

Rule Book Mediterranean Neuroscience Society

Introduction and Purpose:

This document aims to outline all the procedures and guidelines governing the operations of the Mediterranean Neuroscience Society (MNS). It is designed to complement the Society's by-laws and carries the same legal weight, although changes made within this rulebook do not require approval from the General Assembly meeting. The Council has the authority to revise and update the rulebook, but all new decisions must be approved by the President and at least 50% of the Council members.

Society:

1. The Society is strictly non-political and non-discriminatory, with no bias based on religion, race, or gender.
2. MNS does not employ permanent staff but may utilize (part-time) services from external parties when necessary.
3. MNS may establish affiliations with other relevant scientific organizations as determined by the Society Officers (Executive Bureau).
4. The Society may create, strengthen, and disseminate materials and publications to share information in the field of Neuroscience. It may collaborate with various institutions, both national and international, public and private, to achieve its objectives, including raising funds and managing assets.
5. In addition to member contributions, MNS may solicit and accept donations, grants, and contributions from individuals or entities. It may also permit the use of its name for advertising purposes as long as it aligns with the Society's objectives.
6. The Society may finance social activities through member contributions and external sources, excluding funding that poses a conflict of interest. It may also fund Continuing Medical Education (CME) activities in line with established criteria and limitations.
7. Political or union-related objectives are strictly prohibited.
8. MNS's main programs include organizing meetings, congress-related activities, educational events, supporting science and society events, and collaborating with various entities to advance the field of Neuroscience.

MNS Council:

Councilors' Rights:

Councilors have the authority to approve annual financial statements, access all relevant information, and exercise control as per the By-laws and this rulebook. Current councilors may propose new councilors and initiatives, including those aimed at advancing understanding of the Nervous System, promoting public information and education, stimulating research projects,

providing professional development, and collaborating with healthcare entities and institutions. Councilors shall also facilitate collaborations with patient advocacy groups.

Past Presidents:

Former Presidents hold honorary membership status. The newly appointed Past MNS President is automatically granted Honorary MNS membership. Their responsibilities may include attending Council meetings without voting privileges and participating in the scientific/organizer committee of the Biannual MNS Conference. Honorary members are exempt from paying annual membership fees.

Councilors' Responsibilities:

Councilors are expected to maintain a continuous interest in MNS's objectives and actively participate in Society meetings.

All 15 Councilors are expected to actively engage in MNS activities, with a particular emphasis on the biannual conference. Each Councilor will have a designated role to fulfill during the conference. The President is responsible for assigning specific tasks, such as reviewing submitted abstracts, compiling the abstract book, creating the preliminary program, and other related responsibilities.

The organization of the biannual conference will be led by one (or two) Councilor/s. The selection of the conference President/s will be officially determined during the first Council Meeting, which takes place two months after the conclusion of the MNS conference. This role involves planning, coordinating, and overseeing the logistical aspects of the conference to ensure its successful execution..

Vacating Terms:

In the event of a vacancy in the offices of President, Secretary, or Treasurer, the Executive Bureau will elect a new officeholder by majority vote. The appointed officeholder will serve until a duly elected candidate assumes office.

Removal from Office:

Councilors may resign at any time by providing written notice to the Society's Secretary. Councilors who act contrary to the Society's interests or fail to uphold its primary benefit may be dismissed from office upon a vote of 6 (six) Executive Bureau members. Dismissed members will receive written notice of their exclusion with immediate effect.

Article I – Scientific section

To have the largest representation of Neuroscience activities within the Society, 3 disciplinary groups or sections are created. According to the bylaws, and to take into account the development of Neuroscience activities, the number and nature of these groups can be modified by the Council.

- 1. Basic Neuroscience**
- 2. Clinical Neuroscience**
- 3. Computational and Theoretical Neuroscience**

Article II - Administration Council Elections:

The Secretary-General, Vice-Secretary, President and Vice-President, and two active members of the Society will organize Virtual elections following the modalities defined by the Council at the https://www.medneuroscisociety.org/virtual_vote.

Article III – Supernumerary Members:

The Council may initiate specific programs that nominate supernumerary members. These councilors will serve for a maximum of four non-renewable years.

Article IV – Fees:

As per the Administration Council's decision of March 23, 2010, the following membership fees apply:

- Regular members: €41
- Students: €16
- Students from Low-income & Lower middle-income countries (Affiliation not Nationality): €0
- Honorary and Emeritus members: €0
- President: €0

Membership in the Society is automatically renewed unless a member objects. Members who fail to pay their annual fees for two consecutive years will be removed from the Society. They can rejoin by paying the current year's dues.

Finances:

The President and Treasurer manage the Society's finances and have access to online payment systems and debit/credit cards. All financial transactions require the President's approval. The Council must review and approve all finances annually.

Member List and Minutes:

The Treasurer oversees the Society's financial assets and maintains full and accurate accounting. The Secretary-General, along with the Vice-Secretary, updates the member list and records minutes of Council and General Assembly meetings.

The Young MNS Committee (YMNSC)'s

MNS supports young neuroscientists in the Mediterranean Neuroscience Society (MNS). It focuses on engaging and assisting young researchers, particularly in low-income countries. Members of the Young MNS Committee (YMNSC) is selected upon application to the council for a term of four years. The YMNSC communicates through social media and newsletters, represents young scientists' perspectives, actively participates in council meetings, and helps develop tailored programs to promote their success within the MNS community and the field of Neuroscience in the Mediterranean region.