

CONSTITUTION

SOUTH AFRICAN SOCIETY OF OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNAECOLOGISTS

- **NAME**

The name of the Society will be: "The South African Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists".

- **OBJECTIVES**

The primary objectives of this established Society are as follows:

- To maintain high ethical standards in Obstetrics and Gynaecology.
- To encourage the highest standards of training in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, both at undergraduate and postgraduate level.
- To support and encourage Continuing Professional Development.
- To represent all South African Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, both nationally and internationally.
- To work towards the improvement of women's health in South Africa.
- To work in close co-operation with the College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology of the Colleges of Medicine of South Africa and the South African Representative Committee of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists and academic institutions in attaining all of the aforementioned objectives.
- To remain a full member of the International Federation of Gynaecology and Obstetrics (FIGO) and to subscribe to the aims and objectives of this international organization.

- **MEMBERSHIP**

- There shall be four categories of members:
 - Honorary members
 - Honorary members shall be drawn from the ranks of retired Obstetricians and Gynaecologists or individuals whose service to Obstetrics and Gynaecology

merit recognition. Nominations for honorary membership may be submitted by any SASOG member to the Nominations Committee of SASOG. This Committee shall consider the nomination and if approved, submit the nomination to the SASOG Council for ratification. Nominations must be accompanied by a written substantiating citation and supported by at least four members of the Society.

- Honorary members shall have such privileges as may be conferred on them by the Society but shall have none of the liabilities of ordinary members and shall not have a vote in the affairs of the Society.
- Ordinary members

The following shall be eligible for ordinary membership:

- Obstetricians and Gynaecologists registered with the Health Professions Council of South Africa and residing in South Africa.
 - Obstetricians and Gynaecologists from countries within the SADC (Southern African Development Community) who are registered as such with the statutory body for healthcare professionals of their respective countries and residing in these respective countries.
 - The rights and privileges of ordinary membership, including voting rights, shall be confined to paid-up members.
- Associate members

The following shall be eligible for associate membership:

- Any medical practitioner working in the field of women's health and registered with the Health Professions Council of South Africa may apply for associate membership.
 - All registrars training in Obstetrics and Gynaecology in South Africa.
 - The rights and privileges of associate membership shall be confined to members in good standing but without voting rights.
- Retired members

The following shall be eligible for retired membership:

Members who are in good standing and have reached the age of 70 or more and members who retire from all active Obstetric and Gynaecological practice may become retired members. Such retired members shall not pay any subscription and will have no voting rights.

- Termination of membership
 - Membership may be terminated by resignation or at a general meeting of the Society by the decision of not less than two-thirds of the members present at the meeting.

- A member who has not paid the monthly subscription for a period of 6 months or longer or alternatively the annual subscription for a period of 6 months or longer after the rendering of the first account may have his/her membership terminated and shall not be elected to Council or represent SASOG.

- **CONTROL AND ORGANISATION**

4.1 The Council of the Society shall consist of:

SASOG members elected to the Council, from whom the office bearers will be elected.

Such "other" members, who may be permitted under the Constitution, as hereinafter provided.

4.2 Elected members shall hold office for three years.

4.3 A member who has served for two consecutive terms as an elected member shall not be eligible for nomination for a period of one year after the completion of his /her second term of office.

4.4 Nominations for representatives from the following regions shall be called for and shall embody the principle of proportional regional representation:

Region A: Mpumalanga, Limpopo, Northern Gauteng

Region B: Southern Gauteng

Region C: Kwa Zulu Natal

Region D: Free State, Northern Cape, North Western Province

Region E: Western Cape

Region F: Eastern Cape

Council will review the principle of one Council member for every 50 gynaecologists prior to each election.

- Office Bearers
 - The Council, at the first meeting called to formally constitute the new Council shall constitute the President-Elect as the President and shall elect the Honorary Secretary and Treasurer elect for three years. They shall not hold office for more than six consecutive years. The immediate past President, the immediate past Honorary Secretary and the immediate past Treasurer shall be members of the Council *ex-officio* for a period of one year after the completion of their respective terms. This term of the *ex-officio* can be extended to a period of three years at the discretion of the new executive.
 - President-Elect
 - The current council will elect a President-elect 12 months prior to the commencement term of the following council. Nominations will be sent to the Honorary Secretary prior to the meeting. The election will take place during a scheduled SASOG Council meeting. If there is more than one nomination for

the position of President-elect, voting will take place through a secret paper ballot by all members present in person or represented by proxy at the Council meeting where the President-elect is elected. The President-elect will become a member of the SASOG EXCO after election to the position.

- The President-elect will be constituted as the President of SASOG at the first meeting of the following duly elected Council, and the President of SASOG will oversee at this meeting the election of office bearers.
- The newly elected Council shall assume office on the 1st January. Where this is not feasible or practical the new Council shall assume office immediately following a meeting called to formally constitute the new Council and elect its office bearers.
- The Council shall have the power to co-opt the chairperson (or secundus) of the following groups, who shall have full rights of the Council. Such co-opted members, unless stipulated otherwise by Council, shall hold office for the duration of the term of the incumbent Council.

THE GROUPS TO BE REPRESENTED ARE:

- Royal College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology.
- College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology of South Africa.
- Heads of Departments of Obstetrics and Gynaecology in the Medical Schools of South Africa.
- Gynaecology Management Group.
- South African Society of Gynaecological Oncology. (SASGO)
- South African Society of Ultrasound in Obstetrics and Gynaecology. (SASUOG)
- Southern African Society of Reproductive Endocrinology and Gynaecological Endoscopy. (SASREG)
- South African Menopause Society. (SAMS)
- South African Urogynaecological Association. (SAUGA)
- South African Society of Gynaecological Endoscopy.
- South African Association of Trainees in Obstetrics and Gynaecology (SAATOG)
- Any other subgroup that may be formed from time to time.
- Any individual whose presence on the Council should be to the benefit of SASOG or in line with the pursuance of the Society's objectives.

