

Special Letter from the President, David Cantor, PhD
Explaining the Revision of ISNR Bylaws

The board has spent a great deal of time updating and revising bylaws to make them more consistent with the body of the membership and the types of neurotherapeutic techniques presented for both research and clinical practice. The following key changes to be noted are:

1. The name of the Society will be changed from the International Society for Neurofeedback and Research (ISNR) to the International Societies of Neuroregulation and Research (ISNR).
2. In an effort to bring more of the international back into the society, an additional board of advisors made up of representatives from several neuromodulatory and neurotherapeutic societies from around the world have been invited as part of a coalition to associate with ISNR and provide mutual support. The Board of Advisors will have no voting rights in regard to the operations of the ISNR Board but will be able to offer input and ideas. Additionally, this Board will elect one representative to partake on the Board of Directors of ISNR who will have a vote and thus the Board will have two international member representatives— one elected from the membership at large and one from the Board of International Advisors. This additional international member will substitute as a voting Board of Director to replace the Sergeant at Arms board member which has been deemed obsolete under the new bylaws.
3. The additional impetus to increase international participation and support will also include a new International Advisory Board which will also help plan and provide the ISNR meeting every other year at an international site, reducing the burden of the current ISNR Board of organizing the meeting every year with full fiduciary responsibility.
4. The new bylaws also has eliminated the Past President position from the Board of Directors but has created a separate Board of Advisors for the any Past President and any other past Board member to serve voluntarily. These Advisors will also not have any formal voting power on the Board of Directors but will provide valuable guidance, given their knowledge and experience, to assist the new Boards as they come on to serve. This is recommended since, in order for someone to serve as president of ISNR, the current bylaws require a four-year commitment: 1)one year as a board member, 2)one year as president elect, 3)one year as president, and 4)one year as past president. The Board felt this four-year commitment was hampering the ability to find anyone willing to run for President in recent years. The new bylaws would only require a three-year commitment.

5. We have also changed the requirement of a "two-thirds vote of members" to make amendments to "two-thirds of voting members." We felt we needed to change this particular bylaw inasmuch as we have found that rarely can we obtain sufficient voting responses to represent two-thirds of the membership at large either by electronic voting means or during the business meeting at the end of annual conference.

I urge you to review and accept these changes as we believe this will greatly streamline operations and enable decision-making more rapidly and efficiently. The changes are also believed to enhance ISNR's visibility nationally and internationally and to create alliances rather than competing entities around the world. The proposed changes we believe will enable more stable long-term financial planning and expand funding opportunities beyond only the management of a conference each year.

Additional Narrative Provided by David Cantor, PhD

ISNR has a dwindling membership the last few years because because at least, in part, there are other organizations in psychophysiology and neuromodulation. With reduced membership, the organization will dwindle to ineffectiveness and inability to sustain even its basic functions. I have surveyed colleagues from all over the world. Part of the problem is that for many other professionals from around the world, the fact that we do not openly embrace other forms of neuromodulation or neuroregulation by our name alone alienates us. This causes them to seek organizations that cater to their brand of neuromodulation. This decision was made many years ago and it has, I think, promoted other organizations to form and grow to meet the needs of diverse areas of neuromodulation. For example: the Society for Neuromodulation has grown and exceeded us over the years and the organizations that are a primary interest in neurostimulation are rapidly growing while we are shrinking. There are fractional groups forming all over the world. This makes it nearly impossible for us to grow in membership since few people cannot afford paying dues to several organizations and cannot attend multiple conferences nor pay for multiple journals. I do not think it was a mistake to call our journal "*NeuroRegulation*" and it would make sense to call our Society by our own journal name. Further, I think this moves us into openly inviting other professionals and interests to our organization to show that we are more than just Neurofeedback in the classic sense, and in fact, unless you come to our conferences or subscribe to our journal, you may not know this. Frankly, the public does not pay our bills nor pay dues to grow our organization and expand our interests. Thus, the more immediate concern is to enhance and expand our professional membership. This needs to be done by: 1) expanding interests more than Neurofeedback and make that obvious (after all, we do more than just neurofeedback); and, 2) make strong efforts to include regional and international organizations that have formed and are forming to come under the umbrella of ISNR in a way to be inclusive, not competitive. This is not to say that we are not interested in our public relations to the public. Just the opposite. The Board of Directors of ISNR has been forming a

blueprint to expand public relations and exposure to the public about ISNR (our social media exposure has exploded over the past year) and our aim is to make ISNR the "brand name" for NeuroRegulation to the public. Further, we are building bridges to the public by: 1) providing useful information on our website about equipment and procedures that meet the standards of being legitimate "neurofeedback" or "neurostimulation" so that products and services that are being brought to the public under the name of "neurofeedback" or "neuroregulation" are truly doing that and not something that ultimately gives us a bad name; 2) making information to the lay public that is more readable and understandable about us and the tools we use; 3) pointing lay people to our membership as sources of information and services; and, 4) bringing more articles, interviews, and videos to the social media networks.

I think it is time for us not to live in our own little bubble and try to grow and become a potent organization than one that marginally cover its expenses and struggles every year to pay for an annual conference. Hopefully, with your support for our initiatives, these changes and goals will be achieved. We plan to keep you informed of its growth in our newsletters over the year.