

**A COMPANY NOT HAVING A SHARE CAPITAL**

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**MEMORANDUM OF ASSOCIATION OF  
MACDONALD UK OBSTETRIC MEDICINE SOCIETY**

Each subscriber to this memorandum of association wishes to form a company under the Companies Act 2006 and agrees to become a member of the company.

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Name of each subscriber	Authentication by each subscriber
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Dated this ..... day of ..... 2011

Company Number: [0820684]

Charity Number: [1154285]

**THE COMPANIES ACT 2006**

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**COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE**

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**ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION  
OF  
MACDONALD UK OBSTETRIC MEDICINE SOCIETY**

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**UPDATED 2<sup>ND</sup> NOVEMBER 2023**

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## PART 1: INTERPRETATION

### 1 DEFINED TERMS

1.1 In the Articles, unless the context requires otherwise:

**“Act”**

or any numbered section of it, means the Companies Act 2006 or such section as amended, restated or re-enacted from time to time;

**“Articles”**

means the Society’s articles of association;

**“chairman”**

has the meaning given in Article 18;

**“chairman of the meeting”**

has the meaning given in Article 34;

**“charitable”**

means charitable in accordance with the laws of England and Wales provided that it will not include any purpose which is not charitable in accordance with any statutory provision regarding the meaning of the word “charitable” in force in any part of the United Kingdom. For the avoidance of doubt, the system of law governing the constitution of the company is the laws of England and Wales;

**“charities legislation”**

means the Charities Acts 1992, 1993 and 2006 and the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 as amended, restated or re-enacted from time to time;

**“director”**

means a director of the Society and a member of the Executive Committee;

**“document” or “notice”**

includes, unless otherwise specified, any document or notice sent or supplied by electronic communication;

**“electronic communication”**

means any document or information sent or supplied in electronic form within the meaning of section 1168 of the Act;

**“Executive Committee”**

means the board of directors;

**“he/him/his”**

These pronouns are used throughout this document for simplicity to refer to a person regardless of their gender identity

**“member”**

has the meaning given in section 112 of the Act and having the right to attend and vote at general meetings of the Society;

**“model articles”**

means the model articles of association for a private company limited by guarantee set out in Schedule 2 of the Companies (Model Articles) Regulations 2008 (SI2008/3229) and any amendment or replacement from time to time;

**“objects”**

the Society’s objects as defined at Article 2;

**“ordinary resolution”**

has the meaning given in section 282 of the Act and includes such a resolution passed by written resolution;

**“proxy notice”**

has the meaning given in Article 40;

**“secretary”**

means the company secretary (if any) and includes any joint, assistant or deputy secretary;

**“Society”**

means the company called MacDonald UK Obstetric Medicine Society;

**“SORP”**

means the Statement of Recommended Practice issued by the Charity Commission and any modification or replacement of it from time to time;

**“special resolution”**

has the meaning given in section 283 of the Act and includes such a resolution passed by written resolution;

**“statutes”**

means the Act, the charities legislation and every other statute or statutory instrument, law or regulation for the time being in force and concerning companies in so far as they apply to the company;

**“writing”**

means the representation or reproduction of words, symbols or other information in a visible form by any method or combination of methods, whether sent or supplied in electronic form or otherwise.

1.2 Unless the context otherwise requires, other words or expressions contained in these Articles bear the same meaning as in the Act.

1.3 The model articles shall not apply to the Society.

**PART 2: OBJECTS**

**2 OBJECTS**

The objects for which the Society is established are specifically restricted to promoting for the public benefit in such ways as are exclusively charitable the education of healthcare professionals, those in training to become healthcare professionals and scientists working in the field of obstetric medicine in the following ways:

- 2.1 providing a national forum for doctors involved in the care of medical problems during pregnancy to present clinical and basic science research for discussion and critical evaluation;
- 2.2 providing a national forum for academic interaction between, obstetricians, physicians, scientists, anaesthetists, and other related professionals;
- 2.3 promoting research interests in obstetric medicine and collaborative research activity;
- 2.4 promoting the development of guidelines for training obstetricians and physicians in medical complications of pregnancy;
- 2.5 promoting educational programs to further national and regional expertise in the area of medical problems in pregnancy;
- 2.6 encouraging obstetric medicine curriculum development at undergraduate, graduate and post-graduate levels;
- 2.7 fostering the creation of criteria for the recognition of special competence in the area of obstetric medicine;

Provided that the Society shall ensure that the useful results of any research that it has facilitated or funded shall be published.

### **PART 3: APPLICATION OF INCOME AND PROPERTY AND DIRECTORS' BENEFITS**

#### **3 APPLICATION OF INCOME AND PROPERTY**

The income and property of the Society shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the objects, and no part thereof shall be paid or transferred directly or indirectly, by way of dividend, bonus or otherwise by way of profit, to the members of the Society. This does not prevent:

- 3.1 a member of the Society receiving a benefit from the Society in the capacity of a beneficiary of the Society; or
- 3.2 reasonable and proper remuneration to any member of the Society who is not also a director of the Society for any goods or services provided to the Society.

#### **4 DIRECTORS' BENEFITS**

No director shall be appointed to any office of the Society, be employed by the Society or receive any remuneration or other benefit in money or money's worth from the Society unless the payment or benefit in question:-

- 4.1 is permitted pursuant to Article 5; or
- 4.2 has been previously and expressly authorised in advance and in writing by the Charity Commission for England and Wales and any procedures prescribed by the said Charity Commission are fully adhered to.

