



BRITISH CONGENITAL CARDIAC ASSOCIATION

Constitution of the British Congenital Cardiac Association

(formerly British Paediatric Cardiac Association)

Revised November 2010

Article 1 - NAME

Section 1

The name of this organisation shall be called “The British Congenital Cardiac Association”. It shall be affiliated to the British Cardiovascular Society.

Article II – PURPOSE

Section 1

This is a non-profit making organisation. The purposes of the organisation are to promote the study and care of the fetus and child with heart diseases and the adult with congenital heart disease in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland; to promote and distribute study data pertaining to these problems and their prevention; to help those engaged in this work at the various centres in the UK and Republic of Ireland; and to promote communication and cooperation between these workers.

Article III- MEMBERSHIP

Section 1

The Association shall consist of Ordinary, Corresponding, Commercial and Retired Memberships.

Section 2

ORDINARY MEMBERSHIP shall be given to medical practitioners and others, whose primary interest is in the practice or research of congenital heart disease in the adult or heart diseases in the fetus or child, who are resident in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland at the time of the application.

Section 3

A member may cease to be a member at any time and may choose to become a Corresponding Member.

Section 4

CORRESPONDING MEMBERSHIP may be given to recognised physicians, surgeons or others overseas, who have a clear and continuing link with congenital heart disease in the adult or heart diseases in the fetus and child in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland. Corresponding Members will not be eligible to vote or hold office.

Section 5

COMMERCIAL MEMBERSHIPS may be given to individuals engaged in the provision of commercial support services for the benefit of the adult with congenital heart disease or the fetus or child with heart diseases. Such members will be ineligible to vote or hold office.

Section 6

The original membership shall be ceded to those individuals who are already members of the British Paediatric Cardiac Association. Subsequent applications for any category of membership shall be considered by the Council and ratified at the Annual General Meeting. Such applications should be proposed and seconded by two ordinary members.

Section 7

RETIRED MEMBERSHIPS may be given to senior members of the BCCA after retirement from full time employment. Retired members will be eligible to receive e-mail correspondence and to attend the annual scientific meeting at a reduced rate decided by the local organiser. Retired members will not be eligible to stand for election to Council or to vote in council elections.

Section 8

AFFILIATED ORGANISATIONS Organisations which are involved in the scientific study or clinical management of congenital heart disease in the United Kingdom may apply to become **affiliated** to the British Congenital Cardiac Association. Affiliated status can be achieved by formal application to the BCCA Council. Affiliated status can be granted by approval of the majority of council members and will be subject to ratification by BCCA Members at the subsequent Annual General Meeting. Affiliated status will be reviewed after 5 years.

Article IV – SUBSCRIPTIONS

Section 1

The annual subscription and the due date shall be fixed by the Council. Failure to pay within one year of the due date shall be considered equivalent to resignation of membership.

Section 2

The annual membership subscription, payable by **ordinary members** and **commercial members** shall be thirty five pounds (35) sterling, subject to changes to be advised, and shall be payable on 1st January each year.

Section 3

The annual membership subscription, payable by **corresponding and retired members** shall be twenty (20) pounds sterling, subject to changes to be advised, and shall be payable on 1st January each year.

Article V – OFFICERS

Section 1

The officers of this organisation shall be **President, Vice-President (President-Elect), Secretary, Treasurer, and seven (7) elected Council Members**. The elected members shall, as far as possible, reflect the composition and various interests of the Association. One council member shall be elected to represent the interests of adults with congenital heart disease. One member will be elected to represent the interests of paediatricians with a cardiology subspecialty interest. The officers shall have been voting members of this organisation for at least one year prior to their election. When judged appropriate by the President, the BCCA Council will have the right, by majority vote, to co-opt an additional member to represent a specific subspecialty group (not already represented on the council) for a maximum of a 1 year period.

Section 2

All officers will be in post for two (2) years and will offer themselves to re-election after two (2) years.

Section 3

The **President** automatically stands down after two (2) years and is replaced by the **Vice-President (President-Elect)**. However, the President shall be eligible for a non-executive position on the Council two (2) years after ceasing to be President.

The **Secretary** and **Treasurer** shall be eligible for re-election after two (2) years and may serve in these posts for a maximum of 5 years.

Ordinary Council Members shall be elected for two (2) years.

Unless a Council member is elected to one of the higher offices of the Association (**President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer**), they may not serve on the Council for more than two (2) consecutive two year terms, but will be eligible for re-election two (2) years after ceasing to hold office.

Section 4

The elected officers shall form the Executive Council of the organisation.

Article VI – AMENDMENTS

Section 1

The constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present at the Annual General Meeting, providing the amendment has been proposed in writing and recorded at either the last Annual General Meeting or at the Business Meeting preceding the Annual General Meeting.