



Global Ergothioneine Association (GEA) Value Proposition & Membership Overview

1) Why GEA Exists

Ergothioneine is emerging to be an important nutrient relevant to healthy aging. The science is growing, public interest is rising, and commercialization is accelerating. However, the field remains fragmented and underfunded relative to what is needed for broad adoption.

Many in the field view ergothioneine as important as essential vitamins and nutrients. Often described as a “*longevity vitamin*,” ergothioneine is proposed by some as a conditionally essential nutrient. Humans cannot synthesize it, yet the body actively transports and retains it through the existence of an ergothioneine transporter. A growing body of observational and mechanistic evidence suggests that lower ergothioneine status may be associated with less favorable aging-related outcomes, including higher risk for mortality, neurodegenerative and cardiovascular diseases.

GEA is a non-profit association created to move the ergothioneine field forward together, faster, and more responsibly, by aligning on evidence standards, coordinating education, and catalyzing high-integrity research.

We are building a partnership of members committed to advancing responsible, evidence-led adoption of ergothioneine, through research, education, and appropriate incorporation into supplements and foods where supported by the science.

GEA is built around three practical outcomes:

- **Accelerate the evidence base** through shared research priorities and group-funded studies.
- **Raise the bar** on scientific standards and responsible communications to reduce confusion and misinformation.
- **Protect long-term category credibility** through quality expectations and transparency.

Progress depends primarily on research institutions, ingredient producers/manufacturers, clinicians, and brands working from a shared mission. GEA convenes the stakeholders who shape this ecosystem:

- Academic researchers
- Clinicians and public-health professionals
- Ingredient producers/manufacturers
- Brands and product developers
- Science communicators and media
- Supporters and community members who want credible, evidence-led resources



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2) Value Proposition for Members

Membership is designed to deliver tangible, adoption-driving outputs. Core member value includes:

- **A shared evidence roadmap:** agreed priority questions, endpoints, and study designs that can move the field forward.
- **A research funding vehicle:** coordinated group-funding for high-integrity clinical and translational studies when traditional funding is limited.
- **Evidence resources:** concise briefs and educational materials that clearly separate what is established, what is emerging, and what remains uncertain.
- **Responsible communications:** guidance to keep claims and messaging aligned with the evidence and regulatory expectations.
- **Credible collaborations:** connecting researchers, clinicians, labs, and brands to accelerate execution and reduce duplicated effort.

3) Structure and Governance

The GEA is a Californian non-profit public benefit corporation with two categories of participation:

- **Full Members (voting):** organizations directly engaged in producing, manufacturing, using, or enabling the responsible commercialization of ergothioneine.
- **Associate Members (non-voting):** researchers, clinicians, media, supporters, and other stakeholders who contribute to the mission but do not participate in governance voting.

GEA governance bodies may include:

- **Board of Directors** (fiduciary oversight and strategic direction)
- **Scientific Advisory Board (SAB):** independent scientific guidance (advisory only)
- **Working Groups:** Evidence Standards; Clinical Endpoints/Biomarkers; Analytical Methods & Quality; Education & Communications



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4) Membership Categories and Annual Fees

Fees are annual and support GEA's research convenings, evidence resources, and responsible education. Company size is self-reported; the Board may adjust fees over time. Hardship considerations may be applied for academics or limited-resource groups.

Full Members (voting)

Full Member Category	Who this is for	Annual Fee
Ingredient Producers/Manufacturers	Organizations manufacturing ergothioneine	Small (<\$25M): \$5,000 Mid (\$25–\$250M): \$10,000 Large (>\$250M): \$20,000
Brands & Ingredient Users	Food, beverage, supplement, and consumer health brands; ingredient houses; product developers using ergothioneine or future consideration of adopting ergothioneine	Small (<\$25M): \$5,000 Mid (\$25–\$250M): \$10,000 Large (>\$250M): \$20,000
Service & Enablement Partners	Contract manufacturers, analytical labs, and other service providers supporting quality and responsible translation.	Small (<\$25M): \$5,000 Mid (\$25–\$250M): \$10,000 Large (>\$250M): \$20,000

Associate Members (non-voting)

