

ISHR (EUROPEAN SECTION) BY-LAWS AND GUIDELINES

In accord with the purposes and the principles of the ISHR (international) insofar as these are applicable to the European Section. In matters not otherwise covered in By-Laws and Guidelines of the ISHR (European Section), guidance should be sought in the By-Laws of the ISHR (International) (*J Mol Cell Cardiol* 1992;24:1203-1210).

1. Membership

Membership of the ISHR (European Section) is open to all clinical or non-clinical scientists interested in cardiovascular research. Application for membership should be sent to the President or Secretary. With the exception of Honorary Fellows of the ISHR, an annual membership fee is payable. All members in good-standing shall be eligible to vote and to hold office.

2. Council

(i) Composition

Council will comprise the elected posts of the President, President-Elect, immediate Past President, Secretary and the other elected Members of Council. Council will normally number 15, not less than 12 and not more than 20 members in total, the number within these limits being at Council's discretion. The Council membership will reflect scientific excellence, different cardiovascular research interests and career stage, commitment to the Society, geographical spread, national membership numbers and Sub-Section representation.

(ii) Council Membership

The term of office for an elected member of Council is 4 years. It is not renewable. Re-election is permissible after a minimum of 4 years outside Council. New Council members will take office immediately after their election is announced, i.e. at and for the first Council meeting at the next Annual Congress of the ISHR (European Section) or ISHR World Congress if that replaces the European Section Congress.

(iii) Election of Council Members

Council will select candidates for new Council members from nominations received in advance of the Winter Council Meeting immediately preceding the vacancy.

Nominations of candidates to Council will be invited from the general membership not less than 6 months before the vacancy occurs. Self-nomination is permitted. Nominations shall contain a short CV and a statement of intent. Council members will receive these documents from the President or Secretary not less than 2 weeks before the Council meeting.

Council will select candidates for election from the nominations, compiling a list with at least 2 more candidates than the number of vacancies. In selecting candidates for election, Council shall have regard for the necessary balance in geographical, scientific and gender representation. The general members will each have as many votes as there are vacancies, and may assign one vote to each candidate of their choice.

A ballot paper, together with supporting information on the candidates nominated by Council will be distributed to all members of the ISHR (European Section), to be returned by 2 months before the Annual Congress at which the election result will be announced. Election to the Council will be by simple majority.

(iv) Officers

The officers comprise the President (normally proceeding from President-Elect), the President-Elect, immediate Past-President and the Secretary (also acting as Treasurer). New officers will normally have had experience on the Council. Election will take place 4-6 months before the Annual Congress (i.e. before election of the required number of new Council members) and will be by simple majority of the Council. The necessary quorum will be half the total number of Council Members. If there are more than two candidates for any post then a series of votes will be held. On each round the candidate who receives fewest votes will be removed.

Newly elected officers will take office at the first Council meeting of the Annual Congress of the ISHR (European Section) following their election, or immediately if filling a previously vacant post. Each office will be held for a single 2-year term, except that the office of Secretary will be potentially renewable by election for one further, succeeding 2-year term.

The maximum term the President will serve is 4 years as a Council member, 2 years as President-Elect, 2 years as President and 2 years as Past-President.

The maximum term the Secretary will serve is for 4 years as a council member and an additional 4 years (i.e. two 2-year terms) as Secretary. A member shall not serve as President and Secretary (or vice versa) in succession.

(v) Meetings of the Council

Two meetings of the Council will normally be held during each Annual Congress of the ISHR (European Section). Agendas should be pre-circulated 6 weeks before the meeting. When no Annual Congress of the European Section is held, as during years in which the ISHR World Congress is held in Europe, meetings of the Council should be held during that World Congress. One full day Winter Council meeting will also be held: this will normally be in January and alternate between the home towns of the President and Secretary.

One of the 2 meetings of the Council held at each Annual Congress may be attended in nonvoting capacity by (a) the Chairman (or his/her representative) of those national societies of cardiovascular research with whom there is a joint membership agreement with the ISHR (European Section), (b) the Congress organizer, and (c) guests invited with the agreement of all Council members present.

Other meetings of the Council may be called by the President if necessary, with due notice.

In the case of a tied vote by the Council, the President (or deputy) may call for a re-vote and, in the case that this is also tied; he/she will have the casting vote. Decisions of the Council will be put to the membership for ratification at the Annual Congress of the ISHR (European Section).

(vi) Transitional arrangements

If changes to the By-laws are ratified at a given Annual Congress of the ISHR (European Section), Council members and Officers of the Society commencing their duties at that meeting will serve the terms in place at the time they were elected, i.e. under the By-laws preceding that meeting.