



ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH NEUROLOGISTS

Rules approved at the Annual General Meeting,
7 May 2026, Birmingham
Registered Charity No 1077893

INTERPRETATION

The words and expressions used in these Rules shall bear the same meanings as are assigned to them in the Articles of Association of the Association provided that "year" shall mean the period between two consecutive Annual General Meetings.

As defined in the Articles, the United Kingdom shall mean the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

1. **THESE RULES** are made pursuant to Article 62.1 and may be amended by the Association in general meeting.

2. **NAME**

2.1. The Society shall be called the Association of British Neurologists.

3. **AIM**

The aim of the Association of British Neurologists is to improve the health and well-being of people with neurological disorders by promoting education in and the advancement of the neurological sciences, including (without limitation) the practice of neurology in the United Kingdom and Ireland.

4. **MEMBERSHIP**

4.1. The Association shall consist of Ordinary, Senior, Honorary, Honorary Overseas, Overseas, Associate, Affiliate, Junior and Student Members.

4.1.1. Ordinary: Those appointed to consultant posts, or equivalent, in the neurological sciences, and others who have contributed significantly to the discipline in the United Kingdom and Ireland, shall be eligible for Ordinary Membership.

4.1.2. Senior: Ordinary members on retirement from hospital appointment, from academic appointment and from the practice of clinical neurology shall cease to be Ordinary Members at the next Annual General Meeting and may become Senior members. Ordinary members still engaged in active practice and meeting the requirements defined in rule 4.1.1 but reaching State pension age may elect to cease being Ordinary Members at the next Annual General Meeting and become Senior Members.

4.1.3. Honorary: Persons of distinction in Medicine and related sciences, resident in the United Kingdom and Ireland, who have contributed to the advancement of neurology shall be eligible for the Honorary Membership. Non-residents of similar distinction shall be eligible for the Honorary Overseas Membership. The number of Honorary Members shall be limited to ten per cent of the current Ordinary Membership and of Honorary Overseas Members to a similar number; they shall be elected by the Association on the recommendation of the Council.

- 4.1.4. Overseas: Ordinary Members who cease to reside in the United Kingdom and Ireland shall be deemed Overseas Members. In addition persons of British or Irish nationality who have left the United Kingdom and Ireland to work abroad, others with significant past or present association with British neurology, or others who have made significant contributions to neurology internationally, shall be eligible for election to Overseas Membership.
- 4.1.4.1. Senior Overseas: Overseas members on retirement from hospital appointment, from academic appointment and from the practice of clinical neurology may become Senior Overseas members.
- 4.1.5. Associate: All specialty registrars and others pursuing clinical practice or research in clinical neurology or related neuroscience disciplines within the United Kingdom and Ireland shall be eligible for Associate Membership. After completion of specialty training in neurology, and on appointment to a substantive consultant post, Associate Members will become Ordinary Members following approval at the next Council meeting. These posts will then be ratified at the following Annual General Meeting.
- 4.1.6. Affiliate: General practitioners and Physicians with an interest in neurology, and Associate Specialists/Staff Grades in Neurology, within the United Kingdom and Ireland shall be eligible for Affiliate membership.
- 4.1.7. Junior: Junior hospital doctors who are not neurology specialist trainees within the United Kingdom and Ireland shall be eligible for Junior membership.
- 4.1.8. Student: Undergraduate medical students within the United Kingdom and Ireland shall be eligible for Student membership.
- 4.1.9. Allied Health Professionals: UK and Ireland based Allied Health Professionals including specialist nurses and physician associates shall be eligible for Allied Health professional membership.
- 4.2. Application for membership may be made electronically.
- 4.2.1. All candidates for membership must provide proof of professional status as requested by the ABN council.
- 4.2.1.1. Ordinary/Associate/Affiliate/Junior members should cite GMC/IHC registration Overseas members should cite relevant regulator registration
- 4.2.1.2. Student members should provide their university email address.
- 4.2.1.3. Allied Health Professionals should cite professional registration

5. **SUBSCRIPTION**

- 5.1. From time to time the annual subscription rates shall be decided by Council in the light of the financial situation of the Association and after taking advice from the Treasurer.
- 5.1.1. The subscription shall then be ratified at the next Annual General Meeting of the Association. It shall be paid by Debit or Credit Card, Direct Debit, BACS or standing order.
- 5.1.2. Non-payment of the subscription within three months may be considered by Council as equivalent to resignation.

