

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY ON TOXINOLOGY

ARTICLE I

NAME

Section 1. **Name.** The name of this organization shall be the INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY ON TOXINOLOGY.

ARTICLE II

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Society is to advance knowledge on the properties of poisons, toxins and antitoxins derived from animals, plants and microorganisms, and to bring together those scholars interested in these substances through a common Society.

ARTICLE III

MEMBERS

Section 1. The Society shall consist of Members and Associate Members.

Section 2. Persons who have conducted and published meritorious original investigations in toxinology shall be eligible for membership to the Society.

Section 3. Persons who do not qualify for membership but are working or interested in the field of toxinology shall be eligible for associate membership.

Section 4. *A.* Nominations for membership shall be made by a Member of the Society on forms provided by the Secretary. The Member proposing a candidate must upon request submit to the Chairman of the Credentials Committee a letter in support of the candidate.

B. Applications for associate membership shall be submitted by the applicant on forms provided by the Secretary. Nomination by a Member of the Society is not required.

Section 5. The Secretary will circulate details of such applications to all members of the Credentials Committee, to the President and to the President-Elect. After consideration these Office Bearers may effect election and the Secretary will then inform the Member of such election. A list of all new Members will be sent to all Members of the Society once a year.

Section 6. Failure of a Member or Associate Member to pay the annual assessment for two successive years constitutes forfeiture of membership. The Member may be reinstated by majority vote of the Executive Council upon payment of the full amount of the assessment due.

Section 7. **Dues.** Each Member and Associate Member shall pay annual dues as be prescribed by the Council, and as approved by the membership at the general meeting.

ARTICLE IV

ANNUAL MEETING

There shall be an annual meeting of the Society which, whenever possible, shall include a meeting of the Council. The meeting will be held at a time and place prescribed in the ByLaws, or by notice mailed to each Member at least 90 days before the date of the meeting; the notice shall state the time, place, and agenda for the meeting. The Council has the right to postpone or cancel the annual meeting for one year if deemed necessary.

ARTICLE V

COUNCIL

- Section 1.* The Council shall consist of the elected officers, the immediate past president, the current presidents and secretaries of the Regional Sections, the editor and assistant editors of *Toxicon*, and six individuals elected from the membership. The President shall act as Chairman of the Council.
- Section 2.* The Council shall meet at least once each year at a time and place designated by the President and shall recommend the dues of the membership. The Council is authorized to accept any donations of cash or property, voluntarily made to further the purpose of the Society. Two thirds of the members of the Council shall constitute a quorum for all purposes.
- Section 3.* The members of the Council, excluding the officers, shall serve for a term of three years and shall not be eligible for re-election for the two years immediately following their term of office. The Council is empowered to appoint Members to fill any vacancy that may occur.

ARTICLE VI OFFICERS

- Section 1.* **Number.** The officers of the Society shall be a President, a President-Elect, and a Secretary-Treasurer.
- Section 2.* **Election.** The officers of the Society shall be elected by a majority vote of the Members in a mail ballot, and will serve for a term of three years. Their term of office will begin immediately after the first World Congress (International Congress) following their election.
The President-Elect shall assume the office of the President at the end of the former regular term of office or at any time the office of the President becomes vacant. The President may succeed himself as President for the following term. The Secretary-Treasurer may be re-elected for a second term.
- Section 3.* **Vacancies.** Any vacant office of the Society, other than that of the President, may be filled by a Member elected at the next Society meeting. During the intervals between the meetings of the Society, the Council may elect an officer to fill a vacancy, and the officer so elected shall serve until the next meeting of the Society.

ARTICLE VII COMMITTEES

- Section 1.* **Nomination Committee.** The Nomination Committee appointed by the President shall consist of three Members of the Society, including one member of the Council who is not an officer, and shall serve for a term of two years. The Nomination Committee shall present their recommendations for officers and members of the Council of the Society to the President. Any nine Members of the Society may file a nominating petition with the President recommending other nominees. Such petitions shall be filed not less than 90 days before the annual meeting at which elections are to be held.
- Section 2.* **Credentials Committee.** The Credentials Committee shall be appointed by the Executive Committee of the Charter Membership, and shall hold office for a period of five years. Thereafter the Committee shall be elected by the Council and shall serve for a term of five years.

