

CONSTITUTION OF

THE SOCIETY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL GEOCHEMISTRY AND HEALTH

1. Adoption of the Constitution

The Society will be administered and managed in accordance with the provisions of this constitution formally adopted at the meeting held on 14/10/2016

2. Name

The name of the organization will be '**The Society for Environmental Geochemistry and Health**' (SEGH) and in this document is called the Society.

3. Objective

The objective of the Society shall be to further interest in and enhance knowledge of the effects of the geochemical environment on the health and disease of plants and animals, including humans, and to advance knowledge in this important scientific area, emphasizing a multidisciplinary approach.

4. Purpose

- 4.1 To promote and advance the awareness and understanding of the relationship between health and the geochemical environment, for the benefit of the wider public and the scientific and technical community, through open meetings, a public web site and a dedicated professional journal.
- 4.2 To ensure that information from scientific meetings is made available to the public through outreach activities and that government officials, members of parliament and other decision makers have access to the work undertaken by the Society.
- 4.3 To encourage young scientists at the start of their careers to participate in meetings of the Society and to disseminate the results of their research for the public benefit.
- 4.4 To provide small bursaries to students, particularly those from less economically developed countries, to encourage participation in meetings and the publication of papers.
- 4.5 To sponsor and facilitate open conferences and symposia dedicated to furthering understanding of the relationship between the geochemical environment and the health and well-being of humans, animals and plants.
- 4.6 To advance education for the public benefit on the subjects of environmental geochemistry and health through a web site and outreach.
- 4.7 To provide research, education and information which can be used to inform management strategies in regions where the environment (soil, water and air) may potentially impact on public health or the health of animals and crops.

5. Application of income

- 5.1 The Society will be a not-for-profit organisation.
- 5.2 The income of the Society shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the purposes of the Society.
- 5.3 The Society will keep accounts of income and expenditure which will be independently audited on an annual basis.

6. Membership

- 6.1 Membership is open to individuals or organisations throughout the world interested in the objectives of the Society and who pay the appropriate membership fee.
- 6.2 Membership is particularly relevant to those involved in the study of environmental health, geology, geochemistry, biology, chemistry, engineering, hydrogeology, epidemiology, toxicology, medicine, public health and nutrition.
- 6.3 Membership of the Society will include a choice of online access to current and archive material from the publication journal of “Environmental Geochemistry and Health”.
- 6.4 Members can attend and vote at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and be nominated for a place on the Executive Board.

6.5 Membership:

There shall be five classes of membership. Annual subscription fees will be determined annually by the Board of Directors and may include concessions based on geography and working status.

(a) Honorary Lifetime Member

- This is the highest honour awarded by the society to retired persons who have demonstrated a lifelong and extraordinary contribution to the society and/or geochemistry and health.
- Proposed to the Board for approval via a special resolution.
- This is a lifetime membership with no annual membership fee.
- It does not provide any benefits in kind.

(b.) Fellow

- For persons who have demonstrated longstanding and sustained support of the organisation.
- Proposed to the Board by the Fellowship committee.
- Ratified by Fellows at conference.

(c.) Associate Fellow

- For more junior members who have not yet reached Full Fellow, in recognition of their trajectory.
- Proposed by the Board or Fellows.
- Ratified by Fellows at conference.
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The two levels level of membership above (b and c) are dependent upon:
the person continuing to be a paid up member of the society
continuing to uphold the aims of the society.
review at two- yearly intervals.

(d.) Full member

A person who pays the full rate subscription as advertised on the website at the time of paying.

(e.) Student member

A person who is studying at either undergraduate or postgraduate level who pays the reduced membership as advertised on the website at the time of paying.

6.7 Fellowships

- In 2018 the Board approved the creation of a level of membership of Fellow. Fellowships are only awarded to individuals who have made significant contributions to the field of geochemistry and health.
- Existing Fellows can nominate Full Members for Fellowships. Other candidates wishing to be considered for Fellowship must submit a CV demonstrating commitment to the aims of the Society, notably acknowledged demonstration of improving the knowledge and understanding of an element of geochemistry and or health, and their interaction is required.
- Approval to be provided by the Board.
- Candidates nominated will be formally approved as a cohort and ratified at the annual conference by existing Fellows for approval by the Board.

This level of membership is dependent upon:

- the person continuing to be a paid up member of the society;
- continuing to uphold the aims of the society by providing support to other members via Fellow's talks, local workshops, or similar.

At each annual meeting of the Fellows, they shall nominate and elect from among their number, a Fellow who will co-ordinate the Fellow's activities, and be responsible for liaising between the Board and the Fellows.

6.5 No member of the Society is permitted to use the name of the Society for any commercial purpose.

7. Meetings

- 7.1 An annual general meeting (AGM) must be held in each subsequent year and not more than eighteen months may elapse between successive annual general meetings.
- 7.2 The AGM will in most circumstances be held during the Society's annual conference.
- 7.3 The minimum period of notice required to hold any general meeting of the Society is fourteen clear days from the date on which the notice is deemed to have been given.
- 7.4 The Society will convene an annual conference and other meetings for the purpose of presenting scientific papers as it sees fit.
- 7.5 Scientific meetings will be open to both members and non-members of the Society and the public on the payment of a designated registration fee.

