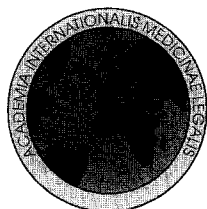


The Newsletter of the International Academy of Legal Medicine



Dear Members,

Welcome to the first newsletter of the International Academy of Legal Medicine to appear within an issue of the *International Journal of Legal Medicine*. The aim of the Newsletter is to inform members of IALM of matters that are of interest to them both within the Academy itself and in the world of legal medicine at large. We recognize that in order to fulfil this function it is necessary for individual members to make us aware of any local matters that might be of wider interest, and we hereby invite members to contribute such information to the Editor of this Newsletter:

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General Assembly of the International Academy of Legal Medicine and Social Medicine, 1 June 1994, Strasbourg, France

At the last General Assembly several major changes were agreed on. Given that Social Medicine is now a separate discipline and had rarely featured in the proceedings of the Academy, it was proposed that the name of the Academy be changed to "The International Academy of Legal Medicine". No objections were raised and the new name was therefore unanimously adopted.

In line with the Academy's change of name, the statutes of the IALM were also revised and the amended statutes are given below.

Presidium:

The following persons were elected to the Presidium:

President: Professor Dr. med. Bernd Brinkmann,
Münster, Germany
Vice-Presidents: Professor Dr. John F.A. Harbison,
Dublin, Ireland
Professor Dr. Antonio Farneti, Milan, Italy
Past President: Professor Enrique Villanueva,
Granada, Spain
Secretary: Professor Dr. Pekka Saukko, Turku, Finland

Treasurer: Professor Dr. Walter Bär, Zurich,
Switzerland

Representative of the European Section: Professor Dr. Patrice Mangin, Strasbourg, France; Representative for International Relations: Professor Dr. Akiko Sawaguchi, Tokyo, Japan; Chairman of the Scientific Committee: Professor Dr. Bernard Knight, Cardiff, Wales

Statutes of the International Academy of Legal Medicine (IALM)

§1 Name and aims

The International Academy of Legal Medicine (IALM) – formerly known as the "International Academy of Legal Medicine and Social Medicine" – was originally founded in 1938 (in Bonn). Its aims shall be the furthering of scientific progress in the field of Legal Medicine, especially by promoting collaboration and information exchange among specialists at an international level, by holding scientific meetings and congresses and through scientific publications. The IALM shall aim to collaborate with other scientific societies and shall endeavour to provide information and expertise as required to answer public inquiries related to the discipline of Legal Medicine.

§2 Membership

- 1) Any academically qualified person involved scientifically and/or professionally in the specialty of Legal Medicine can apply for full membership.
- 2) Corporate membership can be applied for by other bodies and legal entities (e.g. commercial companies, national societies); such members of the Academy will not be eligible to vote.
- 3) Any other person who can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Academy that he or she has a scientific/professional interest in Legal Medicine can apply for extraordinary membership, but such members will also not be eligible to vote.
- 4) Applications for membership must be made to the Presidium of the Academy and should be accompanied by testimonials from two full members. The Presidium may request the submission of a curriculum vitae. Admission to membership will always be subject to the decision of the Presidium.
- 5) Membership is terminated by written notice of withdrawal (in the form of a letter sent by registered post), by the death of the member or by disqualification. Disqualifications will be effected by the Presidium and will be considered if a member has been involved in activities deemed to be detrimental to the good name and professional standing of the discipline of Legal Medicine or of the IALM.
- 6) Scientists and specialists who have made a significant contribution to the discipline of Legal Medicine and other persons who have effectively promoted the discipline of Legal Medicine at national and international levels can be elected Honorary Members. Nominations for such recognition can be made only by the Presidium, and the final decision will be subject to ratification by the General Assembly. Honorary Members are exempt from payment of any membership fees.
- 7) Members of the IALM who have made relevant contributions to the development of the Academy and have been in membership for at least 15 years can be honoured by being elected Members Emeriti. Nominations for such recognition can be made only by the Presidium. On personal application, Members Emeriti can be exempted for the payment of membership fees while still retaining their voting rights.
- 8) Retired members can be exempted from payment of membership fees on personal application to the Presidium: if this is approved they will no longer be eligible to vote.

§3 General Assembly

- 1) The membership of the IALM shall constitute the GENERAL ASSEMBLY of the IALM.
- 2) The General Assembly shall bear responsibility for the following matters:
 - Receipt of the report of the Presidium
 - Election of the members of the Presidium
 - Election of the auditors
 - Support for the members of the Presidium

- Decisions on congresses
 - Decisions on alterations to the statutes
 - Decisions on dissolution of the Academy
 - Decisions on applications for honorary membership
- 3) Resolutions of the General Assembly shall be passed with a simple majority as long as no other provision is made in the statutes.
 - 4) The regular meeting of the General Assembly shall take place on the occasion of the main congress of the Academy. Invitations to the meeting and the Agenda will be dispatched by the Secretary of the Presidium six weeks in advance of the date of the meeting. Any matter not on the agenda forwarded can be introduced and discussed at the meeting of the General Assembly, but only if three-quarters of the members present are in favour of this. This does not apply to such fundamental matters as alterations to statutes, increases in membership fees or dissolution of the Academy.
 - 5) An Extraordinary Meeting of the General Assembly can be called by the Presidium. Such a meeting must be called if at least one quarter of the members eligible to vote have applied to the Presidium for it to be held, stating why they feel it is necessary.
 - 6) A postal ballot may be taken either if this is decided by the Presidium or if two-thirds of the members present at a meeting of the General Assembly vote for this procedure. (In this case, each member who is eligible to vote must receive the necessary information together with a prepared letter and form for reply, to be returned to the Secretary of the Presidium within eight weeks. The count will be monitored and full records kept.)

§4 Presidium

- 1) The Presidium shall be made up of:
 - the President, two Vice-Presidents, the Treasurer and the Secretary, who constitute the executive Presidium, *and*
 - one representative of the EALM (§5,2), *and*
 - one representative for international relations, *and*
 - the Past President, *and*
 - if §5,1) applies, the representative(s) of the section(s)
- 2) The General Assembly elects the members of the Presidium. Nominations can be made by the Presidium and (thereafter) by the General Assembly. If more than one candidate is nominated for a particular office a secret ballot shall be held; the candidate attaining a simple majority shall be considered duly elected.
- 3) All members of the Presidium can be re-elected twice, with the exception of the President, who can only be re-elected once.
- 4) The newly constituted Presidium shall take over its official duties on 1 January of the year following its election; until this date the outgoing Presidium remains in office.
- 5) The Presidium may co-opt consultants and representatives as required.

6) The Presidium shall hold at least one meeting per year. This shall be convened by the President in consultation with the Secretary, who shall notify the other members of the date and venue of the meeting at least four weeks in advance, at which time the Agenda will also be dispatched.

7) Two members of the Executive Presidium can represent the Academy in matters concerning registration and in other matters.

§5 Sections

1) The Academy can be subdivided into sections on the basis of continents or other relevant geographic/ethnic distributions, on condition that a minimum of one hundred members belong to a suitable group and apply to the Presidium for such a section to be formed. Each such section can produce its own statutes and delegate one member to the Presidium. These section representatives shall belong to the Presidium and be fully eligible to vote; they shall be invited to all meetings of the Presidium.

2) At present a European Section of the International Academy of Legal Medicine is in existence and is referred to as the "European Academy of Legal Medicine" (EALM). For the time being, the Presidia of the IALM and the EALM are composed of the same members.

§6 Subcommittees

1) A "Scientific Committee" shall be constituted by the Presidium and shall advise the Presidium on scientific matters.

