

Statutes

EUROPEAN CROHN'S AND COLITIS ORGANISATION

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§ 1. Name, seat and field of activities

1. The name of the association is "European Crohn's and Colitis Organisation".
2. The legal seat is in Vienna, Austria. The location of the seat can be changed within Austria by a simple majority decision of the Governing Board.
3. ECCO acts inside Europe and also encourages collaboration beyond Europe's borders.
4. ECCO is a not-for-profit association.
5. ECCO acts without national, linguistic, religious or philosophical preference.
6. ECCO has been founded for an unlimited period of time. It can discontinue its activities at any time.
7. The working language of ECCO is English.
8. The daily currency is the Euro.
9. The fiscal year of ECCO is the calendar year.

§ 2. Mission

ECCO aims to improve research, education and collaboration in the area of inflammatory bowel diseases (IBD) for the purpose of improving the care of patients with IBD. As part of this mission, ECCO will promote all efforts that lead to an improvement in current therapies or procedures that may ultimately result in complete disease control, i.e. cure.

§ 3. Means to achieve the mission of ECCO

3.1. Ideal means

The ideal means to achieve the organisation's objectives shall be obtained as follows:

1. To promote, sponsor and steer European international research efforts in the field of IBD.
2. To cooperate and collaborate with patient organisations and other organisations that share an interest in IBD, including medical societies and companies, and to create a political voice for patients with IBD in Europe.
3. To enhance the quality of research in the field of IBD, in both basic science and clinical science.
4. To facilitate and promote the education of physicians, nurses, affiliate specialists and patients in the field of IBD.
5. To organise international and regional scientific or educational exchange programmes in the field of IBD.
6. To influence the management of IBD through the development, publication, dissemination and teaching of IBD guidelines and other educational material.

7. To participate in the activities of the United European Gastroenterology (UEG) and in the organisation of the annual United European Gastroenterology Week (UEGW).
8. To be transparent about ECCO governance, structure, activities, finances and all other ECCO operational matters, thereby ensuring that information is readily available to ECCO Members and the medical, scientific and academic community.

3.2. Material Means

The material means to achieve the organisation's objectives shall be obtained as follows:

1. An annual individual membership fee will be charged to all individual ECCO Members, according to their ECCO Membership category. The Governing Board determines and the General Assembly approves the amount of the annual individual membership fees.
2. An annual membership fee will be set for ECCO Country Members for the purpose of supporting advanced training in IBD. The Governing Board determines and the General Assembly approves the amount.
3. An annual membership fee will be charged to ECCO Corporate Members, with an initial commitment of two years. The Governing Board determines and the General Assembly approves the amount of the annual Corporate Membership fee.
4. Direct or indirect income from unrestricted educational grants, the annual congress, workshops, consultancies, scientific publications or other funding or grant programmes from national or international scientific organisations or governments requires approval by the Governing Board. Gifts, donations and legacies may be incorporated into the funds of ECCO upon approval by the Governing Board.
5. Revenue from trade publications which are dedicated to the publication of research results and the circulation of information to members may be incorporated into the funds of ECCO upon approval by the Governing Board.
6. Income out of the management of assets (e.g. by founding of or investing in a corporation, license fees) supporting the mission of ECCO.

§ 4. Membership

4.1. Definition of ECCO Members

1. Members of ECCO are Individual Members, national IBD scientific organisations and corporations interested in IBD.
2. Membership is irrespective of nationality, language, ethnic group, religion, philosophy or gender.

4.2. Membership categories

4.2.1. Individual Members

1. A Regular Member is a physician or scientist with a university degree working in the field of IBD.
2. A Regular Member younger than 35 years of age or still in training is a member of Young ECCO (Y-ECCO) unless he or she has opted out.
3. An IBD nurse is a clinical or research nurse with an interest in the field of IBD.
4. An Affiliate Member is a holder of a post-graduate non-medical degree professionally affiliated with the field of IBD (e.g.: dietitian, pharmacist, psychologist) who is not an industry representative.
5. An Honorary Member is a person who has made an exceptional contribution to ECCO that has had a substantive impact on ECCO's development and the achievement of its mission and objectives. Honorary membership is conferred to express ECCO's wish to honour this person for their contribution.

