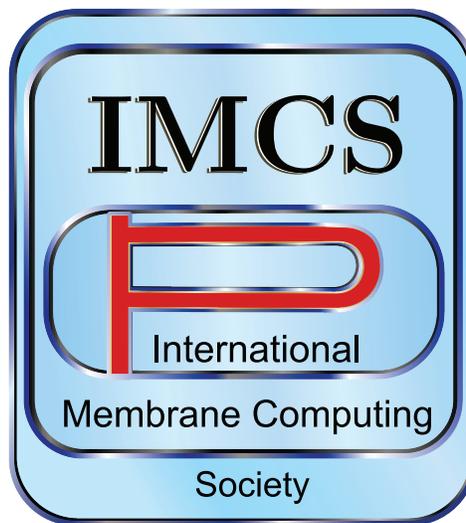

Constitution of the International Membrane Computing Society – IMCS

Article 1: Name

- (1.1.) The name of the Society shall be International Membrane Computing Society, abbreviated IMCS.
- (1.2.) The logo of IMCS is the one in the figure below. It should appear in all relevant places, such as IMCS web page, posters, calls, on the cover of the *Bulletin of IMCS*, etc.



Article 2: Objects

- (2.1.) The society shall be a nonprofit academic organization, having as its goal to promote the development of membrane computing (MC), internationally, at all levels (theory, applications, software, implementations, connection with related areas, etc.).

- (2.2.) A special attention will be paid to the communication/cooperation inside MC community, to connections with other professional scientific organizations with similar aims, and to promoting MC to young researchers.
- (2.3.) IMCS will publish proceedings, journals or other materials, printed or electronically, as it sees fit.
- (2.4.) IMCS will organize yearly MC meetings, such as the **European Branch of International Conference on Membrane Computing (ECMC)**, the **Asian Branch of International Conference on Membrane Computing (ACMC)**, the **Brainstorming Week on Membrane Computing (BWMC)**, as well as further workshops/meetings, as it sees fit.

