

Constitution

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1. The name of the Society is "The Clinical Genetics Society".
2. The object of the Society shall be to advance and promote the science and practice of Clinical Genetics. For this purpose only it will bring together workers who have a common interest in clinical genetics, so that they may be aided in their joint endeavours to understand, prevent, cure and alleviate conditions with a genetic aetiology. In furtherance of this object, but not otherwise, the Society may publish and disseminate reports, statements, and research findings.
3. The Clinical Genetics Society will form one of the Founding Constituent Groups of the British Society for Human Genetics, and will participate fully in the activities of the British Society for Human Genetics.
4. The membership of the Clinical Genetics Society shall be open to those with a professional interest in clinical genetics. All members of the Clinical Genetics Society shall be members of the British Society for Human Genetics.
5. The Society shall consist of Ordinary, Senior and Honorary members; Corporate members and Overseas Affiliates. Only Ordinary members of the Society shall be entitled to vote in elections, or at the meetings of the Society, or to be elected as officers.
6. Candidates for Ordinary membership shall be nominated by at least two members of the Society, in writing, at least four weeks before the Annual General Meeting. Candidates shall complete a form of application.
7. The Council shall recommend candidates for election to any Business Meeting of the Society, as Ordinary Members, from amongst persons who are nominated. If there be any objection to a candidate his or her application shall be referred back to the Council for further consideration.
8. Ordinary Members on retirement from hospital or academic appointments shall cease to be Ordinary Members and may become Senior Members, enjoying benefit of Membership without payment of full subscription.
9. Persons of eminence who have contributed to the advancement of knowledge in clinical genetics shall be eligible for Honorary Membership. They shall be elected to the Society on the recommendation of the Council. The number of Honorary Members shall be limited to ten at any one time. They shall pay no subscription.
10. Overseas Affiliates shall be normally resident outside the United Kingdom. They shall have the same rights and obligations as Ordinary Members, but will not be entitled to vote or be eligible for election to office.
11. Companies may on the recommendation of the Council be admitted to Corporate membership of the Society on payment of the Corporate Membership subscription. They shall have the same rights and obligations as Ordinary Members, but will not be entitled to vote or be eligible for election to office.
12. The annual subscription shall be determined at the Annual General Meeting, payable by Automated Banker's Order where possible.
13. Non-payment of the subscription within six months after it is due shall be considered equivalent to resignation.
14. The Council shall be concerned with policy, organisational and administrative matters. As deemed necessary, Council may establish sub-committees and working groups and appoint Chairs from the membership of Council or the Society. Council shall consist of a President, a Vice-President, a General Secretary, a Treasurer, a Conference Organiser and eight general members. The general Council members will be elected from amongst all Ordinary Members of the Society. Two of them shall be clinical geneticists in training at the time of their nomination. At the discretion of Council, additional Members of the Society may be co-opted onto Council to represent coherent sub-groups of Members or if they chair CGS sub-committees. These members will normally be co-opted for three years, renewable for a further term. The Council may also from time to time, co-opt members of the Society who chair CGS working parties, represent the Specialty on selected national Committees whose work impacts directly on the Society, or lead national service development or research groups. Co-opted members shall be invited to attend and participate in all Council meetings, but not to vote. Council may nominate Council or Society members to represent the Society or specialty on other professional bodies.
15. Decisions of Council will be by simple majority vote of those present.
16. The Council of the Society will meet at least once per year.
17. The office of the President shall be tenable for two years. He/she shall be elected one year before taking office, and shall serve as Vice-President for that year. After relinquishing his/her office as President, he/she shall serve on the Council as Vice-President for a further year.
18. The office of General Secretary shall be tenable for three years. The holder will be eligible for re-appointment by Council for one further term only.
19. The offices of Treasurer and Conference Organiser shall each be tenable for three years, and the holders will be eligible for re-appointment by Council for further terms.
20. No person may simultaneously hold more than one elected place on Council.

