

# ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

Enacted: January 1, 2013

Amended: June 18, 2015

Amended: June 16, 2017



Asian Organization for Crohn's & Colitis

# Articles of Association of the Asian Organization for Crohn's & Colitis (AOCC)

## Chapter 1: General Provisions

Article 1: The name of this organization shall be the Asian Organization for Crohn's & Colitis (AOCC).

Article 2: The AOCC shall, for the first three years, have its Secretariat at Shinjuku-Ku, Tokyo Japan. The Secretariat's address thereafter shall be determined by the Governing Board.

## Chapter 2: Purpose and Activities

Article 3: The purpose of the AOCC is to support research, education and medical treatment in the field of inflammatory bowel diseases, with the goal of improving the quality of life (QOL) of inflammatory bowel disease patients in Asia.

Article 4: The AOCC shall pursue the following activities to achieve the purpose specified in the preceding Article:

1. The holding of inflammatory bowel disease-related research presentation seminars and academic meetings in Asia;
2. Activities to support inflammatory bowel disease-related research and researchers in Asia;
3. Educational activities for medical professionals in Asia in the field of inflammatory bowel diseases;
4. Promotion of joint research on inflammatory bowel diseases in Asia and activities deemed by the AOCC to be necessary for achieving its purpose.

## Chapter 3: Members

Article 5: Members of the AOCC shall cooperate within the organization so that it can achieve its purpose, and shall comprise the following:

1. Regular members
2. Y-AOCC (under 40 years old)
3. Supporting members

Article 6: A regular member or Y-AOCC of the AOCC shall be a membership fee-paying individual, regardless of his/her nationality.

Article 7: A supporting member of the AOCC shall be an organization that agrees with and supports the purpose of the AOCC.

Article 8: An entity wishing to join the AOCC shall apply to the Secretariat for membership, and pay the membership fee.

## Chapter 4: Directors

Article 9: The AOCC shall have a Governing Board as its supreme decision-making body.

Article 10: The Governing Board shall comprise the following Directors:

1. President: One person
2. Past-President: One person
3. President-elect: One person
4. Board members: Six to nine persons (up to three persons each from Japan, the Republic of Korea, and China)

Article 11: The position of President shall be filled by one member from one of three countries (Japan, the Republic of Korea, or China), on a rotating basis, who shall be elected by recommendation of the Directors from a designated country and be inaugurated upon approval of the Governing Board. The tenure of the President shall be one year.

Article 12: The President shall establish a Governing Board and have it discuss important matters relating to the AOCC.

Article 13: Board members shall be elected from among AOCC members by recommendation, and shall be appointed by the President, subject to the approval of the Governing Board.

Article 14: A Governing Board meeting shall be deemed valid when two-thirds or more of the Directors are in attendance, and may then resolve proposals by a majority vote of the Board members.

Article 15: The tenure of each Board member shall be two years and reappointment shall be allowed twice.

Article 16: A Regular Governing Board meeting shall be held when a General Meeting of AOCC Members is organized, when the President has decided such a meeting is required, or if a convocation request is made by a majority of Directors, using a letter stating the meeting's purpose.

Article 17: The Governing Board shall select observers from countries other than Japan, Republic of Korea, and China. The observers shall attend a Governing Board meeting without the right to vote.

## **Chapter 5: Meetings**

Article 18: The AOCC shall hold its General Meeting once a year.

Article 19: General Meetings shall be held in one of three countries (Japan, the Republic of Korea, or China), on a rotating basis.

Article 20: General Meetings shall be chaired by the current President, who shall host the meeting.

Article 21: The Governing Board shall discuss the following matters, and shall report the details to the General Meeting and request approval:

1. The election of the General Meeting Chairman, and President
2. Activity and accounting reports
3. Revisions to the Articles of Association of the AOCC
4. Other matters deemed necessary by the Governing Board

## **Chapter 6: Committees**

Article 22: The AOCC shall have the following standing committees in place: Clinical Research Committee, Educational Committee, Epidemiological Committee, and Editorial Board.

Article 23: Each committee shall consist of a chairperson and several other members.

Article 24: The chair of a committee shall be appointed by the President following a resolution by the Government Board.

Article 25: The chair of a committee shall serve for three years and shall not be reappointed.

Article 26: 1. Members of a committee shall be recommended by the chair and appointed by the President among regular AOCC members.

2. Each committee shall consist of two members each from Japan, the Republic of Korea and China, and one to three members from each observer country.

Article 27: Members of a committee shall have a tenure of three years and may be reappointed only once.

Article 28: No member of a committee shall serve as a member of another committee.

Article 29: Committees may be established or dissolved by a resolution by the Governing Board.

## **Chapter 7: Accounting and Revision of the Articles of Association**

Article 30: The costs required for the AOCC to perform its activities shall be funded by its membership fees, various subsidies, and donations, among others.

The AOCC's accounting period shall commence on April 1 each year and close on March 31 next year.

The financial results of AOCC's prior year shall be reported at its General Meeting each year, subject to the approval of the Governing Board.

Article 31: The annual membership fees of the AOCC shall be determined by the Governing Board.

Article 32: Approval of the Governing Board shall be required for the AOCC to revise these Articles of Association.

## **Chapter 8: Detailed Regulations**

Article 33: The annual membership fees of the AOCC shall be as follows:

Regular member:	JPY10,000-
Y-AOCC:	JPY4,000-
Supporting member:	Gold members: JPY3,000,000-
	Silver members: JPY2,000,000-
	Bronze members: JPY1,000,000-

Article 34: The tenure of Directors (President and Board members) shall, in principle, terminate when they reach the age of 70.

Article 35: The tenure of the President shall commence on the date following the last day of the annual meeting and expire on the last day of the annual meeting in the following year.

Article 36: The tenure of Board members shall commence on the date following the last day of the annual meeting and expire on the last day of the annual meeting the year after next.

Article 37: Each observer country shall be represented by one person recommended by its national organization and appointed by the President following a resolution by the Governing Board.

Article 38: Observer country representatives shall have a tenure of two years and may be reappointed up to two times.

Article 39: *Intestinal Research* shall be the official journal of the AOCC.

Article 40: If any doubt arises regarding the interpretation of these Articles of Association, the interpretation of the Governing Board shall prevail.

### **Chapter 9: Additional Provisions**

Article 41: (1) These Articles of Association shall come into force effective January 1, 2013.

(2) These Articles of Association shall be partially revised effective June 18, 2015.

(3) These Articles of Association shall be partially revised effective June 16, 2017.