



THE LATIN AMERICAN THYROID SOCIETY BYLAWS

I- NAME AND ADDRESS

Section 1. The Latin American Thyroid Society (LATS) is an organization of Latin American scientists concerned in promoting research in the thyroid field (basic and clinical).

Section 2. The Society's duration shall be unlimited.

Section 3. The administration office shall be located at the LATS Treasurer's address. The articles of incorporation were filed under the law of the state of São Paulo, Brazil.

II- OBJECTIVES

Section 4. The objectives of the Society are to promote basic and clinical research and improve knowledge of the thyroid gland and its diseases.

Section 5. Organize and sponsor scientific meetings and courses.

Section 6. Maintain relationships with other international scientific societies.

III- MEMBERSHIP

Section 7. Membership shall consist of Active, Corresponding, Honorary and Associated members.

a) Active members are citizens or residents of Latin American countries whose current and established interests are clinical or experimental investigation of the thyroid gland and its diseases (anatomy, physiology, experimental pathology, biochemistry, biophysics, nuclear medicine, molecular and cellular biology, and clinical investigation). Applicants for Active membership must have participated in a previous LATS Congress and must be nominated by two LATS Active members. Application forms must be accompanied by a brief curriculum vitae and a list of the applicant's principal publications (at least two) in the thyroid field. Applications must be submitted to the Secretary and will be examined by the Executive Committee. Applicants approved by two-thirds of the attendees must participate in the General Meeting of the Society for election.

b) A Corresponding Membership is confined to citizens of non-Latin American countries who are approved by the Executive Committee.

c) An Honorary Membership is conferred upon distinguished professionals who have rendered outstanding service to the study of the thyroid gland. Honorary members must be nominated by Active members and approved by the General Meeting.

d) Associate members may comprise (i) students, young researchers, or clinicians interested in the study of the thyroid gland; (ii) any person who is a member of governmental and non-governmental agencies involved in the study of the thyroid gland, or in the introduction or regulation of public health policies that address aspects of the thyroid gland. Applications must be submitted to the Secretary and approved by the General Meeting.

Section 8. Founding members are all those whose memberships were granted before June 1st, 1975.

IV- GOVERNANCE

Section 9. The Executive Committee, the governing body of LATS, shall be composed of a President, a President-Elect, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and other nine Active members.

Section 10. The President shall be the main officer of the LATS, preside at the General Meeting and the Executive Committee and represent LATS, together with the Secretary, in meetings with other international societies and shall be entitled to appoint and attorney-in-fact to represent him or her before government agencies. In the event of absence, the President-Elect shall carry out the aforementioned duties. The President and the President-Elect shall be appointed for a two-year term and shall not be eligible for reelection.

Section 11. The President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer and Directors of LATS shall be elected by the Active members attending the General Meeting together with the votes of the Active members, up to date with payments due, who voted online for the appointed candidates.

Section 12. Pre-Congress Nomination

(a) Three members of the Executive Committee shall compose the Election Committee.

(b) Candidates for the positions of President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer and Directors of LATS shall submit their nomination to the Election Committee at least *forty days* before the LATS Congress. The President-Elect shall serve as such and shall assume the office of President two years after being elected.

(c) The Election Committee shall notify LATS's members about the candidates nominated for office after receiving the nominations for President-Elect, as well as for Secretary, Treasurer and Directors at least *thirty days* before the LATS Congress.

Elections during the Congress

(d) As of the first day of Congress until 12:00 of the LATS General Meeting, the ballots shall be handed out for the LATS members up to date with payments due. The ballots shall be counted in advance by the Election Committee, added to LATS members' ballots up to date with payments due who voted online after being provided by the Election Committee with the names of candidates for eligible offices, and the results shall be announced during the General Meeting.

Section 13. The Secretary shall be elected for a four-year term and shall not be eligible for reelection. The Secretary shall be responsible for the LATS correspondence and files; attend and keep a record of all meetings; submit a report of the activities of the Executive Committee; negotiate and execute contracts on behalf of LATS; and, together with the President, represent LATS in meetings with international societies.

