



Constitution of the East, Central and Southern Africa College of Physicians

Article 1

1.1 The name of the College shall be the East, Central and Southern Africa College of Physicians (herein after called “the college”)

1.2 Member countries at inception include Kenya, Malawi, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe; herein after called “the region”.

1.3 Country membership, is open to members of the East, Central and Southern African Community, and will be reviewed accordingly. Membership by other African countries may be recommended by the council for consideration by the annual general meeting of the membership.

1.4 The college is affiliated to the East Central and Southern Africa College of Health Sciences, which has its headquarters in Arusha. The college will have its headquarters at any of the member states on consensus basis.

1.5 The constitution will be read in conjunction with the bye-laws.

1.6 Constitutional items can only be changed through a vote at the annual general meeting, in accordance with the bye-laws. By laws may be changed by majority vote of council.

Vision statement:

Healthy communities through access to well-trained physicians.

Mission statement:

To improve standards of healthcare throughout the region by providing specialist training for physicians committed to life-long learning.

Article 2: Objectives

The founding objectives of the college are outlined below.

2.1 To train physicians in the field of internal medicine throughout the region

2.2 To set standards for and monitor the conduct of postgraduate education and training in medicine and related specialties and allied disciplines and to promote the highest level of skills, attitudes and efficiency in their practice.

2.3 To provide relevant guidelines for prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care for all persons suffering from various diseases as pertains to internal medicine.

2.4. To promote and advance knowledge, skills and practice of internal medicine.

2.5 To harness mutually beneficial collaboration with like-minded colleges and related organizations/associations in the region and internationally

2.6 To advocate for and advise on improved prevention, recognition and care of medical disorders and to influence and promote the health agenda in the region

2.7 To promote the integrity of medical and allied professions and to cultivate and maintain the highest ethical standards and professional conduct

Article 3: Methods

In pursuit of its objectives and charitable purpose, the College shall:

3.1 Devise content and governance of post graduate training programs, and related assessments, in internal medicine and sub-specialties in the region.

3.2 Establish and maintain effective cooperation with other national, regional and international organizations, including but not limited to governments, regulatory bodies, non-governmental organizations, active in the field of the medical sciences, public health, and social care, which are or may become concerned with problems that pertain to internal medicine disorders and general health

3.3 Publish clinical guidelines and promote research

3.4 Organize and/or support scientific meetings

3.5 Develop and apply other methods consistent with the objectives of The College

3.6 To acquire by purchase, lease or otherwise any property, right or privileges for the purpose of The College

3.7 Employ any necessary staff with due regard to relevant national human resource policies and laws.

Article 4: Association status

4.1 The college is an incorporated, non-profit regional organization constituted in accordance with laws of member states.

4.2 The college is non-political, non-partisan and non-sectarian.

Article 5: Fellowship and membership categories and termination

5.1 There shall be the following categories of fellows/members as defined below:

- Founding fellow
- Ordinary fellow
- Associate fellow
- Honorary fellow
- Corporate member
- Ordinary member
- Affiliate college member

5.1.1 *Founding fellow*

Any internal medicine physician registered as a specialist with a medical regulatory authority in the member states, at the time of the first College General Meeting (1st July 2016) shall be eligible to be a founding fellow.

5.1.2 *Ordinary fellow*

Any person trained as internal medicine specialist (herein after referred to as physician) and who is certified by the college through its examination shall be eligible for fellowship in the college. They shall, subject to payment of approved subscription and approved application, become an ordinary fellow. Council will consider applications from other internal medicine physicians registered with a medical regulatory authority in the member states.

5.1.3 *Associate fellow*

An Associate Fellow shall be any registered physician from outside of the region. They shall apply to council for fellowship.

5.1.4 *Honorary fellow*

An honorary fellow shall be any individual who has made substantial contributions to advancement of the mission and vision of the college. They need not be physicians. They shall be proposed by two college fellows for consideration by council.

5.1.5 *Corporate member*

A corporate member shall be any institution, organization or business community of good public standing and demeanour with interest in internal medicine.

5.1.6 *Ordinary member*

An ordinary member shall be any person currently enrolled in postgraduate training in internal medicine program at the college.

5.1.7 *Affiliate member organisation*

These will be academic educational or charitable organisations that share the vision, mission or aims of the college.

5.2.1 *Benefits for members/fellows*

By applying for fellowship/membership, the individual, organisation or corporations obliged to fulfil all the statutes of the college as stated in this constitution and by-laws. Fellows/members shall be entitled to benefit from all programmes of the college provided that they have complied with the obligation of fellows/members under this constitution and by-laws; and subject to the category of the fellowship/membership.

5.2.2 *Voting privileges*

All voting shall be restricted to founding fellows and ordinary fellows.

5.3 *Reasons for termination of membership and fellowship*

5.3.1 Resignation

5.3.2 Subscription arrears

5.3.3 Removal from the official medical register in any country for reasons of professional competence or probity.

5.3.4 Criminal offences which council consider to have serious professional significance.

5.3.5 Behaviour that is likely to bring the college into disrepute.

Article 6: Governance

6.1. *Council*

6.1.1 The College shall be governed by the council. Council may devolve some functions to committees.

6.1.2 The transitional arrangements for the governance of the college before the first council is appointed are described in the bye-laws.

