

I Name and Object

Article 1 Name

- 1.1 Life Sciences Switzerland, hereafter called LS², is an association in the sense of article 60ff of the Swiss Civil Code, with its domicile in Bern.
- 1.2 The name LS² replaces the names Swiss Society of Molecular and Cellular Biosciences (SSMCB), Swiss Physiological Society (SPS) and Swiss Proteomics Society (SPS) as of 1.1.2016, date of the merger between the 3 mentioned societies as LS².

Article 2 Objectives

LS² has the following objectives:

- 2.1 The promotion of scientific activities and the establishment of a network in all domains of life sciences, in particular through the organisation of conferences, lectures, and courses with special focus on the promotion of young scientists.
- 2.2 Information, discussion and training in the domain of life sciences and other related sciences and in the ethical, ecological and socio-political issues related to these.
- 2.3 Effective representation of the interests of academia, industry, Swiss Universities, and linguistic regions, through the inclusion of as many Swiss organisations with a commitment to the domain of life sciences into LS² as possible.
- 2.4 Promotion of the interests of Swiss scholarly societies/organisations with a commitment to life sciences that are associated to LS² as partners.
- 2.5 Promotion of the interests of professional or academic institutions with a commitment to life sciences that are collective members of LS².
- 2.6 Representation of life sciences to the authorities, the industry and the public in questions of expertise.
- 2.7 The safeguarding and promotion of the interests of life scientists in international organisations.
- 2.8 The awarding of rewards and prizes to young eligible life science researchers with the objective of career development and science communication.
- 2.9 In trying to achieve its objectives, LS² adheres to a gender equality policy.

Article 3 Serving the public interest

- 3.1 Projects and tasks that serve the public interest will be organised or supported by LS² in partnership with the Swiss Academies of Sciences (SCNAT) and are listed under: <https://www.ls2.ch/public/events>.

II Membership

Article 4 Becoming a LS² member

- 4.1 LS² pursues its objectives of encouraging scientific exchange in all domains of life sciences by striving to maintain a membership as representative as possible of the various domains of life sciences.
- 4.2 Any individuals, companies, institutes, and societies active in or interested in the domain of life sciences may join LS².

- 4.3 Societies that are interested in joining LS² may become a section of LS² if their discipline differs from the existing sections. Societies that are interested in an affiliation with LS² may become an LS² partner society. The members of organisations that join as sections automatically become individual members of LS².
- 4.4 Swiss and international institutions or professional organisations interested in the life sciences, may become an LS² collective member.
- 4.5 Applications for memberships must be filed via the online application system. The LS² Management Office will decide whether to accept the application. In case of doubt, the Executive Committee will decide.

Article 5 *Rights and Obligations of Members*

- 5.1 Every member has voting rights and is eligible to stand for election. The rights of collective members are exercised by authorized delegates and are set out in separate Regulations.
- 5.2 The membership can be acquired by any person who supports the life sciences. Every individual member is represented at the section level. LS² membership categories comprise:
- **Undergraduate members** (Bachelor's and Master's students)
 - **Postgraduate members** (PhD students)
 - **Regular members** (postdoctoral fellows, lecturers, researchers, technical staff, medical doctors, professors, anyone interested in the life sciences)
 - **Emeritus members** (retired scientists)
 - **Lifetime members** (retired scientists, upon request to the Management Office)
 - **Honorary members** (upon nomination by LS² sections and validation by the General Assembly)
 - **Collective members** (groups of at least 8 members, e.g. from academic institutions, research institutes, or companies interested in the life sciences, upon request to the Management Office)
 - **Partner members** (associations, scholarly societies)
- 5.3 Members must safeguard LS²'s interests and pay the annual membership fee. Membership bills for the current year are sent out between January 1 and October 15. Members joining after October 15 will receive the first bill at the beginning of the following year.

Article 6 *Resignation and exclusion of members*

- 6.1 Every member may resign from LS² by the end of a calendar year, provided that the LS² Management Office has been notified in writing at least three months in advance.
- 6.2 The LS² **Management Office** may decide to exclude a member from LS² e.g., if the membership fee has not been paid within three months of the initial bill. Anyone who does not pay the membership fee despite repetitive written reminders will be removed from the membership database by the LS² **Management Office** without the right of recourse to the next ordinary General Assembly. The Executive Committee can also exclude a member if it violates the LS² Bylaws in a serious way. In this case, the excluded member is entitled to a right of recourse to the next ordinary General Assembly. The appeal must be sent within 30 days after delivery of the exclusion decision by registered mail to the President for the attention of the General Assembly.

