# Constitution for the

# European Association for the History of Medicine and Health

(accepted by the GA on 30-8-2019)

## Article 1 – 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 in Strasbourg (France).

## Article II - Purposes of The Association

The principle purposes of the Association shall be:

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

The Association shall be a non-profit organisation.

## Article III - Membership

The Association shall consist of Ordinary members and Supporting members.

1. Ordinary members: members should work in the history of medicine and/or related fields, or be young scholars in the relevant fields. Residency or employment in Europe is not a precondition for qualification.
2. Supporting members: All natural or juridical persons wishing to support the purposes of The Association and expressing this intent by personal application to the Scientific Board are eligible to join as Supporting members. They have no voting rights, but may attend and be consulted in any meeting of the General Assembly.

## Article IV – Officers

1. The officers of The Association shall be: The President, the Vice-President (or Past-President), the President-elect, the Secretary, and the Treasurer. The General Assembly may elect the same person to hold the offices of both Secretary and Treasurer.
2. The President: the President shall be the legal representative of The Association. The President shall act as the Chairperson of the General assembly. The President shall be elected to serve until the end of that conference period (i.e., two years) and shall not be eligible for re-election.
3. The President shall then serve on the Scientific Board for one period as Vice-President (or Past-President).
4. 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.
5. 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 conference period) concurrently with the President, and shall succeed the President in office.
6. The Secretary: the Secretary shall be responsible for the day-to-day conduct of The Association’s business. The Secretary shall be elected to serve two conference periods, and shall be eligible for re-election. The Secretary shall also be responsible for the Archives.
7. The Treasurer: the Treasurer shall assume the customary duties and responsibilities of this office. The Treasurer shall be elected to serve for two conference periods, and shall be eligible for re-election.
8. Nominations for officers are made by the Scientific Board for election at the General Assembly.

## Article V - The General Assembly

1. The President calls the Members of The Association to meet in General Assembly during each regular scientific conference. 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:
3. receives a report of the President,
4. determines the date and place of the next scientific conference,
5. decides the topic of the next scientific conference,
6. elects the President, the President-elect (if there is at least one candidate), the Secretary, and the Treasurer,
7. elects at least four Members for the Scientific Board,
8. approves the Accounts,
9. deals with any other business raised by the Scientific Board or Members. This business must be submitted, in writing, at least two weeks in advance of the meeting of the General Assembly.

## Article VI – Scientific board and committees

1. The Scientific Board is composed of the Officers and at least four Members of the Association. One of the ordinary Members shall act as Chairperson. The ordinary Members shall be elected by the General Assembly, to serve for one conference period, and shall be eligible for re-election. Nomination for membership can be made by two ordinary Members or by the Scientific Board by written submission to the Secretary. Six members constitute a quorum for its business.
2. The Scientific Board shall be responsible for:
3. the organisation of the scientific biennial conference,
4. research networks under the auspices of The Association,
5. the promotion of other activities furthering the purposes of The Association.
6. Sub-Committees may be established by the Scientific Board.
7. The President and the Chairperson of the Scientific Board shall be ex officio members of all Sub-Committees.

## Article VII – Book series

* 1. The Association publishes a book series called *Clio Medica: Studies in the History of Medicine and Health*.
  2. The book series shall be co-edited by three medical historians, to be elected by the Scientific Board.
  3. The Scientific Board has the right to replace one or more of the editors.
  4. At the recommendation of the series editor the publisher will appoint scholars of high international standing who together make up the Editorial Board.
  5. The Scientific Board shall have the right to decide on the discontinuation of the book series for scientific, financial or other reasons. It will inform the General Assembly about its considerations.

## Article VIII – Journal 1. The Association publishes a journal called the *European Journal for the History of Medicine and Health*.

## 2. The journal shall be co-edited by three Editors-in-Chief, to be elected by the Scientific Board in consultation with the publisher.

## 3. The Association or the Editors-in-Chief shall appoint an Editorial Board.

## 4. The journal is considered the continuation of *Gesnerus*, which used to be published by the Swiss Society for the History of Medicine and Sciences. Two Editors-in-Chief shall represent The Association and be elected by its Scientific Board, the third shall represent and be elected by the Swiss Society.

## 5. The Scientific Board shall have the right to decide on the discontinuation of the journal for scientific, financial or other reasons. It will inform the General Assembly about its considerations.

## Article IX - Dues

1. Ordinary members shall pay annual dues of an amount to be determined by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Scientific Board.
2. Ordinary members are entitled to a reduction to all books published in the EAHMH Book series.
3. Ordinary members are entitle to a reduction to the EAHMH journal.
4. Supporting members pay a fee to be negotiated between themselves and the Scientific Board, with a minimum fee to be determined by the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Scientific Board.

## Article X – Status of members

1. Anyone who has paid the membership for a given year will be considered a Member for that year.
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 from the Association at any time and need only inform the Scientific Board of this decision in writing. No refund of membership dues will be possible.

## Article XI - Amendments to the Constitution and Bye-laws

Amendments to the Constitution can be proposed by the Scientific Board or conjointly by at least five Members.

1. 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. In order to be integrated into the constitution such amendments require the vote of two-thirds of those members present and voting at a meeting of the General Assembly.
2. Amendments to the Bye-laws may be considered at any meeting of the General Assembly, and shall require the votes of two-thirds of those present and voting for approval.

## Article XII – The Dissolution of the Association

1. In the event that the General Assembly, upon the proposal of the Scientific Board or a joint proposition by five or more Members, 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, The Association 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 fund, foundation or security, preferably concerned with the history of medicine.

## Article XIII – Bye-Laws

1. Quorum and Decisions: The quora of the General Assembly, and the Scientific Board are fixed in Articles V and VI, 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 hung vote, the Chairperson shall cast the deciding vote.
2. Should a vacancy occur among the officers of The Association or the Members of the Scientific Board each body shall have the power to co-opt an appropriate person (preferably a Member) until the next General Assembly at the latest.
3. The business year of The Association is the calendar-year.
4. Two Members shall be recruited at least a week before the biennial conference to audit the Accounts of the Association (the Auditors). The Auditors should not work in the same institution as the Treasurer and, where possible, should both be working in different countries or a different country from the Treasurer. The Auditors will approve or reject the Accounts (with a full written explanation in case of their rejecting the Accounts) prior to the general assembly. The judgement of the Auditors on the Accounts should be communicated to the assembled Members at the General Assembly prior to their vote concerning the Accounts.