

## **Arab Toxicologists Association (ATA) Special Interest Group Bylaws**

### **ARTICLE I—NAME**

The name of this organization shall be the Arab Toxicologists Association (ATA) of the Society of Toxicology, hereinafter designated as the Special Interest Group.

### **ARTICLE II—OBJECTIVES AND PURPOSE**

The objectives of the ATA are:

1. To establish a Special Interest Group of Toxicologists from the Arab World with a major goal to effectively communicate toxicological ideas and support its members to succeed and achieve excellence in toxicology in the US and worldwide.
2. To address current toxicological issues that affect Arab nations, and increase awareness of the involvement of toxic substances in causing diseases.
3. To promote the development of marginalized branches of toxicology in Arabic nations.
4. To serve as an educational guide for Arabic studies in toxicological science.
5. To promote the establishment of Regional Toxicology Societies and of Pan Arab Toxicologist Association to be an umbrella for all Toxicology Associations in all Arab Countries.

No part of the net earnings of the Special Interest Group shall inure to the benefit of or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the Special Interest Group shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes herein-above set forth.

No substantial part of the activities of the Special Interest Group shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation and the Special Interest Group shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

### **ARTICLE III—MEMBERSHIP**

Section 1. Any member of the Society of Toxicology of any ethnic background who shares the same common interests as the Special Interest Group may become a member of the Special Interest Group upon payment of the required dues. Special Interest Group members who are SOT members shall receive all privileges conferred by their SOT membership.

Section 2. Any person having a professional interest in toxicology may become a member of the Special Interest Group upon payment of the required dues. Special Interest Group members who are not SOT members shall receive limited SOT privileges, as approved by the SOT Council. These benefits will be posted on the Special Interest Group's Web site and/or other similar means.

#### **ARTICLE IV—OFFICERS, COUNCILORS, AND REPRESENTATIVES**

Section 1. The Officers of the ATA shall be the President, Vice President, Vice President-Elect, and Secretary-Treasurer. There shall be three Councilors. Only Full, Associate, Retired, or Emeritus members in good standing of the Society of Toxicology and the Special Interest Group shall be eligible to serve as Officers in the Presidential or Treasurer chain.

Section 2. There shall be a Student Representative and a Postdoctoral Representative, who shall act as liaisons between the students and postdoctoral fellows, respectively, and the Executive Committee. Student and Postdoctoral Representatives shall be elected from the Special Interest Group membership. Eligibility during the term requires current enrollment in a graduate program for Student Representatives and engagement in a formal mentored postdoctoral position for Postdoctoral Representatives.

Section 3. Officers, Councilors, and Representatives shall begin their terms of office on May 1 following the SOT Annual Meeting at which their election is announced or one month after the Annual Meeting if it is held, any year, after April 1.

#### **ARTICLE V—ELECTION OF OFFICERS, COUNCILORS, AND REPRESENTATIVES**

Section 1. The President shall serve for a term of one year, becoming immediate Past President in the following year.

Section 2. The Vice President shall become the President of the Special Interest Group after serving one year as the Vice President.

Section 3. The Vice President-Elect shall be elected annually by a vote of the membership and shall become the Vice President of the Special Interest Group for one year after serving one year as Vice President-Elect, becoming President and immediate Past President in the two subsequent years. The Vice President-Elect shall serve in the absence of the President and Vice President.

Section 4. The Secretary/Treasurer shall be elected bi-annually by a vote of the membership for a term of two years.

Section 5. There shall be three Councilors. Two of these Councilors shall be elected by vote of the membership for a term of two years, with one Councilor being elected each year. The third Councilor shall be the immediate Past President, who will serve a term of one year.

Section 6. Student and Postdoctoral Representatives shall be elected by a vote of the membership. The Student Representative shall serve for a two-year term, and the Postdoctoral Representative shall serve for a one-year term.

Section 7. In the event of a vacancy in an elective office, other than the Presidency or Vice Presidency, the Special Interest Group's Executive Committee may make an appointment or may provide for a special election to fill the vacancy until the unexpired term is completed. In the event of a vacancy in the Presidency, the Vice President accedes to that office until the unexpired term of the Presidency is completed and shall serve as President the following year; similarly, the Vice President-Elect accedes to the office of Vice President, should that office become vacant, until the unexpired term of the Vice Presidency is completed and shall serve as Vice President the following year. A special election must be held to fill the office of Vice President-Elect should this office become vacant; however, the Executive Committee may make an appointment to fill the vacancy until such time that an election can be conducted.

