



LASSA

**LIPID AND ATHEROSCLEROSIS SOCIETY
OF SOUTHERN AFRICA**

A SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP OF SA HEART[®]

LIPID AND ATHEROSCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

A Working Group of the SA Heart Association

This society is formally committed to the maintenance of ethical and professional standards in all its affairs and activities. It is opposed to any discrimination on the grounds of race, religion or sex, believing such discrimination to be incompatible with the ethical practice of medicine and research. The society is committed to the promotion of science in a nondiscriminatory, just and peaceful society.

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I CONSTITUTION

- 1.1 The Society shall be called the Lipid and Atherosclerosis Society of Southern Africa – a working group of the SA Heart Association (LASSA).
- 1.2 The aims of the Society shall be to advance knowledge of lipid metabolism and atherosclerosis and to facilitate contact between those interested in these areas of study and related subjects, without any discrimination on the grounds of race, religion or sex and to maintain the highest ethical and professional standards in all its affairs and activities.
- 1.3 The Society shall consist of ordinary, associate, and honorary members.
- 1.4 Any cardiologist, specialist physician and cardiovascular surgeon who subscribes to the aims of the Society shall be eligible for election as an ordinary member.
- 1.5 Nurses, technologists and other health professionals, including medical practitioners, shall be eligible for election as associate members.
- 1.6 Any person of distinction who has contributed to the advancement of knowledge of lipid metabolism and atherosclerosis or any other allied science shall be eligible for election as an honorary member.
- 1.7 The constitution of the Society can be altered by a two-thirds majority of a postal ballot of the membership of the Society, after full discussion at a meeting.

II REGULATIONS

2.1 Office bearers and Committee

- 2.1.1 The business of the Society shall be conducted by a committee consisting of the Chairman, Secretary/Treasurer and, as far as possible, each of the major disciplines and geographic areas should be represented. Ideally not more than 5 (five) members, in addition to the Chairman and Secretary/Treasurer, shall be elected by ballot after nomination at each General Meeting.
- 2.1.2 The Committee member shall hold office for a minimum period of two years.
- 2.1.3 The Secretary/Treasurer shall keep minutes of the proceedings of the Society's meetings and of the meetings of the Committee, and at the meeting the Chairman shall report on work done by the Society during the previous period.
- 2.1.4 Three members shall form a quorum at a meeting of the Committee.
- 2.1.5 Ideally the Committee shall meet just before or at the time of the Society meeting. The Secretary/Treasurer shall notify the Committee of a forthcoming meeting more than a month beforehand and send them a note of the agenda two weeks beforehand.
- 2.1.6 Where possible, two members of the Committee, senior in order of election, shall retire from office at each meeting and shall not be eligible for re-election until one period has elapsed since their demission from office.
- 2.1.7 The Society shall from the list of ordinary members elect, by ballot after nomination, two members to fill the vacant Committee places. The case of any incidental vacancy occurring in the Committee shall be filled by co-option by the Committee. This member shall hold office for the remainder of the period of office of the member whose place he takes and shall be eligible for re-election.

2.2 Membership

- 2.2.1 Any member may submit to the Committee (through the Secretary/Treasurer) the name of any person who is desirous of election to the Society.
- 2.2.2 The candidate may then be elected by the Committee to membership of the Society.
- 2.2.3 Persons distinguished for eminent services in the fields of lipid metabolism or atherosclerosis or other allied sciences may be made honorary members by the approval of the committee.

- 2.2.4 Honorary members shall enjoy all privileges of the Society but shall not have the right to vote, and will not be obliged to pay subscriptions.

2.3 Subscriptions

- 2.3.1 Each ordinary member shall pay a regular subscription fee which should be decided upon by the LASSA committee and confirmed at the Regular General Meeting.
- 2.3.2 The subscription becomes due on joining the Society or will be included in the registration fee of the Regular General Meeting. Those members who do not attend the Regular General Meeting may pay the subscription fee directly to the society.
- 2.3.3 Members whose subscriptions are in arrears may, at the discretion of the Committee, be dropped from the Society.

2.4 Meetings

- 2.4.1 The interval between two successive meetings shall not be longer than 2 years.
- 2.4.2 The meeting of the society shall be held in such places in Southern Africa as may from time to time be determined. The work of a meeting shall consist of the making of communications and the discussion of these and of the giving of demonstrations. The Committee will nominate a Chairman for every meeting.
- 2.4.3 The Secretary/Treasurer shall give six months notice of the place and date of the meeting and at the same time shall invite contributions which, with the exception of invited papers, shall be original contributions. Contributors shall submit an informative abstract of not more than 250 words. At least two clear weeks before the meeting, the Secretary/Treasurer shall issue the agenda paper.
- 2.4.4 Members may introduce visitors to the meeting of the Society and may also arrange with the Secretary/Treasurer for communications and demonstrations to be given by visitors.
- 2.4.5 Any member may bring before a meeting any matter of business which he or she considers requires the attention of the Society. Notice of such business together with a seconder shall be made to the Secretary/Treasurer at least eight weeks before the meeting at which the business is to be discussed. Notice of such business shall be given on the agenda paper.

2.5 Alteration of Regulations

- 2.5.1 Regulation(s) of the Society can be altered by a two-thirds majority at any meeting. Intimation of intention to alter any regulation(s) shall be given on the agenda paper.

2.6 Banking

- 2.6.1 The Secretary/Treasurer and the Chairman shall be responsible for the banking and signing of cheques. In their absence a member of the Committee shall be permitted to exercise these functions.
- 2.6.2 At each meeting of the Society, a balance sheet shall be presented.
- 2.6.3 The Committee is empowered to invest in trust securities such capital of the Society as they consider advisable.

2.7 Dissolution of the Society

- 2.7.1 The Society shall dissolve if the number of full members falls below ten.
- 2.7.2 The Society may be dissolved by a two thirds majority vote at a properly constituted general meeting, in which case the meeting may, by a simple majority (50% + 1) vote, elect to amalgamate with any other Society with similar aims.
- 2.7.3 The assets of the Society shall upon dissolution, be transferred to the South African Heart Association. Should the SA Heart Association no longer exist, the assets shall be transferred to a non-profit-making organization determined by the executive committee.