

ERASS Constitution

Article 1

TITLE, LEGAL FORM

The society under the title

EUROPEAN RHEUMATISM and ARTHRITIS SURGICAL SOCIETY

EUROPÄISCHE GESELLSCHAFT FÜR RHEUMA und ARTHRITIS ORTHOPÄDIE

SOCIETEE EUROPEENNEE DE CHIRURGIE ORTHOPEDIQUE DE LA POLYARTHRITE
CHRONIQUE EVOLUTIVE et DE L' ARTHRITE

is established as a Corporate Association according to Arts. 66 ff of the Swiss Civil Code,
and is hereinafter designated as ERASS.

Article 2

HEADQUARTERS

The headquarters and place of business are located in Basle.

Article 3

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

ERASS aims to further scientific and clinical work in rheumatoid arthritis surgery on a European level. It promotes the training and continuous education in this field and coordinates all these efforts within the European member countries.

It encourages interdisciplinary collaboration with all fields of specialisation concerned with rheumatology. In addition, it endeavours to cooperate closely with the Standing Committees of the European League against Rheumatism.

Article 4

ORGANISATION

4.1 ERASS shall be composed as follows:

- General Assembly
- Executive committee
- Auditors

4.2 The Executive Committee is made up of 9 members, i.e. the President, the Vice-President, the past President, the Secretary, the Treasurer and four additional members. A minimum of 6 members of the Executive Committee should be surgeons.

4.3 The President, the Honorary Secretary and the Treasurer will be able to sign on their own legally on behalf of the society.

4.4 The Executive Committee members will normally serve for 4 years. Half of the members will retire every 2 years so as to provide for continuity.

- 4.5 The Honorary Secretary and the Treasurer will also each serve for 4 years but again their retriial should be staggered at two yearly intervals so as to provide for continuity.
- 4.6 The President shall serve for 2 years. His term of office will commence immediately after the biennial ERASS Congress following his election.
- 4.7 The Vice-President shall also serve for two years and will in effect be President-Elect. His term of office will commence immediately after the biennial ERASS Congress following his election.
- 4.8 Regarding the election of officers, a notice should be sent to each member one month before the General Assembly, accompanied by a list of the vacancies to be filled and the nominations from the Executive Committee. Alternative nominations can be proposed and seconded by two or more members of ERASS, but these must be delivered to the Secretary two weeks before the meeting.
- 4.9 An absolute majority of those members present is required for the election of officers. The election of the President and the Vice-President will be by secret ballot if more than one nomination is received for either office.
- 4.10 The immediate Past-President shall be a voting member of the Executive Committee for the next 2 years.

Article 5

DECISIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Every decision taken by the General Assembly, with the exception of the dissolution of the society, will be by two/third of all those members attending the meeting with the right to vote. The constitution can be altered if any proposal to amend or alter the Constitution has been circulated to all the members at least six months before the planned meeting.

Article 6

MEMBERS

Anyone can become a member of ERASS who is actively concerned with rheumatoid arthritis surgery and who applies to the committee by writing, giving the names of two referees, and is accepted by it.

Member classification:

HONORARY MEMBERS are elected from men or women of distinction who have made an outstanding contribution to surgery of rheumatoid diseases. They will pay no subscription, but will have the right to vote.

MEMBERS are established surgeons who are trained and experienced in the surgery of rheumatoid diseases or those who are actively concerned with rheumatoid arthritis surgery. They will pay the full subscription and will have the right to vote.

CORPORATE MEMBERS are executive representatives of orthopaedic prosthetic manufacturers or other trade exhibitors who have entered into a contractual relationship with the Society in regard to providing regular support for our activities. They have no voting right.

Article 7

MEMBER'S SUBSCRIPTION

The General Assembly shall determine the annual subscription of its members

Article 8

FINANCIAL MEANS

ERASS will have the following financial means at its disposal:

1. annual subscription of the members
2. surplus profit from symposia, workshops etc, which were organised by ERASS
3. donations and possibly legacies
4. exceptional contributions made by industry who collaborate with ERASS

Article 9

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The General Assembly shall take place at least once every two years.

Article 10

AUDITORS

The General Assembly elects two members with voting rights as Auditors for four years. These Auditors shall examine the annual statement of account and submit a report to the Executive Committee at the next General Assembly.

Article 11

DISSOLUTION OF THE SOCIETY

The General Assembly can at any time decide on the dissolution of the society at a meeting convened specially for this purpose, if at least half the members attend, and a majority or two thirds of those voting members present vote in favour.

Should it prove impossible to fulfil this aims of the society or if the society is dissolved, its Balance in hand shall be donated to a charitable institution of a similar nature. Money belonging to the society shall not be returned to its members.

Founding constitutions:	Sept. 9, 1979
1 st revision/additions:	April 24, 1981
2 nd revision/additions:	June 30, 1983
3 rd revision/additions:	June 6, 1999
4 th revision/addition:	June 4, 2004
5 th revision/addition:	May 26, 2006