

**BY-LAWS**  
**THE ASSOCIATION FOR OCULAR PHARMACOLOGY AND THERAPEUTICS**  
**(AOPT)**

**ARTICLE 1.00: NAME AND PURPOSE OF THE ORGANIZATION**

- 1.1 The organization shall be known as the Association for Ocular Pharmacology and Therapeutics, hereinafter referred to as AOPT.
- 1.2 The purpose of AOPT shall be to encourage and advocate research, training, publication and dissemination of knowledge in ocular pharmacology and therapeutics.

**ARTICLE 2.00: MEMBERSHIP**

- 2.1 MEMBERS. Members shall be individuals with particular competence and/or interest in the field of ophthalmic pharmacology and therapeutics who meet such requirements as shall be established, from time to time, by the BOARD, defined in 4.2.
- 2.2 CLASSES OF MEMBERSHIP. There shall be the following classes of membership in AOPT: Regular Members, Associate Members, Contributing Members, and Emeritus Members.
  - 2.2.1 *REGULAR MEMBERS.* Regular Membership shall be restricted to individuals demonstrating a serious interest in or making significant contribution to ocular pharmacology and therapeutics. This may be evidenced by a) scientific publications; b) attendance at pharmacologic, ophthalmologic, optometric, or visual science meetings; c) direct involvement in research or development. A candidate for membership shall file an application with the Treasurer, and shall pay the membership dues in effect at that time.
  - 2.2.2 *ASSOCIATE MEMBERS.* Associate Membership shall be restricted to predoctoral and postdoctoral students and shall not exceed three (3) years. A candidate for this status shall have the application endorsed by his/her supervisor, and file the application with the Treasurer with the membership dues in effect at that time.
  - 2.2.3 *CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS.* Contributing Membership shall be restricted to corporations, associations, and individuals who support the objectives of AOPT but do not satisfy the requirements of Regular Membership, or individuals elected to membership in any class who voluntarily choose to become Contributing Members. A candidate shall file an application with the Treasurer, and shall pay the membership dues in effect at that time.
  - 2.2.4 *EMERITUS MEMBERS.* Any Regular Member may make a written request to the Treasurer that his/her membership be transferred to that of an Emeritus Member. The request shall be subject to approval by the BOARD.

- 2.3 VOTING AND HOLDING OFFICE IN AOPT. The only class of membership entitled to vote on any business matter shall be Regular Members whose membership dues payments are not delinquent. The only class of membership entitled to hold any elected office in AOPT shall be Regular Members.
- 2.4 FEES, DUES AND ASSESSMENTS. The membership dues, registration fees for meetings, and other fees for each class of membership shall be established by the BOARD.
- 2.5 TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP. Membership in AOPT shall terminate when a member: a) fails to pay dues ; b) files a written resignation with the Secretary or Treasurer of AOPT, or c) takes actions against the interests of AOPT and the BOARD unanimously decides to dismiss the Member from membership.

### **ARTICLE 3.00: MEETINGS AND VOTE OF MEMBERS**

- 3.1 MEETINGS. A Scientific Meeting of AOPT shall be held either annually or biennially at the place and on the date designated by the BOARD. One (1) Business Meeting of the membership shall be held in conjunction with the Scientific Meeting of AOPT. Special Business Meetings may be called by the President or any two Officers. Members shall receive at least two weeks advance notice of Special Business Meetings.
- 3.2 VOTE. Voting may be conducted at a Business Meeting, Special Business Meeting, or by electronic and/or regular mail. A simple majority of Members (present or by proxy) at a meeting or a simple majority of Members voting electronically and/or by mail shall be required to constitute action on any matter except By-Laws changes (article 6.1).

### **ARTICLE 4.00: MANAGEMENT**

- 4.1 The general management of the affairs of the AOPT shall be vested in the BOARD.
- 4.2 The BOARD of AOPT shall consist of:

OFFICERS: President  
Vice-President, President-Elect  
Immediate Past President  
Secretary  
Treasurer

TRUSTEES (up to eight)

- 4.3 The EDITOR of the official journal of AOPT, if not also a BOARD member, shall serve as an *ex officio* member of the BOARD.

## **ARTICLE 5.00: BOARD**

- 5.1 **ELECTION.** Regular Members of AOPT elect, by plurality vote, the BOARD of AOPT. Officers serve for a term of four (4) years. Officers may not serve consecutive terms in the same office. Trustees serve for a term of two (2) years. Trustees may be re-elected for a second consecutive term. The time of elections is set by the President before the end of terms of individual BOARD members. Members shall be given a minimum of two weeks to return their ballots.
- 5.2 **VACANCIES.** A vacancy (Officer or Trustee) shall be filled by recommendation of the President and acceptance by the BOARD until a successor to fill the vacancy is elected.
- 5.3 **JOURNAL EDITOR.** The Editor of the official journal of AOPT shall be appointed by the BOARD by simple majority vote.
- 5.4 **MEETINGS.** The BOARD shall hold an annual meeting to discuss the business and affairs of AOPT. The President shall be Chairman of the BOARD meeting and the Secretary shall act as Secretary of the BOARD meeting.
- 5.5 **COMMITTEES.** The President shall have the authority to form COMMITTEE(s) and to appoint or discharge members of such COMMITTEE(s). The BOARD shall have the final responsibility and authority for all actions and policies that are recommended by its COMMITTEE(s). No action or policy recommended by a COMMITTEE shall be official until it is approved by the BOARD.
- 5.6 **COMPENSATION.** No Officer shall receive any salary or other form of compensation from AOPT but may receive reimbursement for expenses incurred in the performance of AOPT duties.
- 5.7 **TERMINATION OF BOARD MEMBERSHIP.** Membership on the AOPT BOARD shall terminate when an Officer or Trustee a) fails to maintain current AOPT membership status; b) files a written resignation with the Secretary or Treasurer of AOPT, c) does not fulfill all provisions of the Commitment Pledge, or d) takes actions against the interests of AOPT and the BOARD unanimously decides to dismiss the Officer or Trustee from the Board.

## **ARTICLE 6.00: AMENDMENTS**

- 6.1 These BY-LAWS may be amended by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Regular Members a) present at any Business Meeting of AOPT, provided that notice of the proposed amendment has been distributed at least two weeks in advance; or b) by written or electronic ballot with at least two weeks allowed for return of votes.