

THIS AMENDMENT SHOULD BE KNOWN AS AMENDMENT 2020 WHICH WAS AUTHORED BY THE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE.

ARTICLES(S) AND SECTION(S) THAT ARE AMENDED WILL REPLACE AND SUPERSEDE THE CORRESPONDING ARTICLE(S) AND SECTION(S) OF THE ORIGINAL CONSTITUTION AND ANY OTHER SUBSEQUENT CHANGES MADE PRIOR TO THIS AMENDMENT.

THIS AMENDMENT ALSO INTRODUCES A NEW ARTICLE: ARTICLE XII

## **Article III Membership**

1. Physicians or dentists of Bangladeshi origin or descent graduated from any WHO recognized medical or dental college or any non-Bangladeshi citizen graduated from a WHO recognized medical or dental college of Bangladesh, residing in North America are eligible to become member of The Bangladesh Medical Association of North America (hereinafter "Association") under the following categories:
  - A. **Life Member:** Physicians or dentists of Bangladeshi origin or descent licensed to practice in North America who has paid ten years of membership dues in a single payment will be eligible to become Life Member. They will have right to vote for life, but they will have right to hold position in the Executive Committee only if they continue to have an active license to practice in North America.
  - B. **Active Member:**
    - i. Physicians or dentists of Bangladeshi origin or descent licensed to practice in North America who have paid annual membership dues will be eligible to become Active Member. They will have right to vote and hold a position in the Executive Committee.
    - ii. Physicians or dentists of Bangladeshi origin or descent holding PhD and working as a fulltime faculty or holding fulltime research position in a health care field for at least three years who has paid annual membership dues will be eligible to become Active Member. They will have right to vote but will not be eligible to hold any position in the Executive Committee.
    - iii. Non-Bangladeshi Citizen physicians or dentists who have graduated from WHO recognized medical or dental college of

Bangladesh and are licensed to practice in North America who has paid annual membership dues will be eligible to become Active Member. They will have right to vote but will not be eligible to hold any position in the Executive Committee.

**C. Associate member:**

- i. Physicians or dentists of Bangladeshi origin or descent who are in ACGME recognized residency or fellowship program and have paid annual membership dues will be eligible to become Associate Member. They will have right to vote but will not be eligible to hold any position in the Executive Committee. Associate membership cannot be continued at the completion of their training.
- ii. Physicians or dentists of Bangladeshi origin or descent holding master's degree in Health Sciences and working in any health care field in a government or recognized nongovernment organization and paid annual membership dues will be eligible to become Associate Member. They will have right to vote but will not be eligible to hold any position in the Executive Committee.

**D. Adjunct member:** Physicians or dentists of Bangladeshi origin or descent who do not fulfill above criteria to become Life, Active or Associate member will be eligible to become Adjunct Member. No membership dues will be levied against them. They will have no right to vote or hold any position in the Executive Committee.

**E. Member Emeritus:** Physicians or dentists who were licensed to practice in North America and were active members of the Association but are now retired will be eligible to become Member Emeritus. No membership dues will be levied against them. They will have no right to vote or hold any position in the Executive Committee.

**F. Honorary member:** Honorary Membership may be awarded, with approval of three-fourth majority of The Executive Committee, to any person for extraordinary and special achievement in the field of medicine or sciences or who has contributed significantly to preserve, uphold and advance the aims and objectives of the Association. They will have no right to vote or hold any position in The Executive Committee.

2. Any new applicant for membership shall provide verifiable credentials. The Executive Committee shall verify credentials of the member.
3. Duration of memberships will be for the calendar year except for the Life Members. Members must pay their dues on annual basis during the calendar

year except for the life members. The amount of membership dues in all categories are to be determined by the Executive Committee and ratified with two-third majority of the voting members present in the annual general meeting. Membership dues may not be less than previous year's dues. Life membership dues shall be equal to ten years of annual dues which may not be changed without approval of two-third majority of the voting members present at the annual general meeting. Dues can be paid by the member, member's spouse, adult children or employer by check or credit card. Members who have not paid dues may attend the programs of the annual convention by paying other fees but may not attend the general business meeting and they will have no right to vote.

