

New Scandinavian Association for the Study of Pain (New SASP)

Bylaws for New Scandinavian Association for the Study of Pain

§1. Name

New Scandinavian Association for the Study of Pain (New SASP)

§2. Purposes

The purposes of the Association are exclusively educational, scientific, and charitable in nature, consistent with the Association's status as a non-profit organization.

The specific aims are:

- a) To connect Scandinavian pain researchers from basic to clinical sciences in a multidisciplinary research network acting in close collaboration with the scientific committees of the national pain societies and IASP chapters
- b) To foster and encourage research on pain mechanisms as well as on diagnosis and treatment of clinical pain in order to improve the management of patients with acute and chronic pain.
- c) To promote education and training in the area of pain research in the Nordic countries.
- d) To inform physicians, other health professionals and general public of advances in pain research and pain therapy by means of "Scandinavian Journal of Pain" and dedicated websites for the membership and general public. The Scandinavian Journal of Pain will also serve as a means of communication with the national pain societies of the 5 Nordic countries (Finland, Denmark, Iceland, Norway and Sweden) by inviting the members of those societies to subscribe to the hybrid version of the journal.
- e) To promote the general objectives and goals of the International Association for the Study of Pain (IASP) on the field of pain research.

§3. Membership

Application for membership is made by submitting an application form via Association's website or a printed copy of it to the New SASP secretariat. Council of New SASP will decide upon new memberships. All members of the previous SASP will be offered the opportunity to join the New SASP without formal application. Physicians, scientists, and other health professionals and trainees interested in the Association are eligible for membership of New SASP. Employees of medical companies may be considered for membership.

Membership classes include regular, honorary, trainee, and affiliate memberships. Members shall pay annual dues that are assessed for the different membership classes by the Council and confirmed at the annual General Assembly meeting. The secretariat will collect annual dues and send reminders for those members who have not paid their dues in time. Membership is lost in case of failure to pay the dues for two years. Old membership can be reinstated by paying the membership due.

§4. Rights of membership

Members are entitled to participate in the meetings and courses arranged by the Association with a specific reduced fee.

Members will receive the hybrid version of Scandinavian Journal of Pain which is a paper version of abstracts and editorials and electronic access to the full papers. All regular and trainee members are entitled to one vote on matters brought to the membership either electronically via email or at the General Assembly of the annual meetings. Honorary members, who were regular members at the time of their selection to honorary status, retain their voting rights.

No member or group of members may enter into a contract or agreement binding the Association, financially or otherwise, without prior express written authority from the Council.

Any member may relinquish his or her membership in the Association by giving a written notice to the secretariat via email or ordinary mail.

§5. **Meetings and other activities of New SASP**

- a) New SASP is obliged to hold at least one general meeting each year including a meeting of the General Assembly and a scientific meeting.
- b) Membership will be informed about meetings and other activities of the Association by email or ordinary mail, and announcements in the Scandinavian Journal of Pain and at Association's website.
- c) A written notice on matters to be brought before the membership for a vote at the annual General Assembly meeting or for electronic ballot shall be sent to the members at least 30 days prior to vote, either by email or ordinary mail.
- d) The annual General Assembly meeting includes a report on activities of the Association, an audited financial report, budget proposal, election of council members and from one of these a president, and an election of one member to audit financial report.
- e) The arrangement of annual meeting shall circulate between each of the Nordic countries. The annual scientific meetings may be arranged in collaboration with the national IASP chapters.
- f) In order to promote pain research and encourage scientific networking in the Nordic countries, New SASP may in addition arrange teaching courses, research symposia, and summer schools alone or in collaboration with national, other Scandinavian, European, or International scientific societies with interest in pain research. New SASP may reimburse travelling expenses and participation fees to members attending activities arranged by the Association.
- g) As a non-profit organization, New SASP may give awards to meritorious Scandinavian pain researchers, and scientific grants to support Scandinavian collaboration in pain research. New SASP will establish a fund for delivery of research grants. Grant applications will be assessed by the council or by a separate scientific committee elected by the General Assembly.
- h) New SASP will propose editorial board for the Scandinavian Journal of Pain.
- i) New SASP will employ a Secretariat to take care of the administrative duties of the Association including book-keeping, bank account, and collection of membership dues, information letters to the membership and maintenance of the website.

§6. **Organization and officers**

Annual General Assembly meeting shall be announced by email or ordinary mail at least 30 days before the meeting. All decisions will be made by majority vote except for proposals to alter bylaws in which case a majority of 2/3 of members present is

required. Proposals for changes of bylaws must be received by the council in writing not less than 2 months before the annual meeting. The Council shall send written notice to the members of any proposals to change bylaws or dissolve the Association by email or ordinary mail at least 30 days before the meeting. Members of the Council and other officers will be elected by majority vote.

§7.

Council of New SASP

New SASP is directed by a council with two representatives from each of the five Nordic countries. These representatives act as a working pair and at least one of them attends council meetings. The councillors are elected for three years and they may stand for election for one further term. The General Assembly at its annual meeting elects one of the national representatives as president, one as secretary, one treasurer, and a president-elect. If a council member cannot complete his/her term, the council shall appoint replacement from that country who will serve until the next annual meeting. All decisions of the council will be by majority vote. The councillors are obliged to work in close collaboration with the national IASP chapters of each of the five Nordic countries.

§8.

Dissolving of the Association

Written proposals for dissolving New SASP must be sent to the Council at least two (2) months before annual meeting. Written notice of this proposal shall be sent to all voting members at least thirty (30) days prior to the vote at the meeting. The decision to dissolve New SASP requires at least 2/3 majority vote at two (2) consecutive annual meetings. In case of dissolving New SASP, all wealth of the Association will be divided in five equal parts and these will be delivered to each of the five national IASP chapters in Finland, Denmark, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden.