



Bylaws

Art. 1

Name, head office and objectives

The Swiss Society for Pulmonary Hypertension (SSPH) is an association under art. 60 and subsequent articles of the CC (Civil Code), with its seat at the respective location of the secretariat.

The group's objectives are to:

- Guarantee the quality of research into pulmonary hypertension (PH) and the treatment of patients suffering from PH in Switzerland.
- Draft and update science-based treatment directives for patients suffering from pulmonary hypertension.
- Promote research into PH.
- Advise medical colleagues (consultation between doctors) on the treatment of PH.
- Promote scientific dialogue with PH specialists in Switzerland and abroad.
- Provide technical assistance to organisations for PH patients.

Art. 2

Members and membership

The group comprises ordinary members, and honorary members. Membership requests must be addressed to the secretariat with a motivation letter, a curriculum vitae (CV) and two referees who are ordinary members of the SSPH. The Board makes decisions regarding admissions and exclusions. New and departing members are announced at the General Assembly.

2.1 Ordinary members

Any doctor or health care professional and related professional groups with an interest in PH such as care staff, physiotherapists or scientists with a higher education qualification warranting experience with PH patients in Switzerland and taking care of such patients on a regular basis or actively involved in research may join as ordinary members. They must have no commercial interest in the area of pulmonary hypertension. The employees of companies manufacturing medicinal products or devices used in the management of PH are excluded from ordinary membership.

It is expected that ordinary members attend regular meetings of the SSPH.

2.2 Honorary members

Individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the field of PH can be appointed as honorary members. They are entitled to vote at the general meeting and do not pay any membership fee.

2.3 Resignation/exclusion

Resignation from the SSPH takes effect at the end of the calendar year following written communication to the Board. Decisions to exclude individuals from the SSHP must be taken at the general meeting by secret ballot with a 3/4 majority of members present with voting rights. Any member who fails to pay his membership fee on two years or is no longer regularly involved in the care of PH patient or actively engaged in research, can be excluded from the society after the Board has notified him formally.



Art. 3

Supervisory bodies

The supervisory bodies of the group are the general meeting, the Board, working parties, auditors and the administrative secretariat.

Art. 4

General meeting

The general meeting is the supreme body of the SSPH. If necessary, the SSPH can also convene extraordinary general meetings following a Board decision or at the written request of 20% of the voting members. The location, the format and dates of the meetings are set by the Board. In the case of general meetings, the Board invites members to attend at least 21 days in advance (date of postmark or e-mail), and encloses the agenda. General Meetings shall ordinarily be held once per year in person. They may also be held in virtual or hybrid format. In exceptional circumstances, resolutions and elections may be conducted by circular resolution (in writing, by email, or via an electronic voting platform). All decisions and elections must be recorded in the minutes.

The general meeting is led by the president or his deputy. Only ordinary and honorary members are entitled to vote.

The following duties are covered in the general meeting: approval of the minutes of the last general meeting, release from office of the Board and treasurer, setting the annual membership fees, electing the Board, statute changes and dissolution of the SSPH.

Only final decisions on issues raised in the agenda can be taken during the general meeting. These decisions are based on the majority vote of members with voting rights. Exceptions to the rule are cases covered in, art. 4 (request for an extraordinary meeting), art. 9 (statute changes) and art. 11 (dissolution of the Society). In the event of a tie, a second vote is held after reconsideration. If no majority is reached on this occasion, the proposal is deemed to be rejected. During Board elections, voting can be by secret ballot. In other cases, a show of hands will be given. Voting can also take place by secret ballot if requested by at least three members with voting rights.

Art. 5

Board

The Board shall consist of at least five members, including the President, President-Elect, and Past President (Deputy President). Additional board members should also be active in a Working Group or Committee, preferably as leaders. Representatives from the Scientific Committee and the PH Nurses Working Group shall be represented on the Board. A Working group or Committee may also be represented by either the Past President or the President-Elect. At least two Board members must work in a university hospital with a dedicated PH team. Furthermore, subject to the availability of suitable candidates, the Board must ensure interdisciplinarity and representation of all linguistic regions, as well as including at least one member from a non-university hospital. Only ordinary or honorary members can be appointed to the Board. Leaders of Working Groups or other experts may be invited to attend Board meetings without voting rights.

