

STATUTES OF IFSHC

As amended, August 2008

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Article I – NAME

The name of this organization shall be the “International Federation of Societies for Histochemistry and Cytochemistry” (IFSHC).

Article II – PURPOSE

It shall be the task of the IFSHC to promote communications and co-operation among scientists throughout the world who are interested in these fields of study. In support of these aims, the IFSHC will arrange International Congresses to provide a forum for scientists interested in histo- and cytochemistry.

Article III – ORGANIZATION OF THE IFSHC OPERATION

Operation of the IFSHC shall be conducted by the following committees:

Section 1

The Committee of Delegates: composed of two delegates from each of the Member Societies, in addition to the Members of the Executive Committee of the IFSHC.

Section 2

The Executive Committee: composed of the President, the Secretary-General, the Treasurer, and two Councillors.

Section 3

The Local Organizing Committee: composed of representatives of the Member Society acting as host for the forthcoming International Congress.

Article IV – MEMBERSHIP OF THE IFSHC

Membership of the IFSHC and participation in its organizational bodies shall be open to any Society of Histochemistry and Cytochemistry whose primary objectives include the aims of the IFSHC as defined in Article II.

Section 1

A Member Society must either be incorporated member of an indigenous parent Society that is so incorporated or established by Charter.

Section 2

Accreditation for membership by a Society will be determined by the Executive Committee within one year after formal application for membership.

Section 3

Annual dues of the member societies of the IFSHC will be 100 Euro per year for small Society, which has less than 100 members, and 200 Euro per year for larger Society, which has more than 100 members. These dues are payable annually in advance on 31 January to the Treasurer of the IFSHC. The voting right of the delegates of a Member society at meetings of the committee shall be suspended if this society has not paid its annual dues to the International Federation of Societies for Histochemistry and Cytochemistry for three or more years consecutively since the last congress. Reinstatement requires liquidation of all indebtedness and approval by the Committee of Delegates.

Section 4

Individuals from countries in which an incorporated or chartered Society does not exist may have full representation in the programs of the Congress and at the Business Meeting of a Congress, but may not participate in the functions of the Committee of Delegates.

Section 5

The names of the President and Secretary of the Member Society for Histochemistry and Cytochemistry shall be presented to the Secretary-General of the IFSHC at the time of the accreditation of a Society. Any change in the name(s) of these official(s) occurring in the interval between International Congresses must be transmitted promptly to the Secretary-General.

Section 6

In the case of the existence of two or more Societies within a single country, the nomination of not more than two delegates to represent these societies in the Committee of Delegates shall be at their discretion.

Section 7

A member Society that does not pay at least minimum annual dues for the for the four year leading up to and including the year of the International Congress will be put on probation. As prescribed in the By-laws and the Statutes, a Society on probation for this reason is ineligible to nominate its members for Young Histochemist monetary awards to the International Congress and also loses voting privileges at the meeting of Delegates of Member Societies. However, a Society that has been placed on probation will be retained as a member of the IFSHC and receive the Newsletters until the next International Congress. A member Society that has been on probationary status for two consecutive Congress (8 years) will be removed from the membership in the IFSHC. This action can be initiated and approved by the Executive Committee. A member Society facing removal for lack of participation, as prescribed in Article IX of the By-laws and Article IV of the Statutes, may appeal to the Executive Committee for continuation of probationary status. This appeal must be in writing by an elected officer and be submitted to the Executive Committee at least 3 months prior to the International Congress. The appeal should explain the special circumstances, if any, for the lack of participation, and explain how the Society intends to participate in the future. An appeal must be signed by the President of the petitioning Society. A Society that has been removed from membership in the IFSHC may petition the Executive Committee for reinstatement. This petition must be in writing by an elected official and present the Society's plans for full participation in the IFSHC, including payment of dues, and must be signed by the President of the Society. A petition for reinstatement must be accompanied by a check for funds to cover all unpaid dues since the previous Congress. Reinstatement can be approved by action of the Executive Committee.

Article V – THE COMMITTEE OF DELEGATES

The Committee of Delegates shall conduct the scientific and business affairs of the IFSHC.

Section 1

Membership: Membership of the Committee of Delegates shall consist of two representatives from each accredited de facto Member Society. Only one of these two delegates shall have voting rights. In addition, the five elected officials of the Executive Committee of the IFSHC are ex officio members of the Committee of Delegates, and they shall have voting rights. The Archivist shall also be a member of the Committee, without voting rights.

Section 2

The Committee of Delegates shall elect each member of the Executive Committee of the IFSHC by a simple majority vote. Member societies should submit the name(s) of up to 5 nominee(s) to the Secretary-General at least three months in advance. No person can serve more than one term as President, or two terms as Secretary, Treasurer or Member.

Section 3

Meetings: The Committee of Delegates shall meet, at the latest, one day prior to the International Congress; and, if necessary, during the interregnum between Congresses when requested by a simple majority of the Executive Committee, or at the request of authorised delegates from three or more accredited Member Societies. The President may invite observers to the meetings of the Committee. An agenda for each scheduled meeting of the Committee of Delegates will be sent by the Secretary-General to all authorised delegates of accredited Societies not less than three months prior to the meeting date of the Committee of Delegates. The agenda will include a report by the Treasurer on acquisition and expenditure of IFSHC funds. The agenda will also include a list of societies offering to host the next International Congress, submission for which should be sent to the Secretary-General at least 3 months in advance.