6.1.3 The council of the college shall be the policy making body

6.1.4 Each member state shall, through an electoral processes decided by its national association of physicians, nominate two representatives to the council.

6.1.5 The term of office of council members shall be three years. A council member shall be in office for a maximum of two terms. Transitional arrangements for the first council of the college are described in the bye-law.

6.1.6 Council members shall elect the president, vice president, registrar and treasurer from within council. They will approve the appointment of senior positions within the administration.

6.1.7 No fellow may serve on council in any capacity for longer than nine years.

6.1.8 If any council member is found to be unfit for office, there shall be a vote of no confidence and the individual replaced. (Process described in bye-laws). The individual shall cease to be a council member and the relevant national association of physicians shall be requested to nominate a replacement.

6.1.9 The council shall have a formal meeting at least twice a year.

6.1.10 Council shall have powers to formulate bye-laws in accordance with the constitution, subject to ratification at the annual general meeting. Council can suggest changes to the constitution to be ratified at the annual general meeting.

6.1.11 Council may appoint members to committees as deemed necessary.

6.2 Committees:

6.2.1 There shall be the following standing committees whose functions shall be detailed in the bye-laws:

- Finance and general purposes
- Management committee
- Training committee
- Examinations committee

6.2.2 Additional committees shall be constituted at the discretion of council.

Article 7: Duties of office bearers

7.1 President

The President, shall; unless prevented by illness or other sufficient cause, preside at meetings of the council and all general assembly meetings of the college. The president shall actively oversee functions of the council.

The President shall hold office for only one term of three years and shall remain on council as an ex-officio observer, with no voting rights, for one further year.

7.2 Vice president

The Vice President shall perform the duties of the president in the event that the president is absent.

7.3 Treasurer

The Treasurer shall be a physician and responsible to council for all financial matters of the college.

7.4 Registrar

The registrar is elected from within council and is the secretary to council. The administrative staff of the college shall report to the registrar.

Article 8: meetings of the college

8.1 Council meeting

The frequency of ordinary meetings of council shall be decided by council. The registrar may call a special meeting of council outside of ordinary meetings of council, provided no less than five members of council have formally requested them to do so. The special council meeting will take place within seven days of council being informed. Council will make provision for members unable to attend in person to participate in the meeting.

8.2 Annual General Meeting

The annual general meeting shall normally convene each year in the last quarter of that year. Notice of the annual general meeting shall be sent to all founding fellows and ordinary fellows not less than 30 days before the meeting.

8.3 All fellows/members may attend the annual general meeting; but only founding fellows and ordinary fellows are eligible to vote.

8.4 Extra-Ordinary General Meeting

This shall be called at the discretion of the council; notwithstanding an extraordinary general meeting may be called at the request of one country association of physicians, provided the request is seconded by another, or by a minimum of 10% of founding fellows and ordinary fellows of the college.

In the event of this, the extraordinary general meeting shall be held within twenty-eight days of the request to hold it.

The registrar shall notify fellows of the convening of an extraordinary general meeting at least 14 days in advance.

8.5 Ad-hoc meeting

Ad-hoc meeting shall be called by the council as and when necessary.

Article 9: Procedure at meetings

9.1 At all meetings of council and the annual general meeting, the president shall be the chairperson. In the event that the President is absent, the vice president shall take the chair. In the unlikely event that both the president and the vice president are absent, a member selected by the meeting shall take the chair.

9.2 The chairs of all standing committees of the college shall be appointed from within council and by council.

9.3 All general business of the college at the annual general meeting shall be decided by a simple majority of votes properly recorded at the meeting. In case of a tie of votes, the President shall have a deciding or casting vote. Review of the constitution and bye-laws shall require 2/3 majority votes to be executed.

9.4 One half (1/2) of council members shall constitute quorum for council meetings. Voting at council shall be based on a simple majority. In the case of a tied vote, the president shall have the casting vote.

Article 10: Finances

10.1 Each fellow/member shall pay due subscription fee to the College annually. The annual subscription fees due shall be fixed for each fiscal period by the General Assembly.

10.2 Auditors appointed by council shall audit the college accounts annually.

10.3 Audited accounts shall be presented to the annual general meeting.

10.4 The college's finances shall be used:

10.4.1 To promote the objectives of the college as approved by the council and annual general meeting.

10.4.2 To buy assets for the college as approved by the council and annual general meeting.

10.4.3 To contribute to educational, medical and social welfare activities in the region as approved by the annual general meeting.

Article 11: Dissolution or amalgamation

11.1 The College may be dissolved or amalgamate with another body having similar objectives on proposal of the Executive Council, ratified by a two-thirds majority of the Annual General Assembly or Extra Ordinary General Assembly Meeting.

11.2 In the event of dissolution, the assets of the College may not be divided among its fellows/members but shall be transferred to one or more other national or international organizations of similar interests, as agreed upon by the General Assembly.

Article 12: Amendments

12.1 The present constitution may be amended by a majority of the General Assembly. Proposals for such amendments may be submitted by Council or individual fellows. Such amendments must be submitted to the secretary at least 90 days before the next General Assembly and due notice of such amendments shall be given to all members/fellows by the secretary at least 60 days before the meeting of the General Assembly.