

Sigma Xi Constitution amended November 12, 2016

1. SIGMA XI, THE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH HONOR SOCIETY

2. CONSTITUTION OF THE SOCIETY

3. ARTICLE I. Name, Object and Activities of the Society

4. The name of this Society is SIGMA XI, THE SCIENTIFIC
5. RESEARCH HONOR SOCIETY. The Society is an honor society, and its
6. motto is: "Companions in Zealous Research," from the Greek
7. words, Σπσσυδῶν Ξυνῶνες (Spoudon Xynones). The object of this
8. society is to encourage original investigation in science, pure and
9. applied.
10. The fields of activity of the Society are the pure and applied natural
11. sciences. In general, these include the physical sciences, the life and
12. agricultural sciences, the earth sciences, the medical sciences,
13. mathematics and engineering. The activities of the Society shall be
14. those appropriate to the object of the Society and particularly those
15. set forth in the Bylaws.
16. No part of the net earnings of the Society shall inure to the benefit of
17. any individual including, without limitation, the directors, officers,
18. or members of the Society, except as reasonable compensation for
19. services actually rendered to the Society in effecting one or more of
20. its purposes. No significant part of the activities of the Society shall
21. consist of carrying on propaganda or otherwise attempting to
22. influence legislation. The Society shall not participate in, or
23. intervene in (including the publishing or distributing of statements),
24. any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.
25. Upon dissolution or termination of the existence of the Society, all of
26. its property and assets shall, after payment of the lawful debts of the
27. Society and the expenses of its dissolution or termination, be
28. delivered, conveyed, and paid over to such organization or
29. organizations at the time exempt under the provisions of Section 501
30. (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, as now or hereafter amended, as
31. the Board of Directors shall determine.

32. ARTICLE II. Membership in the Society

33. **Section 1. Active and Inactive Membership.** The Society consists
34. of active and inactive members. Active members may be affiliated
35. with a chapter. If not so affiliated, active members shall be enrolled
36. in the Membership-at-Large. Any inactive member may become an
37. active member at any time by payment of current dues.

38. **Section 2. Members and Associate Members.** The membership of
39. the Society is divided into Members and Associate Members, each
40. of whom shall have taken the Pledge of the Society. Such

41. membership shall be attested by a suitable certificate. Members and
42. Associate Members are elected or promoted to membership by a
43. chapter or by a committee designated by the Board of Directors.
44. Associate Members have all of the privileges of Members, except for
45. such restrictions as are specifically stated in this Constitution or in
46. the Bylaws of the Society, or in the bylaws of the chapter with which
47. the member is affiliated.

48. Section 3. Requirements for Election or Promotion to

49. **Membership. A. Member.** Any individual who has shown
50. noteworthy achievement as an original investigator in a field of pure
51. or applied science is eligible for election or promotion to full
52. membership in the Society.

53. **B. Associate Member.** Any individual who has through initial
54. research achievement in a field of pure or applied science shown
55. aptitude for research which is expected in due course to lead to the
56. fulfillment of the requirements for full membership and any
57. individual who is a bench scientist or technician
58. who “does” the research but may never be recognized
59. as an author or cannot be an author but holds full time job
60. in science research, is eligible for
61. election to associate membership in the Society.

62. C. Procedures for Nomination, Election, Promotion and

63. **Transfer.** Procedures to be followed for the nomination and
64. election to membership or associate membership, for promotion
65. from Associate Member to Member, for transfer between active and
66. inactive status, for Life Membership and for transfer to emeritus
67. status are set forth in the Bylaws.

68. **Section 4. Honorary Members.** Notwithstanding any other
69. provisions of this Constitution, the Board of Directors, by a two-
70. thirds majority vote, shall have the power to elect Honorary
71. Members of the Society. Those nominated for such membership
72. shall be distinguished individuals, not otherwise eligible for
73. membership, who have served science, or the Society, in a manner or
74. to a degree that merits such recognition. Not more than two
75. Honorary Members may be elected in any one year. They shall hold
76. membership for life without payment of dues or fees; and shall have
77. all the privileges of other active Members, except that they shall not
78. vote nor hold office in the Society.

79. ARTICLE III. Organization of the Society

80. **Section 1. Chapters.** (i) The units of the Society are chapters. The
81. chapters participate in the governance of the Society in the manner
82. and to the extent set forth in the Constitution and Bylaws, which in

83. turn govern the acts, duties, responsibilities and privileges of the
84. chapters. Chapters may adopt such bylaws as are appropriate for
85. their governance, provided such bylaws do not conflict with the
86. Constitution and Bylaws of the Society. Procedures governing the
87. establishment and conduct of chapters and for the affiliation of
88. active members therewith are set forth in the Bylaws.
89. (ii) The membership-at-large participates in the governance of the
90. Society in the manner and to the extent set forth in the Constitution
91. and Bylaws.

92. **Section 2. The Assembly of Delegates. A. Governance.** The
93. governance of the Society rests in an Assembly of Delegates at
94. which the chapters and the membership-at-large are entitled to
95. representation as hereinafter provided.
96. The "Assembly of Delegates" shall be defined as a group of active members,
97. where "members" shall mean any person inducted into a grade of
98. membership eligible for voting in the Society, comprised of one active member
99. from each chapter, referred to hereinafter as a "chapter delegate", and a
100. number of active members from the membership-at-large, each referred to
101. hereinafter as a "Membership-at-Large Delegate".

102. **B. Convening an Assembly of Delegates.** At the discretion of the Board of
103. Directors, (i) the Assembly of Delegates may be convened annually or biennially;
104. (ii) An Assembly of Delegates may be convened by
105. the Board of Directors in a manner not connected with a
106. conference of the Society,
107. (iii) An Assembly of Delegates may be convened in an electronically
108. facilitated format, including the utilization of asynchronous electronic
109. communication, (iii) When an Assembly of Delegates is to be convened by
110. asynchronous electronic communication, there shall be a minimum period of time
111. during which every delegate intending to participate shall acknowledge that
112. intent, and at the end of this minimum period of time, the quorum for the
113. convening of this particular assembly shall be the total number of delegates
114. having acknowledged intent to participate. This establishment of quorum shall not
115. prevent other delegates from participating in any discussion and voting that
116. shall occur. This amendment in no way prohibits the involvement, without vote,
117. of any active member in any convening of the Assembly of Delegates.

118. **C. Selection of Delegates. (i) By Chapters.** The leadership of
119. each chapter shall have sole authority to appoint any active
120. member affiliated with the chapter as its chapter delegate
121. or as an alternate chapter delegate. Members of the assembly of
122. delegates shall be appointed by July 1 of each year.
123. Alternates may be appointed as needed when appointed members are
124. unavailable for business.

125. **(ii) For the Membership-at-Large.** The number of
126. membership-at-large delegates shall be determined prior to any
127. convening of the Assembly of Delegates in a manner to be
128. determined by the board to assure equitable representation
129. of the members-at-large. The director of membership-at-large
130. constituency shall have sole authority to appoint the
131. membership-at-large delegates and alternate membership-
132. at-large delegates.

133. D. Notice and Response Requirements

134. (i) Notice of each Annual or Biennial Meeting of the Assembly of Delegates
135. shall be given to each chapter by electronic letter, and also by announcement
136. in the official journal of the Society at least 60 days prior to the convening
137. of the Assembly of Delegates.

138. (ii) Notice to the Assembly of Delegates of a convening of the assembly
139. and of the issues to be considered, when not connected
140. with the conference of the Society, shall be communicated by
141. the Executive Director to the delegates and to the Society
142. membership no fewer than 10 business days in advance of the
143. convening of the assembly. By the end of this 10 or more business
144. day period, the quorum for the assembly shall be established
145. as provided in this section.

146. (iii) Policies deemed by the Board of Directors to be necessary for the operation
147. of the Society and not in conflict with the Constitution and Bylaws may be
148. established by the Board of Directors by simple majority vote at any time.
149. Policy changes, including new policies, changes to existing policies, and deletions
150. of policies shall be made in consultation with pertinent committees of the
151. Society. A compilation of all policies shall be maintained by the Executive
152. Director in an online form accessible to any member. No less frequently than
153. semi-annually, the Executive Director shall notify the membership of
154. all new, changed, and deleted policies.

155. Documented procedures deemed necessary by the Executive Director to be
156. necessary for the operation of the Society and its Headquarters and not in
157. conflict with the Constitution, Bylaws and Policies shall be established by the
158. Executive Director in consultation with the Board of Directors. A compilation of
159. all documented procedures shall be maintained by the Executive Director
160. in an online form accessible to any member.

161. **E. Limitation of Delegates.** No delegate may represent more than
162. one chapter at an Assembly of Delegates, nor shall a delegate
163. representing the membership-at-large also represent a chapter. No
164. individual may simultaneously serve as a voting delegate and as either
165. an Officer or member of the Board of Directors.

166. **F. Board Members.** Each Officer and member of the Board of Directors in

167. attendance at the Annual or Biennial Assembly of Delegates Meeting,
168. but not designated as an
169. accredited delegate of a chapter or the membership-at-large shall be
170. accredited as a delegate, without vote, and as such shall have the
171. privileges of the floor in the Assembly of Delegates or in a caucus or in
172. any electronic forum where Society issues are discussed.

173. **G. Quorum and Voting.** At any session of a duly called Assembly
174. of Delegates the accredited delegates present shall constitute a
175. quorum for the transaction of business. All accredited delegates
176. shall have the privileges of the floor to discuss any matter before the
177. Assembly. Proponents and opponents shall be allotted equal time
178. subject only to the limitations of debate deemed necessary by the
179. presiding officer. When voting, each chapter represented by one to
180. three accredited delegates is entitled to cast one vote and each of
181. the delegates representing the membership-at-large is entitled to cast
182. one vote on each issue before the Assembly of Delegates, hereinafter
183. in this Constitution and in the Bylaws referred to as a "vote of the
184. Assembly of Delegates."

185. **Section 3. Officers of the Society. A. Officers.** The officers of
186. the Society shall be a President, a President-elect, an Immediate Past
187. President, a Treasurer and an Executive Director.

188. **B. Electing Officers.** Officers, other than the Executive Director,
189. duly nominated, shall be elected following procedures set forth in the
190. Bylaws. Terms of office shall commence on 1 July of the year next
191. following election, and shall continue for a period of one year for the
192. President, President-elect and Immediate Past President, and for a
193. period of four years for the Treasurer, or until their successors have
194. been elected and qualified.

195. **C. Succession.** Upon the expiration of the term of the President, the
196. President-elect shall become the President, the President shall
197. become the Immediate Past President and the Immediate Past
198. President shall become the most recently retired President.

199. **D. Vacancies.** Vacancies in the Office of President, President-elect,
200. Immediate Past President or Treasurer shall be filled in a manner
201. prescribed in the Bylaws.

202. **Section 4. Board of Directors. A. Membership.** The Society
203. shall have a Board of Directors as set forth in the Bylaws.

204. **B. Electing Directors.** Directors shall be elected following
205. procedures set forth in the Bylaws. Terms of office of Directors shall
206. commence on 1 July of the year next following election and shall
207. continue for a period of three years, or until their successors have
208. been elected and qualified.

209. **C. Duties of the Board of Directors.** The Board of Directors shall
210. manage the activities, property and affairs of the Society, subject to
211. the direction of, and in accordance with, policies established by the
212. Assembly of Delegates. Without limiting the generality of the
213. foregoing, it shall be the particular duty of the Board of Directors to:
214. consider and act on granting and revoking charters for chapters and
215. determine questions of eligibility for membership in the Society
216. where there is doubt regarding eligibility.

217. Section 5. Executive Committee of the Board of Directors.

218. **A. Membership.** The Board of Directors shall have an Executive
219. Committee in accordance with the provisions of the Bylaws.

220. **B. Duties.** Duties of the Executive Committee of the Board of
221. Directors are set forth in the Bylaws.

222. **Section 6. Committees of the Society.** The Society shall have a
223. Committee on Finances, a Committee on Audit Review, and a
224. Committee on Nominations, and such other committees as are
225. established by the Board of Directors. Procedures governing the
226. establishment and activities of committees are set forth in the
227. Bylaws.

228. Section 7. Meetings of the Board of Directors, its Executive

229. **Committee, and Committees.** Meetings of the Board of Directors
230. shall be held not less than twice annually, while the Executive
231. Committee and other committees shall meet as required. Meetings
232. of the Board of Directors and of its Executive Committee shall
233. normally be called by the President, but may be called by any other
234. officer. Meetings of a committee shall be called by the Chair, after
235. consultation with the Executive Director, but may be called by any
236. officer after consultation with the Committee Chair. Notice of a
237. meeting shall be given as provided for in the Bylaws, and the Society
238. shall reimburse directors, committee members and officers for all
239. reasonable expenses actually incurred in attending such meetings.

240. **Section 8. Restriction on Membership.** Only active, full Members
241. are eligible for office.

242. **Section 9. The Executive Director.** The Board of Directors, upon
243. the recommendation of its Executive Committee, shall appoint the
244. Executive Director to serve without term. Such appointment may be
245. terminated at any time by either party, provided that such termination
246. shall in no way impair such contract obligations, if any, as are in
247. effect between the two parties. Duties and responsibilities of the
248. Executive Director are set forth in the Bylaws.

249. **Section 10. The Corporation.** The management of the property,
250. affairs and the business of the Society is vested in a corporation

251. known as SIGMA XI, THE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH HONOR SOCIETY,
252. INCORPORATED, hereinafter and in the Bylaws referred to as the
253. Corporation. The Board of Directors of said Corporation shall be
254. identical with that of the voluntary association known as Sigma Xi,
255. The Scientific Research Honor Society, herein and in the Bylaws
256. referred to as the Society.

257. ARTICLE IV. Dues and Expenses of the Society

258. **Section 1. Dues and Fees.** Annual dues and any associated fees
259. shall be set as described in the bylaws. Chapters may set additional
260. local dues and collect them directly or through the Treasurer of the
261. Society. Further provisions with regard to dues and fees are set forth
262. in the Bylaws.

263. **Section 2. Authority for Payment.** The Executive Director and the
264. Treasurer are authorized to sign vouchers on behalf of the Society in
265. payment of proper expenses of the Society.

266. **Section 3. The Society's Year.** The Society's Year shall commence
267. on 1 July of each year and terminate on 30 June of the succeeding
268. year.

269. ARTICLE V. Motto, Seal and Insignia of the Society

270. The Motto of the Society is set forth in Article I of this Constitution.
271. The Monogram of the Society shall be the Greek letter S (Sigma)
272. superimposed on the Greek letter X (Xi). The Seal of the Society
273. shall incorporate the monogram and the motto, and is described in
274. the Bylaws. The insignia of the Society are described in the Bylaws.

275. ARTICLE VI. Amendment of the Constitution

276. When the proposed amendment to the
277. Constitution has been endorsed by the Board of Directors with the
278. required 2/3rd majority vote, the Assembly of Delegates may be
279. convened within 30 calendar days to act on the amendment.
280. When the Board of Directors adopts an amendment to the Bylaws by the
281. required 2/3 vote, immediately upon adoption of the amendment, notice shall
282. be provided by the Executive Director to the membership, therewith
283. announcing a comment period of 10 business days. If during the comment
284. period as many as five delegates objects to the amendment, the amendment
285. shall remain in abeyance until it is acted upon by the Assembly of Delegates.
286. The Assembly of Delegates may be convened within 30 days to act on the
287. amendment.

288. ARTICLE VII. Bylaws

289. When the Board of Directors
290. adopts an amendment to the Bylaws by the required 2/3rd vote, immediately
291. upon adoption of the amendment, notice shall be provided by the
292. Executive Director to the membership, therewith announcing a comment period

293. of 10 business days. If, during the comment period as many as five delegates objects
294. to the amendment, the amendment shall remain in abeyance until it is acted
295. upon by the Assembly of Delegates. The Assembly of Delegates may be convened
296. within 30 days to act on the amendment.

297. ARTICLE VIII. Sigma Xi Affiliate Circle

298. **Section 1. Criteria for Affiliation.** Any individual with a passion for science or
299. engineering, but who is not otherwise eligible for membership in the Society,
300. may join the Sigma Xi Affiliate Circle. Further provisions for the Affiliate
301. Circle are set forth in the Bylaws.

302. ARTICLE IX. Sigma Xi Explorers

303. Any individual in Kindergarten through Twelfth grade who has presented a
304. science project at a science fair, together with a letter of recommendation
305. from a science or Science Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
306. (STEM) teacher, is eligible to join as a Sigma Xi Explorer in the
307. Society.