



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY  
FOR MOUNTAIN MEDICINE

## **STATUTES**

Revised October 2000, in Arica, Chile  
Revised April 2002, in Barcelona, Spain  
Revised August 2010, in Arequipa, Peru

## I. GENERAL

### Article 1: Name, duration, location, language

- al. 1. Under the name of International Society for Mountain Medicine (ISMM), an association was constituted in accordance with the article 60 et seq. of the Swiss Civil Code. This Society is independent, apolitical and has only medical and educational goals.
- al. 2. Its duration is unlimited.
- al. 3. The headquarters is located in Switzerland.
- al. 4. The official language of the Society is English. The language of the organizing place may be used for meetings and congresses provided translation facilities are available.

### Article 2: Goals

The International Society for Mountain Medicine has the following goals:

- al. 1. To create an international organization of scientific character bringing together physicians, members of paramedical professions and organizations or societies interested in mountain medicine in its widest aspects.
- al. 2. To encourage research, studies, discussion and publications concerning all medical aspects of mountains, mountain peoples and mountaineers.
- al. 3. To compile scientific and applied documentation and to encourage the collaboration of existing data centers.
- al. 4. To provide information through electronic and printed publications to doctors and people interested in a scientific approach to mountain medical problems.
- al. 5. To promote, facilitate and organize working, information and formation meetings.
- al. 6. To periodically organize congresses of international character.
- al. 7. To encourage and coordinate laboratory research and studies in the field.

- l. 8. To establish efficient relations with mountaineering organizations, the university world and public services.

## II. AFFILIATIONS, MEMBERS, SUBSCRIPTIONS

### Article 3: Members

Any physician, health paraprofessional, mountain guide, mountain rescue personnel or scientist, or students in these fields may become a member of the International Society for Mountain Medicine.

New members are accepted by the Executive Committee and their membership ratified by the General Assembly.

### Article 4: Categories of members. All members have the same benefits.

The society has set five categories of members. The candidates must be accepted by the General Assembly.

1. **Regular member:** a person interested in mountain medicine and requesting affiliation (see article 3). A person already a member of a national mountain medicine society will benefit of a membership fee discount..
2. **Student or resident member:** a person who is a full-time student or resident in a health profession or graduate program.
3. **Complimentary member:** a person whose dues are waived by the president upon request by the member.
4. **Honorary members:** Title given by the General Assembly on proposal by the Executive Committee to persons who give or have given important services to the Society or to the field of Mountain Medicine.

### Article 5: Loss of the membership of the Society.

The quality of member of the Society can be lost by:

- al. 1. Resignation.
- al. 2. Death.
- al. 3. Exclusion ordered by the Executive Committee for non payment of the annual subscription or for any fair reason. **Recourse:** An

excluded member might recourse to the General Assembly against this decision.

#### **Article 6: Subscriptions.**

The yearly subscription is to be determined by the General Assembly.

- Members pay an annual subscription.
- Honorary members do not pay any subscription.
- The president can grant individual complimentary membership for one year that can be renewed annually by application.

### **III. ORGANIZATION**

**Article 7: The agencies** of the International Society for Mountain Medicine are the following:

- al. 1. The General Assembly.
- al. 2. The Council
- al. 3. The Executive Committee.
- al. 4. The Working Groups.
- al. 5. The Auditors.

#### **Article 8: The General Assembly.**

- al. 1. **Composition:** The General Assembly is composed of members of the Society as defined in article 3.
- al. 2. **Date:** The Ordinary General Assembly takes place every two years.
- al. 3. **Convocation:** The General Assembly is announced to the members at least one month before the Assembly day.
- al. 4. **Extraordinary General Assembly:** Extraordinary General Assemblies may be convened by decision of the Executive Committee or by written (or email) request of at least a fifth of the General Assembly members with indication of the agenda of the meeting. This can be conducted by email or regular mail.

- al. 5. **Attributions:** The General Assembly has to control all activities of the Associations and especially:
  - a) to carry out elections (see articles 9, 10, 11).
  - b) to discharge the Executive Committee for the entire activity during the past period.
  - c) to approve the accounts and vote the budget.
  - d) to decide the subscription rates (see article 6)
  - e) to decide upon the agenda and on any proposition presented to the Executive Committee at least 15 days before the Assembly.
- al. 6. **Quorum:** Under reserve of the dispositions of article 8 al. 8 (modifications of statutes) and article 13 (dissolution), a regularly convened General Assembly (see article 8 al. 3) can officially act on the items written on the agenda whatever the number of attending members.
- al. 7. **Vote:** Each current member (see article 6) may vote. A vote by post (or email) about precise subjects written in the agenda of the meeting is allowed on the condition that it is delivered to the General Secretary at least 15 days before the General Assembly. A vote by proxy is not allowed.
- al. 8. **Modification of statutes:**
  - a) The General Assembly is competent to demand and decide a modification of statutes (under reserve of article 8 al. 7).
  - b) A majority of two thirds (2/3) of the attending members is necessary.

#### **Article 9: Council**

- al. 1. **Aims:** To increase the international character of the society, promote contacts within ISMM members at the national level and to interact with national societies.
- al. 2. **Mission and responsibility:** The ISMM national representative is responsible to promote the activities of ISMM at the national level in conjunction with a national society if applicable and represent the interests of its country in the council and at the General

Assembly. The council proposes to the general assembly the five vice presidents for election.

