



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF NEMATOLOGY SOCIETIES

December 23rd 2013

Dear Councillors,

Time has flown fast since the 5th Congress in Brisbane. We are now less than a year away from the 6th International Nematology Congress in Cape Town (<http://www.6thinc.com/>). The 6th INC appears very promising when looking at the list of keynote speakers and the interesting preliminary programme that has been developed with the help of Rosa Manzanilla and the other members of the organizing committee and to which you have contributed on behalf of your societies. There is also excellent news concerning financial support for students, with several scholarships being provided by the societies and other agencies. We still have a few months left to make the congress not only scientifically a challenge but also from the organizational point a real success.

Time has also come to think of the future of IFNS and its board. Therefore, Rosa Manzanilla, the Vice-president, Safia Siddiqi, the Secretary and I ask you as IFNS councillor for your respective nematology societies, to propose a name for the new officers of IFNS, i.e. for president, vice-president and secretary. **We would like to receive your proposals by the 1st of February 2014 so that we can organize the election.**

During the second term as officers, the Sociedad Venezolana de Nematologia (Venezuelan Society of Nematology) with Ernesto San-Blas as President and Ana Maria Cassasa as Vice-president demanded to be accepted as a new (15th) member of IFNS. The new society has currently 30 members. The IV Venezuelan Symposia of Nematology will be held in Merida in

2014. **I hereby ask all councillors to accept and welcome this new member.** It's great to see that the Federation is attractive and that if you want to go far, you do it together.

We also encountered some problems during the second term which prevented to realize some of our goals. For example, the development of the IFNS website has been hindered by the problem Safia encountered to work on the website. However, we will do our best to update the website for the congress. For the future, we recommend that IFNS hire a webmaster to develop the IFNS website and make it more interactive.

Our intention to make IFNS an official organization was, despite the support of SON, ESN and ONTA at the ONTA meeting in Portugal, (1) not broadly supported by the members of the majority of the societies, largely because they didn't see the advantage taking the rather high costs into account and since the federation fulfils its main tasks i.e. to organise the election to select the society that will organize the next congress and to establish the scientific program and assist the organizers of the congress without being an official organisation, (2) as you may remember, apart from Rod, nobody from the US where the organization would be seated, volunteered for the time consuming job to deal with all official aspects; (3) IFNS, according to the draft of its statutes, cannot deal with financial aspects and (4) the organizing society of the congress can manage without such a support.

However, I believe it would be a good step forward if the societies **could discuss the draft proposal on the statutes added at the end of this letter and provide their comments** by 1 March 2014 so that we can have at last a generally accepted for the next congress.

Dear Councillors, I hereby would like to thank you for your cooperation and wish you a very happy and successful 2014.

With best regards,

Roza Manzanilla
IFNS Vice-President

Safia Siddiqi
IFNS Secretary

Wilfrida Decraemer
IFNS President

THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF NEMATOLOGY SOCIETIES (IFNS)

I. PREAMBLE:

The International Federation of Nematology Societies was organized on July 10, 1996, during the Third International Nematology Congress, in Gosier, Guadeloupe. This event was preceded by much discussion over the years that intervened between the first (1984 - Guelph, Canada) and second (1990 - Veldhoven, The Netherlands) International Nematology Congresses. An international, feasibility 'Study Group', appointed at the 1990 Congress and representing eight Nematology Societies, developed the proposal that the IFNS be organized at the Guadeloupe Congress.

Presently, 15 Nematology Societies are affiliated within this Federation:

Afro-Asian Society of Nematologists
Australasian Association of Nematologists
Brazilian Society of Nematology
Chinese Society of Plant Nematologists
Egyptian Society of Agricultural Nematology
European Society of Nematologists
Italian Society of Nematologists
Japanese Nematological Society
Nematological Society of India
Nematological Society of Southern Africa
Organization of Nematologists of Tropical America
Pakistan Society of Nematologists
Russian Society of Nematologists
Society of Nematologists
Venezuelan Society of Nematology

II. STATUTES

Art. 1 The name of the organization is the International Federation of Nematology Societies, acronym IFNS, referred to hereafter as the Federation. The Federation shall be established indefinitely from the date of its organization - July 10, 1996. The Federation is an International non-profit organisation. It has its registered office at the USDA in Beltsville, Maryland, USA. The correspondence address is the address of the acting President.

