



CONSTITUTION of the EUROPEAN ATHEROSCLEROSIS SOCIETY

ARTICLE 1 - STYLE

The society is called *European Atherosclerosis Society (EAS)*. The society was founded in 1964 and is registered in Sweden as a charitable non-profit organization.

ARTICLE 2 - OBJECTIVES

The European Atherosclerosis Society is instituted for the purpose of advancing and exchanging knowledge concerning the causes, natural history, treatment and prevention of atherosclerotic disease. The Society shall promote education and training in the prevention and care of atherosclerosis and its clinical manifestations, and equally in basic science, in the atherosclerosis field. The Society shall also strive to enhance awareness in Europe of the severity and magnitude of cardiovascular diseases. In order to promote these objectives, the Society shall actively interact with national and regional societies sharing similar objectives.

ARTICLE 3 - MEMBERSHIP

The Society is based on individual membership and embraces scientists, physicians, laboratory workers, nurses, dieticians, and students residing in Europe or neighboring countries who are engaged in activities that are in line with the objectives stipulated in Article 2.

Membership of the Society shall be subdivided into Ordinary, Honorary and Corresponding.

(a) **Ordinary Members** shall be entitled to full privileges of the Society, namely, to hold office, to vote, to take part in the business of the Society, and to participate in its social and its scientific activities. Ordinary Members shall pay the full annual subscription.

(b) **Honorary Members.** Persons of distinction in the field of atherosclerosis, or who have been of particular service to the Society, shall be eligible for election as Honorary Members. Honorary Members shall have the same right as Ordinary Members to take part in discussions and to vote at meetings of the Society, but shall not hold office and shall not pay any subscription.

(c) **Corresponding Members.** Distinguished non-European scientists who have made a substantial contribution to the proceedings of the Society may be

eligible to become Corresponding Members. They shall pay a subscription and shall have voting power.

(d) In addition to individual membership, companies can be admitted as Corporate Members of the Society. **Corporate Members** shall pay an annual subscription determined by the Executive Committee and shall have no voting power.

ARTICLE 4 - ORGANIZATION

Office-Bearers and Executive Committee

(a) The business of the Society shall be conducted by an Executive Committee elected from the Ordinary Membership of the Society. The Executive Committee shall comprise the Officers of the Society (President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer) and four Ordinary Members and, where appropriate, a President-Elect, Secretary-Elect and the former-President (for a period of one year). The Executive Committee shall be empowered to co-opt additional Ordinary Members to serve on the Committee for specific purposes. Co-opted members have no voting power.

(b) Four members shall form a quorum at a meeting of the Executive Committee.

(c) Periods of Office and Duties of Officers and Committee Offices:

(i) The President is elected one year before he/she takes office. During that year, he/she is **President-Elect** and will be a supernumerary member of the Executive Committee if not already a member.

The period of office is four years, and the President is not eligible for immediate re-election. The President shall preside at Executive Committee and Members' Assembly meetings and is empowered to nominate another member of the Executive Committee to preside in his/her absence if the Vice-President is not present. The President has a casting-vote at all meetings.

(ii) The Vice-President assists the President in running the society. The period of office is four years and the Vice-President is not eligible for immediate re-election.

EUROPEAN ATHEROSCLEROSIS SOCIETY

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- (iii) The Secretary is elected one year before he/she takes office. During that year, the Secretary-Elect will be a supernumerary member of the Executive Committee if not already a member. The period of office is four years, and the Secretary is eligible for immediate re-election for not more than one further period of office. The Secretary is responsible for all administrative matters excluding financial matters.
- (iv) The Treasurer holds office for four years and is eligible for re-election for not more than one further period of office. He/she is responsible for all the Society's financial matters.
- (v) The four non-Officers of the Executive Committee will ordinarily serve four years. They are not eligible for immediate re-election.
- (vi) The EAS may appoint an Administrative executive and/or administrative assistants to assist the Executive Committee with the running of the Society business.

ARTICLE 5 – MEMBERSHIP PROCEDURES

(a) Ordinary and Corresponding Members

- (i) Application forms for membership shall be available to participants on the EAS website.
- (ii) An appointed member of the Executive Committee shall scrutinize and approve the applications for Ordinary Membership and Corresponding Membership.
- (iii) New EAS members shall be announced on the EAS website.

(b) Appointment of Honorary Members

Any Ordinary Member of the Society is entitled to propose, with the support of at least four other members, the name of a distinguished person judged suitable for Honorary Membership. Such proposals shall be made to the Executive Committee 3 months before the annual General Assembly. If the nomination(s) is(are) accepted by the Executive Committee, the election of the Honorary member shall be decided at the General Assembly by a members' vote.

