

**Adopted Bylaws as of June 13, 2017
Amended 6 March 2020**

MEDITERRANEAN NEUROSCIENCE SOCIETY (MNS)

Bylaws

Article I - NAME

The name of the Society is the Mediterranean Neuroscience Society. Acronym: MNS

Article II - Purpose

The purposes of the Society are scientific, educational, literary, charitable, and no other. In furtherance of these purposes, the business and objectives of the society shall be to:

- 1) advance the understanding of the nervous system, and the physiological and pathological bases of behavior.
- 2) bring together scientists of various backgrounds and disciplines.
- 3) facilitate the integration of research directed at all levels of biological organization.
- 4) promote education in neuroscience.
- 5) inform the general public on the results and implications of current research in neuroscience
- 6) promote other activities that will contribute to the development of neuroscience.

Article III – Headquarter

The Society's headquarter is at CNRS, 31 Joseph Aiguier, 13402 Marseille Cedex 20, France. The bank account is registered in with Banque Populaire Aquitaine, France.

Article IV – Membership

Section 1. Members. The Society shall consist of five classes of Members: Regular, Student, Affiliate, Honorary and Emeritus Members

Regular Members. Any person who did research related to Neuroscience is eligible to be a Regular Member. New Member applications will need to be approved by the Council to

become active. In case of rejection, the Membership fees will be refunded.

Student Members. Students enrolled in programs at degree-granting higher education institutions are eligible to apply for Student membership. Student membership shall terminate at the end of the first membership year in which the student can apply for another class of membership after completing or otherwise leaving the degree-granting program. Former Student Members shall be eligible for election to another class of membership according to the same procedures and criteria as other scientific workers.

Affiliate Members. All persons interested in the Society's objectives but not eligible for Regular or Student membership may be appointed to affiliate membership.

Honorary Members: Persons who have made a distinguished contribution at the international level to the Society, may be elected by Council with their formal announcement by the President during the Society's General Meeting at the biennial meeting.

Emeritus Members: Persons who have been Regular Members of the Society, have retired from full-time employment and who have made an exceptional contribution to the objects of the Society, may be elected by Council with their formal announcement by the President during the Society's General Meeting at the biennial meeting.

Section 2. Dues and Assessments. The Council shall set annual dues and special assessments to the Members according to the needs of the Society. Honorary and Emeritus Members shall not be billed for annual dues or other assessments.

Article V - Admissions, Termination of Memberships

Candidacies are examined by the Council. In case of a dispute, the Council will decide.

Resignation

A Member can terminate his/her membership any time by completing a membership resignation form and return it to the Secretary-General. People who resign have to pay any membership undue before being reinstated.

Suspension

A Member can be suspended as a disciplinary action. During the suspension, all membership privileges will be temporarily withdrawn but the suspended Member must continue to pay the membership fees.

Expulsion

The Council can immediately terminate membership as appropriate disciplinary action. The concerned member will receive an ultimatum from the Secretary-General and will be asked to appear in front of the Council (also remotely) to explain the case.

Deceased members

Membership will be immediately closed once the death of a member has occurred.

Article VI - Resources

The resources of the Society include:

- membership fees and any donation
- funding from governments (European Union, States, Regions, Departments, Cities, etc.)
- funding from governmental and private institutions
- incomes from Conferences and meetings, etc

Article VII – Council

Section 1. Council. The Society's affairs shall be conducted through a Council consisting of elected Councilors.

The Council of the Society normally consists of up to 15 members.

The Executive Bureau are part of the Council and includes the President, the Vice-President, the Past-President, the Secretary-General, the Vice-Secretary and the Treasurer. The Secretary-General, the Vice-Secretary, and the Treasurer are appointed by the Council among the Council members.

After each election, the Vice-Secretary and the Treasurer are nominated by the Council among the newly elected Councilors. The Vice-Secretary serves his/her duties for a 2-year term, after which he/she becomes Secretary-General, for another 2-year term. The Treasurer will maintain their role for the entire 4 year-term to avoid changing the bank responsible every two years.

Council must represent the different countries of the Mediterranean area when it is possible, in a balanced gender ratio.

Section 2. Election of Councilors.

The Vice-President and the Councilors are elected at the biennial Meeting. The Vice-President and the Members of the Council are elected by secret vote by all active MNS members. Candidacies for elections are presented by email to the Secretary-General. The Executive Bureau examines candidacy validity.

In case of vacancy, the Council nominates and temporarily replaces the vacant councilor positions until the next elections by appointing-candidates among MNS members-

The newly designated Bureau and elected Council take office 2 months after the election.

Section 3. Specific issues. The President and Vice-President must be from an institution belonging to the 22 countries surrounding the Mediterranean sea (Spain, France, Monaco, Italy, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Albania, Greece, Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, Israel, Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, Malta and Cyprus) and Portugal. Whenever possible, if the President is from a *European coast Mediterranean Country* (Spain, France, Monaco, Italy, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Albania, Greece, Turkey, Malta, and Portugal), the Vice-President shall be from a *Levantine or Northern African coast Mediterranean country* (Syria, Lebanon, Israel, Cyprus, Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco), or vice versa. Also, attention must be paid to gender balance: the Society shall have an active policy for encouraging the participation of women in the Society's activities.

Section 4. Limit of mandates. No member can serve more than 2 consecutive terms, at any officer or executive position. The only exception to this rule is that the Vice-President becomes President, and then Past-President, even if she/he has previously served 1 term as Councilor.

Article VIII – Council Meetings

Section 1. Meetings. The Council shall meet at least once a year or more as is deemed necessary. Meetings may be conducted in person or by videoconference or other types of communication. The Council may also conduct business by mail or email. Decisions are made by the vote with the majority. In case of equality, the President's voice prevails.

Section 2. Quorum. A quorum of Council shall consist of at least 50 percent of the total number of Council members plus 1 Member serving.

Article X – Regular General Assembly

The regular General Assembly of the Society is called by the President and includes all the Members. However, only regular and active Members take part in the vote.

The General Assembly meets at dates to be set by the Council. Thirty days before the date of the meeting, all Members receive an electronic invitation from the Secretary-General, along with the Agenda of the meeting. Only the issues included in the Agenda are discussed during the meeting. The General Assembly is chaired by the President assisted by the Officers.

The bids for the MNS Conference that will be held in 4 years need to be presented at the General Assembly, the presenters will be invited to the next Council Meeting and a decision will be taken by the Council.

Article IX – Extraordinary General Assembly

If requested by at least half of the regular active Members, the President shall call for an extraordinary General Assembly.

Article X - Rulebook

A rulebook prepared by the Council and approved by the General Assembly will incorporate the rules regarding all issues not anticipated by the Bylaws, namely those that relate to the internal management of the Society.

Article XI - Dissolution

In the event of the dissolution or termination of the Society, title to and possession of all the property of the incorporated Society shall pass forthwith to that organization or organizations qualified to carry on the purposes of the Society. The passage of the properties processes will be conducted by the Executive Bureau.

Article XIV – Procedures for bylaws changes

Any change in these bylaws must be approved by the General Assembly. This can be made by electronic vote or at the Conference. Changes can be proposed by Members by written notice (email) sent to the General Secretary and the President at least 12 weeks before the assembly.