

## **ISCFS Founding Active and Life Members**

**Dear All**

**At the request of Scott Bartlett I have remained on the Council and have been tasked with the 'portfolio' of elections and by-laws.**

**Please find below outlines for 5 proposed amendments to the Society By-laws as they stand from last revision 2007-2009.**

**I circulated some of the proposals (1 and 2) earlier (2011 and earlier this year) but have tried to simplify the documentation due to the number of proposals**

**These are being put forward after proposals and consultation between Council members and a wider general membership consultation group. They are also aimed at addressing Society and Council suggestions based on pressures identified (and discussed although not formally adopted) at a number of General meetings over the last few years.**

**Some were intended for voting in 2011 in Zambia but were held over for 2013 to allow for the wider attendance expected in Jackson Hole**

**These proposals pertain to membership criteria (**Proposals 1 and 2**), council structure (**Proposal 3**) and the identified need for the Society to preserve our history and documentation for the Future (**Proposal 4**)**

**Proposal 5** deals with the need to the Society to bear the financial costs of running the Secretariat. The secretary- treasurer (and indeed all officers of the society) do not get remunerated for their services or time, but the administrative burden of the Secretariat is significant and it is felt it is now appropriate that the society more formally recognizes and addresses this financial pressure.

**I would urge you to please read the attached 2 documents together/simultaneously. Bylaws 2007-2009 as the currently stand is the one, and the second is the Bylaws as they would stand if new proposals as highlighted in red font (for ease of identification) are accepted. These changes should be easily identified by comparison of the two documents and the Proposal number is also listed adjacent for ease of identifying how your vote for each proposal will affect the relevant**

sections.

### **Motivation for amendments proposed**

#### **Unifying Criteria for Major Surgical Disciplines (Proposal 1)**

**Proposal from wide consultation process by S Wall as part of Presidential and Council remit 2009- 2013, Presidential consultations 2007-2009 Supported by Council 2009-2011 ,2011-2013**

**As you are all aware the absolute number of active members of this society is relatively limited. Whilst it is good to have stringent admission criteria to ensure that only valid members fulfilling all criteria are admitted, it has to be recognized that the face of craniofacial surgery/care has changed since these by-laws were drawn up and subsequently revised.**

**It has long been recognized that by the nature of our discipline it should be practiced in the context of a multi/inter-disciplinary team structure and that stand-alone operators without an established team should be discouraged.**

**The Society developed on the strong foundations of the plastic surgery discipline of the founder members. Over the years, our by-laws have been adapted and modified to take into account the other important contributors to the inter-disciplinary team base of craniofacial care.**

**Specifically, we have established designated membership categories for research and orthodontics and have confirmed the eligibility of maxillofacial surgeons who fulfil the same criteria as plastic surgical members.**

**A glaring issue which it is felt needs urgent addressing, is the perception that our structure and by-laws are less than welcoming to our neurosurgical colleagues, without whom our work would be very difficult, if indeed not impossible.**

**A start was made on this with the ISCFs X111 meeting in Oxford 2009, having designated neurosurgical panels, with an attempt to encourage neurosurgical attendance and participation.**

**Following consultation within the Council and with current neurosurgical members, as well as with the addition of input from other neurosurgical contacts and long established teams, the consensus is that rather than develop yet another, possibly mutually exclusive, sub-set of rules for neurosurgical members, the current membership criteria should be adapted to be universally applicable to the three major surgical disciplines.**

**In addition, some wording changes were required, particularly in terms of the use of ‘craniofacial fellowship programme’ which does not necessary apply to neurosurgical training, where most craniofacial training is linked to an established paediatric neurosurgical training and experience base.**

**These changes in wording and minor “definition” changes should not be viewed as potentially ‘opening the flood gates’ as the criteria for rigorous vetting of training, experience and all other criteria superimposed on the existing (and unchanging) need for formal nomination and support from an active member/members in terms of proposing and seconding membership, remain firmly in place.**

**Proposal for amending the requirement of Transcranial procedures (Proposal 2)**

**This is a proposal put forward by Kaneshige Satoh our President Elect/Vice President from Japan,**

**This proposal followed extensive discussion and consultation between himself and a number of our senior membership at various times over 2009-2011 and ongoing to date. The proposal is formally seconded by Scott Bartlett seconded and Anil Madaree**

**The request is that consideration be given for decreasing the number of transcranial procedures as an absolute requirement to 18 in two years (from the current standing 24). The motivation for that is based on the relatively/ disproportionately low number of members from Asia. A restriction to membership is viewed to be the fact that craniosynostosis (the bread-and-butter surgery of our discipline) is comparatively rare in the Asian population and that as a result the very active chapter of Asian surgeons are felt to be at a relative disadvantage due to the current Transcranial stipulation.**

I am in possession of a very well thought-out letter from Kaneshige Satoh requesting this potential change, (submitted as part of his motivation for and indications as to why he was happy to stand for election as Vice President/President Elect as elected in Zambia 2011.) I have not included this within this document, to try and maintain relative brevity but I am happy to make it available (with his consent) to any members who would like to read it in advance of the meeting in Jackson Hole.

**Fifth Council Member- Research/Orthodontic (Proposal 3)**

Arising from discussion at Council meetings, instigated through the outcomes of the Strategic Review of 2008 where it was felt that the Society needed to be more proactive in promotion of non-surgical interdisciplinary care, it is proposed that a fifth Council seat be created that is for candidates from our Research and Orthodontic active members. In addition it is felt that greater recognition of the importance of, and involvement of, both of these membership categories is likely to widen the sphere of influence of the Society internationally and result in the recruitment of further valued members

It has been felt to be necessary to create this as an “identified non-surgical seat” on the basis of the vastly outnumbering of membership making it unlikely that a nomination for one of the general seats would be successful.

**Society Archivist/ Historian (Proposal 4)**

**Proposer: Scott Bartlett Seconders: Chavanne/ Alhonso/Wall**

It has long been recognized that the Society members as individuals have a wealth of historic material, both related to the evolution of the society and craniofacial techniques as well as to the Biennial meetings and the social interactions of members. It is felt that as a Society it behooves us to preserve as much of this Archival material as possible and steps have already been started in this current cycle for this to be addressed by current council members. It is however recognized that a formal position supported by the society out with the current Council seats would be beneficial as recruitment of an interested party for this designated task, rather than the President allocating the role to a council member who may not be as

skilled, would result in a superior quality outcome.

It is envisaged that this post will be recruited by the President and Council by a call for volunteers from identified interested members rather than a formal call for general nominations and an AGM vote. Provisionally a 2 year term is suggested with an option of extension if deemed in the best interests of the Society

It is also felt that this post could be held concurrently with other society office so as not to exclude anyone from any other contributions to the Society

### **Formal Financial support for Secretariat Proposal 5**

Proposer S Bartlett Seconders S Wall E Arnaud

The secretary- treasurer (and indeed all officers of the society) do not get remunerated for their services or time, but the administrative burden of the Secretariat is significant and it is felt it is now appropriate that the society more formally recognizes and addresses this financial pressure by bearing the financial costs incurred for running the secretariat through an audited stipend to the Secretary-Treasurer directly, or the fees of an appropriately recruited management company appointed following formal ratification of proposals and costs by council.

In addition to being sensible and fair, it will also ensure that potentially excellent candidates will not be potentially reluctant to apply on the basis of bearing a financial burden.

I would urge you to consider these options as proposed Please discuss them with your colleagues prior to the meeting in Jackson Hole , if you intend to be there or if you are not, please consider formally designating a proxy vote by informing the Secretary

**I would ask that all give these proposals due consideration prior to making a decision and to consider the long term implications to our Society if we choose to remain secular and non-inclusive of valued contributors in our field**

**Regards,**

**Steve Wall**

**Presidential Supernumerary appoint for Portfolio for By-laws and Elections**