4. Membership can be withdrawn by the members at any time without any refund of the membership dues and they will not have any responsibility to the organization. Membership can be suspended by The Executive Committee with three-fourth majority or revoked by the general body with two-third majority of the voting members present at the annual general meeting for criminal conviction by court of law or a disciplinary action by the licensing authority resulting in revocation of professional licensure. Membership may be reinstated by the Executive Committee with three-fourth majority on dismissal of original charge and/or disciplinary action.

## **Article IV Administration and Offices**

The general management of the Association shall be vested upon The Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee shall be composed of The President, Past President, President Elect, General Secretary, Treasurer, Scientific Secretary, Social & Cultural Secretary, Young Physicians Secretary and three Members-at-Large. All members of the Executive Committee shall have right to vote. The Executive Committee shall be elected for a term of two years. The immediate Past President shall be a member of the Executive Committee for the following term. The election of the officers shall take place at every other meeting of the Association.

Vacancy caused by The President will be filled by the President Elect. Vacancy caused by the President Elect may only be filled by a subsequent general election. All other vacancies in the Executive Committee shall be filled by appointment by The Executive Committee.

## **Article V Meetings**

The time and place of all The Executive Committee meetings shall be decided by the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall meet at least once every quarter or more often as need be to conduct business. More than fifty percent of the total Executive Committee members shall be needed for quorum of Executive Committee meeting.

There shall be at least one general meeting of the entire membership every year at a place and date decided at the annual general meeting. At least thirty percent of the voting members registered at the annual meeting shall be needed for the quorum of the annual general meeting. Notice of the time and place of all meetings, except those of the Executive Committee, shall be mailed to all officers and members at least four months prior to such meeting. Special general meeting may be called by the President if decided by three-fourth majority of the Executive Committee.

At least one scientific meeting shall be arranged at every general meeting of the association.

In case the annual general meeting cannot be held due to national disaster or natural calamity, any matter of utmost importance to organization that need approval by the members in a business meeting but cannot wait until the next business meeting, the Executive Committee has the authority to submit any matters to the general members for electronic vote.

## **Article VI Amendments**

Any proposed amendments shall be submitted to the Executive Committee in writing by at least twenty Life/active members or by the Constitution and By-Laws Committee. Amendments of this constitution may be effected by three-fourth of the Life/active members present in the annual business meeting provided that such amendment has been mailed to all members at least three months prior to such meeting. The amendment shall become effective immediately upon adoption. The amendment can also be made by electronic vote in case the business meeting cannot be held due unforeseen circumstances as per Article V.

## **Article XII Election Process**

1. Executive Committee election will be held every two years.

2. Election shall be conducted by the Election Commission.
  3. Election Commission shall be formed by the Executive Committee at least ninety days prior to the election. Election Commission shall consist of five members including a Chairperson. Members of the Election Commission shall be either Life Member for at least five years or Active Member for at least five years and have attended at least three annual general meetings within last five years. Member of the current Executive Committee or immediate past Executive Committee will not be eligible to be a member of Election Commission.
  4. List of eligible voters shall be sent to the Election Commission seventy-five days prior to the election. President, General Secretary and Treasurer shall certify the voter list. Voter identity shall be verified by the Election Commission using federal or state issued identification.
  5. Call for nomination for positions of Executive Committee shall be made seventy-five days prior to the election. Nomination of candidates for position of Executive Committee shall be received by Election Commission sixty days prior to the election. The date of withdrawal of the nomination application shall be forty-five days prior to the election. Final list of eligible candidates for positions in Executive Committee shall be announced thirty days prior to the election.
  6. Voting will be conducted by electronic means which will be both remote and on site at the time of annual general meeting. There will be no mail ballot.
  7. In case the business meeting to elect The Executive Committee cannot be held due to national disaster or natural calamity the current Executive Committee shall continue functioning for a period not exceeding ninety days when the election must be conducted by electronic vote.
- 

Prepared & Submitted: Dated May 25, 2020, By:

Kabir Chowdhury, MD  
Committee Chair, Constitution & By-Laws Committee

Rafique Ahmed, MD, PhD, FACC  
Member, Constitution & By-Laws Committee

Nazmul H Khan, MD  
Member, Constitution & By-Laws Committee

Shafiqur Rahman, MD  
Member, Constitution & By-Laws Committee

Meskath Uddin, MD  
Member, Constitution & By-Laws Committee