III Organisation

Article 7 Organs

7.1 The organs of LS² are

- The General Assembly (GA)
- The Delegates' Assembly (DA)
- The Executive Committee (EC)
- The Presidency
- The Sections and their boards
- The Management Office (MO)
- The external Auditing body

Article 8 The General Assembly

8.1 The General Assembly (GA) is the highest organ of the association.

8.2 The ordinary GA is held annually. An extraordinary GA may be called to deal with urgent matters at the decision of the Executive Committee or at the request of at least 10% of the members. Written notification to attend the GA meetings must be sent out at least 20 (twenty) days in advance, together with the agenda.

8.3 Proposed items for the agenda of the GA must be sent to the Secretariat of LS² in writing at least 14 (fourteen) days before the meeting.

8.4 The GA is chaired by the President of LS². If he/she is unable to chair the meeting it will be chaired by the Vice-President or by another member of the EC. The chair of the GA appoints the tellers. The secretary or another nominated person prepares the minutes of the decisions and elections taken by the GA. The minutes shall be signed by the chairperson and the keeper of the minutes.

8.5 The General Assembly has competence in the following:

- Election of tellers (to count votes if necessary)
- Approval of the GA agenda
- Approval of the GA minutes, LS² annual report and annual accounts and the report from the Auditing body, and approval of the actions of the EC
- **Modifications of the Bylaws**
- Determination of membership fees, apart from the fee for collective members
- Election of the President and other members of the EC (while striving to obtain as balanced a representation as possible of the universities, the industry and the different language regions)
- Confirmation of Presidents nominated by Sections as members of the EC
- Confirmation of new section board members
- Election of the members of the Auditing body or appointment of an external Auditing body
- Approval of the creation and dissolution of sections and the acceptance of specialist and professional organisations as sections or partners of LS²
- Dissolution of the Society. The dissolution requires a decision by a 2/3 majority of members present.

8.6 Taking of decisions

- Every correctly called ordinary or extraordinary GA may pass resolutions. Resolutions are passed by simple majority of members present. In the case of a split vote a second vote is taken. If the vote is again split the President has the casting vote.
- During elections, a proposed candidate is elected by simple majority of members present. In the case of a split vote a second vote is taken. In the case of a second split vote the person nominated by the Executive Committee is elected.

- As a general rule voting is by raised hand unless the majority of members present demand a secret ballot.
- A GA may be held online if an exceptional situation requires it; in that case, adequate voting procedures are put in place.

Article 9 The Delegate Assembly

- 9.1 The Delegates' Assembly (DA) is the second highest organ of the association (after the General Assembly). It is composed of the presidency (President, Past President and Vice-President) of LS², the Management Office, one delegate per partner society and elected delegates from each section. The proportionality factor and the maximum number of delegates per section are set out in the Regulations.
- 9.2 The DA is competent for all matters that are not the responsibility of another organ. The DA is responsible for the validation of the LS² Regulations proposed by the Executive Committee (EC). If necessary, the DA duties and competence can be further detailed or outlined in the LS² Regulations.
- 9.3 The DA is held annually. An extraordinary DA may be called by the Executive Committee to deal with urgent matters.
- 9.4 Written notification to attend the DA must be sent out at least 30 days in advance together with a tentative agenda. Proposed changes to the agenda must be sent to the Management office of LS² in writing at least 20 days before the meeting at which time the final agenda will be sent.
- 9.5 The DA is chaired by the President of LS². If he/she is unable to chair the meeting, it will be chaired by the Vice-President or another member of the Executive Committee.
- 9.6 The DA decides by simple majority of members present. In the event of an equality of votes, a second or deciding vote is organized. If the vote is split again, the President has the casting vote. Voting is by raising hands unless the majority of the members demands a secret ballot.
- 9.7 A DA may be held online if an exceptional situation requires it; in that case, adequate voting procedures are put in place.
- 9.8 The Presidency or the Executive Committee can propose the fusion of LS² with an association pursuing similar goals and activities. In contrast to Art. 8.5, a 3/4 majority of the DA is necessary to approve the fusion.
- 9.9 Minutes will be prepared during every DA and these will be circulated together with the presented slides among the participants afterwards.