4.2.2. Country Members

A Country Member is a national IBD organisation that encompasses individual physicians and scientists interested and/or working in the field of IBD, or established national scientific groups dedicated to IBD. Countries that can apply for membership are European countries and countries outside Europe that have established political relationships with European bodies like the Council of Europe.

4.2.3. Corporate Members

A Corporate Member is a company with a key interest in IBD or with products or services in the field. ECCO Corporate Membership requires an initial commitment of two years.

4.3. Admission of ECCO Members

1. Applicants for individual membership who meet the definition of membership should send an application to the ECCO Office for review. Applicants meeting the criteria will be approved by the Governing Board. The General Assembly will be informed about the status of individual membership at the annual meeting.
2. Candidates for Honorary Membership can be proposed by any ECCO Member within the course of the regular election process. The Governing Board recommends the final candidates for approval by the General Assembly at the annual meeting.
3. Applicants for Country Membership that meet the definition of membership should send an application to the ECCO Office for review. Applicants meeting the criteria will be approved by the Governing Board. The General Assembly will be informed about the admission of new Country Members at the annual meeting.

4. Applicants for Corporate Membership that meet the definition of membership should apply to the ECCO Office. Applicants meeting the criteria will be approved by the Governing Board. The General Assembly will be informed about the admission of new Corporate Members at the annual meeting.

4.4. Rights and obligations of ECCO Members

4.4.1. Individual Members (Regular Members, Y-ECCO Members, IBD nurse Members, Affiliate Members, Honorary Members)

1. Must pay the membership fee on time to be recognised as a "Member in good standing" and to be able to vote or avail themselves of other opportunities open to their respective category of ECCO Membership.
2. Must observe the ECCO Statutes and conduct themselves in an appropriate and ethical manner.
3. Constitute the General Assembly with all statutory rights.
4. Have the right to receive all information regarding the work of ECCO within the scope of data protection/ownership and other legal and regulatory diligence.
5. Are allowed to nominate candidates for election of ECCO Officers according to the calls for elections.
6. Have the right to apply for an official function within ECCO according to the calls for elections.
7. Pay a reduced congress fee for the ECCO Congress.
8. Regular Members, Y-ECCO Members and Honorary Members receive a free subscription to the Journal of Crohn's and Colitis (JCC).
9. Honorary Members will be listed as "Honorary Member" in communication materials and on the ECCO Website.

4.4.2. Country Members

1. Country Members are represented by up to two Regular Members (designated National Representatives) of their respective country.
2. The National Representatives meet in the Council of National Representatives.
3. The National Representatives have an obligation and a right to collaborate with ECCO in a synergistic manner, aiming to meet both national IBD objectives and the objectives of ECCO as defined in paragraph 2.
4. Country Members are required to define the process of selecting their National Representatives and period of tenure.

4.4.3. Corporate Members

1. Corporate Members must observe the ECCO Statutes and conduct themselves in an appropriate and ethical manner.
2. Representatives of Corporate Members are registered at the ECCO Office and must pay the ECCO Corporate Membership fee on time to be recognised as a "Corporate Member in good standing".

3. Representatives of Corporate Members are invited to attend the General Assembly, but do not hold voting rights in the General Assembly.

4.5. Termination of ECCO Membership

1. The Governing Board has the right to exclude any member for inappropriate or unethical behaviour or for activities contrary to the principles of ECCO.
2. All categories of ECCO Members end their ECCO Membership when members declare their withdrawal or fail to renew their membership on an annual basis.

