Society for Endocrinology

BYELAWS

Updated byelaws adopted by Council on 9 July 2026

These Byelaws should be read in conjunction with Society of Endocrinology's Articles of Association.

Introduction

These Byelaws have been adopted by the Council of the Society of Endocrinology (hereafter noted as "the Society") under the provisions of the Articles of Association.

The purpose of the Byelaws is to set out a more detailed framework under which the Society is governed and managed, and in particular:

- The membership of the Society
- The composition of Council;
- The role of the President, General Secretary and Treasurer;
- The committees, their role and function;
- The appointment of Council, Officers and Committee members of the Society;
- Matters relating to the Annual General Meeting
- Matters relating to the activities of the Society

According to the Articles of Association, the Council may suggest amendments to these Byelaws at any time and shall adopt such means as they think sufficient to advise the members of the Society concerning any changes. Any change must not be inconsistent with any provision of the Society's Articles of Association.

For the avoidance of doubt, any reference to a statute or statutory instrument includes any amendment or re-enactment of that statute or statutory instrument or regulations made under it or any other superseding legislation.

1. Governance

The Society for Endocrinology is a charitable company limited by guarantee. Its constitution is the Articles of Association. The Society's aims are to:

- To advance scientific and clinical education and research in endocrinology for the public benefit
- To attract high-quality scientists, doctors and nurses into endocrinology and support their professional development to advance science and medicine
- To engage the public with endocrinology and its impact
- To raise the profile and be the voice of endocrinology in the UK
- To promote and support the global endocrine community through collaboration.

1.1. The Society's Council is responsible for setting strategy and policy and has fiduciary responsibility to further the Society's success and ensure it meets its charitable objectives, as set out in the Articles. Operational delivery of the strategy is delegated to the Chief Executive who is responsible for the day-to-day management of the Society and its staff. The Chief Executive acts as Company Secretary and reports to the General Secretary.

1.2. The Society has a wholly owned trading subsidiary company called Bioscientifica Limited. This company is not a charity and carries out trading activities primarily in the format of publishing the Society's journals, providing society management and membership services, and managing events. Profits from Bioscientifica are transferred each year to the Society by Gift Aid.

1.3. Bioscientifica has its own governing board made up of Executive and Non-Executive Directors. The General Secretary and Treasurer of the Society act as directors of the trading subsidiary in an ex officio capacity. The Chair of the Bioscientifica Board attends Society Council meetings as an observer. The Chief Executive of the Society is also the Managing Director of Bioscientifica.

2. Membership

2.1. All people working professionally in endocrinology via research, teaching, clinical practice or study are welcome to become a member.

2.2. Applicants for membership shall complete the Society's membership application form and shall submit their application, accompanied by payment of the subscription fee, to the Society.

2.3. Various categories of membership are available depending on the applicant's profession and stage of career and details of the categories can be found on the Society website.

2.4. Each type of member (but not those sub-categorised as Honorary or Senior (Retired)) shall pay an annual subscription, the amount of which shall be determined by Council and detailed on the Society website. Membership runs from January to December. Non-payment of the annual subscription by the end of March (following reminders) shall result in termination of membership.

2.5. All categories of members shall have a range of privileges as outlined on the Society website, subject to amendment by Council from time to time.

2.6. All categories of members shall have the right to receive notice of and attend any General Meetings. All members, except for those sub-categorised as students, shall have the right to take part in elections of Council members and to vote at General Meetings ("Voting members"), including Honorary and Senior members, unless otherwise determined by the Society in a General Meeting.

2.7. All categories of members, upon joining the Society, or renewing their membership, will be required to agree to comply with a professional code of conduct.

2.8. Any member who has both held membership continuously for at least 15 years, and has retired from full-time work, can apply to become a Senior (Retired) member of the Society by contacting the membership team.

2.9. Any member may nominate a candidate for Honorary Membership by submitting a request to the office. Nominations will be considered by Council.

2.10. Any member who willfully refuses or neglects to comply with the provisions of the Articles, the Byelaws or the member code of conduct of the Society or, in the sole opinion of the Trustees is guilty of any conduct injurious to the character or interests of the Society, shall be liable to removal by a resolution of the Trustees (simple majority). The member shall be given at least 14 days' notice of the intended resolution and will have the opportunity before the voting on the resolution, of presenting their defence in person or in writing. Any subsequent decision to remove such member shall not be subject to any further right to appeal.

2.11. The Society's Code of Conduct and Complaints policy are available on the website.

3. Council

3.1. The Society is governed by the Council of Management ("Council") which is made up of the President, the other Officers, eight elected Councillors and the Chairs of the Society's committees.

3.2. The Officers and elected Councillors will be the trustees of the Charity and its directors. The Officers and elected Councillors, being the trustees of the Charity, hold ultimate responsibility for the governance, management, finances, compliance and administration of the Charity.

3.3. The Officers means the President, the General Secretary, the Events and Training Officer, the Treasurer and, if serving, the President-elect, and/or the General Secretary-elect, and/or the Treasurer-elect of the Charity.

3.4. Within the eight elected (non-Officer) trustee positions, there are to be a minimum of two scientists, two clinicians and one nurse.

