

REGION 9 MULTICENTER ACUTE CARE SURGERY CONSORTIUM

Foundational Document

Article 1. Name

The name of this collaborative shall be the Region 9 Multicenter Acute Care Surgery Consortium (the “Consortium” or “Region 9 MACS Consortium”).

Article 2. Mission

The Consortium exists to advance acute care surgery across Region 9 through collaborative multicenter research, providing a practical framework for study development, data collaboration, and scholarly dissemination.

Article 3. Scope

The Consortium supports multicenter acute care surgery research and related scholarly work across participating Region 9 chapters and sites, with oversight of proposal review, collaboration, data access, authorship, and dissemination.

The Consortium is structured to operate as a practical and efficient collaborative. Its processes shall facilitate, rather than delay, the launch of sound multicenter projects.

Article 4. Steering Committee Membership

Each participating Region 9 chapter shall designate up to two representatives to serve on the Steering Committee, typically the Chapter Chair and Vice-Chair. The Region 9 Chief shall serve ex officio.

Additional administrative or advisory participants may be added as needed to support operations.

Article 5. Steering Committee Responsibilities and Terms

The Steering Committee shall provide general oversight of the Consortium and shall be responsible for:

- confirming Consortium priorities and scope;
- reviewing and approving study proposals;
- providing guidance on authorship and scholarly dissemination;
- providing guidance on data sharing, data access, and secondary analyses;
- supporting communication and coordination across participating chapters and sites.

Steering Committee terms shall generally be three years, aligned where feasible with the Vice-Chair term at the chapter level.

Article 6. Steering Committee Meetings

The Steering Committee shall meet quarterly, with meetings held in conjunction with ACS-COT meetings where feasible. Additional discussion and approvals may occur by email between meetings as circumstances require.

Members are expected to participate regularly. Consistent engagement is essential to the continuity, oversight, and momentum of the Consortium's work.

Article 7. Open Consortium Meetings

The Consortium shall hold open meetings approximately every two months. These meetings provide a forum for principal investigators to present proposed studies and to provide updates on active projects, and are open to investigators and collaborators from participating Region 9 chapters and sites.

Article 8. Operating Principles

The Consortium shall operate in accordance with the following principles:

- collaboration across Region 9 chapters and participating sites;
- flexibility and administrative simplicity;
- timely review of proposals and practical study launch;
- fair and inclusive scholarly participation;
- respect for local institutional and regulatory requirements.

Article 9. Study Proposals and Approval

All projects seeking Consortium support shall be submitted using the standard study proposal form. Proposals may be reviewed and approved either during Steering Committee meetings or by email, as circumstances require.

No fixed limit shall be imposed on the number of proposals per year or per chapter at the outset. The Steering Committee may revisit this provision should volume or overlap warrant.

Article 10. Authorship and Scholarly Dissemination

Authorship shall be practical, fair, and reasonably inclusive, while remaining grounded in meaningful contribution to the work.

Each study shall identify a lead investigator and a core writing group early in its development. Sites that contribute data, meet study requirements, and remain engaged should be considered for authorship where feasible.

For multicenter work, manuscripts and presentations may include a collaborative designation, including use of the Region 9 MACS Collaborative where appropriate.

Article 11. Data Sharing and Secondary Analyses

Data sharing shall be limited to what is necessary to complete an approved study and shall remain consistent with the requirements of participating institutions. The Consortium favors practical data-sharing approaches that allow studies to move forward efficiently while respecting privacy, regulatory, and institutional constraints.

Requests for secondary analyses or new projects derived from Consortium data shall be reviewed by the Steering Committee to avoid unnecessary overlap and to promote transparency and fairness.

Article 12. Administrative and Operational Support

The Consortium shall coordinate with ACS administrative leadership to secure appropriate operational support, including website hosting, communications, and maintenance of key Consortium documents and contact lists.

Article 13. Amendment

This foundational document may be revised by the Steering Committee as the Consortium evolves.

Adopted: 06/04/2026