



## **Proposed Revision to the ISMRM Bylaws**

### **Executive Summary**

The ISMRM reviews the Bylaws and the duties and responsibilities of the Committees of the Society on a regular basis. The Board of Trustees and the Governance Committee are central to this review process and have been active in these matters since June 2005.

It is recognized that changes may be necessary in order to make the Bylaws not only internally consistent but properly framed to meet the needs of its diverse membership.

In this respect, one revision is being proposed:

*Eliminate the membership category of Associate Member, instead making Full Membership available at a discounted rate to those eligible. Eligibility will be based on criteria established by the Board of Trustees, which includes a list of qualifying countries derived from leading metrics and also on the annual income of the individual member.*

### **Proposed Revision**

#### **Rationale:**

Currently the Bylaws indicate six (6) categories of Membership: Honorary, Corporate, Full, Technologist, Student and Associate. Associate Membership is reserved for persons who have limited personal income in financially restricted countries. The Board of Trustees defines the list of countries and the maximum annual income that is required for Associate Membership. Associate Members have the right to attend meetings of the Society, to serve on Committees, but do not have voting rights and may not sponsor others for Membership in the Society.

In recognition of the diversity of the ISMRM community and in the interests of inclusivity and globalization, it is proposed that the Associate Membership category be eliminated in name and activity restriction. Instead, Full Membership will be available at a discounted rate to those eligible. Eligibility will be based on criteria established by the Board of Trustees, which includes a list of eligible countries derived from leading metrics and also on the annual income of the individual member.

Please note, reference to “Associate Member” is made throughout the Bylaws. Below you will find each section of the Bylaws this proposed change would impact, both the current and the proposed bylaws.

#### **CURRENT**

##### **Article II, Section 1**

##### **Categories of Membership**

There shall be **six (6)** categories of Membership: Honorary, Corporate, Full, Technologist, Student, and **Associate**.

#### **PROPOSED**

##### **Article II, Section 1**

##### **Categories of Membership**

There shall be **five (5)** categories of Membership: Honorary, Corporate, Full, Technologist and Trainee.

## **Article II, Section 7**

### **Associate Members**

Associate Membership is reserved for persons who have limited personal income in financially restricted countries. Associate Members must share the stated purposes of the Society. Their activities at the time of their seeking membership must involve magnetic resonance or its applications within the purposes stated in Article I, through any of publication, education, manufacture, or practice. Persons applying for Associate Membership must be sponsored by one (1) or more Full Members of the Society. Associate Membership applications must be approved by the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees defines the list of countries and the maximum annual income that is required for Associate Membership.

Associate Membership is only permitted following submission of a letter from the applicant, the employer, or a governmental authority verifying that the normal membership dues would constitute an excessive financial hardship. The Board of Trustees can approve the presented material or can request additional verification on an individual basis. Associate Membership is granted for five (5) years pending the regular payment of the annual fees; a re-application after this period is possible and requires a new verification letter and approval by the Board of Trustees. Whenever it is established that the Associate Member meets all of the requirements for Full Membership, any Associate Member in good standing who requests the change may be approved by the Board of Trustees for Full Membership without further sponsorship.

Associate Members shall have the right to attend meetings of the Society, to serve on Committees, and to receive the Society's Newsletter, but shall not have voting rights, may not sponsor others for Membership in the Society, and are not eligible to obtain individual subscriptions to the paper version of the Society's Journals at the member rate.

## **Article VIII, Section 4.2**

Formation of a Chapter shall be proposed by a petition of at least twenty-five (25) Members of the Society in good standing, of whom at least fifteen (15) are Full Members **or Associate Members**, which shall define its governance, outline a program and functions for its first three (3) years of operation, and provide a budget with an explanation of the extent of the Chapter's intended fund-raising activities, if any. The governance proposed must include a mechanism for the election of a Committee to operate the Chapter and for the numbers of the Committee members and the numbers and responsibilities of the Officers of the Chapter. The suggested governance must also require that

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Delete Article 7, renumbering Section 8 Admission to Membership as Section 7, Section 9 Dues to Section 8 and Section 10 Termination to Section 9.

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