

# INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF INTERNAL MEDICINE

## STATUTES

### *Article 1*

The International Society of Internal Medicine is a Society founded 1948 in Basle. It was established according to Articles 60 to 79 of the Swiss Civil Code. The domicile of the Society is Basle/Switzerland. The purpose of the International Society of Internal Medicine is to promote scientific knowledge and unity in Internal Medicine, to further the education of young internists, and to encourage friendship between physicians in all countries. Internal Medicine is defined as that branch of medical science and clinical art which deals with internal diseases, and comprising both General Internal Medicine and all specialized branches of Internal Medicine.

### *Article 2*

#### Membership

Membership is of four classes: Society Members, Honorary Members, Life Members, and Individual Members. Membership is decided by the Executive Committee, subject to a right of recourse to the General Assembly.

- a) *Society Members*: In countries where there is an organization which represents a majority of internists in that country, that organization may apply to the Executive Committee of the International Society of Internal Medicine for *Society Membership*, and, if approved by the Committee shall be admitted to *Society Membership*. A *Member Society* shall nominate to the Executive Committee two internist members to serve as representatives of that country in the General Assembly of the ISIM. Such *Society Membership* is dependent on the payment by that Society of annual membership fees as fixed by the General Assembly and in an amount related to the number of members in that Society.
- b) *Honorary Members*: Persons who have contributed greatly to the development of internal medicine, or whose work has been of importance in the world, particularly from a medical point of view, may be elected Honorary Members. Election shall be by the General Assembly, upon nomination by a member of the Executive Committee, or of the General Assembly. Honorary Members are entitled to vote at business meetings of the Society. Honorary Membership shall be bestowed by the General Assembly upon the Presidents and the General Chairmen of the International Congress of the Society. Honorary Members are exempt from the annual membership fee.
- c) *Life Members*: Life Members must be specialists in internal medicine, acknowledged as such and accepted by the appropriate national societies of internal medicine, or be Board-certified or Board-eligible, in countries in which such a certifying Board exists. Their application for membership must be supported by at least one member of the General Assembly of the International Society of Internal Medicine, who is of the country of the applicant. In countries where there is no national society of internal medicine, the Executive Committee shall decide whether the candidate can be accepted as a life member. Life members shall pay a single fee to be fixed by the General Assembly.
- d) *Individual Members*: Individual Membership is restricted to specialists in internal medicine from countries whose national society of internal medicine is not a *Society Member* of the International Society of Internal Medicine. Their application for membership must be supported by at least one member of the General Assembly. Individual Members shall pay an annual membership fee to be decided by the Society.

## Article 3

### The General Assembly

The General Assembly is the highest authority of the International Society of Internal Medicine. It shall consist of two members from each member country to be nominated by the Member Society of that country. Individual Members, Honorary Members and Life Members have the right to vote in the General Assembly.

The General Assembly shall meet at least once at the time and place of the International Congress. The duties of the General Assembly shall include:

- a) To elect the Executive Committee of the Society
- b) To approve the annual account of the treasurer
- c) To set the annual membership fees, which shall in no case exceed the amount of USD 0.20 per member registered with the respective member society or USD 10.00 for Individual Members.
- d) To decide on the venue of the International Congress of Internal Medicine
- e) To decide on amendments of these statutes
- f) To discuss and decide on the recommendations of the Executive Committee and to take such actions on those recommendations as it deems proper.

Decisions of the General Assembly are taken with the majority of the participating Representatives of the Society Members, of Honorary Members, Life Members and Individual Members,

Between Congresses, the members of the General Assembly function in their several countries in the interest of the International Society of Internal Medicine by:

- a) Keeping the Secretary advised of developments within their own national society.
- b) Assisting the International Society of Internal Medicine to exchange information with their respective individual member societies, and to raise the profile of the Society in their own country.
- c) Assisting in the preparation and promotion of the program of the International Congress.

### The Executive Committee

The Executive Committee shall consist of three classes of officers:

1. The elected Officers (President, President-Elect, Secretary General, Treasurer).
2. Members-at-large, 6 in number, 2 to be elected each 2 years for a 6-years term, upon nomination by the Executive Committee and approval by the General Assembly.
3. The immediate Past-President.

