

Constitution of the European Association for the History of Medicine and Health

Article I

Name and Seat

1. The name of the organisation shall be „The European Association for the History of Medicine and Health“, hereinafter referred to as The Association.
2. The constitution of The Association shall be in accordance with the requirements of the national law of the country of its seat.
3. The seat of The Association is the University Louis Pasteur of Strasbourg (France).

Article II

Purposes of The Association

The principle purposes of the Association shall be:

- a) to provide a high-level interdisciplinary and international forum for studies in the history of medicine, health, and disease understood in the broadest sense.
- b) to promote and foster research, teaching, and international scientific cooperation, between individuals as well as with related national and international societies.
- c) to advance the education of the public in the historical aspects of medicine, health and disease.

The Association shall be a non-profit making organisation.

Article III

Membership

1. The Association shall consist of Ordinary Members, Emeritus Members, and of Supporting Members.

Article IV

Qualifications for Ordinary Membership

1. Members shall work in the history of medicine and/or related fields, or be young scholars in the relevant fields. Residency or work in Europe is no precondition for qualification.
2. Ordinary Members or qualifying applicants shall be transferred automatically to Emeritus Membership on attaining the age of sixty five. They may request transfer to Emeritus Membership on their retirement from their academic or similar position.
3. The number of Members shall not be limited.

Article V

Application for Membership

1. Members shall be admitted after personal application and approval of the council.

Article VI

Emeritus Members

1. Emeritus Members shall have all the duties and privileges of Ordinary Members except for the payment of dues and the holding of office; provided that any Officer of The Association who attains the age of sixty five during a term of office may continue in that office until the next meeting of the General Assembly.

Article VII

Supporting Members

1. All natural or juridical persons wishing to support the purposes of The Association and justifiably expressing this intent by personal application to the Council are eligible as Supporting Members. They have no voting right, but may attend and be consulted in any meeting of the General Assembly.

Article VIII

Officers

1. The officers of The Association shall be: The President, the Vice-President (Past President), the President-elect, the Secretary, and the Treasurer; provided that the General Assembly may, if it so wishes, elect the same person to hold simultaneously the offices of Secretary and Treasurer.
2. The President: the President shall be the legal representative of The Association and shall act as the Chairperson of the Council (q.v.) and of the General assembly (q.v.). The President shall be elected to serve until the end of that congress and shall not be eligible for re-election. The President shall then serve on the Council for one period as Vice-President (Past President). Should the President be prevented from completing the term of office, the Vice President (Past President) shall act as deputy until the next meeting of the General Assembly.
3. The President-elect: the President-elect shall be chosen from a different country from that of the President. The President-elect shall serve for two years (or one congress period) concurrently with the President, and shall succeed the President in office.
4. The Secretary: the Secretary shall be responsible for the day-to-day conduct of The Association's business, including the editing of a regular „Newsletter“ for the Members. The Secretary shall be elected to serve two congress periods, and shall be eligible for re-election. The Secretary shall also be responsible for keeping the Archives in good order.
5. The Treasurer: the Treasurer shall assume the customary duties and responsibilities of this office. The Treasurer shall be elected to serve for two congress periods, and shall be eligible for re-election.
6. Nominations for officers are made by the Scientific Board for election at the General Assembly.

Article IX

The Council

1. The Council shall comprise the officers and the Chairperson of the Scientific Board (q.v.). A representative of the body hosting the seat of The Association shall be an ex officio member of the Council. It is convened at least once a year by the President. Chairpersons of other Committees (q.v.) may be invited by the President to attend the meetings of the Council. Four members shall constitute a quorum of the Council.
2. The Council is the executive body of the Association. It carries out the administrative and scientific business of The Association in accordance with Article II, and arranges for the regular publication of the „Newsletter“ for the Members.