#### **5 PERMITTED BENEFITS**

Subject to Article 6, nothing herein shall prevent the payment in good faith by the Society of:-

- 5.1 reasonable and proper remuneration to a director for services rendered to the Society otherwise than any remuneration for services provided by a director in his capacity as a director or under a contract of employment;
- 5.2 monies for the supply of goods by a director to the Society, whether such goods are provided in connection with the provision of services referred to at Article 5.1 or otherwise;
- 5.3 interest at a reasonable and proper rate (not exceeding 2% per annum below the base rate of a clearing bank to be selected by the directors) on money lent to the Society by any director;

- 5.4 reasonable and proper rent for premises demised or let to the Society by any director;
- 5.5 fees, remuneration or other benefit in money or money's worth to any other company of which any director may also be a member holding not more than 1% of the issued share capital of that company;
- 5.6 reimbursement of reasonable out-of-pocket expenses actually incurred by any director in or about the affairs of the Society;
- 5.7 any payments made pursuant to Articles 22 and 23.

## **6 CONDITIONS RELATING TO DIRECTORS' BENEFITS**

Save for the payments referred to in Articles 5.6 and 5.7, the Society and its directors may only rely upon the authority provided by Article 5 in respect of payments or benefits to a director if each of the following conditions is satisfied:

- 6.1 the remuneration or other sums paid to the director does not exceed an amount that is reasonable in all the circumstances;
- 6.2 the director is absent from the part of any meeting at which there is discussion of:
  - 6.2.1 his contract or remuneration, or any matter concerning the contract;
  - 6.2.2 his performance in the employment, or his performance of the contract; or
  - 6.2.3 any proposal to enter into any other contract or arrangement with him or to confer any benefit upon him that would be permitted under Article 5;
- 6.3 the director does not vote on any such matter and is not counted when calculating whether a quorum of directors is present at the meeting;
- 6.4 the remaining directors are satisfied and agree that it is in the best interests of the Society to contract with that director rather than with someone who is not a director;
- 6.5 the reason for their decision is recorded by the directors in the minute book;
- 6.6 the amount or maximum amount of any remuneration payable to a director is set out in an agreement in writing between the company or directors and that director; and
- 6.7 the number of directors then in office who have received remuneration or other benefits from the Society are in a minority.

## **7 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

- 7.1 A director must declare to the other directors any situation of which he is aware in which he has, or could have, a direct or indirect interest that conflicts, or might conflict, with the interests of the company unless the situation cannot reasonably be regarded as likely to give rise to a conflict of interest.
- 7.2 An interest of a director to be disclosed under Article 7.1 may be declared at a meeting of directors, by notice in writing pursuant to section 184 of the Act or by means of a general notice under section 185 of the Act.
- 7.3 If a conflict of interest arises for a director because of a duty of loyalty owed to another organisation, company or person and the conflict is not authorised by virtue of any other provision in the Articles, the remaining directors may authorise such a conflict of interest if each of the following conditions is satisfied:
  - 7.3.1 the director is absent from the part of any meeting at which there is discussion of the conflict of interest, including any arrangement or transaction affecting that other organisation, company or person;



- 7.3.2 the director does not vote on any such matter and is not to be counted when calculating whether a quorum of directors is present at the meeting; and
- 7.3.3 the remaining directors are satisfied and agree that it is in the interests of the company to authorise the conflict of interest which has arisen.
- 7.4 A conflict of interest arising for a director because of a duty of loyalty owed to another organisation, company or person may only be authorised in the manner set out at Article 7.3 if such a conflict does not involve a direct or indirect benefit of any nature to a director.

## 8 PART 3 DEFINITIONS

The following words in Articles 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 (as the case may be) shall have the following meanings:

- 8.1 "company" shall include any company in which the company:
- 8.1.1 holds more than 50% of the shares;
  - 8.1.2 controls more than 50% of the voting rights attached to the shares; or
  - 8.1.3 has the right to appoint one or more directors to the board of the company; and
- 8.2 "director" shall include the following:
- 8.2.1 a child, parent, grandchild, grandparent, brother or sister of a director;
  - 8.2.2 the spouse or civil partner of a director or of any person falling within Article 8.2.1;
  - 8.2.3 a person carrying on a business in partnership with a director or with any person falling within Articles 8.2.1 or 8.2.2;
  - 8.2.4 an institution which is controlled:
    - (a) by a director or by any person falling within Articles 8.2.1, 8.2.2 or 8.2.3, or
    - (b) by two or more persons falling within Article 8.2.4(a) when taken together; and
  - 8.2.5 a body corporate in which:
    - (a) the director or any person falling within Articles 8.2.1, 8.2.2 or 8.2.3 has a substantial interest, or
    - (b) two or more persons falling within paragraph (a), when taken together, have a substantial interest.
- 8.3 Paragraphs 2 to 4 of Schedule 5 to the Charities Act 1993 apply for the purposes of interpreting the terms used at Article 8.2 as follows:
- 8.3.1 "child" includes a step-child and an illegitimate child;
  - 8.3.2 "civil partner" shall include a person living with a director as that director's husband or wife and includes two persons of the same sex who are not civil partners but live together as if they were;
  - 8.3.3 a person controls an institution if he is able to secure that the affairs of the institution are conducted in accordance with his wishes;
  - 8.3.4 a person has a substantial interest in a body corporate if he is:
    - (a) interested in shares comprised in the equity share capital of that body of a nominal value of more than one-fifth of that share capital, or

- (b) is entitled to exercise, or control the exercise of, more than one-fifth of the voting power at any general meeting of that body.