### Officers

The Officers of the Society are: The President, the President-elect, the Secretary General, and the Treasurer.

### The President

The President shall be elected by the General Assembly, upon nomination by the Executive Committee; to serve for a period of two years, or until a successor is duly elected. The duties of the President are to preside over the meetings of the Executive Committee, and of the General Assembly, and at the opening and closing Sessions of the International Congress.

## The President-Elect

The President-Elect shall be elected by the General Assembly, upon nomination by the Executive Committee; to serve for a period of two years, or until elected to succeed to the presidency. His duties are to assist the President, to serve in his stead.

## The Secretary General

The Secretary General shall be elected by the General Assembly, to serve for a period of four years, and is eligible to succeed himself. He shall perform the duties customary to that office.

## The Treasurer

The office of Treasurer shall be filled by a *Banker*, preferably of the same country as that of the Secretary General. The Treasurer is to be elected by the General Assembly and is to serve under its continued approval and guidance.

The duties of the Executive Committee are:

- a) To act in the interim between Congresses to carry out the policies of the Society, including the appointment, for unexpired terms, of offices that have become vacant.
- b) To act as a Nominating Committee as herein set forth.
- c) To act as a Membership Committee as herein set forth.
- d) To act as a Program Committee, in conjunction with the Executive Committee of the International Congress, as hereinafter set forth.
- e) To receive invitation for future Congresses.
- f) To refer its several actions to the General Assembly for approval or disapproval, and for final action.
- g) To liaise with individual member societies on a regular basis to exchange information, and to raise the profile of the International Society of Internal Medicine.

The Executive Committee shall meet at the time of the biennial International Congress, and also at least once in the off-year between the International Congresses.

## Article 4

### Meetings

The International Society of Internal Medicine meets at the biennial International Congress.

The *venue* of that *International Congress* is determined by decision of the General Assembly on recommendations of the Executive Committee.

The *aim* of the *International Congress* is the presentation of a *program in accordance with the purpose of the Society*, arranged in the host country by a *Congress Executive Committee* to which the Executive Committee of the Society stands in an advisory capacity. In particular, the Executive Committee of the International Congress shall submit to the Executive Committee of the Society for its approval the proposed themes and a major outline of the program of the Congress, and shall be receptive for its suggestions.

The *organization and functioning* of the *International Congress Executive Committee* are matters of local concern, under the direction of those Nationals of the country who serve either on the Executive Committee of the Society or in the General Assembly of the Society. There should be at least two Officers of a Congress: *A President of the Congress, and a General Chairman of the Congress.*

*Attendance* at a *Congress* is permitted, only upon *registration*, both by members of the International Society of Internal Medicine and by non-members, including physicians and interested scientists of disciplines other than internal medicine. The *accompanying persons* of those registered in attendance, both members and non-members may also be admitted to such registration.

The *financing* of a *Congress* is the responsibility of the *Congress Executive Committee*. It shall have such support from the Society Treasury as the Executive Committee of the Society shall determine. An established procedure to provide some financial support to the *Congress* is by levying of a *registration fee* on those who attend the *Congress*. That fee is to be set by the *Congress Executive Committee*.

#### *Article 5*

##### Communication

The Society shall communicate significant international news in the field of internal medicine and its representative societies at regular intervals.

#### *Article 6*

##### Liability

The International Society of Internal Medicine is not liable for any losses or damages incurred by the activities of their officers.

Financial liabilities of the Society are covered by the assets of the Society only. Any liability of the members is excluded.

#### *Article 7*

##### Amendments

Amendments to these Statutes can be made at the General Assembly of the Society, on recommendation by the Executive Committee by vote of a majority of Society members, Honorary Members, Life Members, and Individual Members present, provided such amendments have been previously circulated.

#### *Article 8*

##### Dissolution

The dissolution of the Society can be decided only with the oral or written approval of the least 2/3 of the member societies, and the least 2/3 of the Honorary Members, Life Members and Individual Members. The General Assembly may appoint a liquidation committee and decides about the distribution of a possible liquidation profit.

*Statutes adopted at Granada, 29 September, 2004 by the General Assembly of the International Society of Internal Medicine*

---

*The statutes dated April 12, 1973 are therefore null and void.*