Art. 2 – Mission of the Federation

The mission of the Federation is to plan, facilitate, and promote International Congresses of Nematology, to foster global awareness of nematodes and advancement of the science of Nematology, and to serve as a worldwide interface for

Nematology Societies by promoting communication, education, research, and outreach. To serve this purpose, the Federation fosters exchange of information, and extend knowledge worldwide on all facets of Nematology.

Art. 3 – Affiliation and Membership

The Federation is composed of affiliated Nematology Societies or Nematology-related professional Societies receiving approval to join the Federation by the Council. Affiliated Societies participate in all Federation activities, and affiliated organizations or agencies that may contribute to Federation programs as determined by the Council.

Art. 4 – Structure of Organisation

The Governing Board is comprised of the Societies represented by their appointed Councillors. Within 6 months of International Congresses, the Councillors nominate and elect three officers: President, Vice-President, and a Secretary-Treasurer which are installed during the International Congress for a term of 3 years. At the end of 3 years, the same officers are re-elected or replaced by new officers in case of non-confidence voting or resignation for an additional 3 years. A quorum of Councillors from at least 5 Societies can request a vote of confidence for any officers anytime during their term. Special elections are organized to fill any vacancies of these officers. The President serves as a spokesperson for the council, presides at council meetings, and coordinates other council activities by electronic mailings sent to all Councillors simultaneously. The Vice-President coordinates the development of the scientific program of the International Congress and assist the President. Secretary-Treasurer assists the President and Vice-President in updating the website of the Federation, keep the minutes and records of the Federation and shall also act as Treasurer.

Art. 5 – Committees

The Council may appoint committees to assist in operation of the Federation.

Art. 6 – Programs designed to achieve goals:

International Congresses of Nematology are held every 6 years with the host Nematology Society having the responsibility for all local arrangements and finances. The Council, with coordination provided by the Vice President, develops the scientific program of the Congress. The Federation enhances communication and promotes collaboration among related scientists worldwide (through respective affiliated Societies and other channels), facilitates the exchange of journals, books and other materials, and develops and maintains a web site.

Art. 7 – Federation Council:

The Societies appoint their councillor(s). The number of councillors is based on Society membership: 200 or fewer members - one councillor; greater than 200 members - two councillors. The Council acts as executive committee on all matters. Agreement is obtained upon majority.

Art. 8 – Meetings and activities:

The Council meets at International Congresses and reports of officers are available; additional business is conducted by electronic mail.

Art. 9 – Language

The official language is English.

Art. 10 – Funds, financial liabilities and commitment of Federation:

The Federation has no direct control over funds.

Art. 11 – Legal representation:

The officers represent the Federation in legal matters as approved by the Council.

Art. 12 – Procedures for voting:

Each councillor has one vote. Votes are counted to elect officers, select congress meeting sites, and make other Council decisions. All elections and decisions taken by the Council require an absolute majority, that is, positive votes from more than 50% of the entire Council. If there is no winner in the first round, a run off vote between the two choices receiving the most votes in the first round must receive an absolute majority in the second round.

Art. 13 – Changes to the Constitution:

The Constitution may be amended by a positive vote of a 75% majority of councillors. Councillors must be notified by mail or E-mail of such a recommendation to amend with a minimum time of 60 days prior to the deadline to return the ballot. Ballots are available for audit by the Council.

Art. 14 – Dissolution of the Federation:

The Federation may be dissolved upon the approval of 75% of councillors. If dissolution should occur, the officers acting for the Council settle the accounts and dispose of the property of the Federation. Any plan for distribution of property resulting from dissolution of the Federation must be approved by 75% of the Council.