Section 3. **Other Committees.** Other Committees of the Society may be constituted for the promotion of the objectives of the Society, and shall consist of a limited number of Members, with their number, jurisdiction, and tenure determined by the President.

ARTICLE VIII

AMENDMENT OF CONSTITUTION

This Constitution may be amended at any meeting of the Society by the affirmative vote of a majority of the Members present in person or represented by proxy provided that notice of the proposed amendment is given to the membership at least 90 days before the meeting at which the amendment is offered.

ARTICLE IX

ADOPTION AND AMENDMENT OF BY-LAWS

By-Laws may be adopted, amended, or rescinded at any meeting of the Society by the affirmative vote of a majority of the Members present or represented by proxy provided that notice of the proposed actions is given to the membership at least 90 days before the meeting where such action is to be considered.

ARTICLE X

THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE CONSTITUTION This Constitution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

BY-LAWS-ARTICLE I

MEMBERS AND MEETINGS OF MEMBERS

Section 1. **General meeting.** The general meeting shall be held at a time and place approved by the Society during a previous general meeting, regularly at the World Congresses to be held every third year. If a time or place for the meeting has not been prescribed, it will be determined by the Council. The Council shall have power to change the time or place of a meeting when circumstances so require.

Section 2. **Special meetings.** Special meetings of the Society may be called at any time by the President at the request of the Council, or on receipt of a written request of not less than one-third of the Members.

Section 3. **Notice of meetings.** Notice of the time, place, and purpose or purposes of meetings of the Society shall be given to the Members by mail at least 90 days before the meeting.

Section 4. **Quorum.** At any general or special meeting of the Society, twenty members must be present or represented by proxy to constitute a quorum. A meeting may be adjourned by vote of a majority of the members present

Section 5. **Voting.** At every meeting of the Society each Member shall be entitled to one vote in person or represented by proxy. The proxy shall be duly appointed by instrument in writing subscribed by the Member appointing the same and bearing date not more than 11 months prior to the meeting, unless said instrument provided for a longer period.

Section 6. **Business of the general meeting.** The business of the general meeting of the Society shall be:

(a) to elect officers and members of the Council as prescribed by the Constitution;

- (b) to determine the time and place for the next general meeting;
- (c) to fix the annual dues;
- (d) to consider the annual financial statement and balance sheet presented by the Council and to arrange for any action therewith as seems appropriate;
- (e) to consider reports of the Council and Committees, and motions relating to the adoption of such reports, either in whole or in part, and to arrange for such action to be taken thereon, if appropriate and
- (f) to consider any resolutions that can properly be considered to affect the purpose of the Society and its membership.

BY-LAWS-ARTICLE II

COUNCIL

- Section 1.* **Meetings.** The Council shall meet at each general meeting for the purpose of transaction of business, and if a majority of the Council be present, no prior notice of such meeting need be given. Special meetings may be held at the call of the President, or upon the written request of four members of the Council, and shall be called by the Secretary/Treasurer.
- Section 2.* **Notice of meetings.** Notice of all meetings of the Council shall be given by mail at least 15 days before the meeting.
- Section 3.* **Chairman.** At all meetings of the Council the President, or in his absence the President-Elect, shall preside.
- Section 4.* **Quorum.** At all meetings of the Council the act of a majority of those Members present shall be the act of the Council. In the absence of a quorum of the Council at a regular meeting of the Society and when it becomes apparent that decisions vital to the Society are necessary, the Editorial Board of *Toxicon*, in coordination with the Council Members, shall make the necessary decisions.

BY-LAWS-ARTICLE III

ANNUAL AND FINANCIAL REPORTS

The Council shall submit annually to the Society for adoption and approval a report on the general state and proceedings of the Society for the past year, a balance sheet and financial statement for the past year.

BY-LAWS-ARTICLE IV

CUSTODY OF PAPERS, ADDRESSES AND REPORTS

All papers, addresses and reports read before the Society, or accepted by the Society, shall be lodged with the President and become the property of the Society. Publications of these reports in the official Journal of the Society. or in any other way, may be urged by the direction of the Council or appropriate Committee.