2) Consultants in specific fields of Legal Medicine, such as haemogenetics, can be nominated by the Presidium to form "advisory groups". Lists of the members of such advisory groups can be supplied to national and international bodies on request.

3) The Presidium may nominate a review board to organize the congress and arrange for publication of its proceedings.

§7 Meetings, publications

1) The main congresses of the Academy shall take place every three years. On the suggestion of the Presidium, the General Assembly can decide to hold a main congress after a different time interval. A congress period is defined as the interval between two main congresses. The responsibility for the organization of a congress and its scientific programme shall lie with the Presidium, in consultation with the Congress President.

2) Interim meetings can be held in conjunction with other international meetings if the themes of these correspond with the aims of the Academy. Such decisions are the responsibility of the Presidium.

3) The official publication of the Academy shall be the "International Journal of Legal Medicine", and subscription to this

periodical shall be compulsory for all full members (§2,1) at a special subscription rate. The Journal will contain a special section dealing with communications from the IALM. The responsibility for matters dealt with in this section shall lie with the Presidium. Other members than those specified in §2,1) can also subscribe to the *International Journal of Legal Medicine* at the same special subscription rate.

4) The official proceedings of each congress shall be entitled "Acta Medicinae Legalis". The ownership rights in this publication shall belong to the IALM. These proceedings shall be published under the direction of the Presidium in consultation with the Congress President.

5) The official languages of the Academy shall be English and French. If no simultaneous translation service is available the preferred congress language shall be English.

§8 Membership fee / audit of accounts / business period

1) An annual membership fee shall be collected from each member (unless exempted), becoming due at the beginning of each calendar year. The amount of this fee shall be proposed by the Presidium and fixed by the General Assembly.

2) The following categories of membership fees exist:

- fees for corporate members (a minimum of four times the fee for a full member, but with no upper limit)
- fees for full members
- fees for extraordinary members (fee for a full member minus the price of the *International Journal of Legal Medicine*)

3) On the occasion of a congress the cash balance shall be checked by two auditors elected by the General Assembly.

4) The accounts of the Assembly and the cash balance shall be checked once per year by the Presidium at its regular annual meeting.

§9 Alterations to the statutes

1) The statutes shall be modified only by the General Assembly on the occasion of its regular meetings (3,3) and when at least three-quarters of the members present so decide.

2) Proposals of changes to a statute or statutes must be made known to all members at the same time as the invitations to the General Assembly are dispatched. Proposals shall be made only by the Presidium. The Presidium must present such a proposal to the General Assembly if at least one-fifth of the members support the motion at least two weeks before the regular deadline for dispatch of material to the General Assembly.

§10 Dissolution

1) A dissolution of the Academy shall only be considered if the Presidium has informed all members at least three months in advance of a General Assembly meeting that it has been mooted. A motion for dissolution shall be put forward by the Presidium if at least half the members request this in writing. The Presidium can also propose such a motion without requests from the general membership. A decision in favour of dissolution necessitates a 75% majority of the members present.

§11 Charitable status

1) The Academy shall at all times maintain a non-profit-making status and shall be devoted exclusively to the direct pursuit of charitable and scientific purposes as specified in the legislation on tax exemptions in the country where the funds of the Academy are held.

2) The funds of the Academy shall not be used for any but the appropriate statutory purposes. The members and the Presi-

um shall receive no fees, nor shall any other allowances be paid out to the from the Academy's funds.

3) No person shall be supported in a way inappropriate to the purposes of the Society or benefit from inappropriate allowances.

§12 Provisional regulation

1) The President Elect of the Academy [elected in Spain in 1991 for the period of office starting with the meeting in Strasbourg] shall take up his official duties after these statutes have been formally accepted.

2) The President shall thereafter propose the candidates for the next Presidium, which will officially take up office after the end of the Congress.

3) The President is authorized to take the necessary steps for official registration. He is also authorized to implement minor changes if such changes are required by law. No such changes are allowed if they are in opposition to any of the basic principles of this constitution.