§ 5. Structure

5.1. Definition

ECCO consists of various organs, each of which is assigned a specific task. The organs that make up ECCO are:

- The General Assembly
- The Governing Board
- The ECCO Office
- The Operational Board
- ECCO Committees
- The Council of National Representatives
- The Internal Auditors
- The Court of Arbitration

5.2. The General Assembly

5.2.1. Definition and composition

The General Assembly is the supreme organ of ECCO. It is constituted of all Individual Members, National Representatives and registered representatives of ECCO Corporate Members (albeit the latter without voting rights).

5.2.2. Meetings and decisions

The General Assembly takes place during the annual ECCO Congress. The agenda has to be distributed six weeks prior to the meeting. Requests to add items to the agenda must be sent to the ECCO Office at least four weeks in advance. Resolutions can only be decided on topics placed on the agenda. Urgent material can be discussed under "Other Business" on the agenda, but definitive resolutions on these topics are not possible. The chair during the General Assembly is taken by the ECCO President or a delegated representative of the Governing Board.

An Extraordinary General Assembly can be called by the Governing Board or by at least 10% of all ECCO Members, who should request such a meeting in writing to the ECCO Office, giving substantive reasons. All ECCO Members have to be informed about such an Extraordinary General Assembly at least four weeks in

advance, indicating the date, time, location and agenda of the Extraordinary General Assembly. The Governing Board will call the meeting.

The General Assembly or Extraordinary General Assembly can only vote after 10 minutes have passed from the official beginning of the meeting, regardless of the number of members present. Votes and decisions are made based on a simple majority vote (more than half of all votes are needed to approve a motion). In the event of a tied vote, the votes of the Governing Board prevail (excluding elections). Changes in the statutes require a qualified majority vote (two-thirds of the votes must approve the proposed changes).

5.2.3. Functions and responsibilities:

1. To be informed of accepted new Country Members and new Corporate Members and the status of Individual Membership, and to exclude members for statutory reasons
2. To approve Honorary Members
3. To receive the Annual Report from the Governing Board
4. To approve the Treasurer's Report
5. To vote in ECCO elections according to the calls for elections
6. To vote on changes to ECCO Statutes
7. To approve membership fees
8. To elect one Regular Member of the Court of Arbitration
9. To exclude members of the Governing Board or Internal Auditors for substantive reasons
10. To implement the dissolution of the association
11. To discuss and vote on any other topic on the agenda
12. To endorse the Governing Board
13. To exonerate the Governing Board from personal financial responsibility after approving the Treasurer's Report, thereby waiving the right of individuals or corporations to enforce damage claims against the Governing Board Members based on a potential violation of their obligations pursuant to the respective laws or regulations.

5.3. The Governing Board

5.3.1. Definition and composition

The Governing Board of ECCO is responsible for accomplishing the mission and associated objectives as formulated in paragraph 2.

The Governing Board consists of seven Regular ECCO Members from ECCO Member Countries:

- President
- President-Elect
- Past-President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Scientific Officer

- Education Officer

Should a member of the Governing Board have to retire during his/her term in office for whatever reason, the remaining Governing Board Members have the right to co-opt a temporary Governing Board Member until the next General Assembly or Extraordinary General Assembly.

5.3.2. Functions and responsibilities

The Governing Board is in charge of:

1. Good governance of ECCO
2. Strategy development and innovation according to the mission of ECCO
3. Responsible financial management and budget
4. Supervision of the operational activities of all ECCO organs
5. Upholding the ECCO Statutes according to the highest moral and ethical standards

Other duties and tasks of the Governing Board are:

1. To inform the General Assembly about all ECCO affairs.
2. To appoint members of the Operational Board.

Governing Board Members must complete and sign an updated "Disclosure of financial and other connections (i.e. conflict of interest)" throughout their terms, which will be published on the ECCO Website.

5.3.3. Meetings and decisions

The Governing Board meets at least twice a year, typically during the annual ECCO Congress, the Summer meeting and/or the UEGW. Decisions can be made by the Governing Board only with a majority vote of at least half of the Governing Board Members.

