

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN REGION (EMR)
of the
INTERNATIONAL BIOMETRIC SOCIETY (IBS)

BY-LAWS

By-Law 5 of the International Biometric Society (IBS) states that “A geographically defined area that has 50 or more Society Members may become a Region of the Society on approval by Council.” Based on this, at the first meeting, in Athens, Greece, of IBS members from the eastern Mediterranean area, it was decided to apply to the IBS Council to form a Region of the IBS. The Region will be governed by the Constitution of the International Society, and the following by-laws:

1. Name

The Region shall be known as the **EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN REGION** of the International Biometric Society, abbreviated **EMR** of IBS.

2. Scope

- 2.1 The Region shall be concerned with the activities of the IBS in the region of the Eastern Mediterranean. These activities are aimed at enhancing the effective use of mathematics and statistical principles in the life sciences, including the biological, biomedical, agricultural, environmental, and ecological sciences. Currently, the EMR includes the following countries: Bulgaria, Cyprus, Egypt, Greece, Israel, Jordan, Palestinian Authority, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey.
- 2.2 The aims of EMR may be achieved through joint conferences and symposia, further education, general interactions between professionals having a biomedical background, a regional newsletter/bulletin, a common website, and all activities identified by EMR as appropriate.

3. Membership

- 3.1 The membership of the Region shall consist of all IBS members resident in the EMR countries.
- 3.2 On a voluntary basis, IBS members resident in an adjacent country that forms neither a Group nor part of a Region may be allowed to join EMR.
- 3.3 On a voluntary basis, IBS members who are members of another Region or Group, but who are interested in EMR activities, may become affiliate members of EMR. Affiliate membership is free.

4. Conference and Meetings

- 4.1 The Region shall hold a scientific meeting approximately every two years at a location within the geographical area of the Region.
- 4.2 Such a meeting shall include the Bi-annual General Meeting of the EMR.
- 4.3 Any surplus from the Bi-annual conference must be used for the activities of EMR

5. Secretariat

- 5.1 The EMR Secretary/Treasurer shall establish a secretariat to coordinate the Region's activities.
- 5.2 The secretariat shall be equipped with electronic mail facilities, and the necessary finances to enable it to carry out this task.
- 5.3 The secretariat shall maintain an email list of all EMR members and shall be prepared to send email notices to the EMR membership as needed.
- 5.4 In addition, all EMR votes shall be managed by the secretariat. In cases deemed suitable by the EMR Executive Committee, votes may be conducted exclusively by electronic means (email/internet).

6. Officers

- 6.1 The EMR Executive Committee shall include the following elected officers: Regional President, Vice-President, Secretary/Treasurer, Publicity Officer, and designated national Representatives. Each EMR nation shall have one designated national Representative on the EMR Executive Committee (aside from the President, Secretary/Treasurer and Publicity Officer), provided that the nation has at least one registered IBS member who is willing to serve in this capacity.
- 6.2 All EMR officers must be registered IBS members who are current in their dues.
- 6.3 By the constitution of the IBS, the Regional Secretary shall be the representative of EMR to the IBS Business Office. IBS By-Law 5 provides that the Regional Secretary/Treasurer "shall maintain an up-to-date list of members, be responsible for collecting annual subscriptions and forwarding to the IBS International Business Office, and shall report the results of all elections to the General Secretary of IBS." These duties shall be in addition to usual secretarial and group coordination activities. The responsibility for collecting annual subscriptions may, by agreement between the secretariat and the IBS International Business Office, be transferred to the IBS International Business Office. The Regional Secretary/Treasurer shall be one of the account signatories.
- 6.4 The President shall, as the head of EMR, chair the EMR Executive Committee, preside at all EMR meetings and be one of the account signatories.
- 6.5 The Vice-President shall assist the President and the Secretary/Treasurer in their duties, shall act for either in their absence and be one of the account signatories.
- 6.6 The Publicity Officer shall forward necessary documentation for inclusion in the IBS's Biometric Bulletin, be responsible for taking minutes at EMR meetings, be responsible for maintaining and updating the EMR website, and shall conduct publicity drive activities in collaboration with the EMR Executive Committee. At the discretion of the Executive Committee, the responsibility for maintaining the EMR website may be transferred to a designated webmaster.
- 6.7 The national Representatives shall serve on the EMR Executive Committee and promote the EMR's activities within their own nation.
- 6.8 The officers shall be elected at a Bi-annual General Meeting (see Article 7.3(b) below). Their term shall begin one week after the date of their election.

- 6.9 EMR officers shall not serve for more than two consecutive terms.
- 6.10 A motion for the removal of any elected officer, which is filed by a member (supported by 2 other members) and carried by a two-thirds majority of the voting members, shall be sufficient to remove the officer from his post.
- 6.11 In the event that an officer resigns his position, leaves the EMR, is removed from his post, or is otherwise unable to continue to serve, the remaining EMR officers shall select a replacement, who shall serve until the end of the outgoing officer's term.

7. Elections

- 7.1 Officers (except Vice-President, see below) may be nominated up to three weeks before the Bi-annual General Meeting. The EMR Executive Committee is responsible for endeavoring to ensure that there is at least one nominee for each position. Any member of EMR may nominate another member for Officer. All nominations must be accompanied by an acceptance of the nomination by the nominee. All nominations must be submitted to the EMR Secretary/Treasurer. No person may stand for more than one of the offices of President, Secretary/Treasurer and Publicity Officer. However, a person may stand for one of the above posts and for national Representative.
- 7.2 Each EMR member has the following votes:
 - (a) one vote for President; (b) one vote for Secretary/Treasurer; (c) one vote for Publicity Officer; (d) one vote for his/her own national Representative.
- 7.3 (a) Following the election the EMR Executive Committee will meet and appoint a Vice-President from among the elected committee officers (other than the President, Secretary/Treasurer and Publicity Officer).
 - (b) The Executive Committee may by a majority vote co-opt other EMR members onto the committee.
 - (c) Elections will be conducted by e-mail during the week before the Bi-annual General Meeting and at the Bi-annual General Meeting itself. The Secretary/Treasurer will be responsible for the conduct of the election.

8. Finances

- 8.1 The EMR shall be financed through contributions from its members, and through other contributions that the EMR may from time to time receive.
- 8.2 Annual dues for EMR members shall be reviewed from time to time.
- 8.3 All monies collected, except for the IBS dues, which are to be sent directly to the IBS Business Office, will be lodged in an agreed EMR bank account.
- 8.4 Signatories to EMR accounts are the EMR President, Secretary/Treasurer and Vice-President. Any one of the three signatories may sign a cheque for withdrawal of money from the account. However, any withdrawal must be approved in writing by both the President and the Secretary/Treasurer.

8.5 IBS members will have reduced registration fees to the Bi-annual EMR meeting. Non-members will pay the higher rate for conference registration and will be able to choose between two options:

- 1) Non-member registration, including IBS membership fees for the current year
- 2) Non-member registration

The meeting organizers will register those who choose option #1 as members of IBS in the EMR Region by sending the appropriate amount for annual IBS dues (drawn from the conference registration fees) directly to the IBS Business Office, together with the details of these participants.

9. Amendment of bylaws

- 9.1 These rules may be amended, through proposals from individuals, by a suitable vote of the EMR membership. At the discretion of the EMR Executive Committee, the vote may be conducted either at a Bi-annual General Meeting or through an electronic poll. Passage of such amendments shall require a two-thirds majority, with at least 25 EMR members voting.

These By-Laws were passed at the Business Meeting of the Eastern Mediterranean Network in Athens, Greece, on 10 January 2001. Saudi Arabia was added to the list of EMR countries by vote of the EMR membership at the EMR Business Meeting in Antalya, Turkey, on 10 January 2003. The By-Laws were amended, following an electronic vote of the EMR membership, on 25 September 2008. Bulgaria was added to the list of EMR countries by vote of the EMR membership at the EMR Business Meeting in Istanbul, Turkey, on 12 May 2009.

Item 8.5 was added to the By-Laws by vote of the EMR membership at the EMR Business Meeting in Cappadocia, Turkey, on 14 May 2015. Item 4.3 was added to the By-Laws by vote of the EMR members at the EMR Business Meeting in Jerusalem on 19 December 2018.