

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 MSc or PhD degree and above, including Research Programme (Forskerlinjen) 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 largest academic institutions in Norway: University of Oslo (UiO), University of Bergen (UiB), Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), and The Arctic University of Norway (UiT). Each of the above institutions will have two Council members if the total number of registered members at the given institution at the time of elections (see 4.1.2) exceeds 15% of the total number of memberships in the Society. If not, an institution will have only one Council member. In addition, 2 Council positions are open to any other interested

academic institutions in Norway, providing that they fulfil a minimum of 10% of the total Society membership at the time of elections. The standard nomination and election procedures (as outlined in 4.1.2) will need to apply.

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., and 4.3.1. below).

4.1.3. The Executive Board of the Society shall be the President, 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 President, 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 President 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. They shall be eligible for re-election/re-appointment for two, but not more than two, consecutive terms. Elections for at least 50% of the Council members shall take place every four years such as to avoid complete renewal of the Council.

4.1.7. The President shall formally lead and represent the Society at the FENS Governing Council. In the event of the President'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 President 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 Assembly 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 Assembly 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 President shall have a second vote. A member who is not present may cast his/her vote by granting another member a written power of attorney.

4.2. Special procedures

4.2.1. In the event of a Council member wishing to withdraw from the Council before the end of their term in office, they must notify the Council in writing at least six weeks before withdrawal. The remaining Council shall immediately initiate procedures for the member's replacement and, assisted by the Society's Secretariat, shall organize an electronic ballot as stipulated in paragraphs 4.1.1. and 4.1.2. of the statutes.

In extraordinary circumstances, i.e., when the Council unanimously agrees that immediate replacement of the withdrawing Council member is in the best interests of the Society, a new Council member, representing the same institution as the withdrawing member, may be appointed by the Council upon recommendation by at least one current Council member, as long as the requirements pertaining to percentages of membership and representations are fulfilled (as stipulated in 4.1.1.). However, any such appointments must be ratified by the Society's members at the relevant regional institution no later than six months after appointment. Ratification shall be based on a yes/no vote via electronic ballot and shall

require a minimum participation of 50% of all regional members in the ballot to be valid. In the event that the above conditions cannot be fulfilled, the specific institution shall lose their representative in the Council.

4.3. Secretariat

4.3.1. 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.

4.3.2. The Society's Secretariat is currently located at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), Trondheim.

4.4. Changes in statutes

4.4.1. Changes in the current statutes can only be made during the annual General Assembly meeting, alternatively during an extraordinary annual meeting. At least $\frac{2}{3}$ of the collected votes must be in favour of the proposed change in order for the decision to be valid. Any changes should be formally incorporated in an updated statutes document and will be effective from the day of approval at the General Assembly meeting. A copy of the amended statutes shall replace the previous document at the Brønnøysund Register Centre and also be made publicly available *via* the Society's official website.