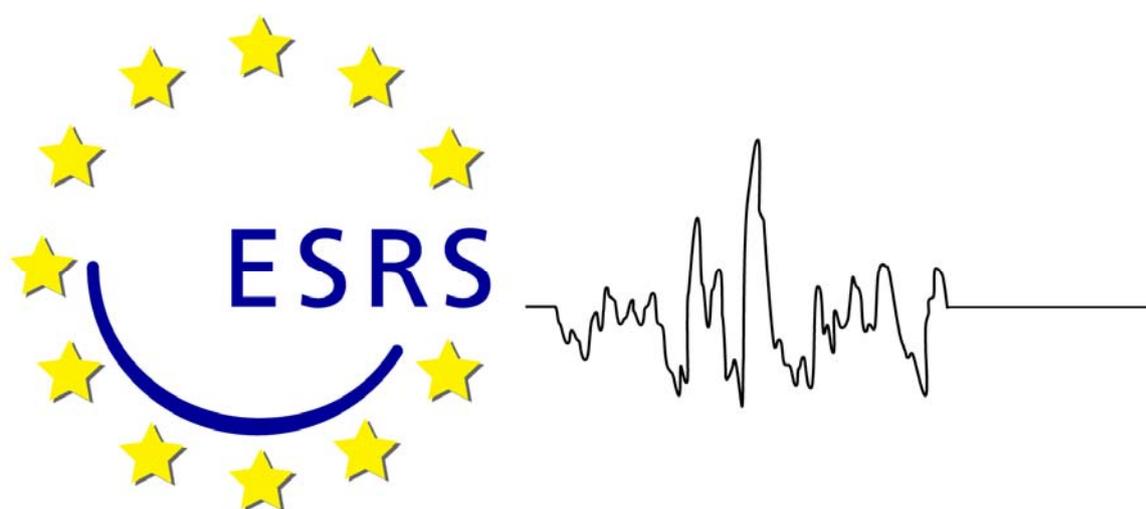


NEWSLETTER

August 2010





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HOME PAGE: www.esrs.eu



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear ESRS Members, dear Colleagues, dear Friends,

The fever is raising: only few weeks separate us from the 20th Congress of the European Sleep Research Society!

The scientific and teaching contents, the evolution of registrations (1208 on August 10, only 42 less than the 1250 attendees who attended Glasgow 2008!) and the intensive on site preparations let us expect a great meeting.

The hard work of local organizers (Prof. Paiva and Prof. Gonçalves), ESRS board, ESRS scientific committee and Julia Bicher of Congrex (the ESRS PCO) is giving first very positive results.

The program includes the traditional 4 key-note lectures (Prof. Montplaisir, Prof. Dijk, Prof. Tobler, and Prof. Stradling), the young scientist symposium, oral and posters sessions, teaching courses, joint symposia with extra-European sleep societies (this year with the Chinese Sleep Research Society), roundtables, video and case discussion sessions, the ESRS Women's forum, and the ESST meeting.

Few novelties were introduced this year to increase the attractiveness and impact of the meeting:

- The **European Sleep Science** award (to be awarded during the opening ceremony)
- A joint symposium of the ESRS with the local (**Portuguese**) **national society** hosting the meeting (APS)
- Two symposia of the ESRS with other European scientific societies (**European Neurological Society** (ENS), **European Biological Rhythms Society** (EBRS))
- Four **European Sleep Networks** sessions (on sleep apnea, narcolepsy, insomnia, restless legs syndrome)
- Two roundtables with the **WFSRSMS** on the future of sleep research and on certification/accreditation on sleep medicine
- Three **Meet the Professor** sessions
- A meeting of the ESRS board with the **Presidents of the National Societies**

We also decided to give new life to the **ESRS Soccer game** (this time "Portugal against the rest of the world"), which will be directed by 2 ESRS past presidents (Prof. Borbély and Prof. Pollmächer).

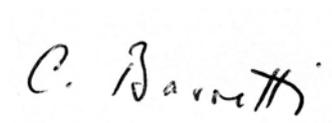
The **Welcome** reception, the **Presidential Dinner** (with the participation, among others, of all presidents of the National Sleep Societies) and the **ESRS Banquet** will offer further occasions for meetings and interactions.

