

Adopted Bylaws as of June 13, 2017

MEDITERRANEAN NEUROSCIENCES SOCIETY

Bylaws

Article I

The name of the Society is the Mediterranean Neuroscience Society. Acronym: MNS

Article II - Purpose

The purposes of the Society are scientific, educational, literary, charitable, and no other. In furtherance of these purposes, the business and objectives of the society shall be to

- 1) advance the understanding of nervous systems, including the part they play in determining normal and pathological behaviour;
- 2) bring together scientists of various backgrounds and disciplines;
- 3) facilitate the integration of research directed at all levels of biological organization;
- 4) promote education in the neurosciences;
- 5) inform the general public on the results and implications of current research in neuroscience, and
- 6) promote other activities that will contribute to the development of neuroscience.

Article III – Headquarter

The Council has decided that the Society's headquarter is at CNRS, 31 Joseph Aiguier, 13402 Marseille Cedex 20, France. It can be transferred on a simple decision of the Council.

Article IV – Membership

Section 1. Members. The Society shall consist of three classes of members: Regular, Student and Affiliate.

Section 2. Regular Members. Any person who has done research relating to the neurosciences is eligible to be a Regular Member. Applications shall follow procedures defined by Council.

Section 3. Student Members. Students enrolled in programs at degree-granting institutions of higher education are eligible to apply for Student Membership. Student membership shall terminate at the end of the first membership year in which the Student is able to apply for another class of membership after completing or otherwise leaving the degree granting program. Former Student Members shall be eligible for election to another class of membership according to the same procedures and criteria as other scientific workers.

Section 4. Affiliate Members. All persons interested in the Society's objectives but not eligible for Regular or Student membership may be appointed to Affiliate Membership. Categories of Affiliate membership shall be as defined in the Resolutions to Bylaws.

Section 5. Dues and Assessments. Council shall set annual dues and special assessments to the Members according to the needs of the Society. Honorary and Emeritus Members shall not be billed for annual dues or other assessments.

Article V - Admissions, Radiations

Candidacies are examined by the Office. In case of dispute, the council will decide.

Removal is acquired by renunciation, retirement or death.

Removal could be uttered by the council for failure to pay the annual dues or for a serious matter. In the former case, the concerned member will receive an ultimatum from the treasurer. In the latter, the concerned member will be asked by a recommended letter to appear in front of the council and explain the situation.

Article VI - Resources

The resources of the Society include:

- membership fees and any donation
- funding from governments (Europe, States, Regions, Departments, Cities...)
- funding from governmental and private institutions

Article VII – Council

Section 1. Council. The Society's affairs shall be conducted through a Council consisting of elected Councillors.

The Council is composed of the President, Vice-President, and 3 members representing each discipline as defined by the Rulebook. The past-president is honorary member of the Council and the Executive bureau during the term that follows her/his mandate. Being honorary member, her/his membership dues are waived.

Section 2. Election of Councillors. Councillors shall be elected for a two-year term with a maximum of two terms. Half of them is renewed every 2 years.

The Vice-President is elected by the members every 2 years, at the end of which he/she becomes President of the Society. For the 1st year of the Society, a President and a Vice-President are both elected for 3 years.

Members of the Council are elected by secret vote by all members who have paid their membership fee at the moment of the election. Candidacies for elections are presented to the Nominating Committee who examines their validity.

In case of vacancy, the Council replaces the members temporarily until the next elections.

The newly designated bureau and elected council and nominating committee members take office 2 months after the election.

Section 3. Specific issues. The President and Vice-President must be from a Mediterranean country. When the President is from a North Country, the Vice-President shall be from a South country, and vice versa. Also, attention should be paid to the gender issue: the Society shall have an active policy for encouraging the participation of women to the Society' activities.

Section 4. Transition Period. In 2009, half of the Councillors are elected for a three-year term, the other half will be elected for three years. From 2015 on, half of the Councillors will be renewed every 2 years.

Section 5. Limit of mandates. No member can serve more than 2 terms, at any officer or executive position. The only exceptions to this rule are the following cases: (1) A Vice-President becomes President even if she/he has served 2 terms as Councillor. (2) The past-president is honorary member for a single term, independently of their previous terms.

Article VIII – Society Office

The Society Office includes the President, the Vice-President, the General Secretary, The Treasurer, The Vice-Secretary and the Vice-Treasurer.

After each election, the Vice-Secretary and the Vice-Treasurer are nominated by the Council among the newly elected Councillors representing the disciplines. They serve their duties for a 2-year term, after which they become Secretary General and Treasurer, respectively, for another 2-year term.

Officers must be from North and South countries of the Mediterranean, in a more or less balanced gender ratio.

Article IX – Council Meetings

Section 1. Meetings. Council shall meet at least once a year, and at other times and places as is deemed necessary. Meetings may be conducted in person or by telephone or other form of telephonic communication. Council may also conduct business by mail or email but in such cases any vote must be unanimous of all voting members of Council. Decisions are made by the vote with the majority of. In case of equality the President's voice prevails.

Section 2. Quorum. A quorum of Council shall consist of at least 50 percent of the total number of Council members serving.

Article X – Regular General Assembly

The regular General Assembly of the Society is called for by the President, and includes all the members. However, only regular members take part to the vote.

The General Assembly meets at dates to be set by the Council. Fifteen days before the date of the meeting, all members receive an invitation from the Secretary General, along with the Agenda of the meeting. Only the issues included in the Agenda are discussed during the meeting. The General Assembly is chaired by the President assisted by the Officers.

Article XI – Extraordinary General Assembly

If requested by at least half of the regular members, the President can call for a General Assembly outside the time set by the Council.

Article XII - Rulebook

A rulebook is prepared by the Council, and approved by the General Assembly. It will fix the rules regarding all issues not anticipated by the Bylaws, namely those that relate to the internal management of the Society.

Article XIII - Dissolution

In the event of the dissolution or termination of the Society, title to and possession of all the property of the incorporated Society shall pass forthwith to such organization or organizations qualified to carry on the purpose of the Society.

Article XIV – Procedures for bylaws change

Any change in these bylaws must be approved by the general assembly. Changes can be proposed by members by written notice sent to the General Secretary and the President at least 12 weeks before the assembly.