## **PART 4: DIRECTORS**

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

#### **9 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S GENERAL AUTHORITY**

- 9.1 Subject to the Articles, including Article 9.2 below, the Executive Committee is responsible for the management of the Society's business, for which purpose they may exercise all the powers of the Society and do on behalf of the Society all such acts as may be done by the Society and as are not by statutes or by the Articles required to be done by the Society in general meeting.
- 9.2 The directors may not do or permit any act or omission which would prejudice the charitable status of the Society.

#### **10 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MAY DELEGATE**

- 10.1 Subject to the Articles, the Executive Committee may delegate any of the powers which are conferred on it under the Articles:
- 10.1.1 to such person or committee;
  - 10.1.2 by such means (including by power of attorney);
  - 10.1.3 to such an extent;
  - 10.1.4 in relation to such matters or territories; and
  - 10.1.5 on such terms and conditions;
- as they think fit.
- 10.2 If the Executive Committee so specifies, any such delegation may authorise further delegation of the Executive Committee's powers by any person to whom they are delegated.
- 10.3 The Executive Committee may revoke any delegation in whole or part, or alter its terms and conditions.

#### **11 COMMITTEES**

- 11.1 Committees to which the Executive Committee delegates any of its powers must contain at least one director and must follow procedures which are based as far as they are applicable on those provisions of the Articles which govern the taking of decisions by directors.
- 11.2 The Executive Committee may make rules of procedure for all or any committees, which prevail over any rules or bye-laws derived from the Articles if they are not consistent with them.

#### **12 APPOINTMENT OF INVESTMENT MANAGERS**

The Executive Committee may appoint as the investment manager for the Society a person who it is satisfied after inquiry is a proper and competent person to act in that capacity and who is an authorised or an exempt person within the meaning of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 otherwise than exempted by virtue of paragraphs 44 and 45 of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (Exemption) Order 2001. The Executive Committee may delegate to an investment manager so appointed power at his discretion to buy and sell investments for the Society in accordance with the investment policy laid down by the directors from time to time,

PROVIDED THAT where the Executive Committee makes any such delegation it shall:

- 12.1 inform the investment manager in writing of the extent of the Society's investment powers and the terms of the delegation;

- 12.2 lay down a detailed investment policy for the Society and immediately inform the investment manager in writing of it and of any changes to it;
- 12.3 ensure that it is kept informed of, and reviews on a regular basis, the performance of their investment portfolio managed by the investment manager and on the exercise by him of his delegated authority;
- 12.4 take all reasonable care to ensure that the investment manager complies with the terms of the delegated authority; and
- 12.5 pay such reasonable and proper remuneration to the investment manager and agree such proper terms as to notice and other matters as the directors shall decide PROVIDED THAT such remuneration may include commission fees and/or expenses earned by the investment manager if and only to the extent that such commission fees and/or expenses are disclosed to the Executive Committee.

### **13 INVESTMENTS HELD BY NOMINEE**

The Executive Committee may:

- 13.1 make such arrangements as it thinks fit for any investments of the Society or income from those investments to be held by a corporate body as the Society's nominee; and
- 13.2 pay reasonable and proper remuneration to any corporate body acting as the Society's nominee in pursuance of this article.

## **DECISION-MAKING BY DIRECTORS**

### **14 MEETINGS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

- 14.1 Subject to the provisions of these Articles, the Executive Committee may meet together for the despatch of business, adjourn and otherwise regulate their meetings as the directors think fit.
- 14.2 At any time any director may, and the secretary on the requisition of a director shall, summon a meeting of the Executive Committee.
- 14.3 Any such summons shall specify where, when and how the meeting is to be held. Any director may waive notice of any meeting and such waiver may be retrospective.
- 14.4 All acts done in good faith by any meeting of the Executive Committee or of any committee shall, notwithstanding it be discovered afterwards that there was some defect in the appointment or continuance in office of any such persons or that they or any of them were disqualified, be as valid as if every such person had been duly appointed or had duly continued in office and was qualified to be a director or member of the committee as the case may be.

### **15 QUORUM FOR MEETINGS AND VOTING**

- 15.1 The quorum necessary for the transaction of business of the Executive Committee may be fixed from time to time by the directors and, unless so fixed at any other number shall be two.
- 15.2 A meeting of the Executive Committee at which a quorum is present shall be competent to exercise all powers and discretions for the time being exercisable by the Executive Committee.
- 15.3 Questions arising at any meeting of the directors shall be determined by a majority of votes. In case of an equality of votes the chairman shall have a second or casting vote.

### **16 MEETINGS BY CONFERENCE TELEPHONE ETC**

- 16.1 All or any of the directors or any committee of the directors may participate in a meeting of the Executive Committee or any committee by means of a conference telephone or any communication equipment which allows all persons participating in the meeting to communicate effectively to each other throughout the meeting.

16.2 A person so participating shall be deemed to be present in person at the meeting and shall be entitled to vote or be counted in a quorum accordingly.

16.3 Such a meeting shall be deemed to take place where the largest group of those participating is assembled, or, if there is no such group, where the chairman then is.

## 17 RESOLUTIONS IN WRITING

17.1 A resolution executed by all the directors, or by all the members of a committee constituted under these Articles, shall be as valid and effectual as if it had been passed at a meeting of the Executive Committee, or (as the case may be) at a meeting of the relevant committee, which in every case was duly convened and held.

