

# **International Society of Cardiomyopathies, Myocarditis and Heart Failure**

**(Proposed Amendments to Constitution & ByLaws of 6th Jan. 2007,  
Approved and Ratified 3rd Dec. 2016 )**

## **Bylaws**

### **Article I**

#### **Name**

The name of the Society shall be the International Society of Cardiomyopathies, Myocarditis and Heart Failure (ISCMF). The ISCMF is an associate member of the World Heart Federation.

The address of the ISCMF shall be:

International Society of Cardiomyopathies Myocarditis and Heart Failure Secretariat  
Research Institute for Production Development Bldg.3F  
15 Morimoto-cho, Shimogamo, Sakyo-ku,  
Kyoto 606-0805 Japan

### **Article II**

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of the ISCMF shall be to encourage and promote the advancement of scientific knowledge of cardiomyopathies, myocarditis including pericardial disease and heart failure, in all aspects of research and its application, both theoretical and clinical, related to all aspects of the cardiomyopathies, including dilated, hypertrophic, restrictive, arrhythmogenic right ventricular, and non-classified cardiomyopathies, and specific heart muscle diseases and heart failure of any other cause. Because of its interrelation with myocardial diseases, it will also focus on pericardial disorders, including etiology and pathophysiology, and their clinical and therapeutic aspects. Further areas of particular interest of the ISCMF include all aspects of the pathophysiology of cardiomyopathies and heart failure on the molecular, cellular, whole organ, and patient level.

The purpose of the ISCMF is to clarify the etiology of cardiomyopathies, myocarditis, pericardial diseases and heart failure, to study the prevalence of the etiology(ies), and to establish preventive and therapeutic models based on these etiologies. -It covers all methodological aspects both *in vitro* and *in vivo*, e.g., molecular, genetic, immunopathogenetic, and virological techniques. It also focuses on the clinical manifestations, the diagnostic procedures, and all aspects of treatment, including physical, medical, and gene therapy, in the field of cardiomyopathies, myocarditis, pericarditis and heart failure.

Furthermore, the ISCMF will encourage, promote, and organize international scientific activities through publications, symposia, workshops, and seminars, and participate actively in the European and World Congresses of the World Heart Federation. The

ISCMF will establish task forces to promote certain aspects of research related to the cardiomyopathies and heart failure, including registries, multicenter research projects, and treatment trials. The ISCMF may create sections for specific areas of research, e.g., for the different cardiomyopathies, pericardial diseases, and for specific aspects of heart failure. Sections and task forces will report directly to the ISCMF by their chairperson. The duration of sections and task forces is determined by the Executive Board of the Society.

The ISCMF will encourage, promote, and organize postgraduate training and the international exchange of investigators, fellows, students, and teachers.

The ISCMF will promote research and continuing education in related areas of heart diseases and maintain a close working relationship with the Councils of the World Heart Federation which may have some overlapping research interests and develop appropriate co-operative activities.

The ISCMF may also create a Foundation to achieve its goals, especially, but not limited to, granting financial assistance for scientific research and education. The duration of the Society and the Foundation are undetermined.

### **Article III**

#### **Membership**

There will be only one form of voting membership, namely, regular members of the ISCMF.

##### **1.0 Membership, offices, and functions of the ISCMF**

Membership in the ISCMF is open to all scientific workers, whether qualified in medicine or non-medical sciences, who have demonstrated serious interest and research involvement in the areas of interest of the Society.

Regular members of the ISCMF are eligible for membership in the task forces and sections and for voting.

##### **2.0 Executive Board of the ISCMF**

The first slate of officers for the ISCMF was appointed and agreed by the Founding Members of the ISCMF, and was validated at the first General Assembly of the ISCMF, namely, at the General Assembly meeting at the first Congress of the ISCMF in March 2007. The slate of officers comprising the Executive Board shall be a president, vice presidents, regional vice presidents, secretary, and treasurer.

The term of office shall be three (3) years for the first slate of officers, to ensure continuity of leadership and the accompanying knowledge-base, and then change to a two (2) year term, based on a calendar year. The nomination committee, chaired by the past president, shall solicit nominations for open offices six (6) months prior to the General Assembly at which elections will be held.

The president shall preside at all ISCMF meetings. Other duties and powers may be assigned or vested in the office of the president by the ISCMF regular membership and by

the WHF Scientific Board. The vice president shall preside in the absence of the president. The secretary shall be responsible for preparation of the minutes and the treasurer for the financial accounting of the ISCMF, as defined in Article IV.