- al. 3. **Creation and dissolution:** Creation or dissolution of the council is decided by the General Assembly.
- al. 4. **Members:** All national representatives and the members of executive committee compose the council.
- al. 4. **Election and Duration:** A country with more than 10 ordinary ISMM members (national representatives) has a seat in the council. The ISMM national representatives elect the council member for a 4 years term, renewable ones. Elections are organized by the executive committee and can be held by e-mail.
- al. 5. **Loss of membership in the council:** The end of the mandate excepted, the title of a national representative can be lost by death, resignation or exclusion decided with two third of the national representatives.
- al. 6. **Meetings:** The Council meets with the executive committee at least once every two years. Participation by fax, mail or e-mail is possible. Important decisions are taken by secret vote and by simple majority. In case of equality, the vote of the executive committee is decisive.

#### **Article 10: The Executive Committee**

- al. 1. **Composition:**
  - President
  - President elect (future president)
  - Past president (general secretary)
  - Five vice-presidents
  - Treasurer
  - Editor of Journal
  - Associate editor(s)
  - Web master
  - Chair of the HAPE registry

- Representing member of the Medical Commission of the UIAA (International Federation of Mountaineering and Climbing Clubs)

- Representing member of Medical Commission of IKAR (International Commission for Alpine Rescue)

- Representing member of the Asian-Pacific Society of Mountain Medicine (APSMM)

- Representing member of the Wilderness Medicine Society (WMS)

- President of the next upcoming congresses

- al. 2. **Representation:** The Executive Committee should represent different regions and continents.

- al. 3. **Election and duration:** The Executive Committee president and the 5 vice presidents are elected by the General Assembly and chosen from its total membership.

- a) The president cannot serve for two consecutive terms. The future president (president elect) should be chosen two years before taking office to become accustomed to the future task.

- b) The five vice presidents are proposed by the council and can serve two consecutive terms.

- c) The Executive Committee proposes the Treasurer, the Editor and Associate Editor(s) of the journal and the web master for election to the executive committee by the General Assembly.

- d) The Medical Commissions of the UIAA, IKAR, and the executive committees of the APSMM and WMS propose their representing members.

- e) The members of the Executive Committee are elected for a four-year term.

- al. 4. **Loss of membership in the Executive Committee:** The end of the mandate excepted, the title of members of the Executive Committee can be lost by death, resignation or exclusion decided with unanimity by the other members of the Executive Committee.

- al. 5. **Vacancy:** In case of vacancy (as defined in article 9 al. 4) the Executive Committee decides if an Extraordinary General Assembly should be called to provide the seat in a shorter delay than envisaged in the statutes.
- al. 6. **Meetings:** The Executive Committee meets as often as it deems necessary for the good functioning of the Society at least once a year. Participation by fax, mail or e-mail is possible. Important decisions are taken by secret vote and by simple majority. In case of equality, the vote of the president is decisive.
- al. 7. **Mission and responsibility:** The Executive Committee is in charge of an executive and managing mission. It has to decide on its own for most of the common questions. It has to be discharged of its decisions by the General Assembly.
- al. 8. **Mission of the president:** He represents the Society in all the acts of the civil life and also in law. He can be replaced by one of the vice-presidents, or any member of the Executive Committee. The president summons and conducts the reunions of the Executive Committee. He manages the current expenses and is responsible to the General Assembly.

#### **Article 11: The Working Groups**

- al. 1. **Aims:** The society is divided into working groups depending on major interests. These working groups are composed of people of one or several specialties.
- al. 2. **Direction:** A secretary is elected as responsible for each group by the members of this group. He or she is responsible for the activity of this group and has to present these activities to the General Assembly.
- al. 3. **Duration:** The working groups have an undefined duration depending on the evolution of the interests of the group or of the Society.
- al. 4. **Creation, dissolution and composition:** Creation or dissolution of a working group is designated by the General Assembly. The members composing a working group are designated by the General Assembly. All these members are volunteers.

#### **Article 12: The Auditors**

Two auditors are elected for three years. They are not members of the Executive Committee. They are elected by the General Assembly to statute on the financial administration of the Society and to control the treasurer's job. An annual report and a copy of the accounts are sent every year to all the members of the Society. These auditors can be reelected without limitation.

#### **IV. RESOURCES**

##### **Article 13: Composition**

- al. 1. **The resources of the Society are composed of:**
  - a) Subscriptions and eventual gifts of members
  - b) Gifts and legacies
  - c) Subsidies
  - d) Interest on investment
- al. 2. **Rights on the financial and scientific acquisitions:**  
The members of the Association and their heirs have no rights on financial and scientific acquisitions of the Society.
- al. 3. **Bookkeeping:** The bookkeeping is held every day with incomes and expenses and also, if necessary, a bookkeeping on real estates. Every part of the Society has to hold a separate bookkeeping, which will be part of the total bookkeeping of the Society.
- al. 4. **Years trading:** The years trading is of one year and starts on January 1 and is closed on December 31.

#### **V. DISSOLUTION**

##### **Article 14: Dissolution**

- al. 1. The dissolution of the Society can only be decided by a General Assembly specially summoned. At least three quarters (3/4) of the members of the Association have to be present.
- al. 2. In case the Assembly could not reach these three quarters, a second Assembly will be summoned after a delay of 20 days by a

recommended letter. This second summoned General Assembly will decide, whatever the number of members present.

- al. 3. The majority of three quarters (3/4) of votes is necessary to decide the dissolution.

**Article 15: Positive balance**

In case of dissolution, the positive balance will be paid to an institution with similar purpose designated by the dissolving Assembly.

Approved by common consent by the constituent assembly at Geneva on December 6<sup>th</sup> 1985.

Revisions approved by General Assembly October 2000, Arica

Revisions approved by General Assembly April 2002, Barcelona

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