During the **ESRS Business meeting** important decisions on the amendment of bylaws, the composition of the ESRS board and the Scientific Committee will be taken.

The work of the ESRS subcommittees (and particularly that of the Sleep medicine and Sleep Research committees) will be presented

We have tried our best to make this the best ESRS meeting ever.
It is your turn to make it memorable. Let us enjoy it and discover the beautiful country of Portugal.

Até logo, Lisboa!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "C. Bassetti". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Claudio Bassetti
ESRS President

"I sleep and I unsleep. On the other side of me, beyond where I lie down, the silence of the house touches infinity. I hear time falling, drop by drop, and no falling drop is heard falling."

Fernando Pessoa



ESRS-EU MARIE CURIE PROJECT 2007-2010: TRAINING IN SLEEP RESEARCH AND SLEEP MEDICINE

Dear Members,

The Program Committee of the ESRS-EU “Marie Curie” Project “Training in Sleep Research and Sleep Medicine” is pleased to inform you that the program of the last year of the Project has been very successfully concluded. As for the previous three years of the Program the call for candidates was very successful, since more than 70 applications were submitted. Forty-three trainees from 20 different countries were selected by following strict criteria, largely suggested by EU. The names of the selected candidates and the criteria which have been followed for the selection have been posted in the “Training & Courses” section on the ESRS website (www.esrs.eu).

The first event of the 2010 program was the Training Course that was held in Bertinoro, Italy, at the Residential Centre of the University of Bologna (www.ceub.it), from March 5th to March 8th. Since the 2010 program was “clinically” oriented, the course consisted of a series of lectures aimed towards young researchers/clinicians who were interested in the basic and clinical aspects of sleep medicine. In addition, a special “Communicating about sleep” session was held, in which each trainee was asked to make a brief oral presentation aimed to spread information amongst a general audience about the social and scientific relevance of their own work in sleep research/medicine. The faculty consisted of 18 senior researches and clinicians from all over Europe. As for the previous years, the course was extremely successful and very well received from every point of view. The Program of the Course has been posted in the “Training & Courses” section on the ESRS website (www.esrs.eu).

The Training Course has been followed by a one week practical training period, that was carried out in one of the eleven sleep research laboratories/sleep clinics of the network that has been specifically established for the Project, from late April to early November (the training program still have to be completed in couple of site). Further information on the training at the different sites can be found in the “Training & Courses” section at the ESRS website (www.esrs.eu).

Finally, the Final Symposium of the Program has been held in Kloster Seeon, Germany, at the Kultur und Bildungszentrum des Bezirks Oberbayern (www.kloster-seeon.de), from July 2nd to July 6th. More than 150 trainees who participated in the four-year Program had the opportunity to meet all together for the first time in this wonderful venue, where they were given the possibility to show and discuss the results of their own research activity with experienced researchers and to attend different workshops and round tables. Oral and blitz sessions were chaired and carried out by trainees under the supervision of more experienced researchers. Eighteen senior researchers from all over Europe took care of managing workshops and round tables in which sensitive issues as, e.g., the” future of

sleep research” and the “ethical aspects of sleep research on human/animal” have been addressed. Particularly well received was a couple of special evening sessions, i.e. the “water games session”, that was chaired by Debra J. Skene and Maria Wiechmann, during which a very exciting eight-person swim relay competition was held in the Seon lake, and the unforgettable “dancing session”, that was wonderfully chaired by Tarja Porkka Heiskanen. A diploma of participation in the “Sleep Research and Sleep Medicine Education Program 2007-2010” has been given to participants. The Program & Abstract Book of the Symposium has been posted in the “Training & Courses” section on the ESRS website (www.esrs.eu).

The Program Committee finally wish to thank all trainees, teachers, and researchers in charge of the training sites who with their enthusiasm contributed in the great success of the whole four-year Program. A special thank to the part-time assistant, Mrs. Maria Wiechmann, for her fundamental contribution in managing the organizational aspects of the Project and for taking care of all participants’ needs.

We look forward to meeting you in one of the future ESRS-EU “Marie Curie” teaching and training events.

With kind regards,

Members of the Program Committee of the ESRS-EU Marie Curie Project “Training in Sleep Research and Sleep Medicine”.