3.5. Terms of office for all members of Council (Officers, elected Councillors and Chairs of Committees) are four years, subject to compliance with the Articles of Association. These terms usually coincide with the Society's Annual General Meeting.

3.6. No person shall be eligible for re-appointment as a Trustee unless at least two years have elapsed between the end of the relevant term and the beginning of the next term (subject to the exceptions listed in the Articles)

3.7. A Chair of a Committee who is not a Trustee and wishes to stand for a Trustee role does not need the two-year break to which existing Trustees are subject as per the Articles.

3.8. Unless otherwise determined by Council, the Chair of the Finance Committee shall be the serving Treasurer, the Chair of the Awards and Prizes Committee shall normally be the serving President, the Chair of the Events and Training Committee shall be the serving Events and Training Officer who will also act as a Co-chair of the Programme Committee. Their terms as Chairs shall be co-terminous with their term of office on Council.

3.9. There are role descriptions for the Officers, Council members, Committee Chairs and Committee members and these are available on the Society website at the time of election.

3.10. Council shall meet three times per year. Trustees shall meet separately, also three times per year.

3.11. The Quorum for Trustee meetings shall be five Trustees.

3.12. The Quorum for Council meetings shall be five Trustees and two Council Members who are not Trustees.

3.13. Council has the power to invite observers to its meetings. The Chair of the Bioscientifica Board attends as an observer.

4. Committees

4.1. Each committee will have a remit that is made available publicly on the website. The remit will specify the purpose, functions, objectives, and structure of each committee in line with the aims and strategy of the Society. Remits are developed and voted on by each committee; they are then approved by Council. Remits are reviewed annually by the committees. If the committee requests changes to the remit, these must be reviewed by Council.

4.2. A committee may choose to have a Deputy Chair. For purposes of clarification, this is not a Chair-Elect. The committee will appoint a Deputy from within the committee members.

4.3. Council may establish and dissolve such committees as it thinks fit in order to assist in managing the Society and furthering its aims and strategy. All members of committees must be paid members as defined under membership in these byelaws.

4.4. Each committee/group shall consist of a Chair and at least three members. The Chair shall report to Council. Unless specified within the remit, the Chair of each committee shall serve for a term of four years with the first of these years in a Chair-Elect position.

4.5. Unless Council agrees different terms of reference for a Committee, committee members shall hold office for a period of four years from the AGM at which their appointment is ratified. If a vacancy arises in mid-term or a need for increased numbers occurs, the Chair may co-opt, in consultation with the committee, an interested person with appropriate skills. Once co-opted, this person will be a member of the relevant committee only until the following AGM. An individual may be co-opted more than once in accordance with this paragraph but if that individual wishes to continue on the committee and serve office for a period of four years, they must follow the procedures in paragraph 5.

4.6. Committees may establish sub-committees and working groups as required to report to the committee and will determine their terms of reference.

4.7. Each committee shall report to Council twice a year.

5. Election of Council and Committee Members

5.1. All vacancies will be openly advertised to all eligible members.

5.2. All positions require the completion of an application form so that they can be considered.

5.3. The following positions are considered key roles

- President
- General Secretary
- Treasurer
- Elected Council members
- Chairs of Committees

5.4. Every effort should be made to ensure a minimum of two candidates for each key role and programme lead role. If only one application is received, the call for applications will be reopened immediately after the deadline for a period of 10 days. In cases where the number of eligible applications does not exceed the number of vacancies, all candidates shall be elected without any further procedure.

5.5. If the number of eligible applications for key roles exceeds the number of vacancies, the Company Secretary shall instigate an all-member online anonymous ballot. At the annual general meeting the names of the duly elected candidates shall be declared.

5.6. If the number of eligible applications for committee roles exceeds the number of vacancies, the Chair of the Committee shall instigate a vote within the Committee to decide the elected members.

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5.7. The Society shall, as far as is reasonably practical, seek to ensure that Council and Committees represent the breadth of the membership. Under-represented groups may be positively encouraged to apply during recruitment.

6. Annual General Meeting

6.1 The Society's Annual General Meeting is held according to the Articles of Association and is delivered via an online platform, separate from the annual scientific meeting, with all members invited and questions solicited in advance.

7. Publications

7.1. The Society shall publish the Journal of Endocrinology, the Journal of Molecular Endocrinology and Endocrine-Related Cancer and may also publish such other publications as it may determine subject to compliance with its Articles of Association.

7.2. Council shall appoint Editors-in-Chief for the publications owned by the Society via a process agreed upon by the Society's Officers and on terms deemed appropriate by Council.

7.3. The terms of reference of editorial boards will be determined by Editors-in-Chief and publishers in the best interests of the publication.

8. Grants

8.1. Grants may be made available to members from time to time, subject to compliance with the Articles of Association of the Society and subject to any qualifying rules for the individual grants or other rules made by Council from time to time. These rules can be found within the individual grants' information on the website. Grants are marked and awarded by the Society's Grants Committee and subject to the Society's Conflict of Interest policy.

9. Other activities

9.1. The Society engages in a wide range of other activities that further its charitable purposes, and these are prioritised by Council according to the Society's strategy.

10. Policies

10.1. The Society policies will be made publicly available on the Society website. Policies are approved by Council and reviewed periodically.