Article 10 The Executive Committee

- 10.1 The Executive Committee (EC) is composed of
- The Presidency of LS² (President, Past President and Vice-President)
 - One President/delegate of each section
 - One President/delegate of each partner society.
 - The LS² Management Office (Scientific Officer(s))
 - All above-listed members of the EC have voting rights except for the partner societies.
- 10.2 The EC assigns jobs to its members apart from the President and the Presidents of the sections. The EC decides about the holding of events, executes decisions taken by the DA and GA, and prepares the DA and GA (invitations, agenda, annual report).
- 10.3 The EC is competent for all matters that are not the responsibility of another organ. If necessary, the EC duties and competence can be further detailed or outlined in the LS² Regulations.
- 10.4 Like the DA, the EC decides by simple majority of members present. In the event of an equality of votes, a second or deciding vote is organized. If the vote is split again, the President has the casting vote. Voting is by raising hands unless the majority of the members present demands a secret ballot.

- 10.5 An EC meeting may be held online if an exceptional situation requires it; in that case, adequate voting procedures are put in place
- 10.6 The term of office of the EC delegates of sections or partner societies is two years. Re-election is possible. After his/her term the President may be elected as a member of the EC.
- 10.7 The EC is responsible for the content of the LS² Regulations and can adapt them autonomously, i.e. changes in the LS² Regulations do NOT require approval by the General Assembly. The contents of the LS² Regulations requires an approval by the Delegates Assembly.
- 10.8 Financial competences for expenditures not included in the budget is limited to 10'000 CHF per case for the President, the LS² Past President, the Vice-President and the Scientific Officer, i.e., as a joint expenditure.
- 10.9 Minutes will be prepared during every EC and these will be circulated together with the presented slides among the participants afterwards.
- 10.10 The Executive Committee can register the society in the commercial register of the canton of Bern

Article 11 The Presidency:

- 11.1 The term of office of the presidency is 2 years. After his/her term the President may be elected as a member of the EC.
- 11.2 The President represents LS² on national and international panels, towards the scientific community and the public. The president oversees the management of LS².
- 11.3 The Vice-President is the treasurer of LS² and the LS² president-elect. He/she can replace the President if needed. In order to find a new Vice-President every 2 years, a call for candidates can be done among LS² section board members, or even among LS² members if needed.
- 11.4 The Past-President assists the President and the Vice-President. He/she can replace the President if needed.

Article 12 The Sections

- 12.1 The sections are devoted to specific domains of life sciences and organise their own events. The sections take on specific tasks within the scope of LS².
- 12.2 The tasks and competences of the sections and the cooperation between sections are set out in the Regulations.

Article 13 The Management Office

- 13.1 The Management Office (MO) consists of the Scientific Officer(s) and a Secretary. The tasks of the Management Office are outlined in the Regulations.

Article 14 External Auditing body

- 14.1 The External Auditing body inspects LS²'s annual accounts and the management of its assets and reports on these to the EC for the information of the DA.

Article 15 Awards

- 15.1 The Lelio Orci Award recognizes outstanding scientific achievements in the area of cell biology in the broad sense, under the patronage of the Fonds Lelio Orci and the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Geneva.
- 15.2 The Friedrich Miescher Award is honouring young biochemists under the patronage of the MCB section of LS² and is donated by the Friedrich Miescher Institute for Biomedical Research in Basel.
- 15.3 The procedures are outlined in the Regulations of LS².

IV Dissolution

Article 16 Dissolution of LS² requires a decision by a 3/4 majority of members present at the GA.

- 16.1 In case of dissolution, any of the financial assets of LS² will be donated to one or more associations of public interest with similar objectives as LS².

V Final provisions

Article 17 Accounting year

- 17.1 The accounting year corresponds to the calendar year. The regulations concerning the finances are outlined in the Regulations.

Article 18 Liability

- 18.1 The commitments of LS² are guaranteed only by its financial means, any personal liability of its members is ruled out.

Article 19 Approval of the Bylaws

- 19.1 The LS² Bylaws were established by the Delegates Assembly (DA) on June 11, 2015. A second version was approved at the GA of February 13, 2018. The current version will be presented for approval to the GA of January 28, 2021.

Last change: 28.12.2020

Voted at the GA of xx