Article X

The General Assembly

1. The President calls the Members of The Association to meet in General Assembly during each regular scientific congress (see Article XI). The Members present at a meeting of the General Assembly shall constitute a quorum for its business.
2. The General Assembly carries out the following:
 - a) receives a report of the President,
 - b) determines the date and place of the next scientific congress,
 - c) decides the topic of the next scientific congress,
 - d) elects the President, the President-elect, the Secretary, the Treasurer,
 - e) elects at least four Members for the Scientific Board (see Article XI, 1.),
 - f) elects three Members as Auditors (see Article XVII, 5.),
 - g) approves the Accounts,
 - h) deals with any other business brought on the agenda by the Council or by individual Members. This business must be submitted, in writing, in advance of the meeting of the General Assembly.

Article XI

Committees

1. The Scientific Board shall comprise the members of the Council ex officio and at least four Members. One of the ordinary Members shall act as Chairperson. The ordinary Members shall be elected by the General Assembly, to serve for one Congress period, and shall be eligible twice for re-election. Nomination for membership can be made by two ordinary Members or by the Scientific Board to the Secretary. Seven members are a quorum for its business.
2. The Scientific Board shall be responsible for:
 - a) the organisation of the scientific congresses at regular intervals,
 - b) the publication of the acts of the congresses,
 - c) Research Networks under the auspices of The Association,
 - d) the promotion of other activities furthering the purposes of The Association.

3. Sub-Committees may be established by the Scientific Board.
4. The President and the Chairperson of the Scientific Board shall be ex officio members of all Sub-Committees.

Article XII

Dues

1. Ordinary Members shall pay annual dues of an amount to be determined by the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Council. Supporting Members pay at least a minimum fee, to be determined by the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Council. Payment of such dues give entitlement to receive the „Newsletter“ and the right to purchase the Proceedings of the scientific congresses at a reduced price.

Article XIII

Status of **Members**

1. Any Member in arrears of dues for two consecutive years shall be automatically suspended from membership, unless a special exception is made by the Council.
2. A Member may be expelled for good cause from The Association following the vote of three-quarters of those present and voting at the meeting of the General Assembly.
3. Any Member or Supporting Member may resign if the Council is informed thereof, in writing, not later than three months before the close of the business year.

Article XIV

Amendments to the Constitution and Bye-laws

1. Amendments to the Constitution can be proposed by the Council or by at least five Members. Such amendments shall be submitted to all Members in writing at least four months before the meeting of the General Assembly at which they are to be considered, and shall require the votes of two-thirds of those present and voting at a meeting of the General Assembly for approval.
2. Amendments to the Bye-laws may be considered at any meeting of the General Assembly, and shall require for approval the votes of two-thirds of those present and voting.

Article XV

Official Languages

1. The official languages of The Association shall be English and French. Other languages may be accepted at the Congresses.

Article XVI

Dissolution of The Association

1. In the event that the General Assembly, on the proposal of the Council, decides by the votes of three-quarters of those present and voting that The Association is unable to fulfil its purposes as specified in Article II, it shall be dissolved.
2. Upon the dissolution of The Association, its assets remaining after payment or provision for payment, of all debts and liabilities of The Association shall be distributed to a world-wide non-profit-making fund, foundation or security, preferably concerned with the history of medicine.

Article XVII

Bye-Laws

1. Quorum and Decisions

The quora of the Council, the General Assembly, and the Scientific Board are fixed in Articles IX.1, X, XI.1, respectively. Provided these are reached and unless otherwise specified, decisions shall be made by a majority of those present and voting. In the event of a tie, the Chairperson shall cast the deciding vote.

2. Should a vacancy occur among the officers of The Association or members of its Committees each body shall have the power to co-opt until the next General Assembly and unless otherwise specified.

3. The business year of The Association is the calendar-year.

4. Dues

There shall be a minimum annual due of 25 Euro for Ordinary Members, of 250 Euro for Supporting Members.

The Council shall have power to consider one remission or postponement of the dues of Ordinary Members.

5. Audit of Accounts

The finances of The Association shall be submitted prior to the regular General Assembly, i.e. normally bi-annually to an Audit by three Members appointed by the General Assembly to serve for two congress periods. They shall be eligible for re-election.