

ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION OF THE  
ASSOCIATION EUROPÉENNE DE RHUMATOLOGIE PEDIATRIQUE (PRES)  
PAEDIATRIC RHEUMATOLOGY EUROPEAN SOCIETY (PRES)

**I. NAME, REGISTERED OFFICE, TERM, OBJECTS AND SOURCES OF FUNDING OF THE SOCIETY**

**Article 1: Name, registered office and term**

The society, whose name is the ASSOCIATION EUROPÉENNE DE RHUMATOLOGIE PEDIATRIQUE (PRES), (PAEDIATRIC RHEUMATOLOGY EUROPEAN SOCIETY (PRES)) and whose registered office is situated in Geneva, is hereby formed in accordance with articles 60 *et seq* of the Swiss Civil Code.

The society shall be formed for an indefinite period of time.

**Article 2: Objects**

The society is a non-profit making organisation dedicated to advance the care and improve the health and well-being of children and young people with rheumatic diseases.

Its purpose is:

- to promote knowledge of paediatric rheumatic diseases;
- to stimulate research in these fields;
- to inform the public in these fields through conferences and publications;
- to provide guidelines and standards for good clinical practice and paediatric rheumatology training;
- to represent paediatric rheumatology in European organisations such as the European Union of Medical Specialists.

**Article 3: Sources of funding**

The funding of the society shall come from:

- donations
- bequests
- private or public grants
- membership fees
- income from the organisation of conferences and events
- any or all other income.

The assets of the society must be administered in accordance with recognised commercial principles and in according with mission and vision of PRES. The risk must be divided. In so doing, the assets must not be jeopardised by speculation. They should not, however, be administered in too conservative a manner.

## **II. MEMBERSHIP**

### **Article 4: Membership**

#### **1. Membership categories**

The active members of the society must be actively engaged in clinical practice or research in the field of paediatric rheumatology and dedicated to advance the care and improve the health and well-being of children and young people with rheumatic diseases.

The society shall also be comprised of:

- Associate members who sympathize with the mission of the society but are not actively engaged.
- Honorary members who are chosen by the council because of their outstanding merits in the field of paediatric rheumatology.

Only active members of the society shall have the right to vote at General Meetings. Active members may have offices on the premises of the society in accordance with the conditions and within the limits fixed by the Committee.

#### **2. Admission**

Persons who wish to become members can obtain an admission form from the secretariat of the society.

Each application must contain a short CV and a sponsorship by one current member of the society.

The Council of the society shall review the applications and submit them to the General Meeting of the society.

Applications must be approved by the General Meeting of the society.

The Council of the society shall be entitled to propose individuals for election as honorary members to the General Meeting in order to distinguish certain members of the paediatric rheumatology community.

#### **3. Loss of membership**

Members shall lose their membership status in the following cases:

- Automatically when a member passes away.
- By means of a resignation letter which is sent to the Committee at least six months prior to the end of the financial year of the society.
- If they are excluded by a resolution of the Committee taken on justified grounds with a right of appeal before the General Meeting. The 30-day deadline for appeal commences on the date the member is notified of the Committee's decision.
- Failure to pay the membership fees for more than two years.

### **Article 5: Conferences**

The society shall organise a Scientific Conference each year to present and discuss research in the field of paediatric rheumatology.

Proposals for the organisation of an Annual Scientific Conference, which are generally put forward by members of the society, should be submitted to the Secretary of the society at least six months before the General Meeting, which is held two years before the said Annual Scientific Conference.

The responsibility for selecting the location and organising the Annual Scientific Conference shall fall to the Council. The Council has the liberty to choose to organize the Annual Scientific Conference in conjunction with other related scientific societies, such as EULAR.

The chair of the organisation committee of the Annual Scientific Conference shall become a member of the Council of the society one year before the Conference is held and shall remain a member until the end of the year during which the Conference is held.

The organisational budget of the Annual Scientific Conference shall be set by the Council. The budget should in principle at least be covered by the annual income of the society; similarly, the possible revenues should be retained by the Council and used to implement its purposes.

The Council in conjunction shall prepare the programme of the Annual Scientific Conference and of the other events that are organised by the society with the organisation committee.

### **III. ORGANISATION OF THE SOCIETY**

#### **Article 6: Bodies of the society**

The bodies of the society shall be:

- The General Meeting
- The Council
- The Executive Committee
- The clinical affairs subcommittee
- The research subcommittee
- The education and training subcommittee
- The health professional subcommittee.
- The parent's organisation subcommittee

#### **Article 7: General Meeting**

##### **1. Meeting**

The General Meeting shall be comprised of all the active members of the society.

An Ordinary General Meeting shall be held at least once a year during the Annual Scientific Conference which is organised by the society. An Extraordinary General Meeting may, in addition, be held whenever this is required at the request of the Council or 2/3<sup>rds</sup> of its members.

The Committee shall inform members of the date of the General Meeting in writing at least six weeks in advance. The invitation to attend with the agenda shall be sent by the Committee to each member at least ten days in advance.

The General Meeting shall be chaired by the President of the society or, failing this, by the Secretary of the society.

## 2. Powers

The General Meeting is the supreme body of the society.

