



CONSTITUTION

(As revised, April 2024)

- I. **NAME** The name of this organization shall be: The International Society for Research on Aggression (ISRA).
- II. **PURPOSE** The purposes of this Society shall be exclusively scientific and educational; specifically, to promote and encourage the discovery and exchange of scientific information concerning the destructive and constructive aspects of aggression.
- III. **MEMBERSHIP** There shall be four-classes of members:
- 1) Fellows who shall be scientists from any nation working in any of the biological, psychological or social sciences on problems of aggression.
 - 2) Associates who shall be scientific or professional persons who wish to support the goals of the Society but who are not themselves actively engaged in research on aggression.
 - 3) Life fellows shall be Fellows or non-members nominated by the Nominations Committee and confirmed by the Council, who shall in the opinion of the Committee have made distinguished lifetime contributions to research on aggression. They shall not be officers of the Society at the time of election, and no more than three Life Fellows may be designated in any one biennium. The title shall not be contingent upon payment of dues.
 - 4) Student Members who shall be undergraduate or graduate students from any nation who are interested in work in any of the biological, psychological or social sciences on problems of aggression.

All applicants for membership must obtain an endorsement by a Fellow of the Society. Applicants without an endorsement will be reviewed for endorsement by the Executive Secretary, President, and

one Council Member. Fellows, Associates, and Life Fellows shall have voting rights. Only Fellows or Life Fellows may be elected officers of the Society.

IV. OFFICERS

The officers of the organization shall be as follows:

- A. The President shall serve for a period of two years, shall preside over all meetings of the membership and of the Council, and be a voting member of the latter body; shall be an ex-officio member of all committees, and shall perform such other functions as are described in the Constitution and Bylaws.
- B. At the end of his term of office, the President shall become the Past-President and as such shall continue to serve as a member of the Council for two years.
- C. The President-Elect shall serve for a period of two years and then succeed the President in that office; shall carry on the functions of the President in the absence or incapacity of the President, and shall be a voting member of the Council.
- D. The Executive Secretary shall serve for four years, and shall be the chief executive officer of the Society in carrying out decisions of the Membership and Council. The Executive Secretary may establish subsidiary regional secretariats, headed by assistant secretaries, if needed to carry on the functions of the Society.
- E. The Treasurer shall serve for four years, shall collect dues and disburse funds to meet the obligations of the Society, shall prepare an annual written report on the Society's finances for the Council, present a similar biennial report to the Membership at its biennial meeting, and be a voting member of the Council. The term of the Treasurer shall commence on a biennium alternating with the commencement of the term of the Executive Secretary.
- F. The Archivist shall serve for four years and shall record, and make available to the membership, minutes of Council Meetings and Business meetings through appropriate ISRA vehicles. The Archivist shall preserve documents, records and other papers of historical interest received from the files of officers and other members of the Society. With the approval of the Council, the Archivist may arrange for deposit of materials at a suitable institution to assure security and continuity. Papers so deposited may be transferred, by vote of Council, to a different location, particularly to a permanent Society headquarters if one is established in the future. The Archivist serves on Council.

- G. The Council shall consist of the six above officers and not fewer than 10 nor more than 20 other councilors. Councilors shall be chosen to represent different scientific disciplines and regions of the world. The Council shall be the principal decision-making body of the Society, and shall conduct its business either at regular meetings of the Society, by mail, or electronically. The Council shall submit a report of its activities for approval of the Members every other year. Councilors shall serve for four years but may be re-elected. Councilors' terms will be staggered; so five to 10 will be elected every two years. Subject to the above restrictions, additional Councilors may be elected by majority vote of the Council to serve until the next regular election. If not serving on the Council as an officer or elected member, the Editor-in-Chief of *Aggressive Behavior*, the two editors of the *ISRA Bulletin*, and the ISRA member serving as the Web Master shall serve as ex-officio members of the Council.
- H. Additional subsidiary officers may be established as needed by the Council to carry on special functions of the Society.
- I. Vacancies. If the office of the President becomes vacant prior to the expiration of the term of the incumbent, it shall be filled by the President-Elect, who shall serve for the unexpired term plus the term for which they were elected. If any other elective office becomes vacant, the President, with the approval of the majority of the Council, shall appoint a replacement who shall serve for the remainder of the unexpired term until a successor is elected at the next regular election.

