

TROGSS Constitution and Code of Ethics

Preamble

We, the members of **The Robotic Global Surgical Society (TROGSS)**, united by our commitment to advance the art of surgery, hereby establish this Constitution and Code of Ethics.

We affirm our dedication to:

- Upholding the dignity, humanity, and ethical standards of the surgical profession.
- Advancing robotic and minimally invasive surgery through education, research, and innovation.
- Promoting solidarity, equity, and professional growth among surgeons and healthcare professionals worldwide.
- Serving patients and society with compassion, integrity, and excellence.

Founded and registered in France, TROGSS is built on the principles of **professionalism, transparency, accountability, and humanism**. These values shall guide our actions and define our global identity as a professional society.

Article 1: Legal Status and Identity

1. The Robotic Global Surgical Society (TROGSS) is a professional non-profit association, duly constituted and registered in accordance with **French Law of 1 July 1901** governing associations.
 2. TROGSS has a global reach and membership, while its **legal seat** and jurisdiction remain in France.
 3. The official language of TROGSS is **French**, as per legal requirement. However, **English** shall be used as the primary working and communication language to facilitate its global mission.
-

Article 2: Mission and Purpose

1. TROGSS exists as a professional surgical society dedicated to:
 - Advancing robotic and minimally invasive surgery.
 - Promoting global education, training, and research in surgical sciences.
 - Building solidarity and collaboration among surgeons, researchers, and healthcare professionals worldwide.

- Supporting surgical innovation while upholding the highest ethical and professional standards.
2. TROGSS is a **non-profit and non-political association**. Its activities shall never serve private or commercial interests but remain dedicated to education, service, and scientific advancement.
-

Article 3: Membership

1. Categories of Membership

TROGSS shall recognize the following membership categories:

- **Active Members:** Surgeons, physicians, and healthcare professionals engaged in clinical practice or research in surgery.
- **Associate Members:** Medical students, residents, fellows, researchers, and allied health professionals interested in robotic and minimally invasive surgery.
- **Honorary Members:** Distinguished individuals who have made outstanding contributions to surgery, education, or the advancement of TROGSS.
- **Institutional Members:** Universities, hospitals, societies, and organizations supporting the mission and objectives of TROGSS.

2. Admission

- Membership shall be open to all applicants who share the objectives of TROGSS and commit to its Constitution and Code of Ethics.
- Applications shall be reviewed and approved by the **Membership Committee** or Executive Council.

3. Rights of Members

- To participate in scientific, educational, and networking activities organized by TROGSS.
- To access TROGSS communication channels and educational resources.
- To vote and stand for election (Active Members only).
- To propose initiatives, projects, or amendments to the Constitution.

4. Duties of Members

- To uphold the values, mission, and ethical principles of TROGSS.
- To maintain professional conduct in all TROGSS-related activities.
- To respect the diversity, inclusivity, and nonpolitical character of the society.
- To avoid any actions that could damage the reputation or independence of TROGSS.

5. Termination of Membership

- Membership may be voluntarily resigned by written notice to the Executive Council.
- Membership may be terminated by the Executive Council in cases of:
 - a. Violation of the Constitution or Code of Ethics.
 - b. Conduct prejudicial to the interests or reputation of TROGSS.

- c. Non-compliance with decisions of the General Assembly or Executive Council.
 - o Any disciplinary termination shall respect principles of **due process and appeal**, in accordance with French association law.
-

Article 4: Professional Standards of Conduct

1. TROGSS members shall uphold the highest standards of professionalism, integrity, and collegiality.
 2. TROGSS is **not a social group or casual community**, but a professional surgical society. All activities, communications, and programs shall reflect this character.
 3. The following conduct is expected:
 - o Sharing uplifting, constructive, and educational content.
 - o Disseminating high-level scientific evidence, manuscripts, and educational resources.
 - o Promoting compassion, solidarity, mentorship, and collaboration.
 - o Respecting diversity of culture, religion, and professional background.
 4. The following conduct is prohibited:
 - o Discrimination or harassment of any kind (based on gender, ethnicity, religion, nationality, or professional rank).
 - o Use of TROGSS platforms for political ideology, religious proselytism, or divisive commentary.
 - o Commercial solicitation without prior approval of the Executive Council.
-

Article 5: Communication Policy

1. TROGSS maintains professional communication channels (WhatsApp private groups, LinkedIn, SurgeOn, newsletters, and academic forums).
 2. Messages permitted include:
 - o Educational news and scientific updates.
 - o Information about conferences, symposia, training programs, and research opportunities.
 - o Constructive publications, case studies, and announcements relevant to surgical practice.
 - o Photos and videos that highlight professional, educational, or humanitarian work.
 3. All members must **exercise responsibility and restraint** in communication. Content that is offensive, discriminatory, or divisive will not be tolerated.
-

Article 6: Equality and Humanism

1. All members of TROGSS are **equal**, regardless of nationality, profession, or institutional affiliation.
 2. The society adheres to principles of **humanism, service, and solidarity**.
 3. Any form of discrimination, harassment, or abuse is strictly prohibited and will result in disciplinary measures.
-

Article 7: Governance and Disciplinary Action

1. The **Executive Council** is responsible for safeguarding compliance with this Code of Ethics.
 2. Any violation of the principles outlined herein shall be reviewed by the Executive Council, which may impose measures ranging from written warnings to suspension or expulsion from TROGSS.
 3. All disciplinary actions must respect the principles of **due process, impartiality, and fairness**, in accordance with French association law.
-

Article 8: Financial Support and Independence

1. TROGSS is a **professional nonprofit organization** that relies on financial contributions, donations, and grants from industry partners to maintain its educational programs, initiatives, and conferences without charging its members for the multiple benefits that it offers.
 2. TROGSS **does not intend to make a business** out of the initiatives that it implements. Its primary purpose remains the advancement of surgical education, research, and global collaboration.
 3. TROGSS maintains the most rigorous **quality and ethical standards** to avoid any bias or influence on its decisions based on financial support from industry partners.
 4. All financial activities shall be transparent and comply with French nonprofit law (*Loi 1901*).
-

Article 9: Transparency and Accountability

1. TROGSS commits to maintaining clear and transparent reporting of its activities, finances, and governance decisions.
2. Annual activity and financial reports shall be presented to members and available in compliance with French association law.

Article 10: Amendments and Review

1. This Code of Ethics and Constitution may be amended upon recommendation by the Executive Council and approval by the General Assembly of members, in compliance with French law.
 2. Members will be informed of amendments through official communication channels.
-