It shall have the following tasks:

- Decide on the admission or exclusion of members
- Elect the members of the Committee (subject to co-opted members) and appoint at least a President, Treasurer and Secretary from among them
- Review the reports and statements for the financial year and approve them
- Approve the annual budget
- Monitor the work of the other bodies that it may revoke on justified grounds
- Appoint the auditing body
- Make any amendments to the articles of association
- Decide to dissolve the society
- Set the amount of the annual membership fees

The agenda of the Ordinary General Meeting must contain:

- The approval of the minutes of the previous General Meeting
- The presentation and approval of the Committee's annual activity report
- The presentation and approval of the Treasurer's and, where applicable, the auditors' annual report
- The amount of the membership fees
- The approval of the budget
- The approval of the reports and financial statements
- The election of the members of the Committee and auditing body where applicable
- Any other business

## 3. Resolutions

The resolutions of the General Meeting shall be passed by a simple majority of the votes of the members present or represented. Each member may be represented by a third party or another member provided they have the appropriate written proxy forms.

The Meeting shall be validly constituted and able to pass resolutions if a third of its members are present or represented. If this quorum is not reached, the President shall call another General Meeting for which the said quorum shall not be required. In the event of a tie, the President of the Committee shall have a casting vote.

Resolutions concerning amendments to the articles of association, the dissolution of the society and the approval of a new member must be passed with a majority of at least a two-thirds majority of the members present.

### **Article 8: Council**

The Council shall be responsible for deciding on the society's strategy and shall pass all resolutions which by law or these articles of association do not fall within the remit of another body.

The Council shall be comprised of the following members:

- The President of the society (elected)
- A Secretary (elected)
- A Treasurer (elected)
- The Chairs of the subcommittees (elected)
- A Representative of the trainee doctors (elected)
- A Representative of the EULAR Standing Committee for Paediatric Rheumatology (SCPR) (co-opted)
- A Representative from the PRINTO network (co-opted)
- A Representative from ENCA (co-opted)
- A Representative from the organiser or organisers of the Scientific Conference (co-opted)
- Chair, PRES Academy of Paediatric Rheumatology (co-opted)
- President of EULAR or his delegate from the Steering Group (co-opted)

No more than two members of the Council should come from the same country.

The members of the Council shall be elected for a non-renewable term of four years.

In exceptional cases the executive committee can decide to grant members a second term of 4 years

The elected members of the Council must be active members and work actively in the field of paediatric rheumatology in Europe.

Candidates to the Council may be put forward (with their consent) by three active members of the society. Applications should be sent to the Secretary at least one month before the date of the General Meeting. Candidates may also be put forward by the Council.

The Council shall be authorised to entrust the responsibility of organising the management of the members and accounting to a third party of its choice.

The meetings of the Council shall be called and chaired by the President of the society or, failing this, by the Secretary of the society. The members of the Council shall be invited to attend meetings in writing at least one month in advance.

The Council shall be validly constituted if two-thirds of its elected members are present. Its resolutions shall be passed by a majority of the votes of the elected members present.

#### **Article 9:      Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee shall at least be comprised of the President of the Society, the Secretary and the Treasurer. It shall be responsible for the operational management of the Society.

The President shall represent the Society with regard to third parties and shall chair the General Meeting and the Council of the Society.

The Secretary shall draw up the minutes of the General Meeting and meetings of the Council of the Society.

The Treasurer shall be responsible for the financial management of the Society and shall prepare the financial statements.

The members of the Executive Committee shall be elected one year before officially taking office and shall work as the president-, secretary and treasurer-elect during the year before taking office. If one of

its members resigns before the end of their term of office, a replacement shall be elected for the remaining years.

#### **Article 10:     The subcommittees**

The subcommittees of the Society shall be:

- The clinical affairs subcommittee
- The education and training subcommittee
- The health professional subcommittee
- The research subcommittee.
- The parent's organisation subcommittee

The subcommittees shall recommend the action to be taken to the Council. The structures of the subcommittees shall be put forward by their chairs, approved by the Executive Committee and endorsed by the General Meeting.

#### **Article 11:     Voluntary work**

The members of the Council, Executive Committee and subcommittees shall work on a voluntary basis and shall only be entitled to claim a refund of their effective expenses and travelling costs. Possible attendance allowances shall not exceed those paid for official commissions. Members of the Committee who carry out duties that go beyond their usual official work may receive an appropriate remuneration.

Staff, who is paid by the Society, shall take part in an advisory capacity in the meetings of the Council, Committee and/or subcommittees.

#### **Article 12:     Financial year**

The annual financial year shall start on 1 January and end on 31 December each year.

The first financial year shall exceptionally begin on the day the Society is formed and shall end on 31 December 2015.

The Treasurer shall be responsible for the finances of the Society.

#### **Article 13:     Liability**

Only the assets of the Society shall be used to achieve its objects.

The members shall not be personally liable for the debts of the Society.

### **IV.     AMENDMENTS TO THE ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION AND DISSOLUTION**

#### **Article 14:     Amendments to the articles of association**

Amendments to the articles of association must be proposed in writing to the Secretary by five members or by the Council at least four months before the following General Meeting.

The Committee shall inform the members of the Society of the proposed amendments at least three months before the following General Meeting.

A member may submit a counter-proposal to the amendment of the articles of association to the Committee at least two months before the following General Meeting. The counter-proposal shall be presented to all the members of the Society at least one month before the General Meeting is held.

**Article 15:      Dissolution and liquidation**

In the event that the Society is dissolved, the assets available shall be allocated in full to an institution that pursues a similar object in the public interest to that of the Society and which is exempt from paying taxes. The assets shall not, under any circumstances, be given to the founders/individuals or members or used for their benefit in full or in part in any manner whatsoever.

When the General Meeting passes the resolution to dissolve the Society, it shall also appoint a liquidation committee, which shall be comprised of at least three persons; the said persons need not be taken from the Society.