5.3.4. Members of the Governing Board

5.3.4.1. President-Elect

Tasks and term

1. The President-Elect will make every effort to assist ECCO in achieving its mission and objectives (see also §5.3.2.).
2. The President-Elect makes himself/herself cognisant with the overall lines of policy and directions of ECCO and assists the President in conducting the business of ECCO and official representation of ECCO.
3. The President-Elect serves on the Governing Board for two years as President-Elect; followed by two years as President and two years as Past-President.
4. In the event of incapacity of the President, the President-Elect assumes the role of President and represents the association.

Eligibility for the position

Any Regular Member of ECCO in good standing who has served as an ECCO Committee member in the past and/or present can stand for election unless he/she holds a current position in industry or is a President or Past-President.

Announcement of election and nomination

1. The ECCO Office must circulate information about positions open for election to all voting members at least 12 weeks before the General Assembly.
2. Nominations for the position of President-Elect require one proposer and two seconders who are Regular Members or Y-ECCO Members and all must be from different nations. Both the proposer and the seconders can be a Regular Member or Y-ECCO Member of ECCO in good standing, except members of the Governing Board who are excluded. The nominations must be sent to the ECCO Office in line with the calls for elections. Nominations must be received by the ECCO Office nine weeks before the General Assembly and will be published at least six weeks before the General Assembly.

Election

1. Candidates will be proposed to the General Assembly, which will vote, excluding members of the Governing Board.
2. The voting is decided by a simple majority. If the vote is equally divided, the deciding vote is the vote of the ECCO President.

5.3.4.2. President

Tasks and term

1. The President will make every effort to lead ECCO to the attainment of its mission and objectives (see also §5.3.2.).
2. The President has the following functions and responsibilities:
 - To be the official representative of ECCO
 - To chair the Governing Board and meetings of the General Assembly
 - To be responsible for the daily operations of the ECCO Office
 - To sign appropriate documents internally and externally on behalf of ECCO
 - To liaise with the industry/Corporate Members
 - To represent ECCO externally
 - To liaise with the Editor-in-Chief of JCC.
3. The President will assume the position after that of President-Elect, upon the expiry of the term of the former President.
4. The term of office is two years. Following expiry of the term, the President assumes the position of Past-President.

5.3.4.3. Past-President

Tasks and term

1. The Past-President will make every effort to assist ECCO in achieving its mission and objectives (see also §5.3.2.).
2. The Past-President advises the Governing Board and supports the President in external relations.
3. The Past-President is the function assumed upon expiry of the Presidential term. The term of office of the Past-President is two years.

5.3.4.4. Secretary

Tasks and term

1. The Secretary will make every effort to assist ECCO in achieving its mission and objectives (see also §5.3.2.).
2. The Secretary has the following functions and responsibilities:
 - To be responsible for the daily operations of the ECCO Office
 - To ensure the recording of all resolutions passed by the Governing Board and General Assembly. To be responsible for continuous updating of the ECCO Membership list, and to sign off each updated list containing new ECCO Members.
 - To chair the Operational Board, with the Scientific Officer and the Education Officer as co-chairs, and to act as the main Governing Board liaison for the interdisciplinary committees of ECCO.
 - To liaise with the industry / ECCO Corporate Members.
 - To supervise publication of and to coordinate activities relating to ECCO News.
3. The term of office is three years. Re-election is not possible. Only in case no new candidates stand for election, the current Secretary is encouraged to act for another full term.

Eligibility for the position

Any Regular Member of ECCO in good standing who has served as an ECCO Committee member in the past and/or present can stand for election unless he/she holds a current position in industry or is a President-Elect, President, Past-President or Secretary who has served for one term.

Announcement of election and nomination

1. The ECCO Office must circulate information about positions open for election to all voting members at least 12 weeks before the General Assembly.
2. Nominations for the position of Secretary require one proposer and two seconders who are Regular Members or Y-ECCO Members and all must be from different nations. Both the proposer and the seconders can be a Regular Member or Y-ECCO Member of ECCO in good standing, except members of the Governing Board who are excluded. The nominations must be sent to the ECCO Office in line with the calls for elections.