Associate Member Category	Who this is for	Annual Fee
Academic/Research Members	Faculty, researchers, trainees, labs, and research institutes contributing to ergothioneine science; eligible for SAB/working groups.	Individual: \$250 Lab/Center: \$1,000 Institutional: \$2,500 \$0 (complimentary for speakers & existing ergothioneine researchers)
Clinicians & Public Health	Healthcare professionals and public-health stakeholders supporting evidence-led education and practice translation.	Individual: \$250 Organization: \$1,000
Media & Science Communicators	Journalists, podcasters, writers, and communicators committed to accurate interpretation and responsible messaging.	\$0 (complimentary)
Supporters / Individuals	Individuals who want credible education resources and to support the mission.	Individual: \$150
Regulatory / Standards Stakeholders (optional)	Government, standards, and policy stakeholders participating in dialogue and education (non-lobbying).	\$0 (complimentary)



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5) Flagship GEA Initiatives

Year 1: Build the foundation

GEA's first year is focused on establishing credible governance and delivering practical outputs that members can apply immediately.

- **Founding governance + integrity guardrails:** establish the Board, conflict-of-interest policy, and a small Scientific Advisory Board (SAB).
- **Research priorities (Founding Roadmap):** align on 3–5 priority questions for the field (e.g., endpoints, populations, biomarkers)
- **Evidence briefs:** produce concise, citation-forward briefs that clearly separate what is established, what is emerging, and what remains uncertain. These briefs can be repurposed into a scientific review manuscript(s).
- **Clinical Study Fund (planning phase):** define governance, contribution options, and study criteria so co-funding can launch once membership reaches scale.

Years 2–3: Scale and deliver field-building outputs (as membership grows)

As membership and resources expand, GEA will build on the foundation to deliver larger, high-impact initiatives.

- **Launch the GEA Clinical Study Fund:** a transparent, member-supported mechanism to co-fund priority clinical and translational studies.
- **Annual Evidence & Outcomes Roadmap:** a structured update on priority endpoints, study designs, evidence gaps, and research opportunities.
- **Quality & methods guidance:** consensus-based best practices on analytical methods and quality considerations
- **Education expansion:** webinars, consumer or clinician-facing briefings, and responsible communications resources to support accurate science translation.

Long-term vision: To make ergothioneine evidence-led and broadly adopted

GEA's long-term goal is to help move the fragmented field to a coherent, trustworthy body of evidence, supporting responsible education, higher-quality research, and credible translation into real-world nutrition and health applications.

6) Next steps to join GEA

To apply for membership, please email the attached Application Form to:
info@globalergothioneineassociation.org.



Membership & Participation Application

Thank you for your interest in the GEA. Please email the completed form to:
info@globalergothioneineassociation.org

A. Applicant Information

Full Name

Organization / Institution

Country / Time Zone

LinkedIn / Website

Email

Title / Role

Phone (optional)

B. Membership Tier (choose one)

Full Members	Associate Members
☐ Ingredient Producers/Manufacturers	☐ Academic/Research Members
☐ Brands & Ingredient Users	☐ Clinicians & Public Health
☐ Service & Enablement Partners	☐ Media & Science Communicators
	☐ Supporters / Individuals
	☐ Regulatory / Standards Stakeholders

☐ Other: _____

C. Engagement Goals (select any)

☐ Access evidence summaries / education

☐ Join a working group (science, standards, education)

☐ Sponsor or support research/education

☐ Other suggestions:

☐ Collaborate on research

☐ Speak or contribute content

☐ Stay informed

Interest in Scientific Advisory Board or working groups? ☐ Yes ☐ Maybe ☐ No

For brands/suppliers: are you developing or selling an ergothioneine-containing product?

☐ Yes ☐ Planning ☐ No

Anything else we should know? (optional)



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D: Proof of your company's existence in law

Please attach a copy of a recent extract from the register of companies proving your company's existence in law. Alternatively, please provide some other satisfactory evidence of your company's existence in law.

E. Signature

The Undersigned hereby declares the following:

I hereby confirm my agreement to the GEA Policies of being a Member of the Global Ergothioneine Association.

My organization commits to pay the annual membership fees upfront and in accordance with the level described in this document.

I understand that this application will be subject to confirmation by the Board of Directors of the Global Ergothioneine Association.

Full name (typed):

Date:

Signature:
