

**European
Society of
Hypertension**

BY-LAWS

English Version

ESH BY-LAWS

PREAMBLE

The European Society of Hypertension (ESH) was created in 1989. Over the years, the Society's governing rules (by-laws) have been amended repeatedly to remain fit for purpose.

From 2024 to 2026 the Scientific Council reviewed the ESH's by-laws extensively and identified a number of issues that were no longer fit for purpose. Rather than introducing minor amendments, the Scientific Council rewrote large parts of the by-laws.

Key features of the new by-laws include:

- A new type of membership through membership of affiliated national hypertension societies.
- A stronger representation of affiliated national hypertension societies and young investigators within the Scientific Council.
- Definition of an election process for Scientific Council Members and Office Bearers.
- Definition of the pathway to ESH Presidency.
- Clearer definition of duration of service on the Scientific Council.

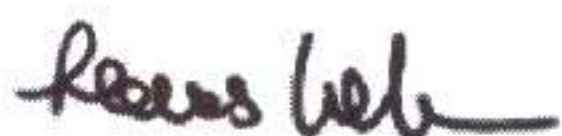
It is appreciated that there have to be transition rules in order to maintain a fully operational Scientific Council. Therefore, whilst the new version of the by-laws will come into effect immediately after approval by the General Assembly, the following transition rules will apply:

- All current ESH Members will be granted an extension of their membership for one year from the time of acceptance of the new by-laws by the General Assembly. This will allow them to take advantage of new membership structures and where not in good standing, pay their membership fees.
- By default, all existing members will transition to Professional Membership within one year from the time of acceptance of the new by-laws by the General Assembly.
- Working Group Members must be ESH Members within one year from the time of acceptance of the new by-laws by the General Assembly.
- Working Group Chairs must be Professional Members within one year from the time of acceptance of the new by-laws by the General Assembly.
- Leaders of ESH Excellence Centers or Blood Pressure Clinics must be Professional Members within one year from the time of acceptance of the new by-laws by the General Assembly.

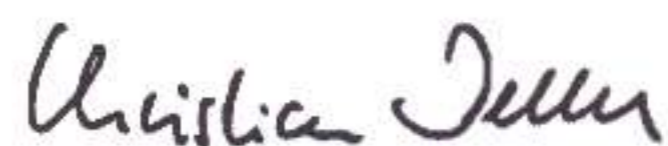
In addition, the following transition rules apply to members of the Scientific Council:

- All current Scientific Council Members retain their positions, fully taking into account the previous years of service.
- The current Ex-Officio Members remain in post for up to one year, but the Scientific Council will decide within one year how their tasks can in the future be fulfilled by Regular Members or if Task Forces have to be established.
- The new rules on duration of service come into effect immediately but where required to maintain the Scientific Council's operations, a one-year extension can be granted by the President.

We sincerely hope that the ESH will continue to flourish under its newly amended by-laws.



Professor Thomas Weber
President



Professor Christian Delles
Secretary

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 Duties of Members
- § 6 Types of Membership
- § 7 Membership Application
- § 8 Membership Fees
- § 9 Honorary Membership
- § 10 Corporate Membership
- § 11 Termination of Membership

ARTICLE 3 Governing Bodies and Institutions of ESH

- § 12 Governing Bodies and Institutions of ESH
- § 13 Scientific Council in General
- § 14 Composition of Scientific Council
- § 15 Election of ESH Scientific Council Members
- § 16 Office Bearers
- § 17 Ex-Officio Members
- § 18 Task Forces
- § 19 Replacement of a Scientific Council Member
- § 20 Organization and Duties of Scientific Council
- § 21 Minutes of Scientific Council Meetings
- § 22 General Assembly
- § 23 Presidential Board
- § 24 Awards Committee
- § 25 Financial Aspects and Audit

ARTICLE 4 Final provisions

- § 26 Amendments to by-laws
- § 27 Council Resolutions
- § 28 Cooperation
- § 29 Dissolution and liquidation
- § 30 Transitional Rules

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, registered with the commercial register of the Canton of Zug under company number CHE-109.819.840.