V. **COMMITTEES** Standing or ad hoc committees may be appointed from the membership by the President with the advice of the Council.

VI. **ELECTIONS** For a regular election, a Nominations Committee, headed by the President-Elect, shall submit to the membership a slate of nominees for each office then falling vacant. When possible, there should be at least two nominees for each office. When only one nominee is available, and the Nominations Committee judges that nominee to be viable, a vote should be taken on that one nominee. The nominations committee will be directed to take into consideration characteristics such as gender, nationality, and discipline to contribute to the diversity and representation of all ISRA members. Any group of five members may submit an additional nominee for any office, if the nomination is received before the date set for distributing the ballot. In the Spring of an election year, an open call for nominations will be solicited to all members. They will be instructed of the rules for nominations and asked to submit those nominations to the chair of the nominations committee. Voting shall be by mail or electronically, and the nominee receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared elected. Elections shall be completed by June 15 of the election year.

VII. **MEETINGS** Regular meetings of the membership may be held independently or

in connection with the meetings of international organizations of disciplines concerned with scientific research. Such meetings may be held as often as feasible, but in no case less than once every two years. In addition, members may set up special or regional scientific meetings in the name of the Society, provided that they inform the Executive Secretary of this activity.

**VIII. OTHER
ACTIVITIES**

The Officers and Council may conduct activities consistent with the purposes of the Society not specifically mentioned in the Constitution and Bylaws.

IX. AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the Constitution shall be submitted to a vote of the membership by mail ballot, or secure confidential electronic balloting, and shall be adopted if favored by two-thirds of those voting, provided that at least one-third of the total membership vote. Amendments may be proposed either by the Council or by any group of five members.

BYLAWS
(As revised, May 2023)

- I. **DUES** The amount and mode of payment of dues shall be set by the Council and submitted to the Members for their approval at any biennial meeting.
- II. **QUORUM** A quorum for the purpose of doing business by the Council shall consist of one-third of the total Council membership, of which number at least two shall be officers, or for business conducted by mail or electronically, replies from at least 50% of the total Council. A quorum for business meetings for the membership shall consist of 25% of the Members; or for business conducted by mail or electronically, replies from at least one-third of the total membership.
- III. **HEADQUARTERS** The headquarters of the Society shall be established in the office of the Executive Secretary.
- IV. **POLICY STATEMENTS** Statements on public policy concerning problems of aggression shall be handled by the Society in the following manner: The President, with the advice and approval of the Council, shall appoint a special Commission to review the specific problem. After suitable study, the Commission may issue a public statement. The Commission shall bear sole responsibility for any statement issued.
- V. **ADMISSION TO MEMBERSHIP** Charter Members shall be all those persons who have accepted invitations to membership before June 30, 1973. After that date an open invitation to apply for membership will be issued to interested scientists and professional individuals. Applications shall be made by means of forms supplied by the Executive Secretary on which the applicant shall give information regarding his professional qualifications and evidence of research interests, usually in the form of publications.
- VI. **CESSATION OF MEMBERSHIP** Persons who have not renewed their membership to the Society for a period of one year shall be given notification of such arrears and will be automatically dropped from the rolls of the Society if membership is not renewed within six months.
- VII. **OPERATIONAL YEAR** New officers of the Society and new members of Council shall take office at the conclusion of the business meeting of the Society at the Biennial World meeting in the year of the elections.

VIII. AMENDMENTS Amendments to the Bylaws may be made by a favorable vote of two-thirds of the total Council Membership, either at an actual meeting of Council, by mail ballot, or electronically. Bylaws may alternatively be amended by the procedure described in Article IX of the Constitution.