Nominations must be received by the ECCO Office nine weeks before the General Assembly and will be published at least six weeks before the General Assembly.

Election

1. Candidates will be proposed to the General Assembly, which will vote, excluding members of the Governing Board.
2. The voting is decided by a simple majority. If the vote is equally divided, the deciding vote is the vote of the ECCO President.

5.3.4.5. Treasurer

Tasks and term

1. The Treasurer will make every effort to assist ECCO in achieving its mission and objectives (see also §5.3.2.).
2. The ECCO Treasurer has the following functions and responsibilities:
 - To lead the development of the financial dispositions decided by the Governing Board.
 - The Treasurer will collect and review the financial reports of the ECCO Office on behalf of the Governing Board in preparation of the finance decisions taken by the Governing Board.
 - To report to the Governing Board and the General Assembly on the financial state of ECCO.
 - To submit these accounts to the Internal Auditors.
3. The term of office of the Treasurer is three years. Re-election is not possible. Only in case no new candidates stand for election, the current Treasurer is encouraged to act for another full term.

Eligibility for the position

Any Regular Member of ECCO in good standing who has served as an ECCO Committee member in the past and/or present can stand for election unless he/she holds a current position in industry or is a Regular Member who has served as Treasurer for one term.

Announcement of election and nomination

1. The ECCO Office must circulate information about positions open for election to all voting members at least 12 weeks before the General Assembly.
2. Nominations for the position of Treasurer require one proposer and two seconders who are Regular Members or Y-ECCO Members and all must be from different nations. Both the proposer and the seconders can be a Regular Member or Y-ECCO Member of ECCO in good standing, except members of the Governing Board who are excluded. The nominations must be sent to the ECCO Office in line with the calls for elections.

Nominations must be received by the ECCO Office nine weeks before the General Assembly and will be published at least six weeks before the General Assembly.

Election

1. Candidates will be proposed to the General Assembly, which will vote, excluding members of the Governing Board.
2. The voting is decided by a simple majority. If the vote is equally divided, the deciding vote is the vote of the ECCO President.

5.3.4.6. Scientific Officer

Tasks and term

1. The Scientific Officer will make every effort to assist ECCO in achieving its mission and objectives (see also §5.3.2.).
2. The Scientific Officer co-chairs the Operational Board and is the main Governing Board liaison for the scientific committees of ECCO.
3. The term of office of the Scientific Officer is three years. Re-election is not possible. Only in case no new candidates stand for election, the current Scientific Officer is encouraged to act for another full term.

Eligibility for the position

Any Regular Member of ECCO in good standing who has served a term on the Operational Board or in an ECCO Committee can stand for election unless he/she holds a current position in industry or has already served one term as Scientific Officer.

Announcement of election and nomination

1. The ECCO Office must circulate information about positions open for election in line with the calls for elections.
2. Nominations for the position of Scientific Officer require one proposer and two seconders who are current ECCO Committee Members or have served on an ECCO Committee in the past, and all must be from different nations. Members of the Governing Board are excluded. The nominations must be sent to the ECCO Office in line with the calls for elections.

Election

The Scientific Officer is appointed by the Governing Board and announced at the General Assembly.

5.3.4.7. Education Officer

Tasks and term

1. The Education Officer will make every effort to assist ECCO in achieving its mission and objectives (see also §5.3.2.).
2. The Education Officer co-chairs the Operational Board and is the main Governing Board liaison for the education committees of ECCO.

3. The term of office of the Education Officer is three years. Re-election is not possible. Only in case no new candidates stand for election, the current Education Officer is encouraged to act for another full term.

Eligibility for the position

Any Regular Member of ECCO in good standing who has served a term on the Operational Board or in an ECCO Committee can stand for election unless he/she holds a current position in industry or has already served one term as Education Officer.