AN UPDATE ON THE ESRS 2010 CONGRESS IN LISBON

The ESRS 2010 congress in Lisbon is fast approaching. The full scientific programme is now online at <http://www.congrex.ch/esrs2010> (please click on “Programme”) and we are convinced that the programme is going to be outstanding.

We are proud to have with Prof. Jacques Montplaisir, Prof. Derk-Jan Dijk, Prof. Irene Tobler and Prof. John Stradling 4 excellent keynote speakers. The scientific programme will also include symposia, teaching courses, “Meet the Professor” sessions, video and case discussion sessions, round table discussions as well as oral and poster sessions. For the first time, the European Sleep Science Award will be awarded during the Opening Ceremony.

The meeting will not only provide a pleasant atmosphere for everyone to learn but will also offer a comfortable and relaxing atmosphere to meet old and new friends. The Welcome Reception will offer you some culinary specialties of the Portuguese cuisine and a traditional show of the group dance from the North of Portugal. In addition, do not forget to book your ticket for the ESRS Banquet, which will take place at the romantic seaside and will offer some delicious Mediterranean food.

If you have not yet registered for the congress, it is now time. Bring your team and colleagues along with you and join the meeting! We can assure you that the congress, by its quality, warmth and uniqueness will remain a fabulous memory in your life.

See you soon in Lisbon!



ERS-ESRS CONFERENCE "SLEEP AND BREATHING"

The ESRS is proud to organize in collaboration with the European Respiratory Society (ERS) an international conference on "Sleep and Breathing" to be held at Prague, Czech Republic, March 31 – April 2, 2011. This event will be centred on education and professional development to increase knowledge and expertise about the growing proportion of respiratory sleep disorders observed in clinical practice.

With a growing proportion of respiratory sleep disorders in clinical practice and reports of a knowledge deficit, a pressing need for a 'Sleep and Breathing' conference was identified. The aims of this meeting are to bring in the experts to provide a comprehensive update and to further relevant education and professional development.

Targeting both leaders in the field of sleep medicine and those with educational needs, the conference will offer plenary sessions, reviews, practical workshops, free communication sessions and educational seminars.

The collaboration between the ESRS and the European Respiratory Society in organizing this event seems particularly fruitful and promising. This will allow to cover the various fields of expertise related not only to sleep apnea but also to other fields of sleep medicine that may be however relevant to clinicians primarily involved in the diagnosis and treatment of Sleep-Disordered Breathing.

The preliminary programme will be announced soon on the ESRS web site.



NEWS FROM THE ESRS FORUM FOR WOMEN IN SLEEP RESEARCH

The next gathering of the ESRS Forum for Women in Sleep Research will take place at the forthcoming 20th Congress of the European Sleep Research Society in Lisbon.

The meeting is scheduled to take place in **Lecture Hall C on Tuesday September 14 between 17:00 and 18:30 h**, prior to the Welcome Reception of the ESRS Congress.

The meeting will feature key presentations from Professor Josephine Arendt (University of Surrey, UK) and Dr Valérie Mongrain (University of Montréal, Canada) on important topics including the representation of women in sleep research. We are sure the meeting will facilitate very motivating discussions. We invite everyone to register early and attend the meeting of the Forum.



ACKNOWLEDGMENT LETTER FROM GEORGIAN SLEEP SOCIETY

On behalf of the Georgian Sleep Research and Sleep Medicine Society (GSSS), as Vice President of the GSSS and 11th year member of the ESRS, it is my honor to express the gratitude of the GSSS to the ESRS for its support to hold the “1st ESRS-GSSS Training Course on Sleep Disorders” that took place on 14-16th May in Tbilisi, a capital city of Georgia.

A training course concerning sleep disorders had not been held in the independent republic of Georgia before; therefore, thanks to the ESRS, it was truly a historical event. The GSSS is extremely grateful to the ESRS and to the invited speakers - leading professionals, clinicians and scientists in sleep research and sleep medicine today: Prof. Claudio Bassetti, President of the ESRS, Prof. Thomas Pollmaecher and Prof. Birgit Hogl for volunteering their time for their important talks and providing the guidance and expertise that helped make this event possible. The GSSS also thanks Prof. Debra Skene for her assistance with the preliminary preparations of this course.