6. **TRUSTEE BOARD**

- 6.1. The following shall be ex officio members of the Trustee Board:
 - 6.1.1. The President
 - 6.1.2. The President-Elect
 - 6.1.3. The Honorary Secretary
 - 6.1.4. The Honorary Treasurer

- 6.1.5. The Meetings secretary
- 6.1.6. The Elected Councillors
- 6.2. In addition to the ex officio members, the Trustee Board shall include:
 - 6.2.1. Three lay members appointed by the Trustee Board for up to, two terms of three years. Any person appointed by the Trustees to fill a vacancy on the Trustee Board provided that such a person shall hold office only until the conclusion of the next following general meeting.
- 6.3. The Trustee Board may appoint Non Voting Members (NVMs) to the board.
 - 6.3.1. NVMs shall attend such meetings and receive such Trustee papers as the Trustee Board shall determine and may participate in deliberations when invited to do so.
 - 6.3.2. For the avoidance of doubt, NVMs shall not have the power to vote and shall not count towards the quorum.
 - 6.3.3. The chairs of the Services Committee, Education Committee, Research Committee, Quality Committee and the ABNT respectively shall be, by invitation, NVMs at the Trustee Board entitled to receive notice of all Trustee meetings.
- 6.4. The Trustee Board shall review the composition of the board every four years or less and following such review shall put any recommended changes to these Rules to the members in general meeting.

7. COUNCIL

- 7.1. The Council shall consist of the President, President Elect, the Honorary Secretary, the Honorary Treasurer, the Meetings secretary, the Chair of the Services Committee, the Chair of the Education Committee, the Chair of the Research Committee, the Chair of the Quality Committee, the ABNT Representative, plus Meetings secretary Elect, Honorary Secretary Elect and Honorary Treasurer Elect when in post, and up to six elected Councillors.
- 7.2. Councillors who are neither Officers nor committee chairs shall be Ordinary Members elected by postal or electronic ballot in accordance with the procedure set out in Rule 12.1. Each successful candidate shall take office as an Elected Councillor immediately after the Annual General Meeting next following such ballot.
- 7.3. The Council may appoint a person who is willing to act to be a Councillor to fill a vacancy. Usually, this will be a person who has previously put themselves forward for election. A Councillor so appointed shall hold office only until the conclusion of the vacating Council member's term. Where there is no vacating Council member, the Councillor shall hold office only until the conclusion of the next following General Meeting.
- 7.4. A quorum of eight voting members will be necessary to validate decisions made by Council.
- 7.5. The Immediate Past President shall be an ex officio NVM at Council for the year immediately following the conclusion of his/her term of office and shall be entitled to receive notice of all Council meetings.
- 7.6. The Council may appoint NVMs to Council. NVMs shall attend such meetings and receive such Council papers as Council shall determine and may participate in deliberations when invited to do so.
- 7.7. For the avoidance of doubt, NVMs shall not have the power to vote and shall not count towards the quorum.
- 7.8. The Council shall review the composition of the Council every four years or less and following such review shall put any recommended changes to these Rules to the members in general meeting.
- 7.9. The provisions governing proceedings of meetings of Trustees shall apply to meetings of Council.

8. ELIGIBILITY

- 8.1. No person may be elected as a Trustee:
 - 8.1.1. unless she/he has attained the age of 18 years; or
 - 8.1.2. in circumstances such that, had she/he already been a Trustee, she/he would have been disqualified from acting under the provisions of Article 50.
- 8.2. No person may be elected as a Councillor:
 - 8.2.1. unless she/he has attained the age of 18 years; or
 - 8.2.2. in circumstances such that, had she/he already been a Councillor, she/he would have been disqualified from acting under the provisions of Rule 9.

9. DISQUALIFICATION OF COUNCILLORS

- 9.1. The office of Councillor shall be vacated:
 - 9.1.1. if by notice in writing to the Association she/he resigns from the Council, or
 - 9.1.2. if she/he is removed by notice in writing to the Association signed by a majority of the members of the Association, or
 - 9.1.3. if she/he is absent from three consecutive meetings of the Council without the consent of the Chair, or
 - 9.1.4. if she/he becomes incapable by reason of mental disorder, illness or injury of managing and administering his/her own affairs, or
 - 9.1.5. if she/he is convicted of any criminal offence, other than any minor motoring or similar offence that cannot reasonably damage the reputation of the Association.