Section 8. Elections shall be held annually by electronic ballot in the format deemed appropriate by the Society of Toxicology prior to the SOT Annual Meeting.

## **ARTICLE VI—ADMINISTRATION**

Section 1. The Special Interest Group shall be governed by the Executive Committee except as otherwise herein expressly provided.

Section 2. The Executive Committee shall consist of the Officers, Councilors, and Representatives. The President of the Special Interest Group shall serve as Chair of the Executive Committee. Four members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Section 3. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Special Interest Group and of the Executive Committee and shall perform such duties as may be directed by the Executive Committee. In the President's absence, the succeeding order of Officers shall preside.

Section 4. The Special Interest Group shall comply with the following provisions in order to retain its status as an authorized body within the Society of Toxicology:

- a. The Special Interest Group shall provide annual reports of its activities for the current year as well as plans of programs, activities, and finances for the following year. Annual reports shall be submitted to the Society of Toxicology by the required date of each year.
- b. Annual reports shall be reviewed by the SOT Council, which shall consult with the Special Interest Group as necessary.
- c. Special Interest Group policy statements must be reviewed and approved by the Society of Toxicology Council prior to release.

Section 5. The Secretary/Treasurer shall have fiduciary responsibilities for all monies of the Special Interest Group and shall authorize all disbursements as appropriate. The Secretary/Treasurer shall transmit to the successor in office all property of the Special Interest Group in their possession. The Secretary/Treasurer shall keep an accurate record of all transactions of all meetings.

No funds shall be expended by or in the name of the Special Interest Group to the extent that the expenditure, if made by the Society of Toxicology, would represent use of funds for a purpose or purposes not within the Society's exempt purposes under 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Section 6. Any Special Interest Group funds or other property remaining at the time of termination or abandonment or dissolution of the Special Interest Group shall be turned over to the Society of Toxicology and shall become a part of the Society's general funds.

## **ARTICLE VII—MEETINGS**

Section 1. Special Interest Group meetings shall be held at least annually and as dictated by the scientific and educational programs of the Special Interest Group. The time and place of each meeting shall be established by the Executive Committee and be communicated to the membership at least one month before each meeting.

Section 2. Special meetings may be called by the President at any time, with the approval of the Executive Committee or the presentation of a petition to the President, signed by 20% of the members of the Special Interest Group in good standing.

Section 3. A quorum shall consist of 20% of the Special Interest Group members in good standing.

Section 4. Executive Committee meetings shall be held at the discretion of the President at any time during the year provided a notice of at least seven (7) days is given.

## **ARTICLE VIII—DUES**

The dues are established by SOT Council and are the same for all Special Interest Groups. A request for variance from the established rate shall be directed to SOT Council. Special fees outside of the dues structure can also be collected if pre-arranged through the Special Interest Group Council Contact.

## **ARTICLE IX—COMMITTEES**

Section 1. The Vice President shall be the Chair of the Program Committee and designate its members. The Program Committee shall develop scientific and educational programs and will complete arrangements for speakers and for meeting places and provide the Secretary/Treasurer with the program. The Secretary/Treasurer will, in turn, notify the membership.

Section 2. The President shall appoint any other committees as required and shall automatically become an *ex-officio* member of such committees. Members of such committees serve at the discretion of the President.

## **ARTICLE X—AMENDMENTS**

Section 1. Amendments to these Bylaws may be presented by any member in good standing at any regular meeting of the Special Interest Group or any special meeting called for that specific purpose. They shall be presented in writing and shall be offered to the membership present at that meeting on motion for consideration and circulation to the membership. A simple majority shall be necessary to pass the motion.

Section 2. Amendments accepted for future consideration shall be forwarded to the Special Interest Group Staff Liaison to be circulated with a ballot to all members in good standing. A two-thirds affirmation vote of the ballots returned within the specified time frame shall be necessary for adoption of any amendment.

Section 3. Amendments to these Bylaws must be approved by the SOT Council before they become effective. This is done to ensure that future changes in these Bylaws will have the same force as the original, which was so approved.