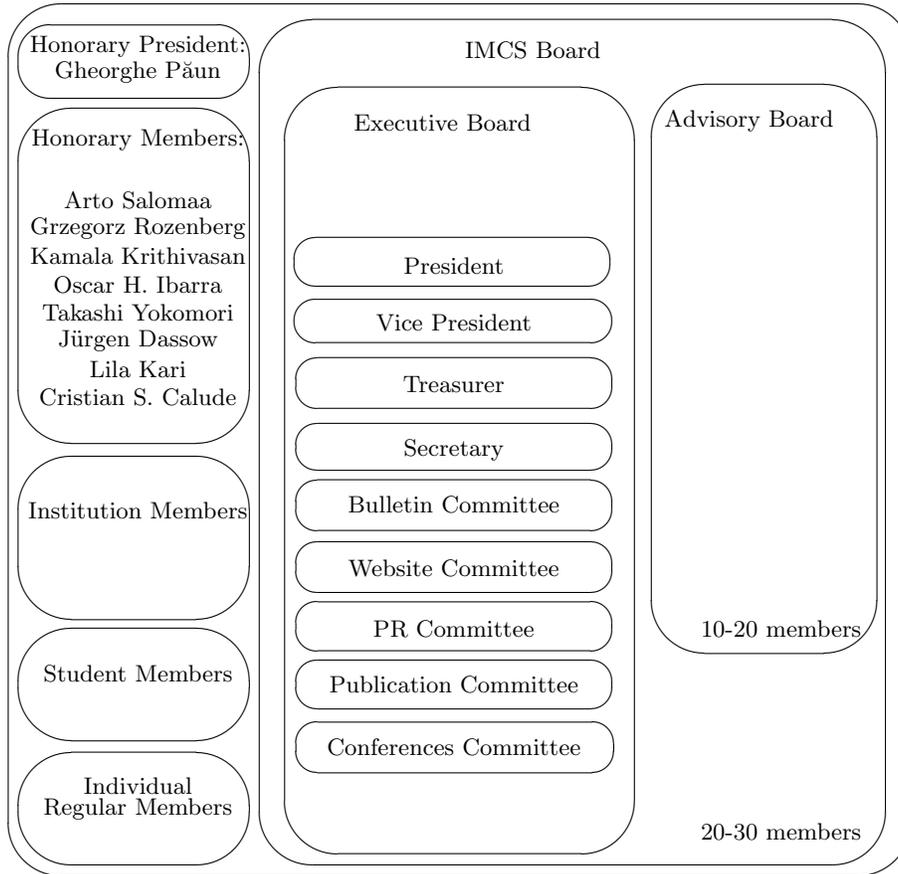
Article 3: Membership

- (3.1.) There are four categories of members: **Honorary Members, Regular Members, Student Members**, and **Institution Members**.
- (3.2.) The Honorary Members are elected by the IMCS Board (email voting, majority rule). Regular membership is open to all persons interested, on completing a membership form.
- (3.3.) Student Members can be undergraduate, master, and PhD students, and they are eligible for various facilities IMCS is planning for students.
- (3.4.) Institutions which want to join IMCS and support it can become Institution Members. Any support/sponsorship from an institution will be acknowledged in an appropriate way in IMCS publications.
- (3.5.) Any member, of any kind, is supposed to know and accept the Constitution of IMCS.

Article 4: Structure

- (4.1.) The structure of IMCS and its governance are as specified in the next figure. The figure also specifies the ten Honorary Members with whom the Society starts (February 2016).
- (4.2.) Gheorghe Păun, the founder of MC, is appointed **Honorary President** of IMCS.
- (4.3.) The work of IMCS is organized and conducted by the **Board of IMCS**, consisting of the **Executive Board** and the **Advisory Board**. The Advisory Board should have between 10 and 20 members, hence in total the IMCS Board should contain between 20 and 30 members,
- (4.4.) The Executive Board consists of four individual positions: **President** (also called IMCS President), **Vice President**, **Treasurer**, and **Secretary**, and five **Committees: Bulletin, Website, PR, Publication**, and **Conferences Committee**. Each of these five Committees has a chair person. The Advisory Board also has a chair person.
- (4.5.) The four individual positions from the Executive Board, the five chair persons of the Committees, the members of the Advisory Board, and the chair of the Advisory Board are elected by the IMCS Board (email voting, majority rule). Each chair of a Committee appoints a number of Committee members as he/she sees fit.

(4.6.) All the elected positions are elected for one year. After one year, a change of an elected person can be proposed by the President or the Vice President of the IMCS Board, by the person itself (resignation), or by two thirds of members of the IMCS Board, and it is voted in the IMCS Board (email voting, majority rule). If there is no change proposal, then the person who occupies any position in the IMCS Board continues in the same position, for one further year.



Article 5: Duties and competencies

- (5.1.) The IMCS Board President represents the Society in relation with any external entity, organizes/coordinates the activity of the IMCS Board, initiates voting in the IMCS Board, chairs any panel/meeting of the Society.
- (5.2.) The Vice President helps the President in all his/her activity, represents the President when he/she is not available (e.g., in chairing panels/meetings). Every year, the President and the Vice President present a common report

about IMCS activity, first circulating it by email in the IMCS Board and, after possible corrections, posting it in the IMCS web page.

- (5.3.) The Treasurer takes care of the income and expenses of IMCS, and each year presents a report in this respect to IMCS Board. This report is analyzed and voted in the IMCS Board (email voting, majority rule).
- (5.4.) The Secretary is responsible to keep a track record of the IMCS: memberships, reports, voting results, etc.
- (5.5.) The Bulletin Committee takes care of editing the *Bulletin of IMCS*, first accumulating information/materials in an electronic format and then printed, if needed/requested, with a periodicity to be decided by the IMCS Board.
- (5.6.) The Website Committee takes care of the IMCS web page, whose structure should be decided by the IMCS Board.
- (5.7.) The PR Committee is responsible with developing relationships with other similar organizations and promoting IMCS on various scientific forums, advertising its activity on specialised networks and at international events.
- (5.8.) The Publication Committee supervises the publication of proceedings, special issues of journals, collective volumes edited under the auspices of IMCS. Two particular goals of this Committee are to initiate a specialized journal, *International Membrane Computing Journal*, and a specialized series of monographs.
- (5.9.) The Conference Committee works as a steering committee for the two MC yearly conferences, CMC and ACMC, looking for venues, suggesting (in cooperation with the organizing committees) program committees and invited speakers, possible sponsors and publications.