17.2 For the purposes of this Article 17:

17.2.1 a resolution shall consist of one or more written instruments (including faxes) or one or more electronic communications sent to an address specified for the purpose by the secretary, or a combination of them, provided that each such written instrument and electronic communication (if more than one) is to the same effect;

17.2.2 a written instrument is executed when the person executing it signs it;

17.2.3 an electronic communication is executed when the person executing it sends it provided that it has been authenticated in such manner (if any) as the secretary shall prescribe;

17.2.4 the directors, or (as the case may be) members of a committee constituted under these Articles, need not execute the same written instrument or electronic communication;

17.2.5 a resolution shall be effective when the secretary certifies that sufficient evidence has been received by him/her that the resolution has been executed in accordance with this Article 17; and

17.2.6 if no secretary is appointed, the chairman shall perform the functions of the secretary under this Article 17.

## 18 CHAIRING OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

18.1 The President shall be the chairman of the Executive Committee.

18.2 The President shall immediately cease to hold such appointment upon ceasing to be President.

18.3 If the chairman is not participating in an Executive Committee meeting within ten minutes of the time at which it was to start, the participating directors must appoint one of themselves to chair it.

## 19 RECORDS OF DECISIONS TO BE KEPT

The Executive Committee must ensure that the Society keeps a record, in writing, for at least 10 years from the date of the decision recorded, of every decision taken by the directors.

## APPOINTMENT AND RETIREMENT OF DIRECTORS

### 20 METHODS OF APPOINTING DIRECTORS

20.1 The Executive Committee shall usually consist of a minimum of directors as follows:

20.1.1 President

20.1.2 Secretary

20.1.3 Treasurer

- 20.1.4 Physician representative
  - 20.1.5 Obstetric representative
  - 20.1.6 Midwifery representative
  - 20.1.7 Education and Training representative
  - 20.1.8 Obstetric Trainee representative
  - 20.1.9 Physician Trainee representative
- 20.2 In addition, there may be up to four ex officio members. Ex-officio members will be elected by their respective organisations for a period of three years but may be re-elected once for a second three-year term. The appointment of other ex-officio members is at the discretion of the Committee. Such appointments will usually be for a period of three years.
- 20.3 At every Annual General Meeting every director who has served a three year term shall retire from office. For the purposes of this article, a three year term shall end at the third Annual General Meeting after the meeting at which the director was appointed. Such a retiring director may nominate themselves for re-election.
- 20.4 Members will be notified of impending vacancies on the Executive Committee and will be invited to nominate themselves. Nobody may be elected to fill a vacancy on the Executive Committee at an Annual General Meeting unless they are the retiring director or they are a member who has nominated themselves with the support of at least two other members.
- 20.5 If the Society at the meeting at which a director retires by rotation does not fill the vacancy the retiring director shall, if willing to act, be deemed to have been reappointed unless at the meeting it is resolved not to fill the vacancy or unless a resolution for the reappointment of the director is put to the meeting and lost.
- 20.6 Subject to Article 20.7, the directors may appoint a person who is willing to act to be a director either to fill a vacancy or as an additional director PROVIDED THAT the appointment does not cause the number of directors to exceed any number fixed by or in accordance with the Articles as the maximum number of directors. A director so appointed shall hold office only until the next following general meeting. If not reappointed at such general meeting, he shall vacate office at the conclusion thereof.
- 20.7 No person may be appointed as a director:
- 20.7.1 unless he has attained the age of 18 years; and
  - 20.7.2 unless he currently works and resides in the UK; and
  - 20.7.3 in circumstances such that had he already been a director, he would have been disqualified from acting under the provisions of Article 21.

## 21 **TERMINATION OF DIRECTOR'S APPOINTMENT**

A person ceases to be a director:

- 21.1 if by notice in writing to the Society he resigns (but only if at least three directors remain in office when the notice of resignation is to take effect);
- 21.2 if he ceases to hold office by reason of any order made under the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986, or by virtue of any provision of the statutes;
- 21.3 if he is removed from office by a resolution duly passed pursuant to Section 168 of the Act;

- 21.4 if he is absent from three consecutive meetings of the Executive Committee without the consent of [the chairman] / [the [majority of the] remaining directors];
- 21.5 if he becomes incapable by reason of mental disorder, illness or injury of managing and administering his own affairs; or
- 21.6 if he is convicted of any criminal offence, other than any minor motoring or similar offence that cannot reasonably damage the reputation of the Society.

## 22 **DIRECTORS' INDEMNITY**

Subject to the provisions of the Act, and so far as may be consistent with the statutes:

- 22.1 every director and every other officer other than the Society's auditor or the reporting accountant may be indemnified out of the assets of the Society against all costs, charges, losses, expenses and liabilities incurred by him in the actual or purported execution and/or discharge of his duties and/or the actual or purported exercise of his powers and/or otherwise in relation to, or in connection with, his duties, powers or offices, in each case to the extent permitted by section 232 of the Act; and
- 22.2 the Society may also provide funds to any director or any other officer (other than the Society's auditor or reporting accountant) or do anything to enable a director or such other officer to avoid incurring expenditure, in each case in the manner permitted by and subject to the restrictions required by section 205 of the Act.

