

Bylaws of the

“German Speaking Countries” Chapter of the Society for Vascular Surgery

Article I – Name

The name of this organization shall be the **“German Speaking Countries” Chapter of the Society for Vascular Surgery** " (hereinafter the "Chapter").

Article II – Objectives

The objectives of this Chapter shall be:

1. To improve the science and art of vascular and endovascular surgery and the interchange of medical knowledge and information thereon;
2. To promote an international exchange of basic and clinical research for improving the quality and safety of vascular surgical and endovascular procedures and vascular care in general;
3. To provide opportunity for Austrian, German or Swiss vascular surgeons to receive the latest information on vascular surgery practices, education and vascular research in North America and to encourage international membership in the Society for Vascular Surgery.
4. To provide a forum for North American vascular specialists to be familiar with the rich tradition and the latest developments of vascular and endovascular surgery in Hungary
5. To promote the field of vascular and endovascular surgery through education, scholarship, advocacy, and leadership.
6. To further the development of vascular and endovascular surgery as an independent specialty.
7. To encourage membership in the Society for Vascular Surgery (SVS).

Article III – Membership

1. Membership of this Chapter shall be limited to physicians of good professional standing who have completed a formal and certified training in vascular surgery. Alternatively, membership can be considered for surgeons whose clinical practice is dedicated primarily to vascular surgery, as demonstrated by case logs, contributions to vascular education and/or research, participation in regional or local vascular societies. All members must be active or senior members of the Austrian, German or Swiss Society of Vascular Surgery or an equivalent national vascular society.
2. There shall be four types of membership:

- a) Active
- b) Senior
- c) Honorary

Active members of the Chapter may become Senior Members when they retire from active practice. Senior Members may choose to be active or inactive. Inactive Senior Members pay no dues and do not receive the Journal of Vascular Surgery.

The Executive Committee may select honorary members.

Article IV – Election of Members

1. The applicant should simultaneously apply for an international membership to the SVS. A letter of recommendation, signed by the president of the Chapter will be provided to him. This letter will be a prerequisite for his application to be processed by the SVS board of directors. Any applicant who fails to be approved as an international member in the SVS may reapply. A new application and new letters of sponsorship must be submitted.
2. Application for membership in the Chapter shall be sent to the Secretary of the Chapter by March 1st of each year. The name of the applicant shall be submitted by the Executive Committee to the members at the annual meeting. Election to membership shall be by a three-fourths affirmative of the members present at the annual meeting.

Article V – Officers: Elections and Duties

1. The officers of this Chapter shall consist of a president, president-elect, and secretary, all to be elected as provided in these bylaws.
2. The Executive Committee of this Chapter will consist of the three officers of the Society.
3. The president shall preside at Executive Committee meetings and the annual meeting. The president-elect, in the absence or incapacity of the president, shall perform the duties of the president's office. In the absence of both the president and president-elect, the chair shall be assumed by the secretary
4. The president and the secretary of the Society shall be elected for terms of two years each.
5. The secretary shall keep minutes at the meetings of the Chapter and the Executive Committee, update the executive committee on membership database and new applicant files and conduct correspondence of the Chapter. The secretary will issue an annual written report at the annual meeting.
6. Neither the Chapter nor its officers, nor any member of the Chapter is authorized to represent or in any way bind the SVS.

Article VI – Meetings

1. The annual meeting of the Chapter shall be held at a time and place selected by the Executive Committee.
2. The business meeting of the Chapter shall be conducted during the annual meeting. Officers of the Chapter shall be elected by a majority vote of active members present at the business meeting.
3. All active members must attend the annual meeting a minimum of one year out of every three years. There is no attendance requirement for honorary or senior members.
4. The members present at any official meeting of the Chapter shall constitute a quorum necessary to change the constitution and bylaws of the Chapter, to make assessments, to elect officers and members, and to expel members.
5. Bylaws may be altered or repealed at the annual meeting by a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of the members present

Article VII – Resignations, Expulsions

1. Any member may resign by written notification to the Secretary.
2. The administration of matters of discipline shall be the duty of the Executive Committee. Charges of unprofessional conduct against any member may be presented in writing to the Executive Committee that shall act upon them no later than the next scheduled meeting. Any member who may feel aggrieved by the action of the Executive Committee shall have the right to appeal to his membership at the time of the Annual Meeting. The three-fourths (3/4) affirmative vote of the members present shall be required for expulsion.