

Bergey's International Society for Microbial Systematics (BISMIS)

The Constitution of BISMIS

(Effective 1st May 2023)

ARTICLE 1. NAME

The name of the Society is *Bergey's International Society for Microbial Systematics*, hereinafter referred to as BISMIS.

ARTICLE 2. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of BISMIS comprise the following scientific and educational activities:

Section 1. To promote the highest standards of scientific research in microbial systematics

Section 2. To support the study of microbial diversity in order to understand the complexity and diversity of microbial life

Section 3. To promote the global production and dissemination of scientific knowledge about microbial systematics through publications, conferences, specialist meetings, workshops and written reports

Section 4. To support efforts to enhance the education of all peoples regarding current knowledge about microbial systematics and diversity

BISMIS was formed by Bergey's Manual Trust in 2010 following a survey of microbial systematists who expressed interest in an international organization to represent their scientific and educational needs in the field. BISMIS was formed exclusively as a non-profit branch of Bergey's Manual Trust for the above stated scientific and educational purposes. No part of its assets, income or profit will be used for the personal benefit of its members, directors or officers.

ARTICLE 3. MEMBERS

BISMIS consist of the following categories of members, who will be nominated and elected as provided in the Bylaws.

Section 1. Full members. An individual who endorses the objectives of BISMIS and who holds a bachelor's degree in microbiology or a related field or who has had an essentially equivalent background, is eligible to apply for Full Membership. Full Members are eligible to vote, hold elective office, serve on committees and boards and have access to the *Bulletin* of BISMIS and other materials of the society. In addition, full members are entitled to a discounted rate of registration for the general meetings of BISMIS.

Section 2. Student members. An undergraduate or postgraduate student who is matriculating in microbiology or a related field is eligible to become a Student Member. Student Members do not have the right to vote or hold office.

Section 3. Honorary members. A person who has made outstanding contributions to microbial systematics is eligible for nomination and election as an Honorary Member. Honorary status is the highest recognition given to members and carries the same privileges as Full Member.

Section 4. Emeritus members. A person who has been a full member for at least 10 years preceding retirement from professional work and who is 60 years or older may apply for Emeritus status, which has the same benefits and rights of Full Members.

Section 5. Corporate, Foundation and Patron membership. Corporations, Foundations and Patrons, i.e., individuals who are not microbial systematists, that have an interest in supporting the objectives of BISMIS may join the society and have a vote but cannot become officers.

ARTICLE 4. OFFICERS

Section 1. Elective Officers. The Elective Officers are President, President Elect and Secretary. Each officer will serve a single, four-year term following the general meeting of BISMIS or until the next meeting, whichever is earlier. Nomination and election of Elected Officers will be conducted as provided in the Bylaws. In the event that an officer becomes incapacitated or resigns, the Executive Board will appoint a member to replace the officer until the next election.

Section 2. Duties of the elective officers are:

a. The **President** presides over all the meetings of BISMIS and the Executive Board and performs such duties as needed and parliamentary usage require, in accordance with this Constitution and Bylaws. The President also has the responsibility of organizing the general meeting of BISMIS along with the meetings of the Executive Board, including the time, location and program of the meetings. The President is responsible for ensuring the execution of the policies determined by the EB and is the primary spokesperson for the Society.

b. The **President-Elect** presides during EB meetings in the absence of the President in addition to performing those duties that are delegated by the President. The President-Elect will become President following the end of the President's term in accordance with the Bylaws.

c. The **Secretary** will maintain a register of the full, student, emeritus and honorary members of BISMIS; notify the membership of meetings and other pertinent matters; receive abstracts or manuscripts submitted for presentation at the general meeting as well as any reports that may ensue from the general meeting and other meetings. In addition, the Secretary will maintain the archive as described in Article 9.

Section 3. Treasurer. The Treasurer of Bergey's Trust will be the Treasurer of BISMIS, unless an alternate is designated as prescribed in the bylaws of the Society. The BISMIS account, including revenues from Memberships of all categories, meetings, publications and other activities of BISMIS will be kept separate from that of Bergey's Manual Trust, as a separate branch of Bergey's Manual Trust. The Treasurer's duties also include submitting tax information to the US government to ensure that BISMIS maintains its non-profit status. Additionally, the President of BISMIS will be an authorized signatory to operate the BISMIS bank accounts.

Section 4. Executive Board. The Executive Board comprises the President, President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer and Chair of Bergey's Manual Trust. The EB may comprise up to six additional members as prescribed in the bylaws.

Section 5. Executive Officers. BISMIS may employ an Executive Director and Staff to assist in carrying out the policies of BISMIS if needed and can be supported by revenues of BISMIS.

ARTICLE 5. ORGANIZATION

In order to implement its objectives, BISMIS may institute Boards and Committees for specific purposes.