10. ELECTION OF PRESIDENT AND PRESIDENT ELECT

- 10.1. The President of the Association shall be an Ordinary Member at the time of election and shall be elected from persons nominated by the Ordinary Members by postal or electronic ballot of the Ordinary Members conducted prior to the Annual General Meeting.
 - 10.1.1. No less than 40 days before such meeting the Honorary Secretary shall send to each Ordinary Member details of all such nominations received, together with ballot papers which to be valid must be returned to the Office no later than 14 clear days before the Annual General Meeting.
 - 10.1.2. The result of the ballot shall be announced at the Annual General Meeting immediately following which meeting the successful candidate shall take office as President Elect (or President if she/he is first President or the office of President has been vacated).
- 10.2. The President shall hold office for two years, preceded (unless she/he is the first President, or the office of President has been vacated) by two years in office as President Elect. The President shall not be eligible for re-election. The President shall cease to hold office forthwith upon ceasing to be a Trustee or Councillor.
- 10.3. A President who has served their full term of office shall be the Past President for one year following the expiry of their term. A President who ceases to be President for any other reason may be the Past President for one year following the expiry of their term if the Trustee Board so resolves.

11. ELECTION OF HONORARY SECRETARY, HONORARY TREASURER AND MEETINGS SECRETARY

- 11.1. The Honorary Secretary, the Honorary Treasurer and the Meetings secretary shall be elected by the Ordinary Members.
- 11.2. The Honorary Secretary will write to the Ordinary Membership seeking nominations of Ordinary Members for the offices of Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer and Meetings secretary; A postal or electronic ballot of all Ordinary Members shall be conducted prior to the Annual

General Meeting.

- 11.2.1. The individual elected as Honorary Secretary will, from the close of the meeting at which she/he is elected, take office for one year as Honorary Secretary Elect and then two years as Honorary Secretary. . They shall not be eligible for re-election in this role.
- 11.2.2. The individual elected as Honorary Treasurer will, from the close of the meeting at which she/he is elected, take office as Treasurer Elect, co-opted to Council (or Honorary Treasurer if the office of Honorary Treasurer has been vacated). The Treasurer Elect shall serve one year and then shall serve four years as the Honorary Treasurer. . They shall not be eligible for re-election in this role.
- 11.2.3. The individual elected as Meetings secretary will, from the close of the meeting at which she/he is elected, take office for one year as Meetings secretary Elect and then two years as Meetings secretary. . They shall not be eligible for re-election in this role.

12. ELECTION OF COUNCILLORS

- 12.1. The Honorary Secretary will write to the Ordinary Membership seeking nominations of Ordinary Members as new Members of Council; A postal or electronic ballot of all Ordinary Members shall be conducted prior to the Annual General Meeting.
- 12.2. Each Elected Councillor shall serve for four years after which she/he shall not be eligible to stand for re-election for a period of four years. No Elected Councillor may serve more than eight years in total.

13. CHAIRS OF COMMITTEES

- 13.1. The chairs of the Services Committee, the Education Committee, the Research Committee, and the Quality Committee shall be appointed by council.
- 13.2. The Honorary Secretary shall invite applications from ABN ordinary members three months before the current chair's term of office concludes.
- 13.3. Applications shall be reviewed by the Executive Committee, a shortlist agreed and invited to interview. The interview panel shall include President, President Elect, Honorary Secretary. A chair shall be appointed on completion of the interview process.
- 13.4. Each chair so appointed shall serve for a term of three years, extendable up to two terms as committee Chair. If the chair wishes to stay for the second term, they will approach the panel of President, President Elect and Honorary Secretary to outline why they wish to stand again. This decision will be taken to Council for ratification. If rejected, the application process in 13.2 and 13.3 needs to be carried out to seek a new chair.
- 13.5. Each chair shall be asked to nominate a vice chair from the committee members for ratification by council.
- 13.6. The vice chair may deputise for the chair at Executive and council meetings.
- 13.7. The President Elect shall be the chair of the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion committee.
- 13.8. The Honorary Treasurer shall be the chair of the Finance Audit and Risk committee.

14. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- 14.1. The President, in consultation with Council, will conduct business as and when required with an executive group consisting of the President, President Elect, Past President, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer and Meetings secretary of the Association and the chairs of the Services Committee, the Education Committee, the Research Committee and the Quality Committee, plus Meetings secretary Elect, Honorary Secretary Elect and Honorary Treasurer Elect when in post.

15. SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

- 15.1. Special Interest Groups may be established by members within the Association, to pursue an area of special interest. Existing societies whose membership includes non-members of the Association may also apply to become Special Interest Groups if they share the objectives of

the ABN.

- 15.2. Special Interest Groups must follow the standard operating procedures for SIGs published by the ABN.
- 15.3. The standard operating procedures for SIGs are agreed by the ABN Council and can be altered by a majority vote of Council.

16. ABN ADVISORY GROUPS

- 16.1. Advisory Groups are governed by terms of reference.
- 16.2. Advisory Groups' terms of reference are agreed by ABN Council.
- 16.3. Changes to Advisory Groups' terms of reference can be made by a majority vote of ABN Council.

17. COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL

- 17.1. The committees of Council are governed by terms of reference.
- 17.2. Committees' terms of reference are set by ABN Council.
- 17.3. Changes to committees' terms of reference can be made by a majority vote of ABN Council.

18. SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS AND THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- 18.1. At least one scientific meeting shall be held each year, one of which shall include the Annual General Meeting. Associate members shall be entitled to attend the scientific meetings and the Annual General business meetings of the Association as non-voting members.
- 18.2. At least four months prior to the meetings the Meetings secretary shall send a notice to each member and shall invite communications to be presented at the scientific meetings.
- 18.3. Any declarations of interest must be completed on abstract forms.
- 18.4. The programme for each scientific meeting shall be published on the ABN website and notification that it is available online shall be sent by the Honorary Secretary to each member of the Association at least two weeks before the meeting is held.

19. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- 19.1. At least two weeks before the Annual General Meeting the Honorary Secretary shall send to each Member the names of the Officers and committee chairs whom the Council or Members nominate for the ensuing year.
- 19.2. The agenda for the Annual General Meeting of the Association shall be sent to Ordinary, Overseas, Honorary, Honorary Foreign and Senior Members by the Honorary Secretary at least one week before the meeting is held.
- 19.3. A majority vote of those Ordinary members present will be required to ratify decisions at the Annual General Meeting.
- 19.4. Proceedings of the scientific meetings may be published in abstract in the Journal of Neurology, Neurosurgery and Psychiatry.

20. OTHER RULES

- 20.1. No alteration shall be made in the rules except at the Annual General Meeting and unless proposed by the Council or by at least ten members in writing. In the latter case, the proposal must reach the Secretary at least four weeks before the date of the meeting. Notice of the

proposed change shall be circulated to each member at least one week before the meeting at which it is to be brought forward, and it shall be decided by vote of those present at the meeting.

- 20.2. The income and property of the Association, whencesoever derived, shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the objects of the Association as set forth in the Rules, and no portion thereof shall be paid or transferred directly or indirectly, by way of dividend or otherwise howsoever by way of profit to members of the Association. Provided that nothing herein shall prevent the payment, in good faith, of reasonable and proper remuneration to any officer or servant of the Association, or to any member of the Association, in return for any services rendered to the Association, nor prevent the payment of interest at a rate not exceeding 4 per cent per annum on money lent or reasonable and proper rent for premises demised or let by any member to the Association; but so that no member of the Council or governing body of the Association shall be appointed to any salaried office of the Association or any office of the Association paid by fees, and that no remuneration or other benefit in money or money's worth shall be given by the Association to any member of such Council or governing body, except repayment of out-of-pocket expenses and interest at the rate aforesaid on money lent or reasonable and proper rent for premises demised or let to the Association. An exception to this rule is made for the President, whose time spent on ABN business may be reimbursed for up to 2 PAs per week, with payment going directly to the President's employer. No payment for time spent on ABN business will be made directly to the President. Provided that the provision shall not apply to any payment to any company of which a member of the Council or governing body may be a member, and in which such member shall not hold more than one hundredth part of the capital, and such member shall not be bound to account for any share or profits she/he may receive in respect of such payment.
- 20.3. If upon the winding up or dissolution of the Association there remains, after the satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, any property whatsoever, the same shall not be paid or distributed among the members of the Association, but shall be given or transferred to some other institution having objects similar to the objects of the Association, and which shall prohibit the distribution of its or their income and property among its or their members to an extent at least as great as is imposed on the Association under or by virtue of the last preceding Rule, such institution or institutions to be determined by the members of the Association at or before the time of dissolution, and if and so far as effect cannot be given to such provisions, then to some charitable object.
- 20.4. The Association shall be independent and its views shall not be compromised as a consequence of its relationships with commercial sponsors.