8. The Executive Board

- 8.1 The Society will receive nominations to the Executive Board of those fully paid up members willing to play an active part within the Society.
- 8.2 The Executive Board will comprise the elected officers, chairs of active regional sections and board members.
- 8.3 The Executive Board may from time to time co-opt individuals for their expertise although they will not have any voting rights within the activities undertaken by the board. The duration of their term of office will be clearly linked to the project for which they are required, and will not be longer than the term of office of any elected member of the executive board.
- 8.4 Past Presidents of the Society are ex-officio and are invited to attend board meetings but will not have a vote, with the exception of the immediate last president.
- 8.5 The Executive Board will meet as required but as a minimum once a year prior to the annual general meeting of the Society.

- 8.6 The Executive Board will have responsibility for the general supervision and running of the affairs of the Society in addition to reviewing its financial status.

9. Officers

- 9.1 The Society will appoint the following officers who will be members of the Executive Board:
President
Regional Representative (intended to represent regions of interest defined the Executive Board)
Secretary
Membership Secretary/Treasurer
Web Master
Ordinary Executive Board members (at least two for each regions of interest defined by the Executive Board)
- 9.2 The term for each Executive Board member is 2 years. Any Board members may be renewed if nominated and elected by the membership.
- 9.3 The President may serve for 2 terms if nominated by the Executive Board and elected by the membership.
- 9.4 Any member may propose another member for an Executive Board position. Executive Board members recommend the people for positions of office as outlined in 9.1. Conditions of such proposals will not contravene the requirements as described in 9.2 and 9.3.
- 9.5 The positions will be elected by the membership.
- 9.6 A voting member is defined as a paid-up member one month before the AGM.
- 9.7 If, under unforeseen circumstances, an executive officer is no longer available, the Executive Board may take the opportunity to appoint an interim officer until the next election.
- 9.8 Votes cast during an election will be counted by the Secretary and reported to the Executive Board prior to the Annual General Meeting.

10. Minutes of meetings

- 10.1 The Secretary must keep minutes of all meetings. Minutes will include:
- (a) Appointments of officers, and other members to the Executive Board.
 - (b) The proceedings at any meetings of the Executive Board including those which may be held virtually.
 - (c) The Annual General Meeting and any other meetings as called by the Executive Board
 - (1) the names and affiliation of the members present at the meeting;
 - (2) the decisions made at the meeting; and
 - (3) where appropriate the reasons for the decisions.
- 10.2 All minutes will be published on the Society's web site

11. Sections of the Society

- 11.1 Members of the Society throughout the world are able, with the approval of the Executive Board, to form a regional Section of the Society.
- 11.2 The Section should abide by the Constitution of the Society.
- 11.3 The membership within a region will propose officers to oversee the regional Section. Such officers are responsible for the reporting of regional activities, including, as a minimum, all financial accounts and minutes of meetings. Such reports will be made in a timely manner, to allow for inclusion in the annual report from the executive board to the membership at the AGM.
- 11.4 The Regional Representative will represent the regional Section on the Executive Board.

- 11.5 Any Section that does not follow the rules of the constitution may have the Society support withdrawn.
- 11.6 Members of the Society throughout the world are able, with the approval of the Executive Board, to form a Working/Thematic Group of the Society. The membership within a Working/Thematic Group will -propose officers to oversee the group. Such offices are responsible for the reporting of group activities and made in a timely manner. Any group that does not follow the rules of the constitution may have the Society support withdrawn.
- 11.7 The Executive Board has the final decision and approval of officers of sections and groups.

12. Dissolution

- 12.1 If the members resolve to dissolve the Society the Executive Board will remain in office and be responsible for winding up the affairs of the Society.
- 12.2 The Executive Board must collect in all the assets of the Society and must pay or make provision for all the liabilities of the Society.
- 12.3 Each of the board members will carry a liability to a maximum of 1 euro per board member at time of dissolution.
- 12.4 The Executive Board must apply any remaining assets or money:
- (a) directly for the objects of the Society;
 - (b) by transfer to any charity or organisation for purposes the same as or similar to that of the Society.
- 12.5 The members may pass a resolution before or at the same time as the resolution to dissolve the Society specifying the manner in which the Executive Board are to apply the remaining assets and money of the Society and the Executive Board must comply with the resolution if it is consistent with paragraphs (a) – (b) inclusive in sub-clause 12.4 above.
- 12.6 In no circumstances shall the net assets or monies held by the Society be paid to or distributed among the members of the Society.

13. Amendment of constitution

- 13.1 The Society may amend any provision contained in this constitution provided that:
- (a) no amendment may be made that would have the effect of making the Society a not-for-profit organisation;
 - (b) no amendment may be made to alter the object or purposes if the change would undermine or work against the previous objects of the Society;
 - (c) any resolution to amend a provision of this constitution is passed by not less than two thirds of the members present and voting at a general meeting.
- 13.2 A copy of any resolution amending this constitution shall be documented by the secretary within twenty one days of it being passed.