

December 2009

The Society for Medicines Research Rules

NAME

This association shall be called the Society for Medicines Research.

OBJECTS

The objects of the Society are the advancement of science relating to all aspects of medicines research, primarily by providing a common meeting ground for all who are interested or involved in such research, with the purpose of furthering the education of such persons to the ultimate benefit of the general public in the field of relief of sickness.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the Society shall be open to any person interested in furthering the objects. The Committee shall have the right to refuse membership, provided that the applicant shall have a right to appeal to the Society's general meeting, whose decision shall be final.

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

The Committee may, at their discretion, elect as Honorary Members such persons as have rendered distinguished service to the Society or to medicines research. The number of Honorary Members shall not exceed ten at any one time and not more than three shall be elected in any calendar year. Honorary Members shall have all the privileges of membership and shall not pay a subscription.

RETIRED MEMBERS

Fully retired members of the Society, who have been members of the Society for 5 years or more, are entitled to free life membership

FINANCE

The Society shall be financed by contributions from Members. Grants from other organisations or persons desiring to support the objects of the Society shall be accepted at the discretion of the Committee. No individual shall receive any compensation or pecuniary benefit whatsoever from the Society except reasonable compensation for services actually rendered to the Society in effecting one or more of its proper objects or purposes.

SUBSCRIPTION

Each Member shall pay an annual subscription covering the twelve months from 1 June to 31 May of such a sum as may be determined by the Society at its Annual General Meeting or at a Special Meeting.

The subscription shall be payable in advance and shall become due on 1 March in each year. Any Member whose annual subscription is two years in arrears, and to whom notice of the fact has been sent, shall cease to be a Member of the Society but shall be eligible for reelection.

COMMITTEE

The business of the Society shall be conducted by a Committee which shall have sole control in all matters relating to the Society. The Committee shall consist of the Chairman, a Vice-Chairman (the Chairman-elect or the previous year's Chairman - see below), an Honorary Treasurer, the Honorary Secretary, Media Relations Officer and up to fifteen other elected Members. The Committee may co-opt not more than three other persons who may represent other Societies or Organisations interested in the objects of the Society to be members of the Committee. The Committee would endeavour to encourage nominations that would lead to at least two Members each being drawn from the major disciplines represented in the SMR membership, namely chemistry, biology and clinical sciences, with a suitable balance being maintained between academia and industry. When necessary, it would use its powers of co-option to ensure that this balance was achieved. The co-option of Members shall be confirmed annually by the Committee. Five Members shall constitute a quorum.

The Chairman shall preside at meetings of the Committee or in his absence one of the Vice-Chairmen. If neither the Chairman nor the Vice-Chairmen are present and there is a quorum, then the quorum can elect one of their number as Chairman for that meeting.

OFFICERS

The officers shall consist of a Chairman, a Vice-Chairman, an Honorary Treasurer an Honorary Secretary and a Media Relations Officer. Appointment of new officers shall be proposed by the existing officers and must be agreed by at least two thirds of the committee members. Proposed officers must be ratified at the Annual General Meeting. The Chairman shall normally serve for two consecutive years and then for a further year as Vice-Chairman before retiring from the Committee. The Honorary Treasurer, Honorary Secretary and Media Relations Officer shall normally serve for two consecutive years retire, but shall be eligible for reappointment.

RETIREMENT FROM THE COMMITTEE AND APPOINTMENT OF NEW MEMBERS

Members shall retire from the Committee after serving 4 years but will be eligible for immediate re-election by the standard procedure if they wish to serve longer. The existing Committee may invite co-opted members who have served for more than six months, to become full committee members without going through the standard election procedure, provided their number does not exceed two-thirds of outstanding vacancies. They will assume Committee Member status subject to ratification at an Annual General Meeting.

STANDARD ELECTION PROCEDURE

Members interested in joining the committee should contact the Honorary Secretary not later than 30th October in any year. Nominations for committee membership must be supported by a SMR member of at least four years. If the number of nominations does not exceed the number of vacancies, the Members nominated shall be declared elected at the Annual General Meeting. If the number of nominations exceeds the number of vacancies, an open vote at the Annual General Meeting shall decide those candidates to be nominated to serve on the committee.

Members so elected shall take office from the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting.

GENERAL VACANCIES IN THE COMMITTEE

In the event of any casual vacancy occurring among the elected members of the Committee, the Committee may appoint a Member of the Society to fill the vacancy. The person so appointed shall retire from the Committee at the next Annual General Meeting, but shall be eligible for immediate re-election as an ordinary member of the Committee.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting shall be held between the 1st September and the 31st December, at such a time and place as the Committee shall determine. Twelve Members present shall constitute a quorum.

The Chairman shall preside at the meeting, or in his absence, a Vice- Chairman or other member of the Committee. At the meeting, a report on the proceedings of the Society in the preceding year shall be presented. Financial statements for the same period shall be presented in accordance with the Charities Act 1993. The Trustees have elected for an independent examination of receipts/payments account prepared under Section 42(3) of the Charities Act 1993. At the meeting an Independent Examiner will be appointed. A Member may raise any matter or move any motion at any Annual General Meeting of which he has given the Secretary notice in writing not less than twenty-one clear days before the meeting.

SPECIAL MEETING

A Special Meeting of the Society may be called by the Committee, or may be called on the written request of twenty Members of the Society to the Honorary Secretary stating the business they wish to be transacted. At least fourteen days' notice of such a Special Meeting shall be given to Members.

SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS

An attendance fee will normally be charged for scientific meetings, but where this coincides with the AGM; there would be no charge for Members only attending the business meeting. Differential rates would normally apply for scientific meetings, so that non-Members paid significantly more and full-time students and fully retired/unemployed Members significantly less than the fee for ordinary Members.

PUBLICATIONS

The Committee may publish, at their discretion, reports of meetings, transactions, or other documents, and may make a charge for them to Members of the Society and any other persons. The Committee may determine the conditions under which material is accepted for publication.

AMENDMENT TO RULES

The Rules of the Society may be amended at a Special Meeting or an Annual General Meeting, when notice of the proposed changes has been given to each Member at least two weeks before the date of the Meeting. Such changes shall come into effect after the conclusion of the meeting. No alterations shall be made

unless two-thirds of the Members present and voting are in favour, provided that no alteration shall be made which could cause the Society to cease to be a Charity at Law.

DISSOLUTION

If the Society is dissolved, the net assets of the body shall not be divided among the members, but will be presented to a body established for charitable purposes only and bearing objects similar to those of the Society.

ABOUT THE SMR

The Society for Drug Research was founded in 1966 to provide a common meeting ground for all who are interested or involved in drug research, and to further the education of such persons to the ultimate benefit of the general public in the field of the relief of sickness. In 1994, the Society was renamed the Society for Medicines Research.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to any person interested in furthering the objects of the Society. The Society is managed by a committee elected by the members. The annual subscription allows attendance at SMR meetings at significantly reduced rates.

ACTIVITIES

The Society generally holds four meetings each year. These normally take the form of one-day meetings on a specific topic. Meeting proceedings are written by meeting organizers and published in the journal Drug New and Perspectives. Many meetings are also recorded and webcast via the SMR website (www.smr.org.uk). A Newsletter is circulated to Members once a year together with the minutes of the AGM. Information on future meetings is available via the SMR website and reminders are sent to members via e-mail

The address of the SMR is, 840 Melton Road, Thurmaston, Leicester, LE4 8BN, (Tel: +44 (0)116 269 1048; Fax: +44 (0)116 264 0141; website, www.smr.org.uk); Routine enquiries may be sent by e-mail to secretariat@smr.org.uk).