The goals of the meeting were: (1) to obtain up-to-date knowledge in the following key areas: Insomnia, Narcolepsy, RLS and PLM and (2) to develop clinical sleep research and sleep medicine in Georgia for further action and research in close collaboration with the ESRS. The program of the Training Course addressed clinical sleep research findings through a series of sessions including invited speakers. The topics selected were aimed at presenting information on the latest and most significant developments in clinical practice and research. The training course attendees had the opportunity to access the latest research in the field of sleep medicine. The course highlighted new directions in sleep medicine including diagnostic, therapeutic and technologic issues.

Held at the Vere Palace Hotel in downtown Tbilisi, the Sleep Disorders Course – arranged as two full-day and one half-day session – was developed to obtain information on specific topics of interest to sleep researchers, physicians, neurologists, pediatricians, psychologists, electro-physiologists etc. At the end of each session there was the opportunity for questions and discussion. The course provided the attendees with access to the latest advances in the field of sleep research and sleep medicine while also allowing ample time for them to network with colleagues old and new.

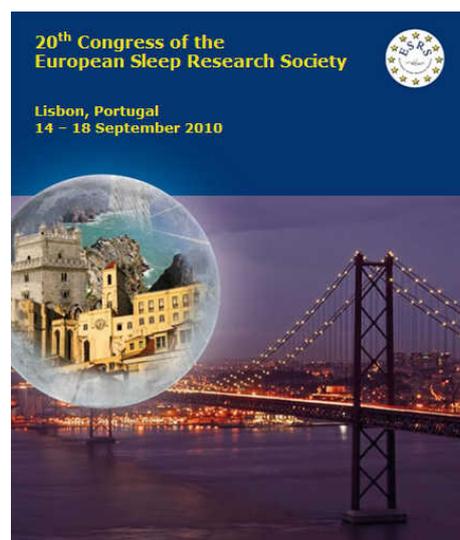
Lia Maisuradze, PHD, DSc,
Vice President, GSSS



ESRS TEACHING AND SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

20th Congress of the European Sleep Research Society

Date: September 14 - 18, 2010
 Venue: Lisbon, Portugal
 Web site: www.esrs2010.com/

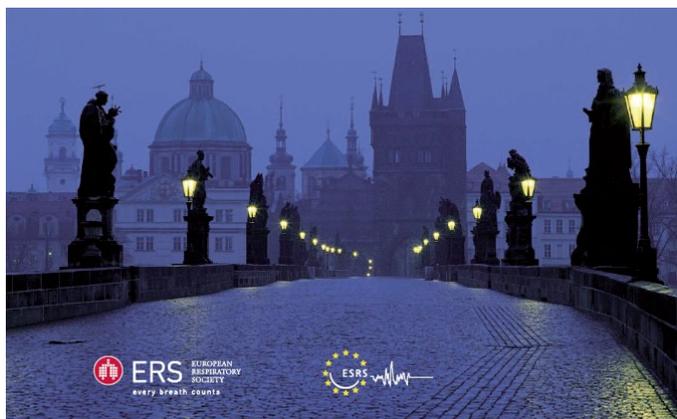


Sleep and Breathing

Date: March 31 – April 2, 2011
 Venue: Prague, Czech Republic

An international conference organized by ERS/ESRS.

With a growing proportion of respiratory sleep disorders in clinical practice and reports of a knowledge deficit, there is a pressing need for this 'Sleep and Breathing' conference; it brings in the experts to provide a comprehensive update and to further relevant education and professional development.



21st Congress of the European Sleep Research Society

Date: September 4 - 8, 2012
 Venue: Paris-Versailles, France



ESRS SPONSORED / ENDORSED EVENTS

Central Europe Sleep Training Course

Date: September 11- 13, 2010

Venue: Timisoara, Romania

Program: www.esrs.eu/cms/upload/pdf/Meetings/2010_CESTS.pdf

Organized by the Romanian Society of Somnology and Romanian Society of Pulmonology

International Sleep Medicine Course - ISMC 2010



Date: November 17 - 20, 2010

Venue: Blankenberge, Belgium

Registration: www.belsleep.org/pageview.aspx

Program: www.esrs.eu/cms/upload/pdf/Meetings/ISMC_2010.pdf

Organized by the Belgian Association for Sleep Research and Sleep Medicine (BASS)



