

Sections get creative with Fellowship recruitment

After enduring the brunt of COVID-19 throughout last year, many ICD Sections and Regions began 2021 thinking outside of the box on how to navigate activities during an ongoing pandemic. Through the often-changing lock down protocols, travel restrictions and virus surges occurring on different levels worldwide, it became very difficult to organize events. ICD leaders understood the need to adapt through creative methods in order to keep Fellows engaged, connected and maintain recruitment efforts.

Some Sections held all-virtual convocation ceremonies and meetings this year. The USA Section held its second ever [virtual convocation ceremony](#), bringing in 277 new Fellows. The [Canadian Section](#) followed suit with a digital ceremony in April, welcoming 40 inductees.

A few Sections used a hybrid of virtual and in-person activities to reach their existing Fellows and induct new ones. Section V Europe made history by holding several local convocation ceremonies instead of one centralized ceremony. The Section consists of a few dozen countries, each with their own set of circumstances and protocols around the pandemic. It became evident that one, large in-person ceremony would not work this year, so each district held a smaller, localized event. This proved to be hugely successful, allowing the Section to induct a record-breaking total of more than 70 Fellows from many nations including Germany, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Portugal, Spain and the United Kingdom. Read more about each [European district event](#).



(Left) Section V, District 12 Spain held a convocation in Palma de Mallorca on Sept. 24, 2021, welcoming 7 new Fellows. (Right) Section V, District 4 England, Scotland & Wales held their annual meeting and induction ceremony in Surrey on Nov. 20, 2021, inducting 15 new Fellows.

Section IV South America acted similarly to Europe by holding a virtual Regents meeting while simultaneously inducting Fellows in person. The Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay district leaders provided Fellowship Keys and Certificates to their inductees in person within their countries, while logging into the virtual meeting so that everyone could see each other on screen. Through this combined effort of digital tools and traditional connection, Section IV welcomed 14 new Fellows into the College. The Japan Section held a hybrid ceremony with 11 new Fellows inducted, five of which were in attendance virtually.



(Top Left) Section IV, Uruguay District Registrar Elena Kavaliauskis inducts 4 new Fellows on Nov. 6, 2021.

(Top Right) Four new Fellows of the Section IV, Paraguay District hold their certificates up after being inducted on Nov. 6.



(Left) Section VII Japan new Fellows and Officers are pictured both in person and on screen during their hybrid convocation on June 5, 2021.

Several ICD Sections and Regions were fortunate to be able to hold face-to-face convocation ceremonies. They were unable to invite international guests to their events due to the circumstances, so, with some help from the College Office, they utilized pre-recorded video messages during their convocations. This allowed inductees the opportunity to gain exposure to international leaders and Fellows, without the burden of traveling during these uncertain times. Face-to-face convocations were held by [Section VIII Australasia](#) with 30 new Fellows, [Section XII Chinese Taipei](#) with 14 new Fellows, Section XIII China with 91 new Fellows and Region 21 Guatemala, Central America with 7 new Fellows.

We all miss seeing each other, chatting in person, making real-life connections and traveling. It is our goal to continue with in-person activities throughout the College as soon as it is safe to do so. Whether it is the pandemic today or political unrest tomorrow, there will always be conflicts and situations that create barriers to ICD events and planning. However, we are learning that the College and its Fellows are truly agile and resilient. It is more important, now than ever before, to keep this innovative mind set and remember we are all part of one ICD team with one mission.



Section XX, Region 21 new Fellows and guests sit socially distanced during the Nov. 11 convocation in Guatemala City.



An inductee is presented with her Fellowship Key during the Section XIII ceremony on April 22, 2021, in Chengdu.