



THE INTERNATIONAL SURGICAL GROUP

Constitution and By-Laws (updated 2015)

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I

The name of the organization shall be the INTERNATIONAL SURGICAL GROUP.

The purpose of the organization shall be the advancement of surgery through the interchange of clinical and research experience among the members of the Group, the stimulation of clinical and laboratory research, the advancement of surgical teaching and training programs, and preservation of sound ethical principles among surgeons and physicians in general.

The transactions of the Group shall be conducted in the English language.

ARTICLE II

The officers of the Group shall be a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer.

Terms of office will ordinarily be one year. The President shall be elected for one (1) term only. The other officers can be re-elected. Each officer will continue in office until his successor has been duly elected at a regular meeting of the Group.

ARTICLE III

Duties of officers:

Section 1

The President shall preside at all meetings and appoint committees, unless other provision is made for their appointment by motion of the membership. He will be expected to act as the principal officer and leader of the Group during the term of office.

Section 2

The Vice-President shall assume the duties of the President, whenever the President is unable to perform them, and is expected to assist the President during his term of office.

Section 3

The Secretary shall keep records of the membership of the Group and minutes of its business and scientific transactions. He will send out notices of meetings, and carry on the correspondence and other functions usually associated with the Office of Secretary.

Section 4

The Treasurer will have custody of all funds of the Group. He will send out bills for dues in accordance with the resolutions passed at meetings of the Group, and will pay as authorized by the Group when in session, or by two (2) of the officers when it is not in session. He shall submit a Treasurer's report at every regular meeting.

Section 5

The President, Secretary, and Treasurer will serve as a Nominating Committee to nominate Officers and members.

ARTICLE IV

Membership

The Founder Members shall be those agreed upon in previous correspondences who have been invited to join and have accepted as on July 1, 1958. Members other than Founder Members shall be of these classes: Active, Senior, and Honorary.

Section 1

Active members shall be limited as to number and geographic distribution as defined in the By-Laws. Active membership will cease at the age of 65.

Section 2

Senior Members shall be those Active Members, who have reached the age of 65 years and have been regularly in attendance. Honorary members shall be those whose accomplishments in the field of surgery and its specialties are deemed by the membership to be of sufficient importance to merit unusual distinction. Honorary Members shall not be required to pay dues, but may be required to share in special assessments of Members attending particular meetings when they are in attendance.

Section 3

Proposal for membership shall be made by three (3) or more members of the Group, and forwarded in writing to the Secretary with the candidate's curriculum vitae, bibliography, and supporting letters. The material should be distributed to the membership, and any comments from members should be published at the business meeting. Election shall be by a three-fourths vote of the members.

ARTICLE V

The active membership of the Group shall be open to any qualified surgeon from any country in the world, providing that he or she is fluent in the English language.

ARTICLE VI

Amendments to the Constitution shall be proposed in writing and distributed by the Secretary at least three (3) months before the meeting at which they are to be considered. Amendments may be adopted by a two-thirds vote of the members present, with the provision for mail vote, should fewer than fifteen (15) members be present. Amendments to the By-laws may be made at any meeting of the Group and approved by a two-thirds vote of the members present, with a provision for a mail vote, should fewer than fifteen (15) members be present.

BY-LAWS

Section 1

The business affairs of the Group shall be conducted by the membership-at-large, and there shall be a business meeting at each meeting of the Group. If less than fifteen (15) members of the Group are present, final action affecting members who are not present shall be taken by mail vote.

Section 2

The active Membership of the Group is limited to 60 members, of whom one third shall always be drawn from the North American Continent and one third from the United Kingdom, Ireland and the Scandinavian countries.

Failure of an active member to attend five successive meetings will result in automatic disqualification from membership unless there are profound reasons of excuse. This five year rule also applies to members entering senior status after attending just a single meeting. After three years of consecutive absence active members will get a warning from the secretary. If there has been no contact in five years, the member will be moved to historic membership.

Newly elected members are granted the status of proposed membership. Proposed members acquire the status of full membership only after attending their first meeting and after giving a presentation during the scientific program. Preliminary membership terminates automatically after two years unless there is an understandable excuse not to attend at least one of the two annual meetings following the election.

New candidates for membership from countries where the ISG is well established (i.e. several senior members already) should avoid an age above 55 and should never be above 60 at the time of proposal. For candidates from countries where the ISG is not yet well established the age limit

at the time of proposal should be 62 years, allowing for a participation at the age of 63 and 64 before acquiring senior status.

Section 3

Annual dues shall be 150 U.S. dollars (\$) annually and shall be levied on all Active Members, regardless of whether or not they attend meetings. Senior members attending the annual meeting should pay annual dues of 50 \$. The expenses of the Group at meetings shall be defrayed by the Group as a whole through dues and through special assessments against those Senior Members in attendance.

Section 4

At each meeting, the local committee for the succeeding material shall be authorized to commit the Group to an appropriate budget.

Section 5

It is intended that meetings shall be held every year organized by one of the members or a group of members in his/her/their country of residence. Participation at annual meetings is open to members and their family as well as guest speakers invited by the local host.

Section 6

Programs shall include not only scientific papers, but also visits to clinics and laboratories where clinics and demonstrations may be available.

Section 7

Between meetings, the officers of the Group are authorized to make such decisions as are essential for its continuance, this authorization to include changes in plans for the site and time of the meeting, should changes become urgent.

Notes and comments:

Last Changes made were modifications of Constitution Article IV (Section 1) and Article V as well as By-Law Section II (all decided in Malmö 1991), modifications of By-Law Section II and V (decided in London 2007), age limit for new members (decided in London 2007, modified in Ghent 2013 and included in section 2 of the by-laws), change of annual dues for active members (increase to 100\$ decided 2004, increase to 150\$ decided 2011), and dues for senior members participating in meetings (50\$, decided in Ghent 2013). In 2014 By-Law section 2 (2) was updated. In 2015 by-laws section 5 concerning the participation in annual meetings was added. In 2017 an addition was made to the by-laws section 2 concerning members who have had no contacts in 5 years.