

**Articles of Association of
the Israeli Society for Vision & Eye Research (ISVER)
Updated 13th February 2017**

Name and structure

The name of the Association is the Israeli Society for Vision & Eye Research (ISVER). The Association is a nonprofit organization, registered as an association under the Associations Law, and is recognized as a public institution for tax purposes.

Objectives of the Association

1. To promote the understanding of the eye and the visual system, through research in the various fields of study and through scientific efforts in various disciplines, in both clinical and basic research.
2. To encourage education in vision and eye studies in Israel.
3. To act as an entity representing the needs of those engaged in the study of the eye and vision, including maintaining links to government agencies, institutions of research and higher education and financing entities in Israel.
4. To represent eye and vision research in the wider public.
5. To maintain contact with similar associations in other countries worldwide.
6. To hold an annual conference at which current studies in vision and eye research will be presented.

Membership

There are three categories of members in the Association:

1. Regular member
2. Associate member
3. Honorary member

Regular member: Scientists and/or physicians (including trainees and interns) who are interested in the study of the eye and vision and have paid the annual membership fee. Regular members have a voting right in the General Meeting.

Associate member: People who are interested in supporting and promoting the Association's objects but are not vision and eye researchers or physicians and who have paid the annual membership fee. Associate members may participate in the Association's scientific conferences and have a voting right in the General Meeting.

Honorary member: Any individual who has contributed or contributes in an outstanding way to eye and vision research throughout the field can be proposed as an honorary member of the Association. An honorary member shall be proposed by five ordinary members of the Association explaining, in writing, the reasons for their proposal. The Committee of the Association shall approve or reject the candidate by a simple majority. No more than one honorary member may be chosen each year. The honorary member shall have all of the rights of an ordinary member. An honorary member shall not be required to pay the annual membership fee. The honorary member may be invited to lecture at the annual meeting of the year in which he/she is elected.

Termination of membership:

The General Meeting may decide to expel a member from the Association as an exceptional measure. Termination of membership shall be proposed at the meeting by the Committee if a member does not comply with the provisions of the regulations or acted against the objects of the Association having been given an opportunity to state his/her case. A member whose membership was terminated is entitled to apply for membership in the usual manner according to standard procedure.

Membership fees:

Membership fees shall be determined by the Committee and shall be published prior to registration for the Association's conference. Membership fees shall form the basis for the annual budget for the Association's activity and the annual conference. Membership fees include entitlement to participation in the annual conference.

The Association's budget

Beyond the membership fees, the Association may contact representatives of commercial corporations, research and higher education institutions, government agencies, industry, various foundations and individuals for support of the Association's operations. The Committee of the Association shall submit to the General Meeting at the annual conference a budget report on the activities of the previous year and the budget proposal for the approval of the current year activity. The Association's fiscal year will be from January 1 to December 31 each year.

Institutions of the Association

Committee of the Association:

Each regular member at the level of senior lecturer or higher (standard or clinical track) may submit his candidacy as a member of the Committee. Any regular member whose candidacy is proposed by another member shall give his consent in writing. Candidacy for membership of the Committee should be sent to the Committee of the Association in writing at least one month before the General

Meeting. The General Meeting shall elect the members of the Committee of the Association.

The Committee shall consist of nine members. A Committee member shall be elected for a term of office of six years and may retire after three years. The Committee shall represent both the clinical sector and the research sector and shall include at least two researchers who hold a Ph.D., whose time is dedicated to research. Furthermore, the Committee shall include a young Committee member (below the age of 40) who shall serve for a period of only three years and shall be elected by the General Meeting. A Committee member who has terminated his/her term may submit candidacy to the Committee two years following the termination date.

Other functions on the Committee:

The Chairman elected by the General Meeting, and office-holders, such as Treasurer, Scientific Committee, Officer-in-charge of external relations, etc.

The Chairman of the Committee and members of the Committee may be assisted for the purpose of their function by a paid-part-time secretary as shall be decided by the Committee.

Chairman of the Association:

A member of the Committee who is mainly engaged in research and a member of the Committee who is mainly engaged in clinical practice shall serve alternately as the Chairman of the Committee. The General Meeting shall elect the Chairman of the Association from the current members of the Committee or from former members of the Board who served during the last ten years. A Committee member or former Committee member who wishes to be Chairman should notify the Association in a letter to the incumbent Chairman. The election will be by secret ballot in the General Meeting. The Chairman shall be elected for one term of three years.

Honorary President of the Association:

The Committee shall elect as Honorary President of the Association a person who has contributed prominently and beyond the ordinary activities and functioning of the Association. The Honorary President shall be an ex officio member of the Association. His/her term of office shall be three years and he/she will not have to pay membership fees.

Secretariat of the Association:

The location of the Secretariat will be decided by members of the Committee by a majority decision.

Signatory rights:

The Chairman and the Treasurer must sign any expense on behalf of the Association. In the absence of the Chairman or the Treasurer, one of the members who was appointed as substitute may sign.

General Meeting:

The General Meeting (which includes all of the members of the Association) shall be convened once a year in a place and at a date and time, as determined by the Committee of the Association. Notice of convening the meeting shall be given to members at least one month in advance. The General Meeting shall usually be convened at the time of the annual scientific meeting. Discussion at the General Meeting shall be led by the Chairman of the Association, resolutions (except for the election of members of the Committee and Chairman) shall be passed by an open vote and a simple majority. At the request of ten members (in writing) and two weeks in advance, a secret ballot may be held on any topic. Changes in the articles of association require a 2/3 majority. The agenda of the General Meeting will be determined by the Association and sent to all of the members with the invitation. At the written request of ten members in advance (two weeks), any subject not appearing on the agenda may be raised for discussion. The General Meeting shall issue reports on the activities of the Committee, shall discuss plans for action in the current year and shall approve the annual budget of the Association.

Quorum:

A quorum will be considered as 30% of the ordinary members of the Association. In the case that there is no quorum the meeting will be adjourned for an hour session and will reconvene thereafter. A quorum shall be then recognized as 10% of the number of members of the Association. If there is still no quorum, no decisions will be made. In this case, there will be a postal vote by sending letters to members. The votes will be counted 60 days after sending the letters.

Scientific Conference and Publications

The Association shall hold an annual academic conference where eye and vision scientific research shall be presented. Scientists and doctors who are members of the Association can participate in the conference by giving a lecture or presenting a poster. The presentations shall be determined according to their scientific value by a scientific committee which shall include at least three members of the Committee. The final program shall be approved by an ordinary majority of the Committee. Summaries of the presentations will appear in the booklet accompanying the Annual Conference.

Membership of ARVO

The Association is part of ARVO's International Chapter Affiliate Committee (ICAC). As part of the Committee's activity, the Association shall collaborate with ICAC members from other countries. The Association shall strive to promote international collaborations within this framework and the Chairman of the Association shall participate in meetings of the ICAC held during the ARVO conference.

Prizes for Outstanding Lectures

The Association undertakes to act in awarding prizes for outstanding lectures by young researchers. The aim of the monetary awards is to fund travel to the annual ARVO Conference, at which the results of the research will be presented. These prizes are funded by donations from private entities and organizations interested in promoting young researchers.

Liquidation of the Association:

The Committee may present to the General Assembly a proposal to liquidate the Association. The Committee shall present such proposal to the members no later than two months prior to the General Meeting. The decision on the liquidation of the Association shall be determined by secret ballot and by a two-thirds majority of the participants at the General Meeting. In the event of the liquidation of the Association, the assets shall be transferred to a similar body or one which shares the Association's goals, as decided on by the Committee.