Section 1. Boards and Committees. Chairs and members of organizational groups are appointed by the Executive Board on an *ad hoc* basis for defined periods. Permanent boards and committees may also be instituted if necessary.

Section 2. International Academy of Microbial Systematics. The officers will appoint a Board to form an International Academy of Microbial Systematics (= the Academy) to recognize noted microbiologists who have made significant contributions to microbial taxonomy. Those who have been elected to fellowship will be called Fellows of International Academy of Microbial Systematics. Members of BISMIS may nominate other members or non-member affiliates of BISMIS who have made substantive contributions to the field by providing a curriculum vita of the nominee along with a description of his or her major contributions to microbial systematics. The nominee's case will be evaluated by the Board, which will decide whether or not they become Fellows of the International Academy of Microbial Systematics.

The Academy will have a Board of Governors, the members of which are elected by Fellows. The Academy may assess fees as needed for its operation.

Section 3. Regional Chapters. A regional chapter may be instituted on a permanent basis as an extension of BISMIS by the Executive Board in countries/regions when it is advantageous to achieve its objectives. Such chapters will work in accordance with this Constitution and Bylaws of the society. The elected officers of such extension branches will carry the prefix "Regional" in their respective designations. The operations of such regional chapters will be governed by the bylaws of BISMIS.

ARTICLE 6. PUBLICATIONS & OUTREACH

Publications, such as the *Bulletin* of BISMIS and related communication services including web sites, will be administered by the Executive Board. Revenue received from publications that are above expenses of the Editorial Office will accrue to BISMIS.

Section 1. Bulletin of the Bergey's International Society for Microbial Systematics. The *Bulletin* is an official on-line publication of the Society. The *Bulletin* does not publish original research articles, but the content will be restricted to biographies, autobiographies (by invitation), mini-review articles, opinion articles, reports of taxonomic committees, educational articles, obituaries and letters to the editor that pertain to the subject of microbial systematics and other items of interest to members of BISMIS.

The Editor of the *Bulletin* is appointed by the Executive Board for a term of three years, which may be renewed no more than two consecutive times. The Editor serves at the discretion of the Executive Board as stated in the bylaws of BISMIS. The Editor is responsible for receiving and deciding on the appropriateness of manuscripts, appointing an editorial board and staff, and all other aspects of the journal's publication.

Section 2. Outreach Activities. The society may conduct outreach activities, including but not limited to online seminars, scientific events in schools and colleges, and fund raisers, to promote microbial systematics and increase the reach of the society. The board may appoint Executive Officers or nominate members for conducting such activities as mentioned in Article 4, section 5 above. The society bylaws will govern the usage of BISMIS resources and operational details for such outreach activities.

ARTICLE 7. MEETINGS

BISMIS may hold meetings at specific international locations as necessary. Meetings will be held on alternate years, beginning with 2011. At least one year prior to the meeting, the President and Executive Board of BISMIS will appoint a Chair of the Meetings Committee, who will be located in close proximity to the site for the forthcoming meeting. The Chair will establish a Local Organizing Committee that will work with the President and Executive Board of BISMIS to organize and advertise the meeting.

Other *ad hoc* meetings may be organized by the Executive Board to address specific topics in microbial taxonomy and/or produce documents to support the educational and professional goals of BISMIS.

ARTICLE 8. TAX-EXEMPT STATUS

Section 1. BISMIS operates exclusively as a non-profit scientific and educational organization. None of the income generated from BISMIS will be used for the benefit of members, officers or directors except that compensation for services provided in Article 2 of the Constitution.

Section 2. BISMIS will only partake in activities that are permitted for a corporation exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)3 of the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1954.

Section 3. BISMIS regional branches will only partake in activities that are permitted for a corporation exempt from income tax under appropriate section(s) of the local country's tax rules and always in accordance with section 1 above.

ARTICLE 9. ARCHIVES

Archives will be maintained by the Secretary for the collection, preservation and display of historical materials relating to BISMIS.

ARTICLE 10. AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Proposals. Amendments to the constitution may be proposed in writing by the EB or by at least 10% of the members in good standing.

Section 2. Discussion. The proposed changes will be available for discussion by the membership for at least two months prior to a vote on their adoption.

Section 3. Approval. Approval of the amendments will require a 3/5th favorable vote of voting Full, Honorary and Emeritus Members.

ARTICLE 11. DISSOLUTION

Section 1. If BISMIS is dissolved, the assets will be distributed entirely to international scientific or educational organizations that qualify under the provisions of the United States Internal Revenue Service Code, Section 501(c)3.

Section 2. If Regional BISMIS are dissolved, the assets will be distributed entirely to the regional scientific or educational organizations that qualify under the provisions of the local government tax exemption rules.