

# EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF INTERNAL MEDICINE

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## STATUTES

### *Article 1*

The European Federation of Internal Medicine is constituted as an international association with its principal office at the Belgian Society of Internal Medicine - Fondation Universitaire situated at 1050 Brussels.

### *Article 2*

The Federation is being formed to accomplish the objectives outlined in Article 3 in the context of an enlarged European Community, and increasing medical specialisation.

The founding members are: Prof Yves Le Tallec, Prof Hugo Carcassi, Prof Philippe Jaeger, Dr Christopher Davidson, Prof Jaime Merino, Prof Michel Lambert.

The Statutes of the above Federation are as follows:

## PURPOSE

### *Article 3*

The purpose of the Federation is scientific. It's objective is to promote internal medicine not only on a scientific plane, but also at an ethical and professional level. To this end the Federation will publish the outcome of its researches and resolutions, seek to bring together European specialists in internal medicine, to establish communication between these specialists, to organise meetings or European congresses and to provide information to private or public organisations about internal medicine.

The European Federation of Internal Medicine proposes to develop links for the purposes of information and collaboration with:

1. International Society of Internal Medicine (ISIM) and non-European Societies of Internal Medicine with regard to scientific information.

2. National and International societies for sub-specialties related to internal medicine.
3. The European Union of Medical Specialists (UEMS) with regard to studies concerning the organisation of the profession.
4. All other bodies relevant to the activities of the Federation.

## **MEMBERS**

The Federation consists of natural persons and legal entities:

1. Society members: the representative national scientific society for internal medicine (or it's equivalent) in a European country. The members of these National Societies will automatically become ordinary members of the Federation (see 2a. below).
2. Individual members: these are -
  - (a) Ordinary members: specialists in internal medicine or one of the branches of internal medicine in countries which are not Society Members.
  - (b) Associate members: specialists in one of the branches of internal medicine; doctors in training to become internal medicine specialists; or scientists who have an interest in internal medicine.
  - (c) Honorary members: outstanding ordinary or associate members whom the Federation wishes to honour or thank for services given.
  - (d) Emeritus members: ordinary or associate members for at least ten years who have retired from professional activity.
3. Institutional members: Foundations, Societies, and Institutions with an interest in internal medicine.

### *Article 4*

Admission of new members is subject to the following conditions:  
They are approved by the Administrative Council; the vote for admission depends on simple majority, with a casting vote by whoever chairs the Council.

Society members, institutional members, and individual members (except for honorary members and emeritus members) are required to pay an annual membership fee set by the Administrative Council.

Members of the European Federation of Internal Medicine can be affiliated to the International Society of Internal Medicine and this affiliation is desirable.

Members of the European Federation of Internal Medicine may resign from the Federation six months after notification in writing to the Administrative Council.

Regardless of the above, the General Assembly can expel members from the Federation by a vote of at least two thirds of the members present or represented provided this issue appears in the agenda for a duly convened meeting, and the member whose expulsion is proposed has the opportunity to be heard. Expulsion is automatic for members who have not paid their membership fee for more than two years. Members who leave the Federation, such as by death, have no rights to the assets of the Federation.

## **ADMINISTRATION**

### *Article 5*

The Federation is administered by the Administrative Council consisting of two representatives, or their substitutes, nominated by each Society member (see Article 7 below). Where a European country has no recognised national society or appropriate group, the Executive Committee (see Article 6 below) can nominate two members following the advice of well known Internists from that country. The Administrative Council must in any case consist of no less than three members, of whom one holds Belgian nationality.

### *Article 6*

The Administrative Council must elect from its members a President, a first Vice-President who is President-Elect, a second Vice-President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer, all of whom must be of different nationalities. These, together with the Past President (as a non-voting member), form the Executive Committee.

Members of the Executive Committee are appointed for a period of two years, but the Secretary and the Treasurer may be re-elected to the same positions for further terms up to a maximum of eight years.

