



## **SOUTH AFRICAN COCHLEAR IMPLANT GROUP CONSTITUTION**

(Amended 2022)

### **Section 1: General**

- 1.1 The name of the association shall be the South African Cochlear Implant Group (SACIG).
- 1.2 The aims of the group shall be to:
  - 1.2.1 Encourage the interchange of ideas and information between anyone involved, or interested in any aspect of cochlear implants and auditory brainstem implants;
  - 1.2.2 To promote all medical, surgical, audiological, educational, rehabilitative and research aspects of cochlear and auditory brainstem implant technology;
  - 1.2.3 Provide comprehensive advice on cochlear implants and auditory brainstem implants and quality standards in keeping with international standards of best practice in collaboration with it's members and the services in which and with whom they work;
  - 1.2.4 Provide guidelines and advice in developing, setting, upholding and maintaining standards of service by surgeons, audiologists, speech and language therapists and other professional services that form part of service delivery;
  - 1.2.5 Ensure that only FDA and CE-approved cochlear implant and auditory implant devices are supplied by distributors/ suppliers who will also ensure the maintenance of standards as set by SACIG.

### **Section 2: Membership**

- 2.1 The group shall consist of Full Members, Consumer Members, Honorary Members, Corporate Members, Associate Members, and Individual Members.
- 2.2 **Full membership** shall be open to relevant, clinical professionals working as part of a cochlear implant and / or auditory brainstem implant team and providing cochlear implant and/or auditory brainstem implant services, the primary objective of which is patient care, and /or anyone who is actively involved in research into cochlear and / or auditory brainstem implants. Application for full membership is made to the Secretary and is subject to approval by the Executive Committee and upon payment of the annual subscription. Only Full members have access to the AGM, have full voting rights and access to the secure area of the SACIG website.
- 2.3 **Consumer membership** shall be open to any interested implantee or parents of implantees upon application to the Secretary.

- 2.4 **Honorary membership** shall be made available to individuals contributing, or who have contributed, to the field of cochlear implants, at the discretion of the Council.
- 2.5 **Corporate membership** is available for companies and employees of companies with a primary commercial interest in the field of cochlear and auditory brainstem implantation. Membership will be at the discretion of the Council. Corporate members may not attend the AGM unless by invitation of the Executive Committee.
- 2.6 **Associate membership** shall be available to other relevant student and non-professional representatives.
- 2.7 **Individual Membership** is open to any professional working in or interested in the field of cochlear implantation.
- 2.8 Guests may be introduced to meetings of the Group by any member, with the consent of the Executive Committee. Guests have no voting rights.
- 2.9 Voting rights are limited to full members only.
- 2.10 The Secretary shall keep an up-to-date membership list and make it available to members.

### **Section 3: Officers**

- 3.1 **Executive Committee** shall consist of the Chairperson, Vice- or co-Chairperson, Secretary, and the Treasurer. The Chairperson, Vice- or co-Chairperson and Secretary will come from the same implant team.
- 3.2 The **Council** shall consist of the Executive Committee, as well as one representative from each of the cochlear implant teams. The representatives serving on the Council shall be the Coordinator of each cochlear implant team or a person nominated by their respective teams. The Chairperson shall have the casting vote. Council meetings will be arranged on an ad hoc basis when required.
- 3.3 The **Executive Committee** shall be elected by Full Members, at an Annual General Meeting. Nominees shall be proposed and seconded by Full Members. The Secretary shall receive at least three weeks' notice on nomination prior to the Annual General Meeting, when vacancies arise.
- 3.4 Membership of the Executive Committee and the Council are limited to Full Members only.
- 3.5 The Executive Committee shall serve for a period of two years and be eligible for a maximum of four years (two terms of office).

- 3.6 Consumer Members, upon application to the Secretary, may be appointed and serve on the Committee for a period of one year. There shall be no restriction on re-election for subsequent years. Corporate Members' application is to be made to the Executive Committee and is subject to approval by the Council.
- 3.7 The Executive Committee shall consider all applications for Membership in any category, determine the subscription and shall meet as required.
- 3.8 An audited statement will be presented by the Treasurer at the Annual General Meeting.

#### **Section 4: Subscriptions**

- 4.1 Subscriptions will be paid annually by a method of payment set by the Treasurer.
- 4.2 Failure to pay subscriptions as requested will result in a lapse of membership.
- 4.3 Full membership subscriptions will be determined from time to time by the Executive Committee and ratified at an AGM.
- 4.4 Consumer Membership subscriptions will be considered and determined by the Executive Committee on an ad hoc basis.
- 4.5 Corporate Membership subscriptions will be considered and determined by the Executive Committee on an ad hoc basis.
- 4.6 Individual Membership subscriptions will be considered and determined by the Executive Committee on an ad hoc basis.
- 4.7 Honorary Members are not expected to make payment for annual subscriptions.

#### **Section 5: Meetings**

- 5.1 Full members shall have one Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Scientific Meeting per year.
- 5.2 The AGM may only be attended by Full members. Members other than full members may apply to the Executive Committee to attend such meetings.
- 5.3 Attendance of the Scientific meeting may be attended by all other members. These meetings may also be attended by any other interested parties.
- 5.4 The Constitution may be amended by a 2/3 majority of the Full Members present at an Annual General Meeting, given six weeks' notice of proposed changes. A meeting will be quorate when 30% of Full Members are present. Signed proxy votes received by the Secretary before the meeting shall be honoured.