## 23 **DIRECTORS' INDEMNITY INSURANCE**

- 23.1 Subject to the provisions of the charities legislation and to Article 23.2, the Society may pay the premium in respect of any indemnity insurance to cover the liability of any director, other officer (other than the auditor or reporting accountant) or member of the Society:
  - 23.1.1 which by virtue of any rule of law would otherwise attach to him or her in respect of any negligence, default, breach of trust or breach of duty of which he or she may be guilty or any act or omission in the actual or purported execution and/or discharge of his or her duties and/or in the exercise or purported exercise of his or her powers and/or otherwise in relation to his or her duties, powers or offices in relation to the Society or any subsidiary of the Society; and
  - 23.1.2 to make contributions to the assets of the Society or any subsidiary in accordance with the provisions of section 214 of the Insolvency Act 1986, and all costs, charges and expenses which may be incurred by him or her in successfully contesting any such liability or alleged liability.
- 23.2 Any insurance purchased under Article 23.1 shall not:
  - 23.2.1 extend to any claim arising from any act or omission which that person knew (or must reasonably be assumed to have known) to be a breach of trust or breach of duty or which was committed by that person in reckless disregard of whether it was a breach of trust or a breach of duty or not.
  - 23.2.2 extend to a fine imposed in connection with, or the costs or liabilities incurred in respect of, an unsuccessful defence to a criminal prosecution brought against that person in his or her capacity as a director or other officer or member of the Society and/or a sum payable to a regulatory authority by way of a penalty imposed on a director, other officer or member of the Society, in respect of non-compliance with any requirement of a regulatory nature (howsoever arising).

## **PART 5: MEMBERS**

### **BECOMING AND CEASING TO BE A MEMBER**

#### **24 APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP**

- 24.1 No person shall become a member of the Society unless that person has completed an application for membership in a form approved by the directors and the application has been approved.

#### **25 CLASSES OF MEMBERSHIP**

- 25.1 All classes of members have full voting rights.

- 25.2 The following are eligible to become Regular Members:

25.2.1 Medical doctors trained in Obstetrics, Obstetric medicine physicians, Physicians with an interest in obstetrics (e.g. haematologist, renal physicians, endocrinologists etc.) obstetric anaesthetists, and others doctors with an interest in obstetric medicine.

25.2.2 Other practitioners actively involved in Obstetric Medicine including trained midwives or nurses active in medical complications of pregnancy or high-risk pregnancy.

25.2.3 Medical doctors training in any of the above fields.

25.2.4 Medical students.

25.2.5 Scientists involved in the field of obstetric medicine.

- 25.3 The following are eligible to become Associate Members:

25.3.1 Retired former members.

25.3.2 Trainee nurse midwives or nurses active in medical complications of pregnancy or high-risk pregnancy.

25.3.3 Investigators and other research scientists.

- 25.4 Emeritus Membership may be granted in special circumstances to honour major long-term contributions to the field of Obstetric Medicine by agreement of the Executive Committee.

- 25.5 The directors may establish, subject to this Article and Article 53, different classes of membership and prescribe and vary their respective rights, privileges and obligations.

#### **26 MEMBERSHIP DUES**

- 26.1 The Executive Committee shall determine the membership dues which are payable annually. The dues amount will be reviewed every two years by the Executive Committee, and approved by a simple majority of the membership at the subsequent meeting of the Society.

- 26.2 Regular members shall pay full membership dues, and shall receive a subscription to the Journal "Obstetric Medicine, The Medicine of Pregnancy".

- 26.3 Associate members shall pay half of the membership dues for regular members and shall not receive a subscription to the Journal.

- 26.4 Emeritus members shall not pay membership dues and shall not receive a subscription to the Journal.

- 26.5 Any member who does not pay membership dues on time shall not be eligible to vote or to hold any office in the Society, and any services which are provided to them shall be stopped unless the Executive Committee determines otherwise.

## 27 **TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP**

A person shall forthwith cease to be a member (PROVIDED ALWAYS THAT at least one member remains on the Register of Members thereafter):

- 27.1 if the member is removed by notice in writing to the Society signed by a majority of the remaining members;
- 27.2 if the member is removed by a directors' resolution that it is in the best interests of the Society that his membership is terminated provided that such a resolution may only be passed if:
  - 27.2.1 he has been given at least 21 days' notice in writing of the meeting of the directors at which the resolution will be proposed and the reasons why it is to be proposed; and
  - 27.2.2 he, or at the option of the relevant member, his representative (who need not be a member) has been allowed to make representations to the meeting;
- 27.3 if by notice in writing to the Society, the member resigns his membership;
- 27.4 if he dies;
- 27.5 if he becomes incapable by reason of mental disorder, illness or injury of managing and administering his own affairs;
- 27.6 if he fails to pay membership dues as soon as they are due and payable; or
- 27.7 if he is removed from office as a director by a resolution duly passed pursuant to Section 168 of the Act.

## 28 **TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP**

Membership of the Society is not transferable.

## **ORGANISATION OF GENERAL MEETINGS**

### 29 **GENERAL MEETINGS**

- 29.1 The directors may whenever they think fit convene a general meeting and shall, following requisition in accordance with the Act, proceed to convene a general meeting in accordance therewith.
- 29.2 The Society shall hold a general meeting in every calendar year as its "Annual General Meeting" at such time and place as may be determined by the directors, and shall specify the meeting as such in the notices calling it, provided that every Annual General Meeting shall be held not more than fifteen months after the holding of the last preceding Annual General Meeting, and that so long as the Society holds its first Annual General Meeting within eighteen months after its incorporation it need not hold it in the year of its incorporation.

### 30 **CALLING GENERAL MEETINGS**

- 30.1 A general meeting of the Society shall be called by at least 14 days' clear notice.
- 30.2 The Society may give such notice by any means or combination of means permitted by the Act.
- 30.3 A general meeting, notwithstanding that it has been called by a shorter notice than that specified above, shall be deemed to have been duly called if it is so agreed by a majority in number of the members having a right to attend and vote at the meeting, being a majority who together hold not less than 90 per cent of the total voting rights.



