

**SOUTH AFRICAN SOCIETY FOR CARDIOVASCULAR RESEARCH
(SASCAR)
A special interest group of the South African Heart Association**

CONSTITUTION

1- Name:

The name of the Society shall be “SOUTH AFRICAN SOCIETY FOR CARDIOVASCULAR RESEARCH – a special interest group of SA Heart Association”

2- Objectives:

The objectives of the SASCAR shall be:

- 2.1 To promote all aspects of cardiovascular research in South Africa
- 2.2 To promote active interaction between basic, clinical and epidemiological research in South Africa
- 2.3 To promote collaboration among those involved in cardiovascular research in South Africa and elsewhere.
- 2.4 To promote the development of young cardiovascular researchers in South Africa.

3- Membership:

Ordinary membership of the Society shall be open to all persons with an interest in cardiovascular research. Ordinary members are entitled to attendance of all meetings and functions of the Society and to receive all benefits of membership. Ordinary members in good standing shall be entitled to one vote at an annual general meeting or, special meeting, of the Society. The Executive Committee will confirm Ordinary Membership and the list of new members will be presented at the Annual General Meeting and any member shall have the right to place an objection or comment.

Honorary fellowship of the Society may be conferred by decision of the Council upon persons who have by virtue of their standing and/or efforts contributed substantially over many years to cardiovascular research or have provided meritorious service to the community in pursuits of objectives in line with those of the Society. Honorary Fellowship is conferred for life and fellows are not required to pay annual membership fees, but may hold office in the society and vote at meetings.

4- Termination of membership:

4.1. The Council may, by affirmative vote of two-thirds of all members of the Council, suspend a member's membership for a stated period of time, or expel a member from the Society if he/she is found guilty of misconduct by the Council after an appropriate hearing.

4.2 The Council may, by ordinary majority vote, suspend a member for a stated period of time or expel a member from the Society if he/she fails to pay his/her membership dues within the first three months after it has become due.

4.3 A member or Fellow shall cease to be a member of the Society if he/she submits a written resignation to the secretary, provided that he/she shall not be relieved of the obligation to pay arrear dues or any other amount he/she may owe to the Society.

5- Reinstatement of membership:

5.1 The Council may, by affirmative vote of two-thirds of all members of Council, reinstate a former member.

5.2 The Council may make any reinstatement subject to any conditions it deems fit.

5.3 Application for reinstatement shall be in writing and shall be signed by the former member and shall be filed with the Secretary for submission to the Council.

6- Executive:

6.1 The management of the SASCAR shall be vested in an Executive Committee, comprising of a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Administrative Secretary and four members. The Executive Committee shall be elected by ballot at the Annual General Meeting for a 2-year period and may be eligible for re-election.

6.2 The function of the Executive Committee shall be:

6.2.1 The President shall represent the SASCAR at home or abroad, will chair meetings of the Executive and preside over the Annual General Meeting.

6.2.2 The Secretary and Administrative Secretary shall notify members of meetings and organize the venue and time thereof, circulate reports and organize ballots.

6.2.3 The treasurer shall keep the accounts, collect subscriptions, be responsible for the expenditure of the association and submit an Annual Financial Report of the SASCAR to the Annual General Meeting.

6.3 The Executive Committee shall have the power to appoint sub-committees for special purposes

6.4 The Executive Committee is responsible for the administration of the SASCAR and may establish central office and retain services such as personnel as may be required to efficiently administer the SASCAR.

7- Subscription:

The annual subscription shall be payable by the members of the SASCAR to provide funds for carrying out the work of SASCAR. The annual subscription shall be determined annually by the Executive committee, but any alterations in such subscriptions must be approved by a majority vote at the General meeting.

8- Meetings:

Meetings of the SASCAR, including the Annual General Meeting, shall take place at least once a year. Notice (post, fax or e-mail) of the meeting shall not be later than fourteen days before the date on which the meeting to be held. Six members shall constitute a quorum. In the absence of a quorum, the Executive Committee shall have the power to convene another Annual General Meeting, at which any number of members shall constitute a quorum, within a period of not less than 48 hours. Decisions shall be reached by majority of votes present.

9- Alteration to the Constitution:

This can only be affected by a two thirds majority vote cast at the Annual General Meeting. Notice (post, fax, or e-mail) of the amendments, shall be given not later than fourteen days before the date of the Annual General Meeting.

10- Dissolution:

The dissolution of the Association may be effective by a 75% majority vote of all ordinary members.