



**European
Society of
Hypertension**

BY-LAWS

English Version

ARTICLE 1 General Information

- § 1 Name, Registered Office and Fiscal year
- § 2 Duration of the society
- § 3 Purpose

ARTICLE 2 Membership

- § 4 Who can be ESH Member
- § 5 Membership Application
- § 6 Membership Categories
- § 7 Membership – Standard Fee
- § 8 Membership – Reduced Fee
- § 9 Honorary Membership
- § 10 Corporate Membership
- § 11 Termination of Membership

ARTICLE 3 Privileges and Duties of Members

- § 12 Privileges of Members
- § 13 Membership Dues

ARTICLE 4 Governing Bodies and Institutions of ESH

- § 14 Governing Bodies and Institutions of ESH
- § 15 ESH Scientific Council
 - a) Composition of ESH Scientific Council
 - b) Election of ESH Scientific Council
 - c) Duties of ESH Scientific Council
 - d) Office Bearers
 - e) Ex-Officio Members
 - f) Executive Officers
 - g) Presidential & Advisory Board
 - h) Minutes of Scientific Council Meetings
- § 16 General Assembly
- § 17 Audit
- § 18 Awards Committee

ARTICLE 5 Final provisions

- § 19 Amendments to By-Laws
- § 20 Council Resolutions
- § 21 Cooperation

ARTICLE 1

GENERAL INFORMATION

§ 1 Name, Registered Office and Fiscal year

The name of the organization is the European Society of Hypertension and the abbreviation ESH is used in this document to refer to this organization. The ESH is a society according to Art. 60 et seq. of the Swiss Civil Code. Its seat is in Zug, Switzerland.

The fiscal year of the Society shall be the calendar year.

§ 2 Duration of the Society

The duration of the ESH is undetermined.

§ 3 Purpose

The objective of the Society is the promotion of scientific research, knowledge and education in hypertension and associated diseases. This includes specifically:

1. The ESH will encourage, promote, endorse or organize high quality international scientific activities and communications of the results. Such activities shall be carried out primarily by an annual European Meeting as well as through the organization, participation and co-organization of special scientific and educational meetings worldwide. They shall also be carried out by means of special publications. Research projects may be sponsored or conducted under the special circumstances appropriate to international scientific bodies.
2. The ESH will encourage, promote, endorse or organize activities involved with continuing medical education in the field of hypertension and associated diseases. This will be done also in conjunction with other scientific societies and members of health care professionals.
3. The ESH will encourage, promote, endorse or organize, alone or in conjunction with other scientific societies and members of health delivery professions, postgraduate training and international exchange of investigators, teachers, fellows and students.
4. The ESH supports a Foundation (FESH) in order to achieve its purpose, especially but not limited to grant financial assistance for educational and research purposes. The ESH shall donate to FESH any surplus which are not necessary for achieving its purpose.

ARTICLE 2

MEMBERSHIP

§ 4 Who can be ESH member

Membership in the ESH is open to physicians and any health-care professionals worldwide who are dedicated to research in hypertension, or prevention and treatment (management) of hypertension and associated diseases. The membership of other professions is not excluded in principle and may be granted in individual cases after assessment by the ESH Scientific Council.

§ 5 Membership Application

Applicants are required to apply online at the website of the ESH and are requested to provide:

- a) A short curriculum vitae (CV) in English (listing academic degrees and professional positions);
- b) Bibliography of publications related to hypertension and associated diseases;

Letters of endorsement are not required.

Approval of memberships are officially confirmed at the General Assembly during the Annual Scientific Meeting of the ESH.

§ 6 Membership Categories

The following membership categories are installed:

- Membership: standard fee
- Membership: reduced fee
- Honorary Membership
- Corporate Membership

§ 7 Membership – Standard Fee

Individuals that wish to support and promote the goals of the Society (see § 4) may become standard members with all privileges and duties.

This membership includes two categories:

- a) With subscription to the online version of the Journal of Hypertension
- b) Without subscription to the online version of the Journal of Hypertension

§ 8 Membership – Reduced Fee

ESH Young Fellows, other healthcare professionals (e.g., nurses) and professionals from low-income countries may apply for membership with reduced fee and without online subscription to the Journal of Hypertension. These members are eligible for all privileges and duties of ESH membership.

§ 9 Honorary Membership

Individuals who have made extraordinary contributions to research in hypertension or who have given exceptionally important support to the activities of the ESH may be nominated as Honorary Members. Nominations will be considered by the Awards Committee which will bring recommendations to the Scientific Council.