### **31 NOTICE OF GENERAL MEETINGS**

- 31.1 Every notice calling a general meeting shall specify the place and the day and hour of the meeting.
- 31.2 There shall appear with reasonable prominence in every such notice a statement that a member entitled to attend and vote is entitled to appoint a proxy to attend, speak and vote instead of him and that a proxy need not be a member of the Society.
- 31.3 The text of each special resolution to be proposed at the general meeting shall be set out in the notice. Either the text of, or sufficient information to enable a member to understand the purpose of, each ordinary resolution shall be set out in the notice.

### **32 MEETINGS BY CONFERENCE TELEPHONE ETC.**

- 32.1 All or any of the members or persons permitted to attend under Article 35 may participate in the meeting by means of a conference telephone or any communication equipment which allows all persons participating in the meeting to communicate effectively with other throughout the meeting.
- 32.2 A member so participating shall be deemed to be present in person at the meeting and shall be entitled to vote or be counted in a quorum accordingly.
- 32.3 Such a meeting shall be deemed to take place where the largest group of those participating is assembled, or if there is no such group, where the chairman then is.

### **33 QUORUM FOR GENERAL MEETINGS**

If the Society only has one member that member shall be a quorum. In any other case two members entitled to vote upon the business to be transacted or one-tenth of the total number of such persons for the time being, whichever is the greater, shall be a quorum. A proxy or an authorised representative of a member shall count for the purposes of the quorum. No business other than the appointment of the chairman of the meeting is to be transacted at a general meeting if the persons attending it do not constitute a quorum.

### **34 CHAIRING GENERAL MEETINGS**

- 34.1 The President shall chair general meetings if present and willing to do so.
- 34.2 If the President is unwilling to chair the meeting or is not present within ten minutes of the time at which a meeting was due to start:
  - 34.2.1 the directors present; or
  - 34.2.2 (if no directors are present), the meeting;must appoint a director or member to chair the meeting, and the appointment of the chairman of the meeting must be the first business of the meeting.
- 34.3 The person chairing a meeting in accordance with this Article is referred to as “the chairman of the meeting”.

### **35 ATTENDANCE AND SPEAKING BY DIRECTORS AND NON-MEMBERS**

- 35.1 Directors may attend and speak at general meetings, whether or not they are members.
- 35.2 The chairman of the meeting may permit other persons who are not:
  - 35.2.1 members of the Society; or
  - 35.2.2 otherwise entitled to exercise the rights of members in relation to general meetings;to attend and speak at a general meeting.

## 36 **ADJOURNMENT**

- 36.1 If the persons attending a general meeting within half an hour of the time at which the meeting was due to start do not constitute a quorum, or if during a meeting a quorum ceases to be present the chairman of the meeting must adjourn it.
- 36.2 The chairman of the meeting may adjourn a general meeting at which a quorum is present if:
- 36.2.1 the meeting consents to an adjournment; or
  - 36.2.2 it appears to the chairman of the meeting that an adjournment is necessary to protect the safety of any person attending the meeting or ensure that the business of the meeting is conducted in an orderly manner.
- 36.3 The chairman of the meeting must adjourn a general meeting if directed to do so by the meeting.
- 36.4 When adjourning a general meeting, the chairman of the meeting must:
- 36.4.1 either specify the time and place to which it is adjourned or state that it is to continue at a time and place to be fixed by the directors, and
  - 36.4.2 have regard to any directions as to the time and place of any adjournment which have been given by the meeting.
- 36.5 If the continuation of an adjourned meeting is to take place more than 14 days after it was adjourned, the Society must give at least 7 clear days' notice of it (that is, excluding the day of the adjourned meeting and the day on which the notice is given):
- 36.5.1 to the same persons to whom notice of the Society's general meetings is required to be given, and
  - 36.5.2 containing the same information which such notice is required to contain.
- 36.6 No business may be transacted at an adjourned general meeting which could not properly have been transacted at the meeting if the adjournment had not taken place.

## **VOTING AT GENERAL MEETINGS**

### 37 **VOTING: GENERAL**

- 37.1 A resolution put to the vote at a general meeting must be decided on a show of hands or a poll administered electronically either at the meeting or over a specific fixed period agreed by the exec team during the meeting.
- 37.2 Subject to Article 26.5, every member shall have one vote.

### 38 **ERRORS AND DISPUTES**

- 38.1 No objection may be raised to the qualification of any person voting at a general meeting except at the meeting or adjourned meeting at which the vote objected to is tendered, and every vote not disallowed at the meeting is valid.
- 38.2 Any such objection must be referred to the chairman of the meeting, whose decision is final.

### 39 **POLL VOTES**

- 39.1 A poll on a resolution may be demanded:
- 39.1.1 in advance of the general meeting where it is to be put to the vote; or
  - 39.1.2 at a general meeting, either before a show of hands on that resolution or immediately after the result of a show of hands on that resolution is declared.

- 39.2 A poll may be demanded by:
- 39.2.1 the chairman of the meeting;
  - 39.2.2 the directors;
  - 39.2.3 two or more persons having the right to vote on the resolution; or
  - 39.2.4 a person or persons representing not less than one tenth of the total voting rights of all the members having the right to vote on the resolution.
- 39.3 A demand for a poll may be withdrawn if:
- 39.3.1 the poll has not yet been taken; and
  - 39.3.2 the chairman of the meeting consents to the withdrawal.