Council shall decide from time to time on the optimal number of co-opted members.

- Casual Vacancies
 - In the event of casual vacancies occurring as a result of retirement, resignation or death of a member, a by-election may be held.
 - In the event of retirement, resignation or death, of the Treasurer or Honorary Secretary, the President shall appoint a substitute until the next Council meeting. The Council will then elect the relevant officers.
 - In the event of retirement, resignation or death of the President, the Council shall elect his or her replacement for the remainder of the term.

- Quorum

A quorum will be the number of Council members present at the meeting, plus the same number of ordinary members plus one ordinary member.

- Election of SASOG Council Members

- An *ad hoc* Elections Sub-committee shall be formed to oversee and administer SASOG Council Elections.
- The Elections Sub-committee shall comprise the Honorary Secretary and five other Council Members each representing the region that they serve. The Honorary Secretary shall in addition to chairing the Sub-committee represent the electoral region that he/she serves.
- Subject to ratification by Council the Elections Sub-committee shall employ all appropriate electronic means at its disposal to enable the safe and reliable, convenient and expeditious transmission of information to and from members. The Elections Sub-committee shall endeavor to ensure that the fundamental principles underpinning a free and fair election are not undermined by the electronic format employed.
- A notice of the election along with an explanation of the voting process and instructions on the procedures to be followed and the election timeframe shall be posted on the SASOG website 30 days prior to the call for nominations. Members shall also be informed via email and sms.
- The Elections Sub-committee shall have drawn up and ratified a list of members eligible to participate in the elections for each of the different electoral regions no later than 40 days prior to the call for nominations. Such lists shall be forwarded to Council for consideration on the number of seats to be assigned to each of the different electoral regions based on the principle of proportional representation.

- Financial

- An annual membership fee shall be approved from time to time by the Council of the Society. All subscriptions shall become due on the first day of each financial year and shall be paid in 12 equal monthly installments by debit order or such other method as Council may approve from time to time. Registrars, honorary members and retired members do not pay the membership fee. A reduced fee will apply to members in full-

time hospital practice and who have no private practice privileges. A reduced fee will also apply to associate members.

- The Council of the Society may from time to time determine who its auditors and bankers shall be, provided that the Society's financial transactions shall at all times be conducted by means of a banking account.
- The financial year ends on the last day in February.
- The Council shall have the right to administer finances and/or establish special funds:

4.10.5.1 To encourage research, education and training in Obstetrics and Gynaecology;

4.10.5.2 To subsidize work done in the field of Obstetrics and Gynaecology and to encourage improved standards of practice in Obstetrics and Gynaecology

4.10.5.3 To defray the expenses of Council meetings.

4.11 Any decision of the Council shall be by majority vote by show of hands of those present during a meeting, or by means of electronic communication transparent to all members of the Council. Each person entitled to be present and to vote shall have one vote and the chairman of the meeting shall have a casting vote in addition to his deliberative vote.

- **DUTIES OF THE COUNCIL**

- To control the affairs of the Society in accordance with the objectives mentioned above and in compliance with the members' wishes.
- To arrange for a General Meeting of the Society to be held in conjunction with the Obstetrical and Gynecological congress. Such a General Meeting should be held at least every two years.
- To present a balance sheet and statement of income and expenditure drawn up in terms of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles at each General Meeting.
- To assist in the organization of the congresses of the Society and of the Obstetrical and Gynaecological section of any other congresses.
- To bring into effect all decisions of the Society and if necessary, to call special General Meetings on matters of importance.
- To submit a list of Office Bearers to the South African Medical Association.
- To ensure that minutes are kept of all Council Meetings and General Meetings and to record all resolutions and all proceedings taken at any such meetings.

- **ALTERATION OF THE CONSTITUTION**

Any member wishing to move any alteration to the Constitution of the Society shall do so by giving notice of their proposal to the Secretariat in writing who will then distribute it to the members at least three months before the General Meeting or Extraordinary General Meeting which the Council may call for this purpose. A two-thirds majority will be necessary for the change to be accepted.

- **WINDING-UP**

- The Society may be dissolved by resolution passed at a special general meeting called for that purpose by a majority of two-thirds of the ordinary members present and entitled to vote at the meeting.
- On dissolution of the Society the remaining assets shall be transferred to another organization with objects similar to those of the Society and which is itself exempt from income tax.

- **LEGAL STATUS**

8.1 The Society is constituted as a voluntary association.

8.2 The Society is a distinct and separate legal entity and body corporate, with the capacity to acquire rights and obligations and having perpetual succession, notwithstanding changes in the composition of its membership or office bearers;

8.3 All proceedings shall be brought by or against the Society in the name of the Society and the Council may authorise any person to act on behalf of the Society and to sign all such documents and to take all such steps as may be necessary in connection with any such proceedings.

- **NON-PROFIT ORGANISATION**

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein contained:

- the Society is not formed and does not exist for the purpose of carrying on any business that has for its object the acquisition of gain by the Society or its individual members;
- the income and assets of the Society shall be applied solely for investment and for the promotion of the objects for which it is established;
- no part of the income or assets of the Society shall be paid, directly or indirectly, by way of dividend, donation or otherwise, to any person;
- the Society shall not carry on any trading or other profit-making activities;
- the members or office bearers of the Society shall have no rights in the property or other assets of the Society by virtue of their being members or office bearers.

Signed – Priya Soma-Pillay
Honorary secretary
March 2020