The term of office of the president is 3 years, re-election is possible for another 3 years. A former president may remain a member of the Board in another capacity. The term of office of the other Board members is also 3 years. A person may be re-elected to the same office for one additional term. In exceptional circumstances, the General Assembly may approve further re-election.

The president has the casting vote. Committee members are elected during the general assembly, requiring an absolute majority during the first round and with the relative majority of voting members in attendance during the second round.



The president represents the SSPH externally. The President-Elect serves as Secretary, and the Past President as Treasurer.

In the event of the premature resignation of a Board member, the Board may appoint a suitable replacement member until the next General Assembly.

Compensation is provided for the work of the Board according to the expense policy.

Art. 6

Working groups and committees

Working groups and committees may be established to support the activities and objectives of the Association in specific thematic or operational areas. All ordinary and honorary SSPH members may join a working group. Efforts shall be made to ensure that each working group and committee includes at least one member from the various linguistic regions.

Each working group or committee shall elect a leader from among their members. Each group shall meet regularly and ensure the active participation of its members. Decisions relating to the activities of the working group or committee shall be made collectively within the group. The leader of the working group or committee shall present annually to the General Assembly a report on its activities and projects, as well as an updated list of its members. The General Assembly may dissolve a working group by majority vote if its purpose has been fulfilled or if it no longer contributes to the objectives of the Association.

Projects initiated by a working group or committee must be submitted to the Board together with a proposed budget and require formal approval prior to implementation. Subject to inclusion in the annual budget and regulation under the Society's expense policy, compensation for work and reimbursement of expenses may be granted.

The Scientific Committee shall contribute to the organization of continuing education events and congresses. In particular, a workshop shall be held at least every two years to discuss specific topics in depth and formulate recommendations. The Scientific Committee must ensure interdisciplinarity in its composition.

Art. 7

Auditors

The auditor checks the accounts on an annual basis and presents a written report during the general meeting.

The auditor is assigned the following tasks: to check the balance sheet, annual accounts, accounting, cash in hand and other assets, draft a report and make proposals regarding the release of funds to be given to the president following approval at the general meeting.

Art. 8

Administrative secretariat

The Board can delegate organisational tasks, reports, financing and accounting to the administrative secretariat. The head of the administrative secretariat attends SSPH meetings in an advisory capacity. The salary and duties of the administrative secretariat are governed by contract.

Art. 9

Statute changes

A 2/3 majority of voting members in attendance is required before statute changes can be initiated at a general meeting. This item must be clearly indicated in the agenda together with the proposed amended wording.



Art. 10

Dissolution of the group

A 3/4 majority of voting members in attendance is required in order for a decision to be taken at the general meeting to dissolve the group. This item must be included in the agenda sent to members together with proposals on how the society's funds should be distributed. The society's funds can only be allocated for public utility purposes.

Art. 11

Responsibility for Society debts

The Society's funds alone meet commitments. With the exception of membership fees decided during the general meeting, members are not personally responsible.

Art. 12

Signatory Authority

The Association shall be legally bound by the joint signature of either the President, or the President-Elect or Past President in the President's absence, together with one other member of the Board.

These bylaws have been changed following a decision taken at the general assembly on 5 March 2026 and replace bylaws dated 19 August 2025, 17 June 2021, 28 October 2020, 10 November 2017, 22 September 2016, 29 September 2012 and 21 January 2003. The English version has legal value.

Margret Riboch
President

Dr. med. Benoit Lechartier
President Elect

Dr. med. Andrea Azzola
Past President

For easier reading, the masculine pronoun is used in the Statute texts. This pronoun obviously applies to both men and women.