

Constitution of the Bangladesh Medical Association of North America

Article I

Name

The name of this organization shall be the Bangladesh Medical Association of North America.

Article II

Aims and Objectives

Section 1

- A. To bring together and to improve communication between the physicians who are of Bangladeshi origin or have trained in the various Medical and Dental Colleges of Bangladesh, and are currently residents of the United States or Canada, and other physicians.
- B. The association is organized exclusively for educational, scientific, cultural and charitable purposes.
- C. To aid and assist medical students and physicians in obtaining specialized medical training and in post-training job placement in North America.
- D. To institute and provide specific services to meet the needs of the members of the association and Bangladeshi Physicians community in North America at large.
- E. To conduct seminars and other educational programs which acquaint members in North America and physicians in Bangladesh of newer developments in the field of medicine.
- F. To render medical assistance to the indigent people in North America, and in Bangladesh, whenever possible.

G. To make contributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, or the corresponding provision of any future U.S. or Canadian Laws.

H. To provide mutual assistance and cooperation between this Association and other medical societies in North America.

I. To maintain a registry of members in the association.

Section 2

A. No part of the net earnings or assets of the Association shall be used to the benefit of or be distributable to its members, officers, or other private persons, except that the Association shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purpose set forth in Article II hereof. The association shall not carry on any activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by a corporation exempt from Federal Income Tax under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, or the corresponding provision of any future U.S. or Internal Revenue law or (b) by a corporation, contribution to which are deductible under Section 170 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 or the corresponding provision of any future U.S. Internal Revenue Law.

Article III Membership

A. *Active Membership:* Licensed physicians and dentists residing in North America are eligible for membership of this Association.

B. *Associate Membership:* Physicians Dentists in training and research, retired, disabled or otherwise inactive.

C. *Adjunct Membership:* Members who for personal or physical reasons are not able to maintain active or associate membership status. No membership fee will be levied against them and they will not have the right to vote.

D. *Honorary Membership:* The Executive Committee may grant Honorary Membership to any member who has made significant and outstanding contributions in preserving the aims and objectives of this organization. Honorary Members will not have the right to vote.

E. Life Membership: Members contributing a minimum sum of \$500.00 shall be admitted as life members and will be exempt from paying annual dues. (amended from \$1000. to \$500. in the annual meeting of 1990). To obtain and retain membership in the association, members must have paid dues, payable on an annual basis. The annual dues are hereby determined to be \$50.00 for active members, and \$25.00 for associate members. Only members who have paid their dues before the end of each fiscal year will have the right to vote in the ensuing meeting of the association. Members who have not paid their current dues may attend the general meetings of the association but shall not have the right to vote.

Contributions to the Bangladesh Medical Association of North America are tax exempt.

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, Secretary, Treasurer, and three Members-at-Large. All members of the Executive Committee shall be members who retain the power 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.

Any vacancies in the office of the Secretary or Treasurer shall be filled by appointment by the Executive Committee. 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.

Article V

Meetings

The time and place of all meetings shall be decided by the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall meet at least once a year, or as often as need be to conduct business.

There shall be at least one meeting of the entire membership every year at a place and date designated by the Executive Committee. 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 meetings. Special meetings may be called by the President or by the majority of the Executive Committee.

Quorum of the meetings of the Executive Committee shall be considered three members or greater. In case of a lack of quorum, the president shall have the power to designate a chairman of a subcommittee to act as a member of the Executive Committee for that meeting.

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

The President shall have the right to break a tie.

Article VI

Amendments

Amendments to the constitution can be made by general membership only. Any proposed amendments shall be submitted to the Executive Committee in writing by ten active members or by the Constitution and By-Laws Committee. Amendments of this constitution may be effected by three-fourths of the active membership present at a regular meeting provided that such amendment has been mailed to all members at least three months prior to such a meeting. Amendments may also be made by a mail ballot, to be received back in two months.

Article VII

Committees

All committees shall be appointed by the Executive Committee. The standing committees shall be

- (a) Research, Education and Scientific Affairs, and Journals.
- (b) Nominating Committee.
- (c) Fund Raising Committee.
- (d) Medical Relief Committee.
- (e) Advisory Committee for residency training.
- (f) Constitution and By-Laws Committee.
- (g) Any other Committee deemed necessary by the Executive Committee, which shall be called Ad-Hoc Committee.

Article VIII

Local Chapters

Local chapters may be founded in any state or city. The minimum number of members for any chapter shall be ten. All local chapters shall be bound by Constitution and By-Laws of the B.M.A. of North America. Local chapter members must be members of the parent organization.

Article IX

Duties of Officers of Executive Committee

Section 1

President: The president shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Association and shall perform all duties incident to the office of the President and such other duties as may be designated by the Executive Committee. He shall preside at all meetings of the Association and the Executive Committee. He shall make such appointments as are required or authorized by the Constitution and by the Executive Committee. He may sign, with the Secretary, or any other proper officer of the Association authorized by the Executive Committee, any deeds, mortgages, bonds, contracts or other instruments which the Executive Committee has authorized to be executed, except in cases where the signing and execution thereof shall be expressly delegated by the Executive Committee to some other agent of the Association. He shall designate all official delegates and representa-

tives to other groups; he shall appoint such special Ad-Hoc Committees as may be necessary to further the Association's objectives; and he may discontinue any such committee in consultation with the Executive Committee, when its purpose has been served.

Section 2

President Elect: The President Elect shall perform the duties of the President in his/her absence. The President Elect shall be the President the following term.

Section 3

Secretary: The Secretary shall keep the minutes of the meetings of the Association and the Executive Committee and perform all duties assigned to him by the President or the Executive Committee. He shall perform all duties incident to the office of secretary.

Section 4

Treasurer: The Treasurer shall receive and be the custodian of the funds of the association. He shall present to the Executive Committee a proposed budget in final form shall be approved by the Executive Committee prior to the beginning of the fiscal year. He shall make a complete financial report at the annual business meeting of the Association.

Article X

Parliamentary Procedure

All proceeding shall be governed by the Roberts Rule of Order.

Article XI Dissolution

Upon the dissolution of the Association, the elected official shall, after paying or making provisions for the payment of all the liabilities of the Association, dispose of all the assets of the Association exclusively for the purpose of the Association, in such manner, or to such organizations organized exclusively for charitable, religious, cultural, or scientific purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 or the corresponding provision of any future U.S. Internal Revenue Law, as the elected officials decide. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the court of appropriate jurisdiction of the country in which the principle office of the association is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations as said court shall determine to be organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.