FUTURE MEETINGS

European Respiratory Society (ERS) 20 th Annual Congress 2010

Date: September 18 - 22, 2010
Venue: Barcelona, Spain
Web site: www.erscongress2010.org

Harvard Biomarkers of Sleepiness Conference

Date: September 21 - 22, 2010
Venue: Boston, U.S.A.
Web site: sleep.med.harvard.edu/what-we-do/biomarkers-conference

Sleep, Well-Being and Active Ageing: New Evidence for Policy and Practice

Date: October 28, 2010
Venue: London, United Kingdom
Web site: www.somnia.surrey.ac.uk/conferences.html

Third World Meeting of Chronobiology of the World Federation of Societies on Chronobiology

Date: May 5 - 9, 2011
Venue: Puebla De Zaragoza, Mexico
Announcement & Call: www.esrs.eu/cms/upload/pdf/Meetings/1st_call_updated.pdf

8th IBRO World Congress of Neuroscience

Date: July 14 - 19, 2011
Venue: Florence, Italy
Web site: www.ibro2011.org/site/home.asp

Organized by the Italian Society of Neuroscience (SINS) and the International Brain Research Organization (IBRO)

4th International World Sleep Congress of the World Association of Sleep Medicine (WASM) & 5th Conference of the Canadian Sleep Society (CSS)

Date: September 10 - 15, 2011
Venue: Quebec City, Canada
Web site: www.wasm2011.org/

Worldsleep 2011 - 6th World Congress of the World Sleep Federation & 36th Annual Meeting of Japanese Society of Sleep Research

Date: October 15 - 20, 2011

Venue: Kyoto, Japan

Web site: www.worldsleep2011.jp/



APPLICANTS FOR MEMBERSHIP

Malcolm Boyce, Dr.

Hammersmith Medicines Research, London, United Kingdom

Sponsor: M. King



NEW MEMBERS

The Society welcomes the following new members whose application was announced in the ESRS Newsletters March and July 2010.

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SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Chair:

Dr. Malcolm von Schantz
Guildford, Surrey, United Kingdom

Members:

Prof. Colin Espie
Glasgow, Scotland, United Kingdom

Dr. Paul Franken
Lausanne, Switzerland

Dr. Lino Nobili
Milan, Italy

Prof. Thomas Penzel
Berlin, Germany

Dr. Christelle Peyron
Lyon, France

Dr. Joan Santamaria
Barcelona, Spain



APPENDIX: BYLAWS AMENDMENT PROPOSAL



Articles of Association of the European Sleep ~~Research~~-Society (~~ESRS~~ESS) e. V.

§ 1

Name, Registered Office, Fiscal Year

1. The society which is to be registered in the association register has the name
"European Sleep ~~Research~~-Society (~~ESRS~~ESS) e. V."
2. The society has its registered office in Regensburg.
1. The fiscal year of the society is the calendar year.

§ 2

Purpose, Tasks and Public Benefit

1. The purpose of the society is to promote research on sleep and related areas, to improve the care for patients with sleep disorders and to facilitate the dissemination of information regarding sleep research and sleep medicine.
2. The goal of the society is exclusively and directly to serve the public interest within the meaning of the section "Purposes subject to lower tax rates" in the Tax Code. The purpose of the articles of association shall be fulfilled through scientific and practical activities of the members in all areas of sleep research, the care for patients with ~~sleeping~~ disorders and through the continuing education of all professional groups involved in this field. The purpose of the articles of association shall also be implemented through the holding of conferences, symposia, workshops, teaching courses and presentations in the area of sleep research and sleep medicine, and through the financing of educational visits and the setting up of grants and scholarships. This shall include a publication such as the Journal of Sleep Research (JSR). The purpose of the articles of association shall additionally be

accomplished by activities pertaining to the accreditation of sleep medicine centres and the certification of professionals in sleep medicine.

3. The society acts on a non-profit basis; it does not pursue business purposes of its own.
4. The funds of the society may only be used for the purposes permitted by the articles of association. The members of the society or other persons shall receive funds from the society only if this is necessary to fulfil the tasks of the society (§2 paragraph 2). The amounts of the funds have to be appropriate for the tasks. The consent of the board of officers is necessary for this purpose.
5. Upon dissolution or termination of the society or if the current purpose ceases to apply, a resolution shall be passed regarding who shall receive the assets of the society. Only those recipients may be considered who will use them directly and exclusively for the public benefit. This resolution can only be carried out with the approval of the tax authorities.