#### **40 CONTENT OF PROXY NOTICES**

- 40.1 Proxies may only validly be appointed by a notice in writing (a "proxy notice") which:
- 40.1.1 states the name and address of the member appointing the proxy;
  - 40.1.2 identifies the person appointed to be that member's proxy and the general meeting in relation to which that person is appointed;
  - 40.1.3 is signed by or on behalf of the member appointing the proxy, or is authenticated in such manner as the directors may determine; and
  - 40.1.4 is delivered to the Society in accordance with the Articles and any instructions contained in the notice of the general meeting to which they relate.
- 40.2 The Society may require proxy notices to be delivered in a particular form and, subject to the Act, by a particular time and may specify different forms for different purposes.
- 40.3 Proxy notices may specify how the proxy appointed under them is to vote (or that the proxy is to abstain from voting) on one or more resolutions.
- 40.4 Unless a proxy notice indicates otherwise, it must be treated as:
- 40.4.1 allowing the person appointed under it as a proxy discretion as to how to vote on any ancillary or procedural resolutions put to the meeting; and
  - 40.4.2 appointing that person as a proxy in relation to any adjournment of the general meeting to which it relates as well as the meeting itself.

#### **41 DELIVERY OF PROXY NOTICES**

- 41.1 A person who is entitled to attend, speak or vote (either on a show of hands or on a poll) at a general meeting remains so entitled in respect of that meeting or any adjournment of it, even though a valid proxy notice has been delivered to the Society by or on behalf of that person.
- 41.2 An appointment under a proxy notice may be revoked by delivering to the Society a notice in writing given by or on behalf of the person by whom or on whose behalf the proxy notice was given.
- 41.3 A notice revoking a proxy appointment only takes effect if it is delivered before the start of the meeting or adjourned meeting to which it relates.
- 41.4 If a proxy notice is not executed by the person appointing the proxy, it must be accompanied by written evidence of the authority of the person who executed it to execute it on the appointor's behalf.

## 42 **AMENDMENTS TO RESOLUTIONS**

- 42.1 An ordinary resolution to be proposed at a general meeting may be amended by ordinary resolution if:
- 42.1.1 notice of the proposed amendment is given to the Society in writing by a person entitled to vote at the general meeting at which it is to be proposed not less than 48 hours before the meeting is to take place (or such later time as the chairman of the meeting may determine); and
  - 42.1.2 the proposed amendment does not, in the reasonable opinion of the chairman of the meeting, materially alter the scope of the resolution.
- 42.2 A special resolution to be proposed at a general meeting may be amended by ordinary resolution, if:
- 42.2.1 the chairman of the meeting proposes the amendment at the general meeting at which the resolution is to be proposed; and
  - 42.2.2 the amendment does not go beyond what is necessary to correct a grammatical or other non-substantive error in the resolution.
- 42.3 If the chairman of the meeting, acting in good faith, wrongly decides that an amendment to a resolution is out of order, the chairman's error does not invalidate the vote on that resolution.

## 43 **RESOLUTIONS IN WRITING**

- 43.1 A resolution executed by such number of members as would have been required to vote for the resolution had it been proposed in general meeting at which all of the members were present and voting shall be as valid and effectual as if it had been passed at a general meeting duly convened and held.
- 43.2 For the purposes of this Article 43:
- 43.2.1 a resolution shall consist of one or more written instruments (including faxes) or one or more electronic communications sent to an address specified for the purpose by the secretary, or a combination of them, provided that each such written instrument and electronic communication (if more than one) is to the same effect;
  - 43.2.2 a written instrument is executed when the person executing it signs it;
  - 43.2.3 an electronic communication is executed when the person executing it sends it provided that it has been authenticated in such manner (if any) as the secretary shall prescribe;
  - 43.2.4 the members need not execute the same written instrument or electronic communication;
  - 43.2.5 a resolution shall be effective when the secretary certifies that sufficient evidence has been received by him/her that the resolution has been executed in accordance with this Article 43;
  - 43.2.6 if no secretary is appointed, the chairman shall perform the functions of the secretary under this Article 43;
  - 43.2.7 the resolution must be accompanied by a statement informing the member how to signify his agreement to it and the date by which this is to be done; and
  - 43.2.8 a proposed written resolution will lapse if it is not passed before 28 days from the circulation date.

## **PART 6: LIABILITY OF MEMBERS AND DISSOLUTION**

### **44 LIABILITY OF MEMBERS**

Each member undertakes that, if the Society is wound up while he is a member or within one year after he ceases to be a member, he will contribute an amount to the assets of the Society as may be required for:-

- 44.1 payment of the Society's debts and liabilities contracted before he ceases to be a member;
  - 44.2 payment of the costs, charges and expenses of winding up; and
  - 44.3 adjustment of the rights of the contributories among themselves,
- provided that such amount shall not in aggregate exceed £1.

### **45 DISTRIBUTION OF ASSETS ON WINDING UP/DISSOLUTION**

If upon the winding up or dissolution of the Society there remains, after the satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, any property whatsoever, the same shall not be paid to or distributed among the members of the Society, but shall be given or transferred to such other charity or charities which prohibit(s) the distribution of its or their income and property to an extent at least as great as is imposed upon the Society by Articles 3 and 4 above and having charitable objects identical with or similar to the objects of the Society, as the members of the Society shall resolve at or before the time of dissolution and if that cannot be done to some other charitable object or objects.