Announcement of election and nomination

1. The ECCO Office must circulate information about positions open for election in line with the calls for elections.
2. Nominations for the position of Education Officer require one proposer and two seconders who are current ECCO Committee Members or have served on an ECCO Committee in the past, and all must be from different nations. Members of the Governing Board are excluded. The nominations must be sent to the ECCO Office in line with the calls for elections.

Election

The Education Officer is appointed by the Governing Board and announced at the General Assembly.

5.4. The ECCO Office

1. The ECCO Office falls under the responsibility of the President and the Secretary.
2. The ECCO Office consists of a Chief Operational Officer leading and supervising one or more staff members. The Chief Operational Officer reports directly to the President.
3. The ECCO Office manages all daily operational activities of ECCO and facilitates projects of all ECCO Organs and entities, preserving the continuity of ECCO strategy on short- and long-term basis.

5.5. The Operational Board

5.5.1. Definition and composition

The Operational Board consists of all Chairs of ECCO Committees, the Secretary, the Scientific Officer and the Education Officer.

Should a Committee Chair have to retire during his/her term of office for whatever reason, the remaining Committee Members have the right to nominate a temporary Chair, until the following statutory election.

5.5.2. Functions and responsibilities

1. The Operational Board of ECCO is responsible for assisting the Governing Board in accomplishing the mission and associated objectives as formulated in paragraph 2 of the ECCO Statutes.

2. The Operational Board fosters exchange of information between the Governing Board and all ECCO Committees.

5.5.3. Meetings and decisions

1. The Operational Board meetings convene all Chairs of ECCO Committees and all Members of the Governing Board.
2. The Operational Board meets at least twice annually, typically during the Annual ECCO Congress, the Summer Meeting and/or the UEGW.
3. The Operational Board meetings are chaired by the Secretary, with the Scientific Officer and the Education Officer as co-chairs.
4. The Operational Board together with the Governing Board identify synergies and decide on areas for cross-Committee cooperation.
5. Strategic and budgetary decisions concerning the Operational Board are made by the Governing Board whereas the project implementation fully lies with the individual ECCO Committees.

5.6. ECCO Committees

5.6.1. Definition and composition

1. ECCO Committees consist of Committee Members and one Chair, dedicated to a specific field of expertise. All Committee Members and Chair must be ECCO Members in good standing.
2. The members of each of the ECCO Committees are elected according to the calls for elections for Committee Members.
3. The Chair of each of the Committees constituting the ECCO Operational Board is nominated by their respective committee, endorsed by the Chair and co-Chairs of the Operational Board and approved by the Governing Board.
4. All ECCO Officers of all Committees are required to complete and sign an updated "Disclosure of financial and other connections (i.e. conflict of interest)" throughout their terms, which will be published on the ECCO website.

5.6.2. Functions and responsibilities

The ECCO Committees are dedicated to implement projects in the areas of education, science and/or interdisciplinary exchange in accordance with ECCO's mission.

5.6.3. Meetings and decisions

The individual Committees meet at least twice annually, typically during the Annual ECCO Congress, the Summer Meeting and/or the UEGW. Strategic and budgetary decisions, including relations with other organisations and authorities, are made by the Governing Board whereas the project implementation fully lies with the individual ECCO Committees.

5.7. The Council of National Representatives

5.7.1. Definition and composition

1. The Council of National Representatives of ECCO is responsible for assisting ECCO in accomplishing the mission and associated objectives as formulated in paragraph 2 of the ECCO Statutes, in particular on a national level.
2. The Council of National Representatives consists of representatives from ECCO Country Members, as well as ECCO Honorary Members, who have an overall advisory role.

5.7.2. Functions and responsibilities

1. The Council of National Representatives fosters exchange of information between the Governing Board, Honorary Members, and ECCO Representatives on national levels.
2. The Council identifies cross-national synergies in ECCO Country Members in order to provide strategic input for the overall decision-making in ECCO.

