



## **Charter of the OzMRS**

The Australasian Metastasis Research Society (OzMRS) is the representative body of the metastasis research scientists of Australia and New Zealand. The society was created and formalised at an inaugural meeting on December 1, 2014. This was two years after the successful organisation of the 14<sup>th</sup> biennial conference of the International Metastasis Research Society (MRS) in Brisbane and is a National Chapter of the MRS. OzMRS members are encouraged to take up membership in the MRS to afford better international integration of Australasian activities. The OzMRS is open to clinicians and scientists at all levels; graduate students, medical students, residents, clinical and postdoctoral fellows, senior scientists as well as consumers and members of the public interested in metastasis research. The charter below represents the ideals and structure of the society under the requirements of an associated incorporation in Queensland, Australia, should the society decide to incorporate. At this stage it remains an unincorporated learned Society.

## **Mission and Vision**

Our mission is to act as a central organisation that connects all stakeholders with an interest in cancer metastasis, including laboratory scientists, clinicians, clinical researchers, industry, consumers, and advocacy groups, and to promote world-class metastasis research from the Australasian region. To achieve this, we aim to:

- Actively promote scientific events and disseminate the latest research and treatment advances through our dedicated OzMRS website and social media.
- Convene regular metastasis-focused scientific symposia to facilitate the exchange of information, foster collaboration between all stakeholders and enhance the engagement of Australasian metastasis researchers, both nationally and internationally.
- Mentor and champion students, early and mid-career researchers by supporting their integration and participation in metastasis-focussed scientific events.
- Engage with and educate the broader community about the need for metastasis research through active partnership with consumers and advocacy groups.

Our Vision is to promote all aspects of metastasis research with the goal of improving the quality of life of individuals with metastatic disease. We will provide support and opportunities for researchers who seek to advance world-class research towards improved monitoring, prevention, and treatment of metastasis.

The OzMRS seeks to enable Australasian investigators to establish productive relationships with the free exchange of ideas, both nationally and internationally through its links with the international MRS.

## **Article I: Committee Members and Officer Bearers**



**Section 1.** OzMRS will be governed by the OzMRS Committee (the Committee) consisting of a minimum of 12 individuals and a maximum of 15 members (including President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer) elected from the membership of OzMRS, voted for by members at the General Meeting of Members. In general, the composition of the Committee should reflect the breadth of OzMRS and the diversity of its membership, and where possible be geographically distributed across all Australian states, territories, and in New Zealand. Each member of the Committee shall serve a four-year term and can be re-elected for one further term. New members will be elected to replace retiring members in timing with the OzMRS scientific congress and Annual General Meeting of Members. Re-election will be decided by numbers of votes. Nominations will be called one month prior to the General Meeting and a vote held at the General Meeting of Members. The new Committee shall assume office during the General Meeting of Members, replacing any outgoing members. The committee can determine the Office Bearers during the General Meeting of Members, to be announced to the assembled membership (see Article II, Section 2), or this could be done at the first Executive Meeting, and communicated by the secretary to all members. If no new members wish to join the Committee in any given year, and the number of members is insufficient (less than 8), previous members (who have been members of the Committee for more than 2 terms) can be re-elected at the Annual General Meeting of Members. Furthermore, a maximum of 3 additional members can be 'co-opted' in any given year, by vote of the Committee, to share expertise and corporate knowledge, and ensure the longevity of the Society. These members can be invited by the Committee to attend one or more executive meetings each year, when their expertise is required.

**Section 2.** Duties and responsibilities of the OzMRS Committee members are to:

- (a) Promote OzMRS, its activities, its membership and its programs;
- (b) Promote the professional development of the membership of the OzMRS in accordance with the Mission Statement of this Charter;
- (c) Encourage and maintain active participation of all members;
- (d) Promote membership in the international MRS;
- (e) Regularly attend (at least 50% of) the scheduled OzMRS Committee Meetings and serve as representatives of the membership.

**Section 3.** A member or Office Bearer of the OzMRS Committee may be dismissed upon unanimous vote of the remaining society members as a result of their failure to carry out accepted duties and responsibilities. Grounds for dismissal include, but are not limited to, failure to perform agreed upon duties on behalf of the society listed above, and/or act in accordance with this Charter and the best interests of the society.

**Section 4.** Should a member of the OzMRS Committee resign in the first 3 years of their term of office, the procedure shall be as follows:

- (a) The candidates for the replacement shall be drawn from the alternates from the previous year's election if there were any, otherwise from nominations from the general membership.



(b) The remaining members will vote to determine the replacement. A majority vote is needed by the incumbent Committee members. Should the vote result in a tie, the President will cast the deciding vote.

(c) The replacement will only fulfil the remainder of the resigning member's term; thus their total term will be fewer than four years.

(d) Should a member of the OzMRS Committee resign in the final year of their term, no replacement will be elected.

