

BRITISH HYPERTENSION SOCIETY - CONSTITUTION

Adopted: 21st October 1983

Amended: 24th September 1984, 15th September 2009

1. The name of the Society shall be the British Hypertension Society.
2. The Society shall promote the advancement of knowledge and dissemination of information concerning the pathophysiology, epidemiology, detection, investigation and treatment of arterial hypertension and related vascular diseases.
3. Membership shall be open to residents of the British Isles active in the field of hypertension and who usually have had experience in hypertension research.
4. Prospective new members, once their application has been approved by the Executive Committee, will be invited to join the Society forthwith. Membership will begin upon receipt of the annual membership fee, which will be adjusted pro rata for the first year, depending how much of that first calendar year remains.
5. Associate Membership will be open to students (undergraduate and postgraduate) during the tenureship of their training period. Associate Membership will permit membership of the Society with similar rights to full Membership, but will be at a reduced rate.
6. On attaining the age of 60 years, an ordinary member shall automatically become a senior member.
7. Honorary membership may be awarded, where appropriate, to distinguished scientists.
8. Ex-Presidents of the Society will be awarded lifetime honorary membership on retirement from their main remunerated employment.
9. Ordinary and senior members shall pay an annual subscription of an amount to be determined by the Society.
10. Only ordinary and senior members are eligible for election to the Executive Committee.
11. Ordinary and senior membership shall automatically cease upon failure, for two successive years, to pay the annual subscription fee.
12. Ordinary membership shall normally lapse upon failure, for three successive years, to attend a scientific meeting of the Society.
13. At least one scientific meeting shall be convened in each calendar year, at which a business meeting shall also be held.
14. An Executive Committee of eight persons, which shall include the office bearers, namely the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, shall be elected at the business meeting. In the event of more than one nomination for each position, a postal ballot will be held of all Ordinary and Senior Members before the meeting and the results announced at the Annual Business Meeting. Nominees will be invited to submit a one page notice in support of their nomination, which will be circulated to all members with the ballot paper.
15. The President shall not be eligible for re-election after two years in office. The Vice President shall not be eligible for re-election after two years. The Secretary and Treasurer shall not be eligible for re-election after four years in office. Ordinary members of the Committee shall retire after three years, but remain eligible for election as office-bearers. Ordinary members of the Committee who have retired become eligible for re-election after two years.
16. The Executive Committee shall supervise the affairs of the Society and arrange the scientific meetings.

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17. The President of the Society shall serve as chairman of the Executive Committee. In his/her absence, the chair will be taken by the Vice President. In the absence of both the President and the Vice President, the members of the Committee present shall elect an acting chairman.
18. Nominations for election to the offices of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer and to the Executive Committee shall be supported by at least three members and submitted in writing to the Secretary, at least three months before the annual business meeting.
19. Members of the Executive Committee who retire before the end of their term of office may be replaced by co-option at the discretion of the remaining members of the Executive Committee.
20. Four members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum.
21. A postal vote may be held on any relevant issue at the discretion of the Executive Committee.
22. Changes to the Constitution must be proposed in writing to the Secretary at least one month before the annual business meeting. For an amendment to be adopted it must be passed by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting at the annual business meeting.
23. The Society may be dissolved by a Resolution passed by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting at a Special General Meeting convened for the purpose, of which 21 days' notice has been given to the members. Such resolution may give instructions for the disposal of any assets held by or in the name of the Society provided that if any property remains after the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities such property shall not be paid to or distributed among the members of the Society, but shall be given or transferred to such other charitable institution or institutions having objects similar to some or all of the objects of the Society as the Society may determine and if and in so far as effect cannot be given to this provision then to some other charitable purpose.
24.
 - i) At least one member of the BHS Executive Committee should sit on each Working Party, although the Working Party Chairman does not have to be an Executive Committee member. The Chairman will be appointed by the Executive Committee
 - ii) The Working Party Chairman decides the membership of the Working Party, but the suggested list of members must be approved by the Executive Committee
 - iii) Members will sit on the Working Party for an initial term of 3 years, renewable for a further 3 years where appropriate
 - iv) A report from the Working Party should be presented at every Executive Committee meeting by the Executive Committee representative on the Working Party
 - v) The Terms of Reference, including an estimate of expenditure, should be approved by the Treasurer or another officer of the Executive Committee in advance
 - vi) The Executive Committee reserves the right to dissolve the Working Party at any stage