IX. DISTRIBUTION OF COPIES OF CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS AND OF MEMBERSHIP LIST

A copy of the Constitution and Bylaws shall be sent by the Executive Secretary to all present Officers and Members of Council and to all newly elected officers and Council members immediately after their election. A copy of the membership list shall be sent to all Members at the end of each non-election year, in anticipation of the nomination and election process, and to acquaint Members with the membership in its entirety.

X. ELECTION PROCEDURES

In order to be counted, a paper ballot must be returned to the Executive Secretary in an envelope bearing the member's name; electronic ballots must be conducted in a manner that assures confidentiality and verification of membership. When there are more than two candidates for an office (excluding Council member), voters will rank order the candidates and the "Hare" system will be used to determine the winner.

Five to ten Council members will be elected every two years. For council, 2 nominees for each available seat on Council will be listed in random order on the ballot. Members may vote for up to 5 candidates. The 5 candidates with the most votes will be elected automatically. The current Council may declare up to 5 additional candidates as elected in order to ensure adequate representation of different scientific disciplines and regions of the world.

XI. MINUTES

Minutes of the biennial business meeting and formal Council meetings shall be recorded by the Archivist. After approval by the officers, the minutes of the biennial business meeting shall be made available to the membership via either the ISRA Bulletin or the ISRA website. Formal decisions made by the Council through mail ballots, or electronic communication, shall be recorded by the Executive Secretary and conveyed to the Archivist to be retained and distributed to the membership. Minutes of Council meetings shall be distributed electronically to members of Council as soon as practical.

XII. ISRA AWARDS

A. The John Paul Scott Lifetime Achievement Award, for a lifetime or substantial contribution to aggression research, shall be awarded at each Biennial World Meeting. The recipient will receive a certificate and reimbursement for travel costs to attend the ISRA Biennial World Meeting, where they will deliver an address. The recipient will also have the opportunity to publish a manuscript based on their address in *Aggressive Behavior*, subject to the discretion of the Editor. The award recipient will be determined by a Committee appointed by the President and chaired by the Past-President. The committee should be appointed in the year prior to the scheduled Biennial World Meeting to assure the committee has time to review nominees and to notify the recipient with sufficient time to make travel arrangements to attend the meeting.

B. Nominations (including self-nominations) will be taken every two years for the L. Rowell Huesmann Early Career Award (within 10 years of completing a terminal degree, e.g., Ph.D., M.D., J.D.) and shall be awarded at each Biennial World Meeting. The recipient will receive a certificate and reimbursement for travel costs to attend the ISRA Biennial World Meeting, where they will deliver an address. The recipient will also have the opportunity to publish a manuscript based on their address in *Aggressive Behavior*, subject to the discretion of the Editor. The nominations will be taken in the year prior to the scheduled Biennial World Meeting to assure the winner has sufficient time to make travel arrangements to attend the meeting. The winner will be selected from the list of nominees by the ISRA Officers and Council Members.

C. At each Biennial World meeting 2 to 8 Kirsti M. J. Lagerspetz ISRA Conference Presentation Awards will be made to new investigators delivering either poster or podium presentations. To be eligible, a presenter must be either a student in a terminal degree program or a person who is within 2 years of having completed a terminal degree (e.g. Ph.D., M.D., J.D.). Recipient of the award must be the first author of the paper or poster presentation. Organizers of Biennial World Meetings will provide a mechanism where persons submitting papers to the ISRA meeting would be able to identify themselves as a new investigator and eligible for the award. The award committee, comprised of established ISRA Fellows, will be appointed by the President and will be charged with the responsibility of evaluating the merit of eligible presentations during the course of the meeting, with awards made at the end of the meeting. Recipients of the award will receive a certificate documenting the award and a cash honorarium. The value of the honorarium, and the number of recipients will be determined by a committee comprised of the ISRA Officers, the Biennial Meeting Organizer, and the Chair of the Lagerspetz ISRA Conference Presentation Award Committee,

taking into account the projected number of new investigators attending the meeting and the financial position of the Society at the time of the meeting.