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 alone, but also in conjunction with other learned societies.
3. 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 surpluses which are not necessary for achieving its purpose.
4. The ESH works closely with national hypertension societies and other learned hypertension societies in the fields of hypertension and associated conditions. Such societies can be granted affiliated or associated status on request and confirmation by the Scientific Council.

ARTICLE 2

MEMBERSHIP

§ 4 Who can be ESH Member

Membership of the ESH is open to physicians, other health-care professionals and scientists worldwide who are dedicated to research in hypertension, or prevention and management of hypertension and associated diseases. Membership of other professionals is not excluded in principle and may be granted in individual cases after assessment by the Scientific Council. When national or other learned hypertension societies apply for it, the Scientific Council may grant them affiliated or associated status. The Scientific Council defines the specific meaning of the terms “affiliated” or “associated” and the scope of the respective positions in separate regulations.

§ 5 Duties of Members

Members of the ESH are obliged to promote the values of the Society as outlined in § 3.

A breach of the duties of membership constitutes a just cause for expulsion. A just cause is deemed to exist in particular if a member: a) acts against the values of the Society; or b) fails to pay the annual membership fee as outlined in § 8. The expulsion shall be carried out in accordance with the procedure set forth in § 11.

§ 6 Types of Membership

There are different types of membership, in particular **Affiliated Membership** and **Professional Membership**:

- 1) **Affiliated Membership** through membership of affiliated national hypertension societies.

This type of membership is offered to members of affiliated national hypertension societies through processes defined by affiliated national hypertension societies in accordance with their by-laws and procedures approved by the Scientific Council.

Affiliated Membership benefits include:

- Recognition of being an ESH member
- The right to vote at the General Assembly, e.g., for changes in the by-laws and for approval of the annual financial report
- The right to join a Working Group

- The right to join the ESH Young Investigator Group depending on age and career stage
- Access to ESH webinars and selected Annual Scientific Meeting content

2) Professional Membership

This type of membership is required for those who are active in the Scientific Council, as Hypertension Specialists, lead an ESH Excellence Centre or Blood Pressure Clinic, or serve as Working Group or Task Force Chair. Professional Membership is also open to those who are not members of an affiliated national hypertension society.

Professional Membership benefits include, in addition to Affiliated Membership:

- The right to elect Scientific Council Members
- The right to be elected to the Scientific Council
- Possibility to apply for ESH Hypertension Specialist status
- Possibility to apply for leadership of an ESH Excellence Centre or Blood Pressure Clinic
- Possibility to chair a Working Group
- Possibility to lead a Task Force and hence become an Ex-Officio Scientific Council Member
- Possibility to propose amendments to the by-laws to the Scientific Council
- Reduced fee for the Annual Scientific Meeting
- Reduced fee subscription to the online version of the Journal of Hypertension

§ 7 Membership Application

Affiliated Membership through affiliated national hypertension societies will occur through processes defined in collaboration with individual affiliated national hypertension societies.

Applicants for **Professional Membership** are required to apply online via the ESH website and are requested to provide biographical information as part of the application form. Application at the time of registration for the Annual Scientific Meeting entitles the applicant to immediately obtain the discount for registration fee.

Affiliated and Professional Memberships are officially approved by the Scientific Council.

Honorary Membership and **Corporate Membership** might apply in exceptional cases, as outlined below in § 9 and § 10.

§ 8 Membership Fees

For **Affiliated Membership**, the national hypertension societies shall pay an annual fee to the ESH, calculated by multiplying the number of their national members by a per-member

rate. This rate is determined by the Scientific Council in consultation with the respective national hypertension societies and may vary between different societies.

Professional Members shall pay annual fees in the amount determined by the Scientific Council. This can be a regular fee, or for certain Professional Members (e.g. Young Investigators, nurses and allied healthcare professionals, professionals from low-income countries), a reduced fee. Payment is required up-front via the ESH website when applying for membership. Appropriate methods to facilitate payment in subsequent years will be in place.

§ 9 Honorary Membership

Individuals who have made extraordinary contributions to research or clinical practice 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 elects the Honorary Members.

This distinction is limited to a very select group of individuals, and normally no more than one Honorary Member is appointed per fiscal year. Honorary Members have the same rights as Professional Members but will be exempted from annual fees.

§ 10 Corporate Membership

Institutions or companies interested in the support of hypertension research or management may become Corporate Members. Corporate Members will have the opportunity of open discussions with ESH experts during the Annual Scientific Meeting. The fee attached to this type of membership shall be negotiated with and approved by the Scientific Council. Corporate Members are elected by the Scientific Council.

§ 11 Termination of Membership

Affiliated Membership through affiliated national hypertension societies ceases automatically when the agreement with this affiliated national hypertension society ceases.

If a Member does not fulfil their membership obligations, their membership will also be discontinued. Such termination of membership shall be executed by a majority decision of the Scientific Council, but only after the member has been given the opportunity of a hearing by the Scientific Council. This shall also apply to Honorary and Corporate Members.

ARTICLE 3

GOVERNING BODIES AND INSTITUTIONS

Overview

§ 12 Governing Bodies and Institutions

The governing bodies and institutions are:

- Scientific Council
- General Assembly
- Presidential Board
- Awards Committee
- Financial Audit

§ 13 Scientific Council

The Scientific Council is the executive organ of the ESH. The Scientific Council has a duty of supervising all affairs of the ESH. Only Professional Members who are European residents are eligible to become part of the Scientific Council.

§ 14 Composition of Scientific Council

The Scientific Council is formed of six **Office Bearers** with voting rights, five additional **Regular Members** with voting rights, and **Ex-Officio Members** with no voting rights.

No more than two members of the Scientific Council shall be from the same European country.

No member of the Scientific Council shall serve for more than 8 years in their lifetime; exceptions to this rule apply (see § 16).

§ 15 Election of Scientific Council Members

Any member of the ESH may nominate a candidate by writing to the Secretary of the Scientific Council, following an online call by the Secretary of the Scientific Council.

Candidates will need the written support of two Professional Members of the ESH and provide a statement of their vision as member of the Scientific Council.

Scientific Council Members shall be elected by an online voting process among Professional Members in the 3 months preceding the General Assembly at the Annual Scientific Meeting.

Regular Members of the Scientific Council shall serve for a three-year term and can stand for election for an additional two-year term.

§ 16 Office Bearers

Office Bearers of the Scientific Council are the President, the Vice-President, the Secretary, the Treasurer, the Representative of the affiliated national hypertension societies and the Young Investigators Representative.

Only Regular Members of the Scientific Council can stand for Office Bearer positions. Office Bearers will be elected by the Scientific Council. The Scientific Council decides about details of the election process, which may include letters of support, presentations by the candidates and secret ballot.

The Secretary and the Treasurer shall serve for three years in their respective roles with the possibility for an additional two-year term but not exceeding a maximum eight-year term on the Scientific Council (unless elected Vice-President).

The Vice-President (President-elect) shall serve for two years and shall then become President. This also applies if the total period of this person on the Scientific Council exceeds eight years.

The President shall serve for a two-year term. This also applies if the total period of this person on the Scientific Council exceeds eight years. Upon conclusion of their term, the President shall leave the Scientific Council and subsequently serve as Immediate Past President for two more years, chairing the Presidential Board (see § 23).

The Representative of the affiliated national hypertension societies shall serve for one year in order to ensure rotating representation of the affiliated national hypertension societies on the Scientific Council. The affiliated national hypertension societies decide amongst themselves how to nominate or elect their representative.

The ESH Young Investigators Representative shall serve for two years, with the possibility of an additional two-year term. The ESH Young Investigators decide amongst themselves how to nominate or elect their Representative.

§ 17 Ex-Officio Members

Ex-Officio Members of the Scientific Council are:

- One Professional Member representing FESH
- Leaders of ESH Task Forces

The FESH Representative shall serve for a two-year term with the option to extend this term for one additional two-year period. The FESH decides amongst its members how to nominate or elect their Representative.

Leaders of ESH Task Forces shall serve on the Scientific Council for the duration of their tasks (see § 18).

Ex-Officio Members are eligible for election to Regular Membership of the Scientific Council during or after completion of their term(s).

§ 18 Task Forces

The business of the Scientific Council shall normally be conducted by its Office Bearers and Regular Members. In exceptional cases, specific tasks shall be delivered by Task Forces.

The Scientific Council may appoint Task Forces with specific responsibilities in areas that require expert attention and decisions for a defined time span.

Task Force leaders shall be selected among Scientific Council Members or Professional Members considering experience and competence. Task Force leaders who are not members of the Scientific Council are Ex-Officio Members of the Scientific Council and may be invited by the President to attend the Scientific Council meeting or parts of the meeting to report and discuss the activities of the Task Force.

The duration of service of a Task Force leader is related to the given task; the duration is typically less than 2 years, without the possibility of extension.

§ 19 Replacement of a Scientific Council Member

If the term of service of the President is terminated prematurely for any reason, the Vice-President will automatically become President.

If the term of service of another Office Bearer is terminated prematurely for any reason, the Scientific Council will elect a successor from its Regular Membership as outlined in § 16.

If the term of service of another member of the Scientific Council is terminated prematurely for any reason, the remaining Scientific Council shall appoint a Professional Member for replacement. The newly appointed Scientific Council Member shall stand for election by Professional Members within a year of their nomination. Rules on duration of service apply as outlined in § 14 and § 15. Service starts with the date of acceptance of the nomination by the Scientific Council.

Separate rules apply for the Representative of the ESH Young Investigators and for the Representative of the affiliated national hypertension societies. These rules will be defined by the respective communities.

§ 20 Organization and Duties of Scientific Council

The Scientific Council should normally meet 3 times per year. Meetings shall be convened by the President.

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

The presence of six voting members of the Scientific Council constitutes a quorum. The President has a tie-breaking vote.

The Office Bearers should normally meet at least every other month. Additional members of the Scientific Council and other individuals may be invited by the President to participate in meetings of the Office Bearers.

The Secretary of the Scientific Council shall inform all Scientific Council Members of the agenda of the Scientific Council and Office Bearer meetings at least 14 days before the meetings are held. Scientific Council members may request the President in writing to include additional items in the agenda at least 7 days before the meetings.

§ 21 Minutes of Scientific Council Meetings

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

§ 22 General Assembly

The Society will organize an Annual Scientific Meeting. At each Annual Scientific Meeting, a General Assembly shall take place. All Affiliated and Professional Members are invited to participate.

The agenda for the General Assembly will be circulated among the Scientific Council and the members at least four weeks prior to the event. Only topics listed on the agenda may be brought up for vote. Any Affiliated or Professional Member's request to include items in the agenda must be addressed to the President in writing at least three weeks before the General Assembly is to meet.

The General Assembly shall vote on any changes in the by-laws, on approval of the annual financial report, and on any other matter assigned to it by these by-laws.

Only Affiliated and Professional Members residing in Europe are eligible to vote in the General Assembly during the Annual Scientific Meeting.

§ 23 Presidential Board

After Presidents have completed their respective two-year terms as President, they become Chair of the Presidential Board for 2 years, and then (ordinary) Member of the Presidential Board. The Presidential Board shall be consulted whenever guidance is needed. A separate meeting between selected Scientific Council Members and the Presidential Board shall be held once a year, preferably at the Annual Scientific Meeting, or when required.

§ 24 Awards Committee

The Awards Committee shall 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 (or a delegate nominated by him/her from among the Scientific Council members). Additional members include the Vice-President, the Secretary of the Scientific Council, and three other members nominated by the Scientific Council. The President has a tie-breaking vote.

The Awards 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 appoints individuals as Honorary Members.

§ 25 Financial Aspects and Audit

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

The independent accountant reports to the Scientific Council. The Treasurer will report the financial results provided by the accountant to the General Assembly.

The Society is solely liable for its obligations. Any personal liability of Members of ESH is excluded.

ARTICLE 4

FINAL PROVISIONS

§ 26 Amendments to by-laws

Amendments to the by-laws of the ESH must be proposed in writing to the Scientific Council by six or more Professional Members, not less than six weeks 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 or online vote may be held at the discretion of the 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 or online vote.