The chairperson of the sections (see 2.3) and task forces (see 2.4) may attend ex-officio at the meetings of the Executive Board. Non-voting guests at the meetings of the Executive Board may include the chairperson of working groups and societies in related research areas, e.g., the European Working Group on Myocardial and Pericardial Diseases or the Heart Failure Society of America.

The ISCMF can decide to have **Consultant** members. Consultant members are non-voting members of the Executive Board. Consultant members do not have voting rights in the general assembly, unless they are a regular member of the ISCMF. Consultant members can be former members of the Executive Board or be brought onto the Board because of their specific expertise. Their term depends on the specific purposes of the consultation and shall be decided upon by the Executive Board.

The ISCMF can decide to have **Honorary** members, who would be lifetime members, and they are selected and voted on by the Executive Board. Honorary members may be persons who have not belonged to the ISCMF but are considered by the Society to have made extraordinary contributions to the ISCMF or research in the field of cardiomyopathies and heart failure, or they may be regular members of the ISCMF. Honorary members do not possess voting rights in the Executive Board or the general assembly unless they are a regular member of the ISCMF.

### **2.1 Meetings of the ISCMF and of the Executive Board**

Meetings of the ISCMF will be held at least once yearly, but can be held more often, if appropriate. Meetings of the Executive Board of the ISCMF will be held at least once yearly, but can be held more often. The president determines the time and the location of the meeting of the Executive Board and the General Assembly, after consulting the Executive Board.

### **2.2 Sections**

The ISCMF may authorize the formation of one or more groups of members concerned with the same scientific interest, each of which shall be called a Section. Such Sections on specific topics or activities in the Society could be e.g., a section of dilated or hypertrophic or right ventricular cardiomyopathy or pericardial diseases or a section dealing with specific scientific methods in heart failure. All members of the ISCMF who are interested may become a member of a Section. A Section can elect a chairperson and a secretary for a term of two (2) years each. Re-election for a second term is possible. The chairperson of a section reports directly to the Executive Board. If the chairperson is not a regular member of the Executive Board, he or she will participate as a non-voting member at the annual meetings of the Executive Board and thus report for the Section. The Executive Board shall define the bylaws and functions of the Section.

### **2.3 Task Forces and Committees**

For specific tasks with high priority, the Executive Board of the ISCMF may establish Task Forces or establish Ad Hoc Committees. Task Forces and Ad Hoc Committees are presided over by a chairperson who has been nominated and voted on by the Executive Board.

## **2.4 Newsletter on Cardiomyopathies and Official Website of the ISCMF**

The specific forum of communication for the ISCMF is the *ISCMF Newsletter*. The Society shall elect one or more editors to be responsible for the Newsletter. The president is automatically a member of the editorial board of the newsletter. The Newsletter should be published at least twice a year. The ISCMF will also establish an official website for the Society to provide information for and about the Society. The Newsletter will be posted on the official website of the ISCMF. If the ISCMF adopts a specific membership journal to be the official journal of the ISCMF, the newsletter should be published in this journal.

## **2.5 The Journal of the Council**

The ISCMF may adopt a journal as their specific membership journal, the subscription of which is then obligatory to the members of the ISCMF.

## **Article IV**

### **Finances and Treasurer**

#### **Finances**

The treasurer is responsible for all finances, including the collection of dues, and of revenues from a foundation, if such is established by the ISCMF. The treasurer will be elected for a term of 2 years. Re-election is possible.

#### **Dues**

Each member of the ISCMF will pay annual dues, the exact amount of which will be agreed by the Society by a two-thirds majority. The current dues is US\$100.00 for regular annual membership and US\$50.00 for trainee annual membership. Payment is required at registration for the annual meeting. A portion of the dues will be used for financing the newsletter. Changes of the dues will be decided upon by the president.

## **Article V**

### **Awards**

The ISCMF and its Executive Board can elect to give awards for outstanding research and outstanding support of the activities of the ISCMF. The Executive Board will establish an awards committee, if it is decided to carry out this function.

## **Article VI**

### **Ratification and Amendments**

The ISCMF Bylaws (initial bylaws, v1.0.0307) were ratified by all of the Founding Members (two-thirds majority required) in March 2007 at the first Congress of the ISCMF.

Amendments to the Bylaws must be proposed in writing to the Executive Board by at least 5 members of the ISCMF not less than sixty (60) days before an Executive Board meeting. For amendments, a quorum of fifty percent (50%) of the members and an affirmative vote of two-thirds of those voting are required. A postal vote may be held at

the discretion of the president, then requiring a two-thirds majority of all members of the ISCMF.

## **Article VII**

### **Dissolution, Liquidation**

The dissolution of the ISCMF requires either a two-thirds majority vote of the Executive Board or of the attending members of the general assembly.