This distinction is limited to a very select group of individuals, and normally no more than one (at most two) Honorary Member(s) are appointed at each Annual Scientific Meeting. Honorary Members will be exempted from annual fees. The subscription to the online version of the Journal of Hypertension is not included in this membership category.

§ 10 Corporate Membership

Institutions or companies interested in the support of hypertension research or management may become corporate members. Each corporate member has one vote at the General Assembly.

§ 11 Termination of Membership

Membership shall cease automatically upon failure to pay the annual fee for one year.

ARTICLE 3

PRIVILEGES AND DUTIES OF MEMBERS

§ 12 Privileges of Members

ESH members participate in the scientific and business sessions of the ESH.

Only members residing in Europe or from ESH affiliated National Hypertension Societies are eligible to vote in the General Assembly during the Annual Scientific Meeting. This also applies to eligibility for election to the ESH Scientific Council.

§ 13 Membership Fees

ESH members shall pay annual fees, in the amount determined by the ESH Scientific Council and approved by the General Assembly of the ESH - either for a Membership with standard or reduced

fees. Under the Membership with standard fees, ESH members may choose whether or not to subscribe to the online version of the Journal of Hypertension.

ARTICLE 4

GOVERNING BODIES AND INSTITUTIONS OF ESH

Overview

§ 14 Governing Bodies and Institutions of ESH

The governing bodies and institutions of ESH are:

- ESH Scientific Council
- General Assembly
- Audit
- Awards Committee

§ 15 ESH Scientific Council

The Scientific Council of the ESH is the executive organ of the ESH. The Scientific Council has the duty of supervising all affairs of the ESH. While membership in the ESH is open to applicants worldwide, only ESH members who are European residents are eligible to become a Scientific Council member.

§ 15.a Composition of ESH Scientific Council

The ESH Scientific Council is formed by 11 elected voting members (including Office Bearers), by non-voting ex-officio members and by non-voting Executive officers nominated by the Scientific Council for specific matters.

§ 15.b Election of ESH Scientific Council

ESH Scientific Council members shall be elected as follows: at the time of the General Assembly during the Annual Scientific Meeting of the ESH, the Society shall vote on membership of the ESH Scientific Council for the succeeding four years, giving due consideration to the recommendations of the existing Scientific Council. Any member of the Society may nominate a candidate by writing to the Secretary of the ESH Scientific Council not less than sixty days before the scheduled Annual Scientific Meeting of the ESH.

Members of the Scientific Council may serve for a four-year term with the possibility for an additional four-year term depending on the confirmation by the General Assembly.

§ 15.c Duties of ESH Scientific Council

The presence of six elected members of the ESH Scientific Council constitutes a quorum.

The ESH Scientific Council should normally meet at least twice a year. Meetings should be convened by the ESH President. Additional individuals may be invited by the President to participate at an ESH Scientific Council meeting.

Any group of six Scientific Council members may request the President in writing to convene an extraordinary additional meeting of the ESH Scientific Council provided requests are motivated by valid reasons.

The Secretary of the Society shall inform all ESH Council members of the agenda of the ESH Scientific Council meeting at least 14 days before the meeting is held. Council members may request the President in writing to include additional items in the agenda at least 7 days before the ESH Scientific Council meeting.

§ 15.d Office Bearers

Office Bearers of the Society are:

- the President,
- the Immediate Past President,
- the Vice-President,
- the Secretary,
- the Treasurer and,
- the Young Investigator Representative

Candidates for Office Bearer positions are selected among the elected members of the ESH Scientific Council. They are officially elected by the society members at the time of the General Assembly during the Annual Scientific Meeting, giving due consideration to the recommendations of the ESH Scientific Council.

The President shall serve for a two-year term and shall subsequently remain in the ESH Scientific Council as Office Bearer for two more years as Immediate Past President. This applies also when the total period of the Immediate Past President in the Scientific Council exceeds eight years.

The Vice-President shall normally serve for two years with the possibility for an additional two-year term, but without extension of a maximum eight-year term in the Scientific Council.

The Secretary, the Treasurer and the Young Investigator Representative shall normally serve for two years with the possibility for an additional two-year term, but without extension of a maximum eight-year term in the Scientific Council.

§ 15.e Ex-Officio Members

Ex-Officio non-voting members of the Scientific ESH Council are:

- One ESH member representing FESH
- One ESH member representing the affiliated and associated National Hypertension Societies

The ex-officio member shall serve for a two-year term with the option to prolong this term for additional two-year periods.

