshops in 3 continents
- Deliver a series of FGL bilateral webinars
- Establish FGL Awards
- Convene an FGL "Council" of FGL leads from member societies

NETWORK

## **Aim 4** GROW and STRENGTHEN our community

PRIORITY ACTIVITY:

- Increase members, especially from a) non-bone parts of MSK community, b) LMICs, c) translational/clinical
- Increase opportunities for high-level discussion with member organizations
- Establish more and stronger partnerships and joint projects
- Establish an IFMRS Ambassador Program
- Deliver an IFMRS lecture (standalone virtual event with a high-profile speaker)

NETWORK



# Priority activities 2024-2026

## Aim 5 ADVANCE knowledge and innovation in MSK research

### KNOWLEDGE

PRIORITY ACTIVITY:

- Build the Knowledge Network
- Explore and deliver an international project on Artificial Intelligence in MSK research
- Explore the creation of a “knowledge bank” of experts in clinical trials.
- Pool data and make it genuinely and measurably impactful in MSK research
- Lead a global consensus approach on tackling transition challenges for rare MSK diseases

## Aim 6 GROW our influence and value as a federation

### ALLIANCE

PRIORITY ACTIVITY:

- Embed the IFMRS in member society conferences, comms and events
- Deliver a joint IFMRS – host member society symposium on a trans-disciplinary topic, involving one top speaker from an emerging field (e.g. identified in other member societies).
- Build a strong, broad and diverse set of corporate partners through outreach and regular dialogue