



## British Cochlear Implant Group (BCIG) - Constitution

### **1. TITLE**

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

### **2. MISSION**

2.1. The mission of BCIG is to improve knowledge and best practice in the field of auditory implantation

### **3. AIMS**

3.1. To promote all medical, surgical, audiological, educational, rehabilitative and research aspects of auditory implant technologies.

3.2. To hold meetings at which those interested in auditory implantation may attend, discuss clinical practice and present clinical and scientific papers.

3.3. To take an overarching interest in all aspects of the development of auditory implants (including screening and assessment, service provision, related sciences and health promotion) in the United Kingdom and Eire.

3.4. To provide advice on auditory implantation to other related professional organisations, the Department of Health and other relevant bodies.

3.5. To facilitate the development of clinical guidelines and standards, providing a forum for members to collaborate and agree best practice, in association with other appropriate stakeholders.

3.6. To liaise with similar organisations internationally.

3.7. The group shall have at least one scientific and one business meeting per year.

## **4. MEMBERSHIP**

The membership year runs from 1<sup>st</sup> September to 31<sup>st</sup> August; members joining part way through a year will pay the full subscription for that year.

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

### **4.1. United Kingdom and Eire**

4.1.1. Any interested individual who has a clinical role in the field of auditory implants or who is actively involved in research into auditory implants. This will include members of auditory implant centres, employees of auditory implant manufacturers who provide clinical support, researchers and also representatives of other allied organisations including auditory implant patient groups. Retired members may also continue their membership in order to maintain links with the field.

4.1.2. Applications must be supported by a current BCIG member.

4.1.3. The annual subscription includes access to the BCIG Journal 'Cochlear Implants International'. Members have full voting rights, have a significantly discounted delegate rate at BCIG annual meetings, access to the members-only area of the website and also the opportunity to participate in UK policy development.

### **4.2. Overseas**

4.2.1. Criteria for memberships is as for UK applicants above. In addition, the application must be supported by a one-page résumé

4.2.2. The annual subscription for overseas members includes the rate for full membership plus air mail postage of the journal.

### **4.3. Corporate Membership**

4.3.1. For companies or manufacturers with a commercial interest in the field of Cochlear Implants. One copy of each issue of the journal is included.

## **5. COUNCIL**

5.1. Membership of Council shall consist of Executive Officers and Ordinary Members

5.1.1. There shall be five Executive Officers:

- I. Chair
- II. Vice-Chair
- III. Secretary
- IV. Treasurer
- V. Membership Secretary.

5.2. There shall be three Ordinary Members:

5.2.1. Ordinary members assume key responsibility for one or more areas of work e.g. website, management of data etc.

5.3. The Council should where possible be representative of the various professions within the membership of the group.

5.4. Membership to Council is not open to Overseas or Corporate Members or those with a commercial interest.

5.5. Full members can be co-opted to serve on Council or within "Special Interest Groups" as required.

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

5.7. Election of Council

5.7.1. Vacancies in the Council will be notified to the membership by the Secretary. Nominations from a member, seconded by two other full members, must be submitted via the official nomination form according to instructions. This will be done six weeks prior to the Annual General Meeting or date specified by Council to allow for voting to occur in the case of multiple nominations.

5.7.2. In the case of only one nomination occurring, the nominated individual will automatically take up the vacant position.

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

5.7.4. Each full member will be allowed one vote per candidate in the election process, voting will be conducted according to the instructions supplied by Council at the time of announcing the candidates for election.

## 5.8. Terms of Office

5.8.1. All Executive Officers in the first place shall serve for a period of 2 years. They will be eligible to stand for a further 2 years if supported by a majority vote from Council. They may not serve for more than two consecutive terms of office. Ordinary members shall serve for 3 years and can remain on Council for a further 2 years if they are elected as an Executive Officer.

5.8.2. The maximum term in office by any individual (Executive Officer and Ordinary Members) is 5 years. All changes in position are subject to the same nomination and voting process used for election to council.

5.8.3. If an individual has served consecutively on council for 5 years then they must wait a further three years before re-applying for a council position.

## 6. MEETINGS

6.1. The annual meeting shall consist of a concise Annual General Meeting (AGM) and a Scientific programme.

6.2. The AGM shall present the Group's accounts, elect new officers to the Council and report on the business of the Group. A meeting will be quorate with a minimum of 20 full members being present.

6.3. The venue and date of the Annual General Meeting will be agreed by Council and then approved at the AGM.

6.4. An Extraordinary General Meeting may be called by 20 full members of the Group, or by a majority of Council members.

## 7. FINANCES

7.1. 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 required. The Treasurer shall be empowered to act as a signatory on payments on behalf of the Group.

## 8. CONSTITUTION

8.1. 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 20 full members being present. Signed postal votes received by the Secretary shall be honoured.