Statutes of the HRSE

§ 1 Name and registered office of the association, financial year

(1) The name of the association is "Histamine Research Society Europe (HRSE)." It shall be entered in the register of associations and thereafter bear the addition "e.V." (registered association).
(2) The association is active worldwide and is based in Hannover/Lower Saxony/Germany.
(3) The financial year is the calendar year.

§ 2 Purpose, non-profit status of the association

(1) The association exclusively and directly pursues charitable purposes in accordance with the section "Tax-privileged Purposes" of the German Tax Code.
(2) The purpose of the association is to promote science and research in the field of histamines and related biomedical areas. It aims to advance this interdisciplinary field of science in basic and clinical research at an international level.
The statutory purpose is realized by
a) organizing interdisciplinary conferences, congresses, seminars, colloquia, lectures, and training courses, etc., including their follow-up, i.e., documentation and publication of the discussed content.
b) promoting collaboration between researchers – also from other working groups, study groups, or societies – at national and international levels by supporting (organizationally, financially) the organization of project-related meetings.
c) supporting publications in the field of histamine and related areas, e.g., by fully or partially covering publication costs.
d) promoting especially young emerging scientists by providing travel grants to enable participation in scientific conferences.
(3) The association operates selflessly; it does not primarily pursue its own economic purposes.
(4) The association's funds may only be utilized for statutory purposes. Members receive no benefits from the association's funds. The Board members work on a voluntary basis.
(5) No person may be favored by expenditures that are alien to the purpose of the association or by disproportionately high remuneration.

§ 3 Acquisition of Membership

(1) Any natural or legal person may become a member of the association, regardless of residence or nationality, provided they are interested in the goals of the association.
(2) The association has three types of members:
a) Ordinary members
b) Cooperative or affiliated members
c) Honorary members
Ordinary members have an active voting right in the General Assembly with one vote each and can hold an office in the Board of the society.
Cooperative or affiliated members (associations, scientific institutes, or organizations with similar objectives) have an active voting right with one vote each, which they can exercise through a designated representative.
Honorary members are appointed for life by the General Assembly due to their outstanding contributions to the association. Members may propose honorary membership for any other ordinary member to the President. Nominations are approved by the Board and presented

to the General Assembly. A consent of at least 66% is required at the General assembly for the appointment. Honorary members enjoy all rights of ordinary members but are exempt from paying the annual membership fee.
(3) The application for membership in the association must be submitted via the online form. The Board decides on the membership application. A rejection of the application does not need to be justified to the applicant.

§ 4 Termination of membership
(1) Membership in the association ends by death (in the case of legal persons, by dissolution of the society), resignation, or expulsion, each at the end of the respective financial year.
(2) The resignation must be submitted in writing (handwritten or electronically) to the office.
(3) A member can be expelled from the society by a resolution of the Board if they
a) seriously damage the reputation or interests of the association through culpable actions (to be decided by the Board) or
b) are in arrears with the payment of membership dues for two consecutive financial years and fail to pay the arrears within two weeks despite a written reminder.
The member to be expelled must be given the opportunity to explain their reasons for the expulsion at the General Assembly. These must be communicated to them at least two weeks in advance. During the period between the receipt of the reasons and the General Assembly, the rights of the member are suspended. If the statements made by the member to be expelled regarding the expulsion reasons are deemed unfounded, the expulsion becomes effective immediately.

§ 5 Rights and Obligations of Members
(1) Each member is entitled to participate in the association's events and to exercise their voting right in the General Assembly.
(2) Each member is obliged to promote the interests of the association, particularly to pay their membership dues regularly and, as far as possible, to support the life of the association through active collaboration.

§ 6 Membership Fees
(1) Each member pays an annual membership fee.
(2) The amount of the membership fees is determined by the General Assembly.
(3) Honorary members are exempt from membership fees.

§ 7 Bodies of the Society
The bodies of the society are the Board and the General Assembly.

§ 8 Board
(1) The Board consists of the President, the Vice-President, the Treasurer, and the Secretary.
(2) President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary can represent the association individually.

§ 9 Tasks of the Board
(1) The Board is responsible for representing the association according to § 26 BGB and managing its business. The Board has the following specific tasks:
a) preparing, convening, and conducting the General Assembly, including setting the agenda,
b) executing resolutions of the General Assembly,

c) managing the association's assets and preparing the annual report,
d) admitting new members.
(2) The President represents the association internally and externally. They invite Board meetings and General Assemblies, prepare agendas, and lead the meetings and assembly sessions. They write reports on the meetings and sessions with the help of the Secretary. The Vice-President supports the President in all necessary matters. The Treasurer is responsible for the ongoing management of the association, particularly maintaining the membership register and managing the association's assets, including bookkeeping of income and expenses. Payment orders of any kind will be initiated by the Treasurer themselves.