Section 4

Responsibilities: The Committee of Delegates shall determine specific policies for the good of the IFSHC, in accordance with the purposes stated in Article II, and implement the execution of these policies as provided in these statutes. The Committee of Delegates shall have the power to conduct its necessary business by mail vote during the interval between its meetings scheduled prior to a Congress, and shall be represented by the President on all occasions, unless he is unable to attend, in which case the Secretary-General shall deputise for him. The Committee of Delegates shall receive from the President a report on the previous Congress and on the activities of the Executive Committee. The Committee of Delegates at its meeting prior to a Congress shall receive nominations and elect Officers of the Executive Committee, to serve until the meeting(s) of the Committee of Delegates at the next Congress. The Committee of Delegates shall consider invitations by Member Societies to host the next Congress. Voting by simple majority of the Committee of Delegates shall select the country in which the next Congress is to be held. As a general rule, the Congress shall not meet consecutively either within the same country or, where avoidable, consecutively on the same continent. Sessions of the International Congress for Histochemistry and Cytochemistry shall be held, as a rule, every four years.

Article VI – THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee shall conduct the affairs of the IFSHC according to the statutes and the policies determined by the Committee of Delegates.

Section 1

The Executive Committee shall be composed of five officers of the IFSHC. The Committee of Delegates shall elect a President, a Secretary-General, a Treasurer, and two Councillors to officiate for the IFSHC until the meeting of the next Congress. There shall not be more than two officers at any one time from any one society. Election of the officers shall be by a simple majority vote of the authorized delegates to the Committee of Delegates at its meeting during the Congress.

Section 2

It shall be the duty of the President to report to the Committee of Delegates, to preside over all meeting of the Committee of Delegates, to conduct the affairs of the Executive Committee, to preside over the Business Meeting of the International Congress (see Article IX) and to represent the IFSHC on all occasions. It shall be the duty of the Secretary-General to maintain appropriate records of the activities of the IFSHC, to receive applications for membership, to deputise for the President when necessary, and to carry out other duties that usually pertain to this office. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to administer the IFSHC funds.

Section 3

The Executive Committee shall conduct the affairs of the IFSHC during the interval between two Congresses in accordance with the policies determined by the Committee of Delegates. It shall prepare a list of Member Societies and countries offering to host the next International Congress for presentation to the Committee of Delegates. It shall give support to the Local Organizing Committee in preparing the forthcoming Congress. The Executive Committee shall also undertake such other duties associated with objectives of the IFSHC as may be delegated to it by the Committee of Delegates.

Article VII – THE LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS

The Local Organizing Committee shall be responsible for the preparation and conduct of an International Congress.

Section 1

The Society proposed by the Committee of Delegates to host the next International Congress will inform the Secretary-General within three months of the termination of the past Congress whether it will undertake the organization of the next Congress. If it is unable to do so, the second country nominated by the Committee of Delegates shall be invited to host the next International Congress.

Section 2

A Local Organizing Committee shall be appointed by the Member Society of the country in which the next session of the Congress is to be held, within three months following official acceptance by the Society of responsibility for the organization of the Congress.

Section 3

The Local Organizing Committee shall elect the President and the Secretary for the congress that it organizes, and shall report these names and addresses to the Secretary-General of the IFSHC.

Section 4

The Local Organizing Committee shall report to the President and the Secretary-General of the IFSHC on the conduct of preparations for the Congress within six months of its organization. It shall also give notice of the provisional date and venue of the Congress.

Section 5

The Local Organizing Committee shall send invitations for participation in the Congress to all Member Societies for Histochemistry and Cytochemistry and to other interested organizations and individuals at least two years prior to the date of the Congress.

Article VIII – SUBCOMMITTEES

To promote and develop the field of histo- and cytochemistry, the Committee of Delegates is empowered to appoint ad hoc committees for the study of histochemical and cytochemical matters requiring international collaboration, including the organization of symposia and conferences on special topics. The Committee of Delegates may also elect representatives to confer with other Societies on matters of mutual scientific interest.

Article IX – BUSINESS MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS

A General Business Meeting shall be held at each International Congress. All registered members of an International Congress shall be invited to participate in the Business Meeting at the Congress. The members of the Congress shall consider the President's reports on recent activities of the Executive Committee, decisions of the, Committee of Delegates, and prospective policies of the IFSHC.

Article X – PERSONAL LIABILITY

Members of Committees organized under the IFSHC shall incur no personal liability in respect of commitments by those Committees.

Article XI – DISSOLUTION

In the event of the dissolution of the IFSHC, for any reason or at any time, liquidation shall be carried out by the Executive Committee then in office, after authorization by a two-thirds majority vote of the Committee of Delegates.

Article XII – AMENDMENTS

Amendments to these statutes may be initiated by any Member Society or by a petition to this body signed by 20 members of Member Societies. Amendments must be approved by a two-thirds majority vote of the Committee of Delegates.