

Statutes of the Norwegian Neuroscience Society

1. Name

1.1. The name of the Society is the Norwegian Neuroscience Society (acronym: NNS; Norwegian name: Norsk nevrovitenskapelig selskap).

2. Aim and objectives

2.1. The aim of the Norwegian Neuroscience Society (hereafter referred to as the Society) is the advancement of neurosciences through representation of all related disciplines and practices in Norway, facilitation of research and education, and dissemination of knowledge and information.

2.2. The Society's main objectives include:

- 2.2.1. promoting the study and understanding of the development, structure, and function of the nervous system in health and disease;
- 2.2.2. encouraging and facilitating multidisciplinary communication and collaboration in basic, applied, and translational neuroscience;
- 2.2.3. formally representing the neurosciences in Norway at the Federation of European Neuroscience Societies (FENS) and other relevant regional and international fora, including a Nordic neuroscience meeting to be organized every odd year;
- 2.2.4. promoting the dissemination of knowledge to those interested in neuroscience and related disciplines as well as to the general public through appropriate channels;
- 2.2.5. assisting in the training of neuroscientists and other professionals engaged in neuroscience teaching and research;
- 2.2.6. representing the interests of neuroscientists in Norway vis-à-vis appropriate Norwegian institutions, including legislators, policymakers, the press, and funding agencies engaged in supporting and promoting neuroscience research and education.

3. Membership

3.1. Membership to the Society shall be open to all researchers and medical professionals with an interest in basic, applied, and translational neuroscience.

3.2. There shall be two classes of membership: Ordinary Membership and Supporting Membership.

3.3. All neuroscientists working towards a PhD degree and above, including Research Programme (Forskelinje) medical students as well as (veterinary) medical professionals in neuroscience related practices are eligible for Ordinary Membership upon application and payment of an annual membership fee which shall be determined and periodically revised at the Annual General Assembly of the Society.

3.4. Any interested organization or individual may apply for Supporting Membership, which shall be granted upon approval by the Council and payment of an annual fee which shall be determined and periodically revised at the Annual General Assembly of the Society.

3.5. Supporting members do not have the right to vote for Council members or at the Annual General

Meeting.

3.6. Membership benefits include:

- (i) Automatic membership of FENS and the member benefits and services associated with that;
- (ii) subscription to the NNS periodic newsletter.

4. Organisation

4.1. Council and Executive Board

- 4.1.1. The Society shall have a Council consisting of elected members representing the main neuroscience research institutions in Norway: University of Oslo (UiO), University of Bergen (UiB), Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), UiT - The Arctic University of Norway, University of Stavanger (UIS); alternatively, the affiliated University Hospitals in the respective cities; Norwegian University of Life Sciences (NMBU). Each of the above institutions will have two Council members if the total number of registered members at the given institution exceeds 15% of the total number of memberships in the Society. If not, an institution will have only one Council member.
- 4.1.2. Council members shall be nominated and elected by electronic ballot locally among Society members at each of the above institutions. Society members not employed or studying at the universities listed in 4.1.1. will take part in the electronic ballot being held at the geographically nearest university. Each Council candidate shall be an ordinary member, and must be nominated by a minimum of 3 Society members to be eligible for election. Council elections are administered by the Society's Secretariat, assisted by the Secretary General (see statutes 4.1.8., 4.2.1. and 4.2.4. below).
- 4.1.3. The Executive Board of the Society shall be the Chairman, Secretary General, and Treasurer. The Executive Board will constitute the daily management and shall be responsible for the legal and statutory obligations of the Society
- 4.1.4. The Chairman, Secretary General and Treasurer shall be elected by the Council from among its members by open vote, unless more than half the Council members demand a closed ballot vote.
- 4.1.5. In principle, the Council shall make decisions by consensus. On occasions when consensus is not possible, an open voting procedure shall be followed. In the event of balance of votes, the vote of Chairman in office at the time of the vote shall be decisive. More than half of the council members must participate in the voting procedure in order for the decision to be valid.
- 4.1.6. The Council and Executive Board shall hold office for a minimum of four years and a maximum of six years; i.e., they shall be eligible for re-election/re-appointment for two, but not more than two, succeeding years. Elections for at least 50% of the Council members shall take place every two years such as to avoid complete renewal of the Council.
- 4.1.7. The Chairman shall formally lead and represent the Society at the FENS Governing Council. In the event of the Chairman's declared incapacity to attend, the Secretary General shall act as the Society's formal representative at the FENS Governing Council. In the event of the Secretary General's declared incapacity to attend the FENS Governing Council, a Council member will act as his/her representative.

- 4.1.8. The Secretary General will work closely with the Chairman and manage the affairs of the Society including memberships, website, media and other communications, Council nominations, votes and reporting. Furthermore, the Secretary General will act as liaison between the Society and FENS.
- 4.1.9. The Treasurer will manage the Society's financial affairs, including the Society's bank account, revenues from membership fees, government and institutional support, and other monetary contributions, such as donations.
- 4.1.10. The Society shall hold an Annual General Meeting where all Council members must be present in person. All other members of the Society are invited but not obligated to participate. The date and place of the meeting will be announced to all members minimum 2 months in advance. All members will receive an invitation including the meeting agenda and relevant documents minimum two weeks in advance. The Annual General Meeting shall review the annual report and annual accounts of the Society, determine the annual membership fee and discuss other agenda items, if any. During voting, each Society member including the Council members shall have one vote and in the case of equality of votes the Chairman shall have a second vote. A member who is not present may cast his/her vote by granting another member a written a power of attorney.

4.2. Secretariat

- 4.2.1. The Society's Secretariat shall assist the Executive Board and Council in all matters relating to the practical management of the Society's affairs as appropriate, including memberships, website, media and other communications, organizational support for meetings, courses, and seminars, financial revision, and reporting.
- 4.2.2. The Society's Secretariat is currently located at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), Trondheim.
- 4.2.3. The Secretariat shall rotate among eligible institutions, i.e. UiO, UiB, NTNU, UiT, UiS, NMBU. Each of these institutions shall have the opportunity to host the Secretariat for an initial period of four years with the possibility of extension.
- 4.2.4. Any eligible institution interested in hosting the Society's Secretariat, including the current host institution at the time, shall submit a written application to the Society's Secretary General six months before the expiry of each four-year period. In the application, the prospective host institution shall provide documentation of the administrative infrastructure and resources which shall be invested in support of the Society for the relevant period. The Secretary General will subsequently organize a vote by the Council and Executive Board.

4.3. Changes in statutes

- 4.3.1. Changes in the current statutes can only be made during the Annual General Meeting, alternatively during an extraordinary annual meeting. At least 2/3 of the collected votes must be in favour of the proposed change in order for the decision to be valid.