(c) Election of Office-Bearers and Executive Committee

- (i) The names of members to replace retiring Officers or Ordinary Members of the Executive Committee may be proposed by a member of the Society who has obtained the written consent of the nominee. Such nominations shall be sent to the EAS office at least 3 months prior to the election. Voting is held annually via a website-based ballot containing the names of the retiring members of the Executive Committee and the names of those nominated to fill the vacancies. The completed ballot is submitted through the electronic voting system and is

tabulated electronically. A member of the society is selected by the Executive Committee to monitor and review the election results for accuracy.

- (ii) In the event of an incidental vacancy occurring on the Executive Committee, this shall be filled at the next Members' Assembly by the election of another Officer or member of the Committee from among the Ordinary Members of the Society. This member shall only hold office for the unexpired term of office of the member replaced, but shall be eligible for re-election.

ARTICLE 6 - SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS

(a) Regular scientific meetings shall be held each year in Europe. The Society shall organize one annual congress and when possible, sponsor additional workshop(s), symposia, or other educational activities including accredited programs.

(b) The EAS Congress shall be organized by a local President who shall be appointed by the EAS Executive Committee, and who will work in cooperation with the host country's national society(s). The Scientific Program Committee (SPC) shall be chaired by the Chair of the EAS Scientific Committee, or if appropriate by a member of the EAS Executive Committee, and composed of the local President, the President and/or President-Elect of the EAS, the Presidents of the previous and next EAS Congresses, the chair of the preceding SPC and no more than five distinguished European scientists appointed by the EAS Executive Committee.

ARTICLE 7 - JOURNAL

The official journal of the European Atherosclerosis Society is *Atherosclerosis*. The Editor-in-Chief is appointed by the EAS Executive Committee in cooperation with the publisher Elsevier. The Editor's term is four years, and the Editor is eligible for immediate re-appointment for not more than one further period of office.

ARTICLE 8 - FINANCES

The Society's annual fee for Ordinary and Corresponding Members includes the membership fee and subscription of the journal *Atherosclerosis*. The amount shall be proposed by the Executive Committee but requires approval by a simple majority of the voting members present at the Members' Assembly meeting.

The liability of the Society shall be limited to its own assets and members shall not be personally liable for debts incurred by the Society. The Society's finances are subject to an annual external audit. The President, the Vice-President, the Treasurer, the Secretary, and, if appointed, the Administrative Executive can each officially sign contracts and legal or financial documents for the Society.

ARTICLE 9 - GENERAL RULES

(a) The name and logo of the Society cannot be used for any purpose without the prior agreement of the Executive Committee.

(b) A member whose subscription is two years in arrears and who has been duly notified of the fact shall, if the Executive Committee sees fit, be removed from membership of the Society.

(c) The Executive Committee shall be empowered to invite any other scientific society or organization to join in the work of a meeting.

(d) The annual Members' Assembly shall be held during the annual EAS Congress or, if appropriate, during EAS-related workshops or symposia. Members shall be notified of the date and place of the next annual Members' Assembly at least three months in advance. Documents to be discussed at the Members' Assembly shall be posted on the EAS website at least one month in advance of the next Members' Assembly and protocols from each meeting shall be posted on the EAS website within three weeks of the annual Members' Assembly.

(e) At the annual Members' Assembly, the President or Secretary shall report on the work done by the Society during the preceding year, and the Treasurer shall present a statement of the Society's accounts.

(f) Members shall be notified of the date of the next annual voting for Officers and members of the Executive Committee at least four months in advance. This information shall be available on the EAS website.

(g) At the initiative of the Executive Committee, the Society may wish to obtain consensual feedback from the members on specific issues in a timely manner. Such official feedback may be obtained by a simple majority of the voting members either at the annual Members' Assembly or via an electronically facilitated referendum.

ARTICLE 10 - DISSOLUTION

The Society can only be dissolved with the agreement of two-thirds of the members. Any residual funds shall be divided equally among the then current Ordinary Members for use in research on atherosclerosis.

ARTICLE 11 - ALTERATIONS AND AMENDMENTS

(a) Any alteration, addition or amendment to the above Constitution and Regulations of the Society must be circulated to all members at least one month in advance of the next Members' Assembly. This information shall be available on the EAS website.

(b) If special reasons require, voting on alteration and/or amendments to the Constitution may be performed electronically. A member of the society shall then be selected by the Executive Committee to monitor and review the voting result for accuracy. Alterations and amendments approved via an electronically-facilitated referendum must be verified by voting at the next Members' Assembly to become permanent.

(c) The changes require the agreement of two-thirds of the voting members.

ARTICLE 12 - CONFLICTS

The Society operates under Swedish law and conflicts should be handled, if not otherwise specified, in signed contracts, by Swedish courts.