



**SMDS**  
Swiss Movement  
Disorders Society

## **Statutes**

The Swiss Movement Disorders Society (SMDS)  
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## **1. Name**

The Swiss Movement Disorders Society (SMDS) (German: Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Bewegungsstörungen (SGB) / French: Société Suisse des mouvements anormaux (SSMA) / Italian: Società Svizzera dei disturbi del movimento (SSC), hereinafter designated as the Society) is an association as defined by Swiss law, Art 60 ff ZGB. The Society's domicile is the location of its business office under the direction of its President.

## **2. Purposes**

The purposes of the Society are as follows:

- To provide a forum for the scientific discussion of movement disorders for interested clinicians, scientists, and medical specialists. The Society organizes an annual meeting, either independently or in conjunction with the meetings of another society or societies.
- To promote communication and consensus regarding treatment, as well as to discuss and propose guidelines.
- To disseminate information and to provide access to clinical trials on the national level, and to promote participation in international projects. For this purpose, the Society has multiple working groups and national registries.
- To provide a broad information base to physicians, other health-care workers, and the general public about movement disorders and related matters. For this purpose, the Society maintains contact and facilitates exchange of information with other specialized societies, patient organizations, and interest groups.
- To aid in the professional development of young clinicians and scientists in the field of movement disorders.
- To maintain close relationships with other specialties and societies connected to movement disorders.
- The Society may join national and international institutions as a member.
- The Society acts autonomously; its sole obligations are to the well-being of patients and to the scientific evidence.

## **3. Membership (sections)**

### 3.1 Membership categories

3.1.1 Ordinary membership is available to all physicians, nurses, therapists, and scientists whose interests and activities lie in the field of movement disorders and who work primarily in Switzerland. Ordinary members are voting members.

3.1.2 Extraordinary membership is available to all persons who are interested in movement disorders but are not themselves active in patient care or scientific research in this field. Extraordinary members are not voting members.

3.1.3 Honorary membership can be awarded by the Society to persons who

have made distinguished contributions to the field of movement disorders or to the Society. Candidates for honorary membership are proposed to the Board and confirmed by the General Assembly.

3.1.4 Further membership categories: Further membership categories can be proposed to the Board and confirmed by the General Assembly. Confirmation requires a two-thirds majority of the voting members present.

### 3.2 Election and expulsion of members

Prospective members of the Society must apply for membership in writing and are admitted to membership by election at the annual General Assembly with a simple majority of the voting members present. An existing member can be expelled from the Society, after a hearing, by a two-thirds majority of the voting members present. The reasons for the non-election of a prospective new member or for the expulsion of an existing member must be communicated in writing.

## 4. Organs of the Society

4.1 The highest organ is the General Assembly, which meets during the annual meeting of the Society. At the General Assembly, the Board of Directors (hereinafter: the Board) must give the members a full account of the Society's activities over the past year, and of its current activities.

4.2 The Board has eleven members. No more than two members of the Board may be from the same center. All language areas of Switzerland should be represented, as far as possible. The first Board constitutes itself. Candidates for membership in the Board can be proposed by the Board or by the General Assembly. The members of the Board must be elected by the General Assembly. At least one member of the Board should be a neurologist.

4.3 The President of the Society directs the Society's activities. He or she represents the Society for outside business and possesses collective signatory capacity together with at least one other member of the Board. For key matters, as determined by the Board, a simple majority of Board members possesses collective signatory capacity. The President, Vice-President, and other members of the Board are elected for two-year terms. No one may serve longer than four years as President or Vice-President. At least two members of the Board must be replaced by the end of any four-year period. A Board member can be elected for a maximum of four consecutive terms, i.e., the maximal uninterrupted period of Board membership is eight years.

4.4 Commissions and delegates are named by the General Assembly or by the Board, as needed.

4.5 Certain duties that are typically assumed by members of the boards of directors of associations in general (Secretary, Treasurer, responsible person for new members, Vice-President, President, responsible person for communications) can be carried out by members of the Board. The following duties must always be assigned to individual Board members: President, Secretary, Vice-President, Treasurer, responsible person for new members, coordinator of working groups).

## **5. Changes to the by-laws**

Prospective changes to the by-laws are proposed by the Board to the General Assembly and must be approved by a two-thirds majority of the voting members present.

## **6. Finances**

- 6.1 The financial resources of the Society are derived from membership contributions, congress revenues, legacies, sponsors' fees, other revenues, and interest on the Society's assets.
- 6.2 The amount of the annual contribution for each class of membership is set by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Treasurer or the Board.
- 6.3 The business year of the Society is the calendar year.
- 6.4 The funds entrusted to the Society by foundations and legacies are administered by the Board.

## **7. Dissolution**

The Society can be dissolved by decision of two-thirds of the voting members present at a regular or specially convened General Assembly. In this case, the Society's assets are divided as determined by the General Assembly. Personal liability is excluded. The Society is liable with its assets.

These by-laws were issued by the Board at the Board meeting on the occasion of the first annual meeting, 5 May 2017, and are in effect as of that date.