

# *Bergey's International Society for Microbial Systematics*

## **Constitution and Bylaws**

### ARTICLE 1. NAME

The name of this organization shall be *Bergey's International Society for Microbial Systematics*, hereinafter referred to as BISMIS.

### ARTICLE 2. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of BISMIS shall 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 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 Trust for the above stated scientific and educational purposes. No part of its assets, income or profit shall be used for the personal benefit its members, directors or officers.

### ARTICLE 3. MEMBERS

BISMIS shall consist of the following categories of members, who shall 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, including Honorary and Emeritus 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.

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

*Section 3. Honorary members.* A person who has made outstanding contributions to microbial systematics shall be 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 20 years preceding retirement from professional work and who is 65 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 shall be President, President-Elect and Secretary. Each officer shall serve a single, two-year term following the bi-annual meeting of BISMIS. Nomination and election of Elected Officers shall be conducted as provided in the Bylaws. In the event that an officer becomes incapacitated or resigns, the Executive Board will appoint a member who shall replace the officer until the next election.

*Section 2. Duties of the elective officers shall be:*

a. The **President** shall preside over all the meetings of BISMIS and the Executive Board, and shall perform such duties as needed and parliamentary usage require, in accordance with this Constitution and Bylaws. The President shall also have the responsibility of organizing the general meeting of BISMIS along with the Executive Board, including the time, location and program of the meeting.

b. The **President Elect** shall preside in the absence of the President in addition to performing those duties that are delegated by the President. The President Elect shall become President following the general meeting of BISMIS.

c. The **Secretary** shall maintain a register of the full, sustaining and honorary members of BISMIS; shall notify the membership of meetings and other pertinent matters; shall 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.

*Section 3. Treasurer.* The Treasurer of Bergey's Trust shall be the Treasurer of BISMIS. 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, a separate branch of Bergey's Trust. The Treasurer's duties also include submitting tax information to the US government to ensure that BISMIS maintains its non-profit status.

*Section 4. Executive Board.* The executive board shall comprise the President, President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer and Chair of Bergey's Trust.

*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 shall be 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 shall 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 shall 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 nominees case shall be evaluated by the Board, which will decide whether or not they shall become Fellows of the International Academy of Microbial Systematics.

The Academy shall have a Board of Governors, the members of which are elected by Fellows.

The Academy shall assess fees as needed for its operation.

## ARTICLE 6. PUBLICATIONS

Publications, such as the *Bulletin* of BISMIS and related communication services including web sites, will be administered through the Bergey Editorial Office. Revenue received from publications that are above expenses of the Editorial Office will accrue to BISMIS in its separate bank account.

*Section 1. Bulletin of the Bergey's International Society for Microbial Systematics.* The *Bulletin* shall be 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* shall be appointed by the Executive Board for a term of three years, which may be renewed one or two times at most. The Editor shall serve at the discretion of the Executive Board. The Editor shall be 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.

## ARTICLE 7. MEETINGS

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

work with the President and Executive Board of BISMIS to organize and advertize 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 shall operate exclusively as a non-profit scientific and educational organization. None of the income generated from BISMIS shall be used for the benefit of members, officers or directors except that compensation for services provided by employees for services provided in Article 2 of the Constitution.

*Section 2.* BISMIS shall 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.

## ARTICLE 9. ARCHIVES

Archives shall be maintained for the collection, preservation and display of historical materials relating to BISMIS

## ARTICLE 10. AMENDMENTS

*Section 1.* An amendment to the Constitution may be proposed in writing by at least 30 members of BISMIS. Amendments must have a 2/3 majority of Full Members in order to pass.

## ARTICLE 11. DISSOLUTION

*Section 1.* If BISMIS is dissolved, the assets shall 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.

## **Bylaws of BISMIS**

(At this time there are no Bylaws for BISMIS. However, as specific needs arise that require the support of members, Bylaws may be adopted as an alternative to passing an amendment to the Constitution, in order to carry out the wishes of the majority of members.)

## ARTICLE 1. AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS

An amendment to the Bylaws may be proposed in writing by at least 15 members. Bylaw amendments will require a 3/5<sup>th</sup> favorable vote of Full Members in order to pass.