Members of the Executive Committee may be removed by the Administrative Council after a vote of at least two thirds majority by the members present, provided this issue appears in the agenda for a duly convened meeting of the Administrative Council.

The Administrative Council can designate an associate secretary who will assist the Secretary: the associate secretary does not have a voting right in the Administrative Council unless he is in his own right a member of the Council.

### *Article 7*

A meeting of the Administrative Council shall be called at least once per year as decided by the President or Secretary. The resolutions of the Council are passed by a majority vote of the Council members present; the President has

the casting vote. When the representative of a Society Member is unable to be present in person, a substitute can attend and vote instead.

The Council is not quorate if less than half the members are present or represented.

#### *Article 8*

The resolutions taken by the Administrative Council are recorded in a register signed by the President and Secretary who will make this available if required to members of the Federation. The administrative languages of the Federation are French and English.

#### *Article 9*

The Administrative Council has all necessary powers of action and administration as granted by the General Assembly. The Council can delegate day to day actions to the President or Secretary or if required to an administrator.

#### *Article 10*

All acts which engage the Federation, with the exception of special procuration, will be signed by two members of the Executive (one of them the President or the Secretary), who do not need to prove their legitimacy towards a third party.

#### *Article 11*

Court proceedings whether as plaintiff or defendant shall be pursued and managed by the Administrative Council, by its President or by an administrator designated for this purpose by the President.

## **GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

#### *Article 12*

The General Assembly is provided with the necessary powers with which to bring about the aims of the Federation. It is composed of Ordinary members. Associate members, Honorary members and Emeritus members can participate in a consultative capacity only.

The General Assembly should, among other things, approve the budget and accounts, approve the composition of the Administrative Council, the modification of the Statutes and the dissolution of the Federation.

#### *Article 13*

The General Assembly meets under the chairmanship of the President of the Federation (or if absent, under the chairmanship of the Vice-President) every year either in the Headquarters, or at the location indicated in the notice of meeting. Notification is made by the Secretary authorised by the Administrative Council. It must be sent out at least 30 days before the General Assembly and contain the Agenda.

An extraordinary meeting of the General Assembly may be called at any time, either by the Administrative Council, or at the request of one third of the members of the Federation.

*Article 14*

Ordinary members may be represented at the General Assembly by another ordinary member who can vote by proxy: an Ordinary member cannot represent more than two other Ordinary members.

*Article 15*

Other than in the exceptional cases described in the present statutes, resolutions are passed by a simple majority; no quorum is required. All members shall be informed of the resolutions. No resolution can be passed which was not been included in the agenda for the meeting.

The resolutions of the General Assembly are recorded in a register signed by the President and Secretary who will make this available if required to members of the Federation.

## **BUDGETS AND ACCOUNTS**

*Article 16*

The financial year shall end on 31st December. The Treasurer must submit the accounts for approval by the General Assembly.

## **CHANGES TO THE STATUTES AND DISSOLUTION OF THE FEDERATION**

*Article 17*

Under article 5 of the law of 25th October 1919, any proposal to modify the statutes or to dissolve the Federation must come from the Administrative Council or from at least half the Ordinary members of the Federation.

The Administrative Council must inform members of the Federation at least three months in advance of the date of a General Assembly at which such a proposal is to be made. The General Assembly may not deliberate unless two thirds of Ordinary members are present or represented. No decision can be accepted unless passed by a majority of two thirds.

However, if the General Assembly is less than two thirds of the ordinary members, a new General Assembly will be called under the same conditions as above which can validly take the final decision on the proposal in question, based on a two thirds majority of the ordinary members present.

Changes to the Statutes will not take effect until approved by Royal Decree and fulfilment of the publicity as required by article 3 of the law of the 25th October 1919.

The General Assembly will, establish the method of dissolution of the Federation and the application of its funds.

## **GENERAL MATTERS**

### *Article 18*

Points not expressly provided in the present Statutes will be regulated according to the requirements of the Belgian law.

*Approved at the EFIM General Assembly meeting Alicante 25th September 1999*