Section 14. The Treasurer shall be elected for a four-year term and shall not be eligible for reelection. The Treasurer shall be responsible for the finance of LATS, and his or her duties include: collect donations and annual dues, make payments, draw checks, open deposit accounts, authorize charges, use open credit, receive and issue invoice and grant discharge, make admissions, discontinue and settle proceedings, request balance and transaction history, request checkbooks, authorize financial operations on debit account, collect returned checks, endorse checks, request electronic cards, operate checking account with electronic card, make payments and transfers except by electronic means, sign loan applications, pledge or mortgage company assets, endorse securities, place stop payment requests on checks, cancel and write-off checks, make redemptions and investments, register, change and unblock passwords, make withdrawals from checking and savings accounts, make payments and transfers through electronic means, make available payment history, authorize POA signing "**SEVERALLY**", and assist the Secretary and the other members of the Committee.

Section 15. The nine directors of the Executive Committee shall be elected by the majority of the Active members attending the General Meeting together with the votes of LATS members up to date with payments due who voted online. They shall serve in office for a two-year term. The Directors of the Executive Committee can be reelected to serve another two-year term.

Section 16. The Directors of LATS or any other Active Member of the Society can be a candidate for President-Elect, Secretary and Treasurer of LATS. The Directors of the Executive Committee can be reelected to serve another two-year term.

Section 17 The terms of all offices shall be extended if, in the period of their duration, no General Meetings are held.

Section 18. The President, the Secretary and the Executive Committee shall be entitled to create subcommittees or request members to work on specific issues.

Section 19. Any vacancy among the officers, except for the offices of President and President-Elect, may be filled by an appointee of the President subject to the majority approval of the Executive Committee.

V- DUES AND FEES

Section 20. The amount of the annual dues for Active or Associated members shall be determined by the Executive Committee and voted by the General Meeting. Associated members shall be charged half the amount the Active members are charged.

Section 21. The Executive Committee, with the consent of the General Meeting can charge special assessments.

Section 22. Any member neglecting to pay dues or amounts approved by the Executive Committee, after notification sent by the Secretary, may have their membership withdrawn.

V- REVENUE

Section 23. The revenues of the Society are comprised of:

- a) Members shall be charged annual dues.
- b) Donations, gifts, concessions and inheritance.
- c) Revenue from meetings, publications or courses organized by the Society.

VI- ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Section 24. The annual financial report shall be submitted by the Treasurer to the Executive Committee and for the Active members attending the General Meeting and shall be approved by the General Meeting.

VII- AMENDMENTS

Section 25. Any member may propose to the Secretary, in writing, amendments to these Bylaws at least thirty days before the General Meeting. These Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the Active members.

VIII THE LATS CONGRESS

Section 26. The LATS Congress will create the appropriate atmosphere for participants to obtain information, exchange ideas and establish relationships among researchers of the thyroid gland.

Section 27. The meeting will be held biannually, in a Latin American city, except in the years when the International Thyroid Congress (ITC) takes place. The Executive Committee may change the city and the year if deemed necessary. The LATS Congress shall not take place simultaneously to other international meetings.

Section 28. The organization Committee shall be appointed by the LATS Executive Committee and must be comprised, preferably, by members of LATS who live in the host country.

Section 29. The LATS Executive Committee shall appoint the Program Organization Committee.

IX - THE LATS AWARD

Section 30. The LATS Award shall be granted on every LATS Congress to an Active member of the Society who has rendered outstanding contribution to the thyroid research during a considerable period of time.

Section 31. The Executive Committee shall create the award. The Committee can appoint a panel of experts, not necessarily LATS members, as a jury. The Executive Committee will make the final decision.

Section 32. Any two Active members of LATS shall propose award nominees). The proposal shall be submitted to the Secretary and shall include the curriculum vitae of the nominee (no more than 10 pages long) and a brief overview (no more than 2 pages long) of the nature of the nominee's personal contribution to the thyroid research.

Section 33. The winner shall be asked to present a lecture at the LATS Congress.

Section 34. The LATS Awards – Young Researcher shall be granted on every LATS Congress to two young members of the Society (40 years of age or less) who submit an adequate paper during the Congress. The awards shall be divided into two categories: (1) Clinical and (2) Basic Research.

The young researchers must be the primary authors and must present the paper at the Congress.

Section 35. The paper presented must have been produced entirely in a Latin American country.

Hans Graf
LATS President

Ana Maria Masini-Repiso
LATS Secretary