§ 3

Membership

1. There are full members, student members, associate society members, associate individual members, ~~and~~ supporting members, affiliate members and emeritus members. Only full and student members have active and passive voting rights as individuals, i.e. only full members and student members can vote during and be elected for any kind of position by the general assembly of the membership.
2. The society is in principle a society for European scientists and health care professionals; however, applications for membership from individuals and groups outside Europe are welcome.
3. The society encourages applications for membership from individuals, European national sleep societies and supporting legal bodies (companies or societies other than national sleep societies) who are engaged in sleep research or sleep medicine.

4. Associate society membership of European national sleep societies is particularly encouraged. These members form the assembly of national sleep societies (ANSS) made up by one representative of each national society who must be a full [ESRSESS](#) member. This assembly phrases its own articles based on the following principles: (a) The ANSS meets at least every second year during the [ESRSESS](#) congresses. (b) The ANSS elects a committee of 5 representatives of national sleep societies which determine a chair and a co-chair. (c) This ANSS executive committee proposes one member to the [ESRSESS](#) board as full board member (d) The ANSS fixes annual fees to be paid by every associate society member. These fees, paid to the [ESRSESS](#) treasurer, are used for expenses of the ANSS.
5. Applications of national sleep societies to become associate society members are directed toward to [ESRSESS](#) board who decides on an individual basis.
6. Associate individual members are members of associate societies who are not full [ESRSESS](#) members. They have no active or passive voting ~~w~~rights within the [ESRSESS](#), but they will get privileged access to a wide range of [ESRSESS](#) material.
7. Supporting members are companies or societies other than European national sleep societies who wish to support [ESRSESS](#). They do not have passive or active voting rights. The membership fee is fixed individually by the [ESRSESS](#) board.
8. [Affiliate members. Technicians and nurses who are active in sleep research and/or clinical sleep medicine are eligible for affiliate membership. Affiliate members will get privileged access to a wide range of ESS material. Affiliate members pay annual dues set by the ESS board. Affiliate members do not have voting rights.](#)
9. [Emeritus members. Individual members, having reached the age of 65, who have been a member of the ESS for a minimum of ten years may qualify as an ESS emeritus member. The member must submit a request in writing to the ESS board. Emeritus members will pay reduced annual membership fees as set by the ESS board. Emeritus members do not have voting rights.](#)
10. Applications of companies or societies to become supporting [ESRSESS](#) members are directed towards the [ESRSESS](#) board who decides on an individual basis.

11. Applications of individuals for membership must be made in writing to the secretary of the society and supported by one full member of the society. The name of the applicant shall be made public through publication ~~in the ESRS newsletter~~. The members shall have the opportunity to object to admission within two months. After the expiration of this period, the applicants will become members unless objections have been raised, in which case the board of officers shall decide on admission or non-admission.

§ 4

Termination of Membership

1. Membership ends upon death, exclusion or resignation from the society.
2. Resignation shall occur by written notice to the board of officers.
3. A member may be excluded by a resolution of the general assembly of members, if that member culpably inflicts substantial damage on the interests of the society, or is deemed guilty of serious misconduct. For this purpose a majority of two-thirds of the valid votes cast, or a postal ballot with a two-thirds majority, is necessary. Members' responses must be sent to the board within fifty days after the start of the postal ballot. The board shall record the valid votes received. A board member has to sign the protocol; the result shall be made public in writing.
4. Members who have not paid their fees for one year despite a reminder shall be excluded from membership by decision of the board of officers.

§ 5

Membership Fees

Each individual member shall pay a membership fee as set by the general assembly of members at the business meeting for the respective group (regular members, student members and supporting members). The membership fees for the coming year shall be paid prior to December 1 of the current year, and shall include the subscription to the

Journal of Sleep Research published by the society. The members who join after October 30 shall be exempt from payment of the membership fee for the current year. Members who do not pay their fees after a reminder letter of the treasurer shall be suspended until payment.

§ 6

Constituent Bodies of the Society

Constituent bodies of the society are:

1. the board of officers
2. the general assembly of members.

