

Statutes of the European Federation of Ageing Research (EFAR)

Article 1 – Style

The European Federation for Ageing Research (EFAR) was founded in 2024 and is registered in Copenhagen, Denmark as a charitable non-profit organization.

Article 2 – Objectives

The EFAR is instituted for the purpose of advancing and exchanging knowledge on the mechanisms and causes of ageing, natural history and treatment/prevention of age-related diseases as well as promoting international collaboration in ageing research.

The Federation shall promote education and training in the fields of the basic biology of ageing and treatment and prevention of age-related diseases.

The Federation shall strive to enhance European awareness of the impact of ageing and age-related diseases in society in close collaboration with national and regional partners.

Article 3 – Membership

The Federation is based on individual membership and embraces scientists, physicians and students from, or residing in, Europe, the UK, countries associated to the EU's research and innovation framework programmes or the European Economic space who are engaged in activities that are in line with the objectives stipulated in Article 2.

Membership of the Federation shall be subdivided as follows:

- a. **National Society Members.** Where a national Ageing Society has an association with EFAR by written agreement, the members of that Society become National Society Members of EFAR. These members shall be entitled to all the benefits and privileges of the Federation, namely, to vote, to take part in the business of the Federation, and to participate in its social and its scientific activities. Their annual membership subscription to EFAR is paid by their national Society.
- b. **Ordinary Members** (Full Individual Members) shall be entitled the same benefits and privileges as National Society Members and shall pay annual membership subscription at Full Individual Member rate.
- c. **Corporate Members.** Corporate Partners companies may nominate a specified number of individual company representatives as Corporate Members by written agreement.
- d. **Corresponding members.** National Societies, individual persons and companies from non-member countries are considered Corresponding Members. Corresponding Members shall be entitled to the same benefits and privileges as Ordinary Members, with the exception that they may neither hold office nor become a member of the Executive Committee. Corresponding Members shall pay an annual membership subscription equal to a Full Individual Member rate.
- e. Application forms for memberships a, b, c and d, as mentioned above, shall be available on the EFAR website. Applicant Members will submit their application, giving their motivation for adherence, by registered mail or e-mail to the Executive Committee, marked for the attention of the Chairperson. The Executive Committee will examine the application and decide on

whether to accept it by a simple majority of votes. The applicant Member will be informed in writing of the decision by the Chairperson of the Executive Committee, which does not have to justify the decision.

- f. **Honorary Members.** Individual persons deemed to have made an exceptional contribution to the Federation's activities, are considered Honorary Members. They shall not pay annual membership subscription and shall receive a complimentary invitation to the annual General Assembly. Any Ordinary Member is entitled to propose, with the support of at least two other members, the name of a distinguished person judged suitable for Honorary Membership. Such proposals shall be made to the Executive Committee three months before the annual General Assembly. If the nomination(s) is(are) accepted by the Executive Committee, the election of the Honorary Member shall be decided at the General Assembly by a simple majority of votes of members present.
- g. **Membership fee.** The membership fee is 10 Euros per year. This amount can be changed at the General Assembly. The fee can also be paid directly by the joining society (10 Euros per member per year).

Article 4 – Organization

- a. The business of the Federation shall be conducted by an Executive Committee, whose members are elected from the voting Membership of the Federation. The Executive Committee shall comprise the four Officers of the Federation (Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and Webmaster), two Ordinary members and a Chairperson-Elect. Committee memberships should reflect national contributions to the Federation. The Executive Committee shall be empowered to co-opt additional Members to serve on the committee for specific purposes. Co-opted members have no voting rights.
- b. Four members shall form a quorum at a meeting of the Executive Committee.
- c. The members of the Executive Committee are elected from among the voting Membership of the Federation by simple majority and by secret ballot. A term of office begins and ends on the date of EFAR's annual conference. In other respects, their membership is equivalent to that of an ordinary Member.
- d. Membership of the Executive Committee is for a period of four years, ideally the periods served by the members should overlap to ascertain sustainability of the Committee. The Chairperson is elected one year before she/he takes office: during that year she/he serves as Chairperson-Elect and will be a supernumerary member of the Executive Committee if not already a member. The Chairperson may be re-elected for one additional term of four years. Other members of the Executive Committee can be re-elected for additional terms.
- e. Executive Committee members' duties
 - The responsibility of the Chairperson is to organize an annual conference and, if desirable, topic meetings and to ascertain funding for meetings and scientific programs.
 - The responsibility of the Secretary is to handle all communication to and from EFAR (in collaboration with the Webmaster)
 - The responsibility of the Treasurer (together with the Chairperson is to handle accumulated EFAR assets and to make sure that costs of EFAR activities are covered by the assets.
 - The responsibility of the Webmaster is to maintain the website of EFAR.
 - The Chairperson, the Secretary and the Treasurer together hold the signing rights on behalf of EFAR.
- f. Committee meetings

- The Chairperson and at least three other members must be present at a Committee meeting (in person or online) to constitute a quorum. A simple majority vote shall be decisive in the committee. In case of an equal number of votes the Chairperson will have a second and casting vote.
- g. The Executive Committee may appoint a Chief Operating Officer to manage the administrative office of the Federation according to the decisions and directives of the Executive Committee.
- h. An advisory board will be selected by the Executive Committee. An advisor is elected by the executive committee to join the advisory board for a period of 4 years.

Article 5 – The annual General Assembly

The annual General Assembly shall take place at the annual conference of EFAR (see Article 6)

- a. Agenda
 - Report of Chairperson
 - Report of Treasurer
 - Membership fee
 - Election of Committee members
 - Future Meetings – election of Organizing Committee
 - Any other business
- b. Voting procedure
 - A simple majority vote shall be decisive in all items put to a vote. In case of an equal number of votes the Chairman of EFAR will have a final and casting vote
- c. Announcements and deadlines. The date of the next annual General Assembly shall be available on the EFAR website at least 2 months in advance. Items for the agenda must be submitted to the Chairperson at least 1 month before the annual General Assembly. The final agenda for the annual General Assembly along with documents to be discussed, statement of accounts, and balance sheet will be distributed at least two weeks before the General Assembly to the members. Minutes from the General Assembly shall be distributed to all members of the Society within one month of the annual General Assembly

Article 6 – the annual conference

- a. The annual conference shall be chaired by the Chairperson of the Executive Committee, or in absence of the Chairperson, by the Chairperson-Elect. If both the Chairperson and Chairperson-Elect are absent, the Executive Committee in collaboration with the Organizing Committee shall arrange a chairperson from among the members present at the annual conference.
- b. The annual conference is arranged by an Organizing Committee in collaboration by the Executive Committee
 - i. Election of Organizing Committee
 - Members of the Organizing Committee for next year’s meeting will be elected on the Annual General Assembly
 - The Organizing Committee shall consist of members from all age groups with the broadest possible scientific expertise and with an equal gender balance
 - ii. Duties of Organizing Committee
 - Members of the Organizing Committee shall be responsible for practical issues associated with the meeting such as grading of abstracts, nominating and inviting speakers etc.

Article 7 – Finances

The liability of EFAR shall be limited to its own assets and members shall not be personally liable for debts incurred by EFAR. The Treasurer, the Secretary and the Chairperson can together officially sign contracts and legal or financial documents for EFAR.

The running costs of EFAR shall be covered by the annual membership fees and donations from public or corporate funds. The size of the membership fees shall be decided by the annual General Assembly.

The EFAR accounts and balance sheet shall be audited by two auditors elected at the annual General Assembly. When the auditor's report has been approved, the Treasurer shall be discharged from any further responsibility.

Article 8 – Dissolution

The EFAR can only be dissolved at the annual General Assembly if this has been put on the agenda in accordance with deadlines defined for the agenda. To dissolve the Federation, at least two-thirds of all members must vote for dissolution. If two-thirds of all members are not present at the annual General Assembly, a decision shall be taken by means of an electronic ballot. In these circumstances a simple majority vote in favor of dissolving the Federation will be decisive.

The final General Assembly will decide how to disperse the assets of EFAR according to the aim stated in Article 2

Article 9 – Alterations and amendments

Any proposal for alterations, additions or amendments to the above by-laws must be sent to the Chairperson or the Secretary of EFAR at least three months before the annual General Assembly. Proposed changes must be distributed to the Executive Committee members and discussed among the Executive Committee members before the next annual General Assembly

Article 10 – Conflicts

The EFAR operates under Danish law and conflicts should be handled, if not otherwise specified in signed contracts, by Danish law.

Cologne, 23 November 2024



Prof. Dr. Björn Schumacher
EFAR Chairman