21. The Ordinary Members of the Council shall hold office for three years and then not normally be eligible for re-election as an Ordinary Member for a period of one year after retiring.

22. The Officers of the Society will be directly elected to their posts by the Ordinary Members of the Society.

23. At least six weeks before the Annual General Meeting, the Secretary shall send to each Member of the Society the names of the Officers and members who are due to retire from the Council, and invite nominations for their successors. Those nominated must signify their written agreement to be being nominated. If no nomination for a post is received in time for postal ballot, an election by show of hands may be held at the Annual General Meeting; this provision shall not apply to the post of President. Where the number of nominations received exceeds the number of posts available, a postal ballot of all Ordinary Members will be held, so timed that the results of the ballot are available to be announced at the Annual General Meeting. Where the number of nominations does not so exceed the number of posts available, those nominated should be declared elected, subject to ratification by simple majority vote at the Annual General Meeting.

24. The Society shall support at least one Scientific Meeting each year during which there shall be held the Annual General Meeting. At least six weeks prior to each Scientific meeting, the Conference Organiser shall send a preliminary notice to each member.

25. An Extraordinary General Meeting may be called by Council at any time. Thirty Ordinary members of the Society may demand an Emergency General Meeting, giving at least six weeks notice of the motion to be put to the Society. Members of the Society shall be notified of the time, place and agenda of any General Meeting at least three weeks in advance.

26. The agenda for the Annual General Meeting shall be arranged by the Council. Members wishing to have matters included on the agenda must inform the Secretary at least six weeks prior to the Annual General Meeting, in writing.

27. The quorum for the Annual General Meeting shall be thirty, and for Council six members, including at least two officers.

28. Members shall have the privilege of inviting non-members to attend and take part in Scientific Meetings on payment of appropriate registration fees.

29. The Secretary shall record and circulate to Council, the Minutes of the Council and the General Meetings of the Society. Minutes or summarised minutes of the Council Meetings will be placed on the Society website. Full minutes of the Annual General Meeting will be placed on the Society website.

30. No alteration to these rules shall be made except at a General Meeting, and unless proposed by the Council or by at least ten Members in writing. In the latter case the proposal must reach the General Secretary at least six weeks before the date of the meeting. Notice of the proposed change shall be circulated to every Member at least one week before the meeting at which it is to be brought forward, and it shall be decided by two thirds majority vote of those Ordinary Members present at the meeting.

31. No amendment shall be made to rules 2 or 30 without the consent of the Charity Commissioners

32. The income and property of the Society whencesoever derived shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the objects of the Society as set forth in the Rules, and no portion thereof shall be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of profit to the Members of the Society. Provided that nothing therein shall prevent the payment, in good faith, of reasonable and proper remuneration to any Officer or servant of the Society, or to any Member of the Society, in return for any services rendered to the Society, or prevent the payment of interest, at a rate not exceeding the prevailing Bank of England base rate per annum on money lent, or reasonable and proper rent for premises demised or let by any Member of the Society; but so that no member of the Council or Governing Body of the Society shall be appointed to any salaried office of the Society or any office of the Society paid by fees, and

that no remuneration or other benefit in money's worth shall be given by the Society to any Member of such Council or Governing Body, except repayment or out-of-pocket expenses and interest at the rate aforesaid on money lent or reasonable and proper rent for premises demised or let to the Society; provided that the provision shall not apply to any payment to any Company of which a Member of the Society or Governing Body may be a member and in which such a Member shall not hold more than one one hundredth part of the capital and such Members shall not be bound to account for any share of profits he/she may receive in respect of such payment.

33. 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 or distributed among the Members of the Society, but shall be given or transferred to some other charitable institution having objects similar to the objects of the Society, and which shall prohibit the distribution of its or their income and property among its or their Members to an extent at least as great as is imposed on the Society under or by virtue of the last preceding rule, such charitable institution or institutions to be determined by Members of the Society at or before the time of dissolution, and if and so far as effect cannot be given to such provisions, then to some other charitable object.