§ 7

Board of Officers

1. The members of board of officers of the society are elected from the group of the full members who have their residence in a European country or Israel.

The board of officers according to § 26 BGB consists of:

- a) President
- b) Vice President (clinical sleep science)
- c) Vice President (basic sleep science)
- d) Secretary
- e) Assistant Secretary
- f) Treasurer
- g) ANSS representative
- h) Editor of the Journal of Sleep Research as advisory member
- i) Past President as advisory member

~~j) Organizer of the last meeting as advisory member~~

~~k) Representative of a non-European Sleep Research Society~~

The board of officers will represent the society vis-à-vis the members and third parties in both judicial and extrajudicial contexts (§ 26 BGB). Each member of the board of officers shall represent the society only together with another member of the board of officers.

The president, vice presidents, secretary, assistant secretary and treasurer shall be elected separately for the period between two business meetings. This will normally be a period of approximately two years. The election shall be decided by simple majority of the valid votes casts of the members of the society. Re-election is possible for one term of office; re-election of the treasurer is possible for an unlimited number of terms of office.

Proposals for the candidates for the board of officers must be submitted in writing and must reach the president at least two weeks in advance of the ~~m~~-business meeting; later proposals cannot be accepted.

2. Within the society the following is decided:

- a) The president shall chair the meetings of the board of officers as well as the business meeting. The president is generally responsible for all matters which relate to the administration of the society. In cooperation with the secretary, the president is responsible for the implementation of decisions made by voting members or by the board of officers. The president shall fulfil tasks which are important and desirable for the attainment of the goals of the society.
- b) The vice presidents shall support the president and the secretary in their duties. ~~The One of the~~ vice presidents shall take over the duties of the president upon the latter's absence or incapacity. In case of incapacity of the president and the vice presidents, they will be replaced by another member of the board of officers.
- c) The secretary is the secretary to the members of the board of officers. Together with the president, the secretary is responsible for the implementation of decisions which were made by voting members or the

board of officers. The secretary is responsible for the safekeeping of documents of the association. During the business meetings, the secretary shall take the minutes. The secretary shall record the motions, the results of the elections and, if counted, the number of votes cast for and against. The secretary shall take notes on the key points of the discussion. The secretary shall disseminate information on the activities of the society. In cooperation with the president, the secretary shall prepare the [ESRSESS](#) newsletter and send it to all members of the society. The secretary shall foster co-operation between national sleep ~~research associations~~societies within Europe.

- d) The assistant secretary shall support the secretary and shall take over the tasks of the secretary upon the latter's absence or incapacity.
- e) The treasurer shall manage the money and the commitments of the society. The treasurer shall keep complete and accurate books on the receipts and expenditures of the society. The treasurer shall deposit all moneys and other assets on behalf of and in favour of the society in accounts designated by the board of officers. The treasurer shall make payments on behalf of the society to the extent authorized by the board of officers, and shall render account to the general assembly of members and to the meeting of the board of officers regarding the financial situation of the society.
- f) The executive committee of the ANSS shall be responsible for interaction of the [ESRSESS](#) board with the ANSS.
- ~~g) The representative of a non-European Sleep research Society shall establish links between ESRS and non-European Sleep Research Societies.~~
- ~~hg)~~ Advisory members of the board do not have the right to vote in the board of officers.
- ~~ih)~~ The past president shall support the board of officers through information on previous policies, procedures, etc.

~~j) The organizer of the most recent congress shall support the board of officers through information on the organization of the last scientific meeting.~~

3. The board of officers shall manage the affairs and shall decide in particular on the expenditures of the society. The board of officers shall decide by simple majority on all matters.

§ 8

General Assembly of Members= Business Meeting

1. Only full [ESRSESS](#) members and student members in attendance are entitled to vote. Each member carries one vote.
2. The general assembly of members is responsible for all matters as far as the articles of association do not explicitly declare the board of officers to be responsible.
3. The board of officers shall determine the preliminary agenda of the business meeting and shall inform the members through the [ESRSESS](#) newsletter. The voting members by simple majority of the valid votes cast, shall decide upon the following:
 - a) Minutes of the previous business meeting;
 - b) Election of the members of the board of officers;
 - c) Election of the scientific committee;
 - d) Acceptance of the financial report of the treasurer and of an appointed accountant;
 - e) Determination of the amount of the membership fees;
 - f) Future conference locations.

