

## **Statutes of the Swiss Study Group for Sacral Neuromodulation (SNM)**

### **Purpose**

- Art.1                   The Swiss Study Group for Sacral Neuromodulation (SNM) (synonym (sacral neurostimulation [SNS]) is an association in the meaning of article 60 et seq. (ZGB – *Swiss Civil Code*) headquartered in St. Gallen.
- Art.2                   In cooperation with and within the *Foederatio Medicorum Chirurgicorum Helvetica* (FMCH), its objectives are the advancement of scientific and practical concerns of sacral neuromodulation and its quality assurance, as well as the training of members and extended vocational training for interested physicians in this field.
- Art.3                   It collaborates with professional societies in other countries with the same or similar aims.

### **Membership**

- Art.4                   Regular members can be physicians who already have experience in sacral neuromodulation or are interested and who are members of FMCH. The Managing Committee decides on exceptions.
- Art.5                   Extraordinary members may be qualified specialists in sacral neuromodulation who are NON-PHYSICIANS.
- Art.6                   Honorary members may be full members or persons and organizations that have rendered outstanding services to sacral neuromodulation.
- Art.7                   Sponsoring members can be natural and legal persons who support the goal of the association through an annual minimum

contribution (established by the Managing Committee).

### **Inclusion of members**

Art.8                    The Managing Committee decides the admission of new members. The written membership application shall include a curriculum vitae. At the request of one or more regular members, honorary members may be designated by unanimous vote of the Managing Committee.

### **Termination of membership**

- Art.9                    The membership shall be terminated by:
- a)                      Withdrawal after a prior written notice to the Managing Committee.
  - b)                      Annulment by the Managing Committee (in the event of failure to meet obligations towards the Study Group), with no reasons given.
  - c)                      Decision of all attendant members of the General Assembly entitled to vote if professional rules of conduct are not respected, if the statutes are not observed, if dubious sacral neuromodulation is conducted or propagated, or if the member acted in a manner otherwise contrary to the interests of the association.
  - d)                      Resignation of sponsoring members, after one year since the payment of the last patron contribution.
  - e)                      The decision is final.

### **General Assembly**

Art.10                   The General Assembly is the supreme organ of the Study Group. The General Assembly must be convened by the Managing Committee at least once a year. The invitation

must be sent at least four weeks in advance. The written invitation contains the agenda. A General Assembly can be demanded by a written motion from one-fifth of the members and must be convened within a month.

Insofar as not otherwise specified by law or these statutes, the General Assembly shall make decisions by a simple voting majority of the attendant members entitled to vote. Elections within the Managing Committee can be conducted by secret ballot, if this is demanded by the Managing Committee or at least one-tenth of the members. Extraordinary members and sponsoring members may participate in meetings without a vote.

### **Managing Committee**

Art. 11            The General Assembly shall elect the President and between two to six members of the Managing Committee from among its members.

The Managing Committee constitutes itself, and consists of the President, the Vice-President, the Treasurer, the Actuary and the Research Assistant. An accumulation of offices is possible. The attendant members of the General Assembly shall conduct elections by a simple voting majority.

The Managing Committee shall be elected for a two-year term; its members may be re-elected.

Art. 12            The Managing Committee shall represent the interests of the Study Group in accordance with its objective, shall manage the business of the Study Group, shall represent these towards third parties and shall collaborate in particular with the *Swiss Society of Surgery and Urology* and with the FMCH.

## **Finances**

Art. 13 As moved by the Managing Committee, the membership fee shall be fixed by simple majority vote of the General Assembly. Honorary members are exempt from the obligation to contribute. The financial commitments of the Study Group shall be exclusively covered by the association's funds. Resigning members may not dispose of the association's funds. The Study Group can also be supported by contributions from sponsoring members.

## **Auditing**

Art. 14 Before submission to the General Assembly, the financial statement drafted by the Managing Committee shall be audited by at least one auditor, who shall be selected by the General Assembly. The auditor shall report to the General Assembly. At any time, the auditor shall be entitled to audit the treasury business and the accounts at any time.

## **Changes to the statutes**

Art. 15 Proposals for amendments shall be filed with the President eight weeks before the General Assembly and sent to all members together with the agenda. The acceptance of an amendment shall require two-thirds of the vote of attendant members entitled to vote.

## **Dissolution of the Study Group**

Art.16 The dissolution of the Study Group for Sacral Neuromodulation may be decided only by a General

Assembly at which at least half of all regular members are in attendance. It shall require the approval of a two-thirds majority of attendant members entitled to vote. The agenda, presented to the members, shall include proposals on the further use of the association's funds.

A second General Assembly with the same agenda should be convened within 6 weeks if the number of voters does not attain the voter ratio required.

This shall have a quorum, regardless of the number of members.

### **Final clauses**

Art.17                    These statutes were adopted by the founding meeting of the Swiss Study Group of Sacral Neuromodulation on 9/1/2008 in Berne and shall enter into force immediately.

Berne, September 1, 2008

The President:



Franc Hetzer