5.7.3. Meetings and decisions

1. The Council of National Representatives meets at least every other year.
2. The activity of the Council of National Representatives is coordinated by the ECCO President as Chair and the President-Elect and Past-President as co-Chairs.
3. The decisions on the projects of the Council of National Representatives are under the responsibility of the Governing Board.

5.8. Internal Auditors

5.8.1. Definition and election

The accounts of ECCO shall be audited by two Regular Members of ECCO (Internal Auditors) appointed by the General Assembly.

5.8.2. Eligibility for two Internal Auditors

Any Regular Member of ECCO in good standing who has been a Regular Member for a minimum of two years and currently does not hold any other ECCO function can stand for election.

5.8.3. Nomination for the Internal Auditors

A call for nomination is sent to all ECCO Members at least 12 weeks before the General Assembly. The proposer can be any Regular Member of ECCO in good standing. Nomination must be submitted in writing according to the calls for elections. The nominee and the proposer must be from different nations. The nomination must be received at least nine weeks before the General Assembly. The person proposed has to consent to his/her nomination. Details of the nominations must be provided to all members at least six weeks before the General Assembly.

5.8.4. Election

Candidates are elected by the General Assembly. Voting is by a simple majority. If the vote is equally divided, the deciding vote is the vote of the ECCO President. The duration of office is two years with possible renewal for one more term of two years.

If an Internal Auditor has to retire during his/her term, the Governing Board has the right to co-opt a new Internal Auditor.

5.9. External Auditor

5.9.1. Definition and appointment

If required by law, the accounts of ECCO shall be monitored by an externally registered financial institution (external auditor), qualified to act as a certified public accountant.

The externally registered auditor will be appointed by the Governing Board.

5.10. Court of Arbitration

5.10.1 Definition and composition

1. The Court of Arbitration may be called by the ECCO President on the advice of the Governing Board to resolve all disputes arising within ECCO that cannot be resolved by the organs or functionaries of ECCO.
2. The Court of Arbitration will be composed of three Regular Members: One is to be chosen by the General Assembly and one chosen by the members of the Operational Board; these two members will choose a third acceptable to both, who will act as Chair. In case no agreement can be found between the two chosen members of the Court of Arbitration, the final nomination power lies within the ECCO President.

§ 6. Publications

6.1. The Journal of Crohn's and Colitis (JCC)

1. The Journal of Crohn's and Colitis (JCC) is the official journal of ECCO and is concerned with the dissemination of knowledge on clinical, basic science and innovative methods related to IBD.
2. JCC is published periodically and covers the knowledge and science related to IBD: The aims are to update, innovate and challenge current knowledge.
3. JCC is defined as an "International Journal". Although it is the official journal of ECCO, it is open to everyone in the world interested and working in the field of IBD.

6.2. ECCO News

ECCO News is the society's magazine for the dissemination of information on ECCO matters of material interest for the community.

§ 7. Changes in the ECCO Statutes

Proposals to change the Statutes can be made by the Governing Board or by Regular Members. In the latter case, proposals must be presented to the ECCO President in writing no later than 12 weeks before the annual meeting of the General Assembly and must be supported by at least 100 Regular Members. Such proposed changes must be on the agenda for discussion by the General Assembly, where the changes must receive a two-thirds majority of those present.

§ 8. Dissolution of ECCO

1. The voluntary dissolution of ECCO may be approved if proposed as a resolution in writing to the Governing Board by at least one-half (50%) of the Regular Members, and then is only valid if it is agreed by three-quarters of all Regular Members during an (Extraordinary) General Assembly.
2. In the event of dissolution or with the omission of the benefited mission of ECCO, the assets of ECCO will be transferred to a not-for-profit organisation working in a similar charitable field of activity, according to § 34 ff BAO, after settlement of open liabilities.
3. A properly qualified lawyer should be appointed as liquidator.