§ 15.f Executive Officers

The ESH Scientific Council may appoint Executive Officers with specific responsibilities in areas that are regarded by the ESH Scientific Council to require expert attention and decisions on a continuous basis. They can be selected from among ESH Scientific Council members or regular ESH members on account of experience and competence. Executive Officers selected from regular ESH members may be invited by the ESH President to attend the ESH Scientific Council meeting or a portion of the meeting. Areas to be considered for Executive Officer appointments are:

- Coordination of Working Group activities
- ESH Summer Schools
- Educational activities of the Society
- Research and communication activities of the Society
- Liaison with other (non-European) International Hypertension Societies or Scientific Bodies
- Young Fellows
- General Practitioners Network
- eHealth Technologies

§ 15.g Presidential & Advisory Board

After ESH Presidents have completed their respective two-year terms as President and Immediate Past President, they become members of the ESH Presidential Board. The Presidential Board is consulted whenever guidance is needed. A separate meeting between ESH Office Bearers and Presidential Board shall be held once a year, e.g. at each ESH Annual Meeting.

By decision of the Council, outgoing Council Members or Executive Officers might become members of the ESH Advisory Board to support the Society in specific matters. Selected members of the Advisory Board will be invited to ESH Council Meetings on demand. A separate meeting between ESH Office Bearers and Advisory Board shall be held once a year, e.g. at each ESH Annual Meeting.

§ 15.h Minutes of Scientific Council Meetings

Minutes, containing all resolutions that have been passed, shall be kept at every meeting of the ESH Scientific Council. The minutes must be signed by the President and the Secretary of the Society and shall be available for inspection by all Scientific Council members at the dedicated Council section at the ESH website.

§ 16 **General Assembly**

The Society will organize one Annual Scientific Meeting every year. At each Annual Scientific Meeting, a General Assembly shall take place.

The agenda for the General Assembly will be circulated among the ESH Scientific Council and the ESH members at least eight weeks prior to event. Only topics listed in the agenda may be brought up for discussion or vote. Any individual member's request to include items in the agenda must be addressed to the President in writing at least six weeks before the General Assembly is to meet.

Only members residing in Europe or from ESH affiliated National Hypertension Societies are eligible to vote in the General Assembly during the Annual Scientific Meeting.

§ 17 Audit

On the recommendation of the ESH Scientific Council and with the approval of the General Assembly, the Society shall employ an accounting company to prepare and distribute an annual review of the finances of the Society and to provide such other services as deemed necessary by the ESH Scientific Council, the President and the Treasurer.

§ 18 Awards Committee

This Committee will be established in the preparation of the Annual Scientific Meeting each year during the corresponding Scientific Council meeting. It will be chaired by the President of the Society (or a delegate nominated by him/her from among the Scientific Council members), the Vice-President, the Secretary of the Society, the President/Chair of the upcoming Annual Meeting and three other members nominated by the Scientific Council.

This Committee will review the availability and the financial support of ESH Awards for each year. The Committee evaluates the Award candidates proposed by the Scientific Council and ESH members and selects the most appropriate awardees. It also selects individuals eligible for appointment as ESH Honorary Members.

ARTICLE 5

FINAL PROVISIONS

§ 19 Amendments to By-Laws

Amendments to the By-Laws of the ESH must be proposed in writing to the ESH Scientific Council by six or more members not less than ninety days before a General Assembly. The agenda of which shall contain an announcement of the proposed amendment. Such amendments require for their adoption an affirmative vote of two-thirds of those present at the General Assembly. A postal vote may be held at the discretion of the ESH Scientific Council. The amendment shall become an active part of the By-Laws immediately after the end of the Annual Scientific Meeting or after completion of the postal vote.

§ 20 Council Resolutions

Separately from the By-Laws the ESH Scientific Council should maintain a schedule of formal Council resolutions that will help guide its processes. These will include resolutions in the following areas:

1. Guidelines for Conduct of Satellites
2. Arrangements for Annual Scientific Meeting
3. Arrangements for Visiting Faculty
4. Procedures for the official ESH endorsement of Scientific Meetings in the field of Hypertension
5. Agreements with the Publishers of Scientific Journals

6. Arrangements for elaboration of Guidelines on Hypertension by the Society alone or in cooperation with other Societies and bodies.

§ 21 Cooperation

The Society shall seek to coordinate its activities with other similar Scientific Societies in other parts of the world.



Thomas Weber
ESH President



Christian Delles
ESH Secretary

ESH General Assembly, May 25, 2025
Milan, Italy