§ 10 Appointment of the Board
(1) Only members of the association can become Board members; the termination of membership in the association also terminates the membership in the Board. The members of the Board are elected individually by the General Assembly for a term of four years. All association members can propose candidates for Board positions to the current Board (including self-nominations). The current Board nominates candidates for election at the upcoming General Assembly. If multiple candidates are available for a position, a secret ballot can be requested. The term begins on January 1 following the General Assembly. The President or Vice-President remains in office after the end of their regular term until a successor successfully assumes office. If the President resigns prematurely from the board, the Vice-President takes over their duties. If the Vice-President, Treasurer, or Secretary resigns prematurely, the remaining Board members are entitled to assume their duties or recruit a member of the association until an ordinary election of the successor in the Board.
(2) The President can only be re-elected once for a consecutive term directly following the current term. After two consecutive four-year terms, a President can only be re-elected after a break of at least four years.
(3) Unlimited re-election of the Vice-President is permitted.
(4) Unlimited re-election of the Treasurer is permitted.
(5) Unlimited re-election of the Secretary is permitted.

§ 11 Consultation and adoption of resolutions by the Board
(1) The Board meets on timely invitation (including agenda) by the President or, in their absence, by the Vice-President, when the interests of the association require, but at least once a calendar year. Board meetings can also be held virtually as online meetings. During the meetings, Board members may be represented by other board members by presenting a written power of attorney. Other participants may also be invited to the Board meetings if it is expedient. The Board is quorate if at least 50% of the respective members are present, online, or represented. The majority of valid votes cast is decisive for the adoption of resolutions. In the event of a tie, the President, or the Vice-President in their absence, has the casting vote.
(2) The resolutions of the Board must be documented. The protocol is signed by the Secretary and the President or, in their absence, by the Vice-President or another member of the board. The protocol includes the place and time of the meeting, the names of the participants, the resolutions made, and the corresponding voting results.

§ 12 Duties of the General Assembly
The General Assembly is responsible for decisions on the following matters:

a) Amendments to the statutes,
b) Setting membership fees,
c) Appointing honorary members and expelling members,
d) Electing and dismissing members of the Board,
e) Electing and dismissing two auditors for a term of four years (re-election is unlimited),
f) Receiving the annual report and discharging the Board,
g) Dissolving the association.

§ 13 Calling the General Assembly
(1) An ordinary General Assembly is convened by the Board at least every two years and takes place during the annual conferences of the association. The call for the General Assembly is made in writing, giving six weeks' notice and stating the agenda. The General Assembly can also be called as virtual or hybrid meetings, where members can participate using electronic communication without being present at the meeting location and exercise their membership rights. When convening a virtual or hybrid meeting, information is provided on how members can exercise their rights through electronic communication.
(2) The agenda is set by the Board. Each member of the association may request, in writing (handwritten or electronically) to the Board, an addition to the agenda no later than one week before the General Assembly. The decision on whether to include the proposal in the agenda is decided by the General Assembly by a majority of the votes of the present members. Proposals for amendments to the statute, changes in membership fees, or the dissolution of the association will always be included in the agenda.
(3) The Board must call an extraordinary General Assembly if the interests of the association require it or if at least 10% of the members request this in writing (handwritten or electronically), stating the purpose and reasons.

§ 14 Resolutions of the General Assembly
(1) The chair of the General Assembly is held by the President, in their absence by the Vice-President, or by another member of the board in their absence.
(2) The General Assembly is quorate irrespective of the number of members present.
(3) The General Assembly decides in open voting by simple majority of the votes of the members present. If a simple majority cannot be reached, a runoff vote is held.
Exceptions to this are:
(a) Resolutions about the expulsion of members and the election and/or dismissal of members of the Board can be conducted secretly. Before the vote, the President asks the General Assembly if a secret ballot is desired.
(b) Resolutions for amendments to the statutes of the association require a majority of 75% of the members present.
(c) Resolutions for changes in the purpose or for the dissolution of the association require the consent of 90% of the members present.
(4) A protocol must be prepared for the proceedings of the General Assembly and the resolutions passed, signed by the Secretary and the President (or their representative).

§ 15 Dissolution of the association, dissolution for other reasons, discontinuation of tax-privileged purposes
(1) The intention to dissolve the association must be announced to the members at least 8 weeks before the next General Assembly. The decision on dissolution is taken by the General Assembly with at least a 90% majority in open voting. In this case, written votes from absent

members (confirmation of membership status by the President or Treasurer) are allowed.
(2) In the event of the dissolution of the association, the President and the Treasurer are jointly authorized liquidators unless the General Assembly appoints other persons.
(3) In case of dissolution of the association or loss of tax-privileged purposes, the assets of the association will be transferred to the German Red Cross, which shall use them exclusively and directly for charitable, benevolent, or ecclesiastical purposes.
(4) The above provisions apply accordingly if the association has been deprived of legal capacity.

Hannover, 25.08.2023 (date of founding)
Amendment: 27.09.2023