

# **CONSTITUTION**

**As amended 27 March 2009**

## **SOUTH AFRICAN REGISTRARS ASSOCIATION (SARA)**

### **1. NAME**

The Association is a special interest group of the South African Medical Association, an association incorporated under Section 21 of the Companies Act, 1973, registered No 05/00136/08, and its name shall be South African Registrars Association (SARA) (hereinafter called "The Association").

### **2. OBJECTIVES**

- 2.1 To promote and maintain the legitimate professional and academic interests of registrars countrywide.
- 2.2 To define and establish relationships amongst members and between them and other legitimate medical associated groups, hospitals, public and private institutions, government authorities, the medical profession generally and the public.
- 2.3 To promote the Mission of the SA Medical Association, viz., to serve the medical profession and to promote health for all by striving for an affordable, non-racial, comprehensive, effective, unitary health system to which all have the right of equitable access.
- 2.4 To establish and maintain international medical and professional links.

### **3. MEMBERSHIP OF THE ASSOCIATION**

- 3.1 Any person who is officially registered as a Registrar in South Africa is eligible for membership. He or she may or may not be a member of the SA Medical Association, provided that membership shall at all times consist of at least 85% of full SA Medical Association members and provided further that non-SA Medical Association members shall enjoy all the rights of the full members of the group in respect of the activities of the group, but they shall have no voting rights or the right to be elected to any office in respect of other Medical Association activities.
- 3.2 Every member shall remain a member until his membership is terminated by either his resignation in writing addressed to the Chairperson; by decision of the Executive Committee of the Association; or as soon as he/she has ceased to be a registrar.
- 3.3 The activities of the Association shall be suspended if at any time its membership shall be less than eleven (11) members.

#### **4. CONTROL OF THE ASSOCIATION**

- 4.1 The general control and direction of the policy and affairs of the Association shall be vested in the Executive Committee of the Association.
- 4.2 In exercising control over the Association, the Executive Committee shall at all times abide by the Articles of the South African Medical Association.
- 4.3 The Executive Committee shall hold office for two (2) years and shall consist of a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson, and a representative of the eight (8) Medical School faculties in the Republic of South Africa. The election of members of the Executive Committee shall be by popular vote at the Annual General Meeting of the Association unless the meeting decides otherwise. Elected members of the Executive Committee shall each be designated to represent member's interests in the eight (8) Medical Faculties of South Africa. The Executive Committee shall have the right to co-opt members as they see necessary.
- 4.4 A list of office-bearers, together with a complete list of members of the Association, shall be furnished annually to the Secretary- General of the South African Medical Association within thirty (30) days of the election of such office-bearers.
- 4.5 The Secretariat of the South African Medical Association shall keep records of all meetings of the Association in consultation with the Executive Committee.
- 4.6 SARA will control its own financial affairs regarding levying additional membership fees (as determined by the EXCO), remuneration of Executive Committee members and sponsorship, provided such sponsorship is not in contravention to the ethical policies of sponsorship of the South African Medical Association.
- 4.7 The SA Medical Association will provide the extra funds necessary to carry out the work of the Association (e.g. AGM, travel expenses, etc), as determined by the Medical Association's Director of Management Services.
- 4.8 Any member of the Executive Committee may be removed from his/her position on the committee by the combined action of the Chairman of the Association AND the Secretary General of the SA Medical Association, should that member be found not to be carrying out their responsibilities to the association as mandated at the Association's Annual General Meeting.

Should the chairman of the Association be found to be not performing his duties adequately, such expulsion from the Executive Committee may be affected by the Vice-Chairman of the Association AND the Secretary General of the SA Medical Association.

Expulsion from the executive committee can only be done following an investigation into the performance of such executive committee member by the SAMA Secretariat.

## **5. MEETINGS OF THE ASSOCIATION**

- 5.1 The Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held on the date determined by the Executive Committee.
- 5.2 Extraordinary General Meetings of the Association may be held from time to time and shall be called by the Executive Committee on the written request of fifty (50) members of the Association.
- 5.3 A quorum at a meeting of the Executive Committee shall constitute.
- 5.4 Resolutions or proposals shall be passed by simple majority at any meeting of the Executive Committee.

## **6. ACTIONS OF THE ASSOCIATION**

- 6.1 The Association may take such actions as may be deemed necessary in all matters affecting the legitimate interest of its members, provided that the SA Medical Association as a whole be not involved or pledged to any action and that any action contemplated by the Association be in general conformity with the policy, credo, and spirit of the Medical Association.
- 6.2 Should the Association refer a matter affecting the interest of its members to the National Council or the Board of Directors of the South African Medical Association for action, it shall take no further independent action unless requested to do so by the National Council or the Board of Directors. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Association may decide on further action to be taken should the action taken by the National Council or the Board of Directors be unsuccessful.

## **7. ORGANISATION OF THE ASSOCIATION**

- 7.1 It shall be competent for the Association to allow the formation of Sub-Groups of the Association within the framework of the Branches or Divisions of the SA Medical Association or in such other manner as may be desirable. Such Sub-Groups may be allowed powers of independent action in local matters provided that such action is not in conflict with the general policy and rules of the Association and of the SA Medical Association in general.
- 7.2 Such Sub-Groups shall elect an Executive Committee consisting of a Chairman, a Secretary and two (2) additional members annually at the Annual General Meeting of the Sub-Group, which shall be held approximately one (1) month prior to the Annual General Meeting of the Association.

- 7.3 Reports of local action taken shall be submitted by the Secretary of the Sub Group to the Secretary and Chairperson of the Association.
- 7.4 Each Sub-Group shall have a minimum membership of four (4) full members.

## **8. SUBSCRIPTIONS**

The Association may collect additional subscriptions from its members (as determined by the Executive Committee), and the SA Medical Association will provide, in consultation with the Executive Committee, the additional funds necessary for the carrying out of the work of the Association. (Vide clause 4.7).

## **9. ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE ASSOCIATION**

The Chairman shall submit an Annual Report at the Annual General Meeting of the Association. A copy shall be sent to the Secretary-General of the SA Medical Association within thirty (30) days of the meeting.

## **10. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION**

Amendments to the Constitution shall be effected only if passed by a two-thirds majority of those voting at an Annual General Meeting of the Association. Any amendment to the Constitution of the Association shall be approved by the National Council or the Board of Directors of the SA Medical Association before becoming operative.

## **11. DISSOLUTION**

In the event of the dissolution of the Association, the assets of the Association shall be given or transferred to some other organisation or organisations engaged in activities similar to those for which this Association was established. The Executive Committee shall be responsible for selecting the organisation or organisations in accordance with the stipulations of this clause provided that such organisation or organisations be a recognized group within the SA Medical Association. The assets may also be transferred or given to the SA Medical Association.