## **Article II: Nomination and Election Procedures: Committee Members**

**Section 1.** All members are eligible to nominate themselves as candidates for election provided that:

- (a) Dues, if any are required, are currently paid through December 31 of the nomination year; and
- (b) Eligibility to serve is reasonably anticipated for at least one year past the nomination year; and
- (c) The candidate agrees that whilst holding a position, dues will be paid in full for the duration.

**Section 2.** The Committee will vote for Office Bearer positions of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer to serve up to a two-year term. It is anticipated that the Committee will vote to elect the candidate(s) that they discern have the mix of abilities needed to achieve the goals of OzMRS (i.e. scientific excellence, leadership potential, professional skills, etc.) while being cognisant of the importance of having a balanced representation of the demographic, geographic, and scientific diversity of the membership. Office Bearers are eligible for re-election for a maximum of one further two-year term.

**Section 3.** The OzMRS aims to connect all stakeholders with an interest in metastasis and to promote world-class metastasis research taking place in the Australasian region. This includes consumers and community members, who provide a large range of expertise and assist OzMRS' work towards a common goal of treating advanced cancer. OzMRS therefore wishes to establish and maintain an active, long-term, respectful partnership with cancer consumers across Australia and New Zealand, with the aims of engaging with and educating the broader community about the need for metastasis research, and to ensure that the Society considers the consumer perspective as a guide to ensure that metastasis research aligns well with community needs. To implement this vision, OzMRS will aim to:

- Establish a consumer reference group (CRG) that will work in partnership with, and advise the OzMRS Committee on multiple initiatives, including by enhancing public awareness about metastasis research and contributing to OzMRS scientific dissemination strategies.
- Invite two consumers (when possible, nominated every two years from the CRG), to represent the consumer voice as members of the OzMRS Committee.



### **Article III: Meetings**

**Section 1.** The OzMRS will hold at least a biennial scientific meeting, which will include a General Meeting of Members. These meetings may involve tele/video conferencing. Planning meetings held throughout the term will discuss future plans of the scientific meeting, as called by the Committee, or at the request of >10% of membership.

**Section 2.** Other meetings, including regular conference calls, may be called at the request of the Committee.

**Section 3.** The President, Treasurer and Secretary must, whenever possible, be present at the OzMRS biennial general meeting, and provide a report of the past two-year period. In addition to this, OzMRS members should also attend the biennial general meeting wherever possible.

**Section 4.** Minutes of the General Meeting of Members will be circulated to all society members by the Secretary, following endorsement by the President, and made available on the website. Minutes of Committee meetings will be circulated to all Committee members by the Secretary or designate.

### **Article IV: Communications Policy**

**Section 1.** The OzMRS Committee must be informed of and approve all proposed and sponsored activities well in advance of initiation (at least 2 weeks prior to the activity). Approval is based on feedback from the Committee, the compatibility of the proposed agenda items, and the ability to fund and implement the project.

### **Article V: Amendments to Charter**

**Section 1.** This charter may be amended according to the following procedure:

(a) Any member of the OzMRS in good standing may submit a proposal to amend the Charter. However, a Committee member is needed to bring the amendment for full consideration. Thus, it is important that individuals submitting proposals for amendments understand that they must identify a Committee member who will take their proposals forward for consideration.

(b) The proposed amendment must be submitted in writing to the full Committee by the Secretary for a review within 1 calendar month, in order to allow for consideration by the full membership and subsequent voting which may take place by email or at the General Meeting of Members if it falls within 2 months of the submission. A majority vote is necessary for an amendment to be considered to be passed.



## **Article VI: Society Membership**

**Section 1.** Membership of the society is open to all individuals who support the objectives of the Society.

**Section 2.** Different categories of membership (e.g. student, regular, consumer) may be offered, as determined by the Committee and will be reviewed and updated as necessary by the Committee.

**Section 3.** If applicable, a Member shall pay to the Society a membership subscription. The Committee shall determine the membership subscription amount and benefits afforded.

**Section 4.** Membership of the Society shall be granted after written application (normally through the designated portal on the Society's web site). Note that documentation of status may be requested, and payment of the designated subscription fees required. The Committee reserves the right to refuse membership to anyone it deems ineligible.

**Section 5.** Membership of the Society may be terminated in any of the following ways, Namely by:

- (i) Resignation.
- (ii) Default of the payment of the subscription fee (if applicable)
- (iii) The Committee, at its discretion, if such termination appears to be in the interests of the Society. Any person whose membership it is proposed to terminate shall have the right to be heard by the Committee in his/her own defence.

## **Article VII: Winding up**

**Section 1.** Distribution of surplus property

In the event of the association being dissolved, the amount that remains after such dissolution and the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities shall be transferred to any association with similar purposes that is not run for the profit or gain of its individual members.

**Effective Date: 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023**