BY-LAWS-ARTICLE V

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

- Section 1.* **Duties.** The officers of the Society shall perform the duties usually performed by such officers, together with such duties as shall be prescribed by the Constitution of ByLaws or by the Society or Council.
- Section 2.* **The President.** The President shall preside at all meetings of the Society and meetings of the Council. The President shall be an *ex officio* member of all committees, except the Nomination Committee. The President shall have general charge and supervision of the business and affairs of the Society.
- Section 3.* **The President-Elect.** At the request of the President, or in the event of his absence or disability, the President-Elect at any time and from time to time may perform any or all duties of the President.
- Section 4.* **The Secretary-Treasurer** shall: 1) attend to the giving of all notices of the Society; 2) have custody of the seal of the Society and all of its funds and securities, subject to such regulations as may be imposed by the Council; 3) make such payments in behalf of the Society, subject to the control of the Council; 4) enter regularly into the books of the Society full and accurate account of all money received and paid, or obligations incurred in behalf of the Society, and shall exhibit such books at all reasonable times to any Member of the Society on written request to the office of the Society; 5) provide a report on the financial situation of the Society at each general meeting; 6) may be required to give bond for the faithful performance of his duties should the Council advise.

BY-LAWS-ARTICLE VI

LIABILITY OF COUNCIL MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

Each Council member or officer, or former Council member or officer of the Society, shall be indemnified by the Society against expenses actually and necessarily incurred by him in connection with the defense of any action, suit or proceeding in which he is made a party by reason of his being or having been a Council member or an officer of the Society, except in relation to matters as to which he shall be adjudged in such action, suit or proceeding to be liable for negligence or misconduct in the performance of his duties as such Council member or officer.

BY-LAWS-ARTICLE VII

CONTRACTS

The Council, except as provided in the By-Laws may authorize any officer or officers, agent or agents, to enter into any contract or execute and deliver any instrument in the name of and on behalf of the Society, and such authority may be general or confined to specific instances; and unless so authorized by the Council, no officer, agent or employee shall have power or authority. to bind the Society by any contract or engagement or to pledge its credit or render it liable pecuniarily for any purpose or amount.

BY-LAWS-ARTICLE VIII

FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of the Society shall begin on the first day of January in each year and shall end on the thirty-first day of the following December.

BY-LAWS-ARTICLE IX

PUBLICATIONS

The official journal of the Society will be *Toxicon*. The Editors shall be elected by the Council for an indefinite period. The Newsletters will be edited by the Assistant Editor of *Toxicon* and the Secretary-Treasurer of the Society in order to inform the membership on current Society affairs.

BY-LAWS-ARTICLE X

REDI AWARD

In recognition of distinguished work in the field of toxinology the 1ST confers the Redi Award every third year at successive international meetings. The Redi Award consists of an illuminated manuscript describing the merits of the awardee, a framed form of the award and a financial contribution to help cover expenses associated with attendance at the meeting.

The recipient is selected by the Redi Award Committee (R.A.C.) which consists of the editor of *Toxicon* (chairman), past and present officers of the Society and former Redi awardees. It is the duty of the chairman to request that members of the Committee propose nominations one year in advance of the next presentation. A list of all persons previously nominated and those being currently proposed is then sent to all members of the R.A.C., who then select three names, noting their first, second and third choices.

The chairman will award 3 points for 1st place votes, 2 points for 2nd place and 1 point for third place. The awardee is chosen on the basis of the largest number of points, but must receive 25% of the total points counted.

If no candidate reaches this level there shall be a second ballot between the three highest candidates. (Or: If 2 or more candidates receive approximately the same number of votes, a second ballot will be circulated. In the event two or more candidates receive the same number of votes in the final ballot, or a difference of less than three, the award will be shared equally.)

BY-LAWS-ARTICLE XI

REGIONAL SECTIONS

To promote the aims of the Society and to encourage local participation in the discipline of toxinology Regional Sections may be established. These must be approved by the Council. At Regional meetings a president, a secretary (and if necessary up to three additional members as officers) may be selected. They will serve a term of 5 years, but can be re-elected. The officers of a Regional Section will be responsible for organizing symposia in those years in which there is no World Congress of the Society.

Regional Sections may not collect fees or other monies for the Section. All financial affairs will be the responsibilities of the Secretary/Treasurer of the Society. Exceptions due to special circumstances should be discussed with the Council.

Members of 1ST are automatically members of a Regional Section in their specific region, provided their financial obligations to the Society are current.