Article 6: The IMCS Awards

IMCS awards three yearly IMCS Prizes:

(1) The PhD Thesis of the Year, (2) The Theoretical Result of the Year, (3) The Application of the Year,

according to the following **Rules of IMCS Awards:**

- (6.1.) Each prize consists of one IMCS diploma (signed by the President of IMCS) and one copy of the Hamangia thinker (a Neolithic age clay sculpture, about 4000 years BC, found in Romania), for each winning paper.
- (6.2.) Any registered member of IMCS can be nominated and can receive any of the three prizes. In cases (2) and (3), at least one of co-authors should be a member of IMCS.
- (6.3.) Any registered member of IMCS can propose a candidate for any prize, by sending the relevant information to any member of the IMCS Board or to the Honorary President of IMCS. The nominations are centralized by the Honorary President of IMCS, who also takes care of the voting process.
- (6.4.) The nominations for the year Y should reach the Honorary President of IMCS before 20 of January of the year Y+1. The IMCS Board decides the winners by the middle of February, voting through email messages sent to the

Honorary President of IMCS. If suitable/necessary, any member of the IMCS Board can send comments about the nominated papers to all members of the Board.

- (6.5.) The IMCS Board may decide that any of the prizes can be awarded ex aequo, to two winners, or not to be awarded at all.
- (6.6.) These rules can be changed every year, after March 1, at the proposal of any member of the IMCS Board, subject to a vote in the IMCS Board.

Article 7: Voting

- (7.1.) Each member of the IMCS Board (between 20 and 30 members) has one vote.
- (7.2.) A voting, on any subject (except the IMCS Awards, for which responsible is the Honorary President) can be initiated by the IMCS President, the Vice President, or by two thirds of the IMCS Board members.
- (7.3.) The message proposing a vote should specify the issue to be decided in such a way that the alternatives YES and NO are clear. The message should be sent to all members of the IMCS Board, the voting messages of the members should also be sent to all members (full transparency). The voting should last 30 days. If a member is not replying in the first 15 days, the initiator of the vote should contact him/her once again. If a member is not replying even to the second message, then his/her vote is considered *abstaining*.
- (7.4.) "Majority rule" means that at least half of the IMCS Board have voted (YES, NO, or abstaining) and the decision is made according to the number of YES and NO votes which is higher. In case of a draw, the vote of the President is decisive – unless if the President does not decide to repeat the vote, maybe changing the object of the vote.
- (7.5.) All ambiguities and uncovered cases should be clarified by discussions in the IMCS Board and, if decided so, proposed as amendments to the Constitution.

Article 8: Panels

- (8.1.) On the occasions of IMCS annual meetings, like BWMC, CMC, and ACMC, panels should be organized, chaired by the President, the Vice President or, in their absence, by another member of the IMCS Board designated by the President, to discuss current issues of the Society.

Article 9: Finance

- (9.1.) Income: possible membership fees, as decided by IMCS Board, donations, sponsorships, conference registration fees, participation to research projects.
- (9.2.) Expenses: IMCS prizes, students support, *Bulletin of IMCS* hardcopy, maintaining web pages, sponsoring MC conferences – all these and anything else, under the control of the IMCS Board.

Article 10: Amendments

- (10.1.) Amendments to IMCS Constitution can be proposed by any member of the IMCS Board, at any time. Any amendment should be discussed and voted in

the IMCS Board (email voting, majority rule) and then, if accepted, published in the IMCS web page, thus being available to all members of IMCS.

Article 11: Dissolution

(11.1.) The dissolution of IMCS should be done in two steps: first, a vote in the IMCS Board is organized (email voting, two thirds majority), and, if the dissolution proposal passes, a general vote is organized, where all regular members participate (email voting, two thirds majority; in order the vote to be valid, at least half of the members should vote).

(11.2.) If the Society decides to get dissolved, all remaining assets shall be donated to a similar organization, at the choice of the IMCS Board.

Article 12. Provisory statement

The present Constitution will get provisionally valid by being voted (by email, majority rule), in March 2016, in the IMCS Board, as this Board was constituted by consensus during BWMC 2016 and soon after that. Then, it will be published in the IMCS web page and, as soon as possible, in 2016, it will be voted by all individual members of IMCS (email voting, majority rule). The vote will last one month and to voting will participate all individual members of IMCS, students or regular, registered until the last day of the previous month.