§ 27 Council Resolutions

Separately from the by-laws the Scientific Council should maintain a schedule of formal Council resolutions that will help guide its processes. These will include, among others, resolutions in the following areas:

1. Definitions relevant for the conduct of the Society, e.g. “affiliated” and “associate” status of national hypertension societies and other learned societies.
2. Guidelines for the conduct of satellite meetings
3. Arrangements for the Annual Scientific Meeting
4. Procedures for 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.
7. Regulations for Working Groups
8. Regulations for the Young Investigators group
9. Regulations for Excellence Centers and Blood Pressure Clinics
10. Regulations for ESH Hypertension Specialists

§ 28 Cooperation

The Society shall seek to coordinate its activities with other similar learned societies in Europe and other parts of the world.

§ 29 Dissolution and liquidation

The Society has no predefined date of dissolution.

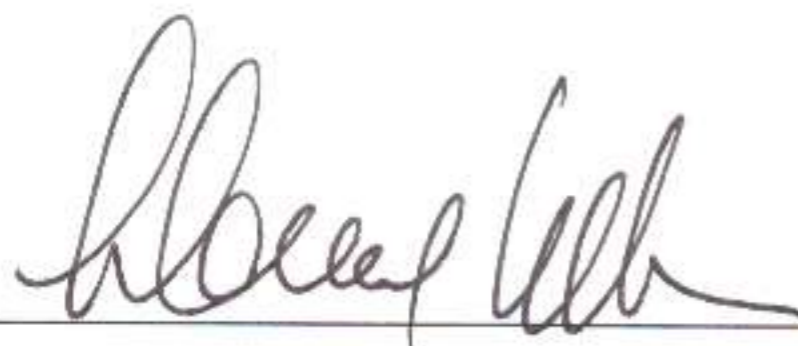
In case a dissolution of the Society is planned, a request for dissolution has to be supported by a 3/4 majority vote of the Scientific Council or by 1/5 of the Professional Members. The request must then be communicated to the Members at least three weeks prior to a General Assembly, the agenda of which must include an announcement of the proposed dissolution. Such dissolution requires the approval of 3/4 of those present at the General Assembly to be accepted.

In case the General Assembly has adopted the dissolution with the majority needed, the remaining assets of the Society shall be allocated to one or more non-profit organizations pursuing similar objectives.

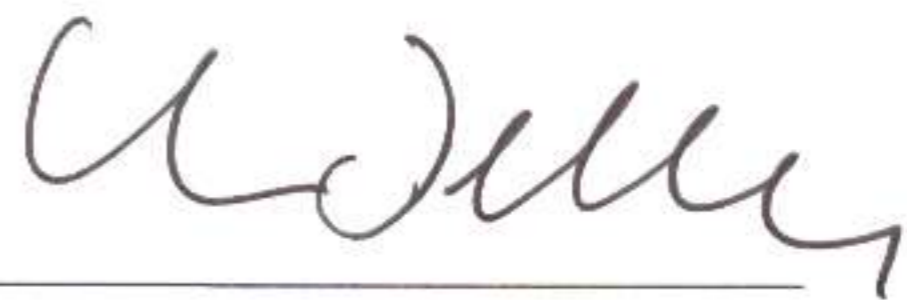
§ 30 Transitional Rules

These by-laws shall come into effect immediately upon approval by the General Assembly. All current Members shall be granted an extension of their membership for one year from the date of such approval to allow them to take advantage of the new membership structures and, where not in good standing, to pay their membership fees, and shall by default transition to Professional Membership within that same one-year period. Working Group Members must hold Membership, and Working Group Chairs as well as leaders of ESH Excellence Centers or Blood Pressure Clinics must hold Professional Membership, in each case within one year from the date of approval of these by-laws.

All current Scientific Council Members shall retain their positions, fully taking into account their previous years of service, and the rules on duration of service shall come into effect immediately, provided that the President may grant a one-year extension where required to maintain the Scientific Council's operations. Current Ex-Officio Members shall remain in post for up to one year, within which time the Scientific Council shall decide how their tasks can in future be fulfilled by Regular Members or whether Task Forces need to be established.



Thomas Weber
ESH President



Christian Delles
ESH Secretary

ESH General Assembly, 30 May 2026
Gdansk, Poland