



## British Cochlear Implant Group (BCIG) - Constitution

### **1 TITLE**

- 1.1 The Association shall be known as the British Cochlear Implant Group or BCIG.

### **2 AIMS**

- 2.1 To promote all medical, surgical, audiological, educational, rehabilitative and research aspects of auditory implant technologies.
- 2.2 To hold meetings at which those interested in auditory implantation may meet, discuss clinical practice and present clinical and scientific papers.
- 2.3 To take an overarching interest in all aspects of the development of auditory implants (including screening and assessment, related sciences and health promotion) in Great Britain, with special reference to the needs of those in training.
- 2.4 To provide comprehensive advice on auditory implantation to other related Professional organisations, the Department of Health and other relevant organisations and bodies.
- 2.5 To advise and guide on maintenance and development of standards and best practice, in collaboration with BCIG members and the teams in which they work.
- 2.6 To liaise with similar organisations in Europe and Worldwide.
- 2.7 The group shall have at least one scientific and one business meeting per year.

### **3 MEMBERSHIP**

- 3.1 The membership shall consist of professional, non-professional and corporate members.

#### **3.2 Professional**

- 3.2.1 **Full membership** will be open to all clinical professionals directly involved in the provision of auditory implant services, the primary objective of which is patient care. A full member will have full voting rights and access to the AGM / EGM. They will receive the journal of the BCIG: Cochlear Implants International.
- 3.2.2 **Honorary membership** shall be available to individuals contributing to the field of auditory implantation at the discretion of the Council. An honorary member will not have voting rights, nor be eligible to hold office but may attend the AGM / EGM. They may receive the journal upon payment.
- 3.2.3 **Overseas membership** is open to those with a recognised interest in auditory implantation, who reside abroad and with approval of the Council. An overseas member will

not have voting rights, nor be eligible to hold office but may attend the AGM / EGM. They may receive the journal upon payment.

### **3.3 Non-professionals**

3.3.1 **Non-professional membership** shall be available to non-professional representatives of other relevant organisations. An Associate will have no voting rights nor be eligible to hold office but may attend the AGM / EGM. They may receive the journal upon payment.

### **3.4 Corporate**

3.4.1 Corporate membership will be available to employees of companies with a primarily commercial interest in the field of auditory implantation. Membership will be at the discretion of the Council. Corporate members will have no voting rights nor be eligible to hold office or attend the AGM / EGM. The Journal will be supplied as part of the membership package.

3.5 New members should complete membership application and banking details and forward these to the membership secretary. Applications should be supported by two full members of BCIG. Membership is subject to approval by Council.

3.6 The subscription will be fixed at the AGM. The subscriptions are payable annually by standing order. Subscriptions may be changed by a two-thirds majority of full members attending an Annual General or Extraordinary General Meeting of the Group.

3.7 Failure to pay subscriptions as requested will result in lapse of membership.

## **4 COUNCIL**

4.1 *Membership of Council shall consist of Officers and Ordinary Members*

4.1.1 The Officers shall be the Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Membership Secretary. There shall be three Ordinary Members. The Council should where possible be representative of the various professions within the membership of the group.

4.1.2 Membership to Council is not open to Honorary, Overseas, Non-professional or Corporate Members or those with a commercial interest.

4.1.6 Full members can be co-opted to serve on Council as required.

4.1.7 A quorum of four members, including one executive officer, shall be required for Council meetings.

4.2 *Election of Council*

4.2.1 Vacancies in the Council will be notified to the membership. Nominations from a member, and seconded by two other full members must be received by the Secretary, in writing, six weeks prior to the Annual General Meeting or date specified by Council.

4.2.2 Nominees shall be elected by members and will take up post at the next Annual General Meeting.

4.3 *Terms of Office*

4.3.1 All Officers shall normally serve for a period of 2 years and be eligible to stand for a further 2 years. They may not serve for more than two consecutive terms in the same office.

4.3.2 Ordinary members shall normally serve for 3 years. They may not be eligible to stand for re-election to Council as an ordinary member for at least 3 years.

## **5 MEETINGS**

- 5.1 The annual meeting shall consist of a concise Annual General Meeting and a Scientific programme.
- 5.2 The Annual General Meeting shall present the Groups accounts, elect new officers to the Council and report on the business of the Group.
- 5.4 The venue and date of the Annual General Meeting will be agreed by Council and the approved at the AGM.
- 5.6 An Extraordinary General Meeting may be called by twenty of the members of the Group, or by a majority of Council members.

## **6. FINANCES**

- 6.1 The accounts will be maintained by the Treasurer. Accounts will be presented at Council meetings and annual accounts will be presented at the AGM or at other meetings as is required. The Treasurer shall be empowered to sign cheques on behalf of the Group.

## **7 CONSTITUTION**

- 7.1 The Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority of full members attending an Annual or Extraordinary General Meeting, given six weeks notice of any proposed change(s). A meeting will be quorate with a minimum of 30 full members being present. Signed postal votes received by the Secretary shall be honoured.