CONSTITUTION

Breast Interest Group of Southern Africa (BIGOSA)

Amended September 2022

NAME OF THE SOCIETY

1. The Society shall be called the Breast Interest Group of Southern Africa.

OBJECTIVE OF THE SOCIETY

1. Its objective is to enhance the quality of breast health care in Southern Africa. It delivers on this objective by
   a) Encourage a sub-specialty of “Breast Surgery” in General Surgery and Plastic/Reconstructive Surgery
   b) Advises governmental and non-governmental organizations on breast health matters and policy
   c) Liaising with other organizations in the field on a global level
   d) Advancing the interests of its members

MEMBERSHIP

1. In general, members shall be practising medical practitioners who have a specific interest in all aspects of breast care.
2. Associate membership shall be reserved for professionals other than medical practitioