

**Constitution of the Association of Clinical Endocrinologists  
of South Africa (ACE-SA),  
A subgroup of the Society for Endocrinology, Metabolism  
and Diabetes of South Africa (SEMDSA)**

Amended and approved at the Annual General Meeting of the  
Association held in

**Cape Town On 20<sup>th</sup> April 2012**

## 1) **NAME OF THE SOCIETY**

- a) The name of the society is the “Association of Clinical Endocrinologists of South Africa (ACE-SA)”, hereinafter referred to as The Society.
- b) The Society will have an independent association within the Society for Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism of South Africa (SEMDSA), or any other name that SEMDSA may assume in the future, and The Society will function as a subgroup of SEMDSA.
- c) The Society shall be a body of perpetual succession.
- d) The Society is opposed to all forms of discrimination.
- e) The Society can be contacted through any member of the Committee
- f) The Constitution can only be changed by a 2/3 majority decision made by members at a general meeting, or a special meeting, or 2/3 majority electronic vote by members, and only if the proposed changes have been fully discussed at a general or special meeting. The proposed changes to the constitution must be in writing, signed and seconded by two members of the society, at least a month before the general or special meeting and the changes must appear on the agenda of said meeting.

## 2) **NON-PROFIT DISTRIBUTING CHARACTER**

- a) The income and property of the Society shall be used solely for the promotion of its stated objectives. No portion of the income or property of the Society shall be paid or distributed directly or indirectly to any person (otherwise than in the ordinary course of undertaking any public benefit activity) or any member of the Executive Committee, provided that nothing contained in this clause shall prevent the payment in good faith to any person of reasonable

compensation for services actually rendered to the Society and /or reimbursement of actual costs or expenses reasonably incurred on behalf of the Society.

### **3) PURPOSE DESCRIBING THE MAIN BUSINESS**

- a) The main business of The Society is:
  - i) To promote, maintain and protect the honour and interests of Endocrinology as a profession
  - ii) To facilitate the provision of quality Endocrinology (including diabetes and metabolic diseases) services to the public from its members.

### **4) MAIN OBJECTIVES**

- a) The main objectives of The Society are:
  - i) To promote affordable, sustainable and high quality Endocrinology services for all South Africans.
  - ii) To promote and protect the welfare of its members
  - iii) To create within South Africa, an environment that attracts doctors to become endocrinologists, and to subsequently practice their profession in this country
  - iv) To promote the presence and influence of Endocrinologists within The South African Medical Association (SAMA), Department of Health (DOH), Council of Medical Schemes (CMS), Board of Healthcare Funders (BHF), Centres for Diabetes and Endocrinology (CDE), Diabetes South Africa (DSA) and SEMDSA
  - v) To provide support to academic and training institutions

- vi) To promote co-operation with other associations involved in Endocrinology, Metabolic Diseases and Diabetes
- vii) To monitor, evaluate and advise on policies related to the delivery of clinical services and the protection of patients' rights with respect to Endocrinology.
- viii) To ensure optimal ethical and clinical standards from its members, and provide a guidance and advice to its members, when necessary, by a process of peer review
- ix) Promote awareness and education in the management of endocrine related conditions amongst all health professional groups, related disciplines and the public especially those with diabetes
- x) Promote research in Endocrinology.

## 5) **POWERS**

- a) The Society can take all steps necessary related to the realisation of the foregoing objectives or any one of them.
- b) The Society may own property and enter into contracts in its own name and the members shall not have any claim on these assets.

## 6) **MEMBERSHIP**

- a) Membership of The Society shall consist of the following:
  - i) Full Members: Any person who is registered as an Endocrinologist (as a subspeciality of Internal Medicine or Paediatrics) with the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) is eligible to be a full member of The Society. Any person who is registered as a specialist in

the field of Internal Medicine or Paediatrics with the HPCSA, and who has completed 3 years of continuous service in an Accredited (by the HPCSA) Endocrinology Department, but who did not register as an Endocrinologist with the HPCSA under the “grandfather clause” will also be eligible for full membership.

- ii) Honorary Membership: any person who has made an exceptional contribution to the promotion of endocrinology or any related science or specialisation will qualify for **honorary** membership. Honorary members will not be office-bearers and will not have voting rights.
  - iii) To qualify for membership, all members must also be a member of SEMDSA.
- b) Qualifying members of SEMDSA who wish not to be members of the Society must inform the Society of such.

## 7) **MEMBERSHIP FEES**

- i) Registered endocrinologists would automatically become members of The Society by joining SEMDSA and paying the annual SEMDSA membership fee.
- ii) The Society may raise its own membership fees if/when should this become necessary.

## 8) **REGULATIONS**

### a) **COMMITTEE:**

- i) The general control and direction of the policy and the affairs of the Society shall be vested in the Executive Committee of the Society, and will

consist of six full members of The Society.

- ii) The elected Executive Committee shall consist of a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson, and an Honorary Secretary/Treasurer, and three other members.
- iii) The term of office of all elected members shall be two years, and they may be re-elected for a further 2 years. Thereafter, they may not be elected for another 2 years before being eligible again.
- iv) The election of the members of the Executive Committee shall be by an email voting, web-based voting or by popular vote at the end of term.
- v) The power to co-opt is determined by members with full membership
- vi) The committee will consist of 3 members from the Private Health Sector and 3 members from the State/Public Health Sector.
- vii) One of the committee members must be a member of Paeds SA
- viii) Five members of the Executive Committee will be elected by popular ballot and the 6<sup>th</sup> member will be a member nominated by and from the SEMDSA Executive Committee. The ratio of executive members from Public and Private Health sectors will nevertheless be maintained.
- ix) A single person may fulfill more than one position of the stipulated subcategories.
- x) Should members from the above categories not be available to serve The Society then any full member of the Society can be elected to fill the vacant position.
- xi) The members of the executive committee will elect a chairperson and secretary

## **9) MEETINGS**

- a) The Executive Committee shall, as far as possible, meet at least once every 4 months
- b) Notice of all meetings shall be given in writing to members at least 1 month prior to the date of such meeting
- c) The Chairperson shall co-ordinate all meetings. In the absence of the Chairperson, the Committee will elect one of its members to act as Chairperson for the meeting
- d) The secretary will take the minutes of the general meetings and meetings of the executive committee. During the general meeting annually the secretary will report on the society's activities during the previous 2 years. The other committee members will be empowered to execute duties allocated to them by the committee. The treasurer will read out a financial report at each general meeting.
- e) A copy of the minutes of such meetings shall be submitted to the Committee within 30 days of the date of the meeting for information and action, if necessary.

## **10) FINANCES**

The society will be responsible for its own finances and may raise funds by any legal means (subscriptions, educational grants, sponsorships, journals etc.). The Society may also request financial assistance from the parent body (SEMDSA).

## **11) AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION**

- a) Amendments and additions to the Constitution of The Society shall be approved by a two-thirds majority of members present at an Annual General Meeting.
  
- b) Proposed amendments and /or additions to the Constitution of The Society shall be submitted to the Committee at least 2 months prior to the date of the Annual General Meeting.
  
- c) Notice of proposed amendments and / or additions to the Constitution of The Society shall be included in the notice convening such Annual General Meeting.