## **PART 7: ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS**

### **46 MEANS OF COMMUNICATION TO BE USED**

- 46.1 Any notice to be sent to or by any person pursuant to these Articles including a notice calling a meeting of the directors shall be in writing and may be delivered or sent by post facsimile or using electronic communications to an address for the time being notified for that purpose to the person giving the notice. In this Article "address" in relation to electronic communications, includes any number or address used for the purpose of such communications.
- 46.2 Subject to the Articles, any notice or document to be sent or supplied to a director in connection with the taking of decisions by directors may also be sent or supplied by the means by which that director has asked to be sent or supplied with such notices or documents for the time being.
- 46.3 A director may agree with the Society that notices or documents sent to that director in a particular way are to be deemed to have been received within a specified time of their being sent, and for the specified time to be less than 48 hours.
- 46.4 Subject to Article 46.3, any notice, if served by post, shall be deemed to have been served 48 hours after it was posted, and in proving such service it shall be sufficient to prove that the letter containing the notice was properly addressed, prepaid and posted. A notice or other document sent by facsimile or contained in an electronic communication shall be deemed to have been delivered 48 hours following that on which the communication was sent and electronic confirmation of receipt shall be conclusive evidence that a notice was given to a facsimile number or email address. If a notice, document or information posted on the Society's website was already on the Society's website at the time the notice was sent to the Member, it will be deemed to have been sent on the day the notice was sent but if the notice, document or information was not on the Society's website on the date the said notice was sent then it will be deemed to have been sent on the day on which it appears on the website.

### **47 WEBSITE COMMUNICATION**

- 47.1 The Society may send any notice, document or other information to members by making them available on the Society's website provided that:

- 47.1.1 each member has been asked individually by the Society to agree to communication via the Society's website (either generally or in relation to a specific notice, document or information);
  - 47.1.2 the Society's request states clearly that if the member fails to respond to the request within twenty-eight days of the date on which the request is sent, s/he will be deemed to have given such consent; and
  - 47.1.3 the Society's request is not sent less than twelve months after a previous request made to the member in relation to a similar class of documents.
- 47.2 The Society must notify each member who has agreed to receive communications through the Society's website of the presence of the information on the website, the website address, the place on the website where the information can be found and how to access the information.
- 47.3 Any notice, document or information posted on the Society's website must be in a form that the member can read and take a copy of. The notice, document or information must be available on the Society's website for either twenty-eight days from the date the notification was sent to the member or for such other period as may from time to time be specified in the Act.

#### 48 **SOCIETY SEAL**

- 48.1 Any common seal may only be used by the authority of the directors.
- 48.2 The directors may decide by what means and in what form any common seal is to be used.
- 48.3 Unless otherwise decided by the directors, if the Society has a common seal and it is affixed to a document, the document must also be signed by at least one authorised person in the presence of a witness who attests the signature.
- 48.4 For the purposes of this Article, an authorised person is:
- 48.4.1 any director;
  - 48.4.2 the secretary (if any); or
  - 48.4.3 any person authorised by the directors for the purpose of signing documents to which the common seal is applied.

#### 49 **SECRETARY**

A company secretary may be appointed by the directors for such time, at such remuneration and upon such conditions as the directors may think fit, and any secretary so appointed may be removed by the directors. The directors may from time to time by resolution appoint an assistant or deputy secretary, and any person so appointed may act in place of the secretary if there be no secretary or no secretary capable of acting.

#### 50 **ACCOUNTS**

- 50.1 The directors shall cause proper and adequate books of account to be kept to enable accounts to be prepared which comply with the relevant provisions of the Act, the charities legislation and the SORP. Proper and adequate books shall not be deemed to be kept and/or deemed sufficient if there are not kept such books of account as are necessary to give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the Society, to show and explain its transactions and to disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time, the financial position of the Society at any time.
- 50.2 The books of account shall be kept at the registered office of the Society, or, subject to section 388 of the Act, at such other place or places as the directors shall think fit and shall always be open to the inspection of any director.
- 50.3 The Society must, pursuant to section 423 of the Act, send a copy of its annual accounts and reports for each financial year to every member, to every holder of the Society's debentures and

to every person who is entitled to receive notice of general meetings. Copies need not be sent to a person for whom the Society does not have a current address as defined in section 423 of the Act.

50.4 The Society must, pursuant to section 424 of the Act, comply with the obligations set out at Article 50.3 not later than:

50.4.1 the end of the period for filing accounts and reports to the Registrar of Companies, or

50.4.2 if earlier, the date on which the Society actually delivers its accounts to the Registrar of Companies.

## 51 **NO RIGHT TO INSPECT ACCOUNTS AND OTHER RECORDS**

Except as provided by law or authorised by the directors or an ordinary resolution of the Society, no person is entitled to inspect any of the Society's accounting or other records or documents merely by virtue of being a member.

## 52 **AUDIT**

52.1 The accounts of the Society shall be examined and reported upon either by the auditor or, if no auditor is appointed, by a reporting accountant if so required by the statutes.

52.2 The appointment or re-appointment (as appropriate) of the auditor shall be determined by the Society at the Annual General Meeting.

52.3 The auditor's or reporting accountant's (if any) remuneration shall be determined by the Society in general meeting.

## 53 **RULES AND BYE-LAWS**

The directors may from time to time make (and vary) such rules or bye-laws as they may deem necessary or expedient or convenient for the proper conduct and management of the Society and for the purposes of prescribing (a) classes of and conditions of membership and (b) the rights, privileges and obligations of membership, whether statutory membership or otherwise. The members shall have power to alter, add to or repeal any such rules or bye-laws and the directors shall adopt such means as they think sufficient to bring to the notice of the members all such rules or bye-laws, which shall be binding on all members PROVIDED THAT no rule or bye-law shall be inconsistent with, or shall affect or repeal anything contained in, these Articles.