§ 9

Convening a General Assembly of Members

1. At least every second year, a regular general assembly of members shall be held (business meeting). It shall be convened by the board of officers with at least four weeks notice in writing, along with a notification of the agenda. The notice period shall begin on the day following the sending of the invitation letter. The agenda shall be set by the board of officers.
2. Each member may apply to the board of officers in writing for an amendment to the agenda. This application must be received at least one week before the business meeting. The chair of the meeting shall make the amendment known at the beginning of the general assembly of members. The general assembly of members shall decide on applications to amend the agenda which are put before it. This does not apply to elections and to changes in the articles of association.

§ 10

Special Membership Meetings

A special membership meeting shall be called by the board of officers if required in the interest of the society or if one tenth of the members request this from the board in writing, indicating the purpose and reasons.

The notice period may be reasonably shortened, but must be at least one week.

Otherwise, § 11 applies as appropriate.

§ 11

Resolutions by the General Assembly of Members at the Business Meeting

1. The business meeting shall be chaired by the president. If no member of the board of officers is present, the assembly shall determine who is to chair the meeting. In case of elections, the direction of the meeting may be transferred to an election officer for the duration of the election and the prior discussion. In case of the absence of the board, this procedure must be followed.

The votes shall be taken by show of hands. Upon application by one third of the voting members present, the vote must be taken by written ballot. In elections of

persons the vote will be by written ballot if this is requested by one or more members present at the meeting.

2. The general assembly of members shall pass resolutions by simple majority of the valid votes cast, in so far as these articles of association do not explicitly require a different majority. Abstentions will not be counted. A two thirds majority of the valid votes cast is necessary to change the articles of association.
3. The board can initiate a postal ballot on important issues (including elections) between two memberships meeting if necessary. In this case resolutions shall pass by simple majority of the valid votes counted, which have been send to the board within fifty days after the dispatch of the postal ballot. In order to change the articles of association, a two thirds majority of the valid member received within fifty days of the dispatch of the postal ballot is necessary. The board shall minute the valid votes received and the minute shall be signed by at least one member of the board. The members must be informed of the result in writing.
4. In an election, a candidate is elected who has received more than half of the valid votes cast. If no one has received the necessary majority, a vote shall be held between the two candidates who received the most votes. The candidate who receives the most votes is then elected. In case of an equal number of votes, the chair shall have the casting vote.
5. If several posts are up for election (e.g. scientific committee, future conference locations) the vote will be carried out on the basis of a list system. The members will have one vote on each position to vote on. If there are more candidates than positions the election shall be carried out in one term. The candidates with the most votes are then elected.
6. Minutes shall be taken regarding resolutions of the general assembly of members at the business meeting. These minutes shall include the place and time of the meeting, the number of attending voting members, non-members and representatives present, as well as the results of the vote. Minutes shall be signed by the minute taker.

§ 12

Scientific Committee

The Scientific Committee shall be elected by the voting members from among the group of voting members by simple majority. The members of the Scientific Committee shall be elected for the period between two business meetings; this will normally correspond to a period of approximately two years. Re-election is possible for one period. The Scientific Committee shall make proposals concerning the scientific program of the scientific congress, shall select the submitted abstracts for scientific presentations and shall help in the evaluation of manuscripts which are submitted for the congress publications.

The Scientific Committee shall designate a chair who shall maintain contact with the board of officers.

§ 13

Scientific Congress

The [ESRSESS](#) board, represented by the president and the treasurer, shall sign a contract with the local organizers determining the arrangements of the congress. The aim is to ensure the scientific and economic soundness of the congress. If necessary, the board may deviate from the decision on the conference location taken by the assembly of members according to §8.

§ 14

Further Committees and Working Groups

Further permanent or temporary committees may be set up and dissolved by the board of officers. Their members and chairpersons shall be appointed by the board of officers. Working groups can be set up and dissolved by vote of the regular members. The chairperson of a working group shall be elected by the voting members. The chairpersons of committees or working groups shall report on their activities to the membership meeting or, if desired, to the board. Any activity of the committees or working groups outside the society needs the [allowance-approval](#) of the board.