

FINAL VERSION

Constitution for the Paediatric Rheumatology European Society (PRES)

1. **Name:**

The Society shall be named the Paediatric Rheumatology European Society

2. **Purpose:**

This Society is a non-profit making organisation whose purpose is to promote the knowledge of paediatric rheumatic diseases, stimulate research in these fields, disseminate such knowledge at meetings and publications, and provide guidelines and best standards in clinical practice and training in paediatric rheumatology. The Society will represent paediatric rheumatology in EU organisations (such as Union of European Medical Specialists).

3. **Membership of the Society:**

- i) The Society consists of full, associate, corporate and honorary members.
- ii) All members must have an active interest in paediatric rheumatology.
- iii) The number of members shall be limited as decided by the Annual General Meeting (AGM).
- iv) Only full members have voting rights at the AGM. New members shall be elected at the AGM on the recommendation of the Council. Proposals for membership should be made to the Secretary of the Society at least 3 months before the next AGM. Application forms are available from the secretary. The proposal should be signed by two current members. Each proposal shall be accompanied by the curriculum vitae. The Council will have the duty to consider applications and to give to the AGM details of those candidates whom they recommend for membership. Candidates will be elected at the AGM according to paragraph 11.
- v) The associate membership is reserved for non-Europeans who are actively involved in/attends European meetings. Associate members will have no voting rights and are not eligible to hold office within the Society.
- vi) Corporate membership is only on approval by council. Members have access to the PRES membership list, and will be able to have one informal meeting with members per year. The fee will be set by the Council.
- vii) Honorary membership is conferred by the Council to distinguished members of the paediatric rheumatology community, and is required to be ratified by 2/3 of the members present at an AGM. They have no voting rights and are not eligible to hold office.
- viii) If a member's annual subscription lapses or if he/she does not attend the annual meeting for three consecutive years, the question of continuation of membership will be considered by the Council. The recommendation of the council will be considered at the next AGM, and voted upon according to paragraph 11.

4. **Meetings:**

- i) The Society will hold an Annual Scientific Meeting for the presentation and discussion of papers by members and guests at a time and place to be decided by the AGM.
- ii) An Annual General Meeting of members will be held during the days of the scientific meeting.
- iii) The Council of the Society will meet twice a year.
- iii) Other meetings of the Society or of Council may be convened

5. **Council:**

The Council's task is to determine strategy and make all decisions on behalf of the PRES membership. The Council of the Society consists of the following:

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| i) | President | } | Members of the Executive |
| ii) | Secretary | | |
| iii) | Treasurer | | |
| iv) | Sub-committee chairs: clinical affairs, research, training and education, Allied Health Professionals | | |
| v) | Trainee representative | | |
| vi) | Two council members without special function | | |
| vii) | EULAR Standing Committee for Paediatric Rheumatology (SCPR) Chairman (co-opted) | | |
| viii) | PRINTO Chairman (co-opted) | | |
| ix) | Meeting Organiser (co-opted) | | |

No more than two elected council members should be from any one country.

6. **President:**

The President is elected for three years and is eligible for re-election for one more term. He or she should be an active paediatric rheumatologist. A candidate for the post of President may (with his/her or written consent) be proposed in writing by any three members to the Secretary not less than one month before the AGM, or maybe proposed by the Council.

7. **Secretary and Treasurer:**

- The Secretary and Treasurer are elected for three years and then shall be eligible for re-election annually. They should be active paediatric rheumatologists.
- A candidate for the post of Secretary or Treasurer may (with his/her written consent) be proposed in writing by any three members to the Secretary of the Council not less than one month before the AGM or may be proposed by the Council.
- The Secretary will attend to the affairs of the Society and the Council and keep minutes of all the meetings. The Treasurer will hold the funds of the Society. Two members of PRES will be nominated to oversee the accounts.

Comments: The first Secretary of the Society should be elected for four years at his/her first term of office.

8. **Council members without special function:**

The Council has two members without special function elected for three years each. Each is not eligible for re-election into the same position. A candidate for the Council member may (with his/her written consent) be proposed in writing to the Secretary by any three members not less than one month before the AGM, or by the Council.

Comments: At the first election these two Council members without special function should be elected for three and four years respectively.

9. **Executive and Sub-committees:**

- The Executive committee will consist of the President, Secretary and Treasurer.
- The Sub-committees of the Society will consist of: Clinical Affairs Committee, Research Committee, Training and Education Committee, Committee for PAMS. They will recommend action and report to council. The Chairs will be elected for a tenure of four years and is eligible for re-election for one more term. The structure of the Sub-committees will be proposed by the Chairs, approved by the

Council and ratified by members at the AGM. PRINTO will be a separate autonomous organisation within PRES.

- Trainee representation: There will be one representative at Council, and one at the Training and Education Subcommittee.

10. Organisation of scientific meetings:

Proposals for organising the Annual Scientific Meeting should be made in writing by the organiser to the Secretary at least six months before the next AGM. The decision is made by a majority of members present at the AGM. The organiser will be a co-opted Council member in the year before the meeting and until the end of the meeting which he/she conducts. The meeting should be at least cost neutral. Any profits will be divided 50:50 between the host organisation and PRES.

The programme will be arranged by the council in collaboration with the organiser of the next meeting. The object is to encourage inclusion of recently completed and not necessarily published research work. Abstracts will be solicited not less than 6 months in advance of the meeting. Copies of the abstracts will be distributed at the meeting. Publication of abstract is to be negotiated between the organiser and appropriate journals.

11. Voting:

Decisions in Council will require the support of the majority of those present. The quorum of those present should be 2/3 of the Council. Decisions at the AGM will be by a simple majority of those present except in the following circumstances, where 2/3's majority of those present will be required:

- i) Alteration of the Constitution
- ii) Decision to dissolve the Society
- iii) Election of new members
- iv) Consideration of continuation of membership according to paragraph 3 (vii)

The quorum for the AGM is 1/3 of the membership. If this is not achieved, then the Chair may call a second meeting during the AGM where the quorum is not necessary.

Election to membership and exclusion from membership at the AGM will be by secret ballot. The quorum for general meeting will be 1/3 of the membership and the quorum for council meeting will be more than 1/2.

12. Alteration to the Constitution:

- i) Amendments to the Constitution must be proposed in writing to the Secretary by any five members or by the Council not less than six months before the next AGM.
- ii) The Secretary will notify all members of the proposed amendment not less than five months before the next AGM.
- iii) Any members may submit written counter-proposals to the Secretary not less than three months before the next AGM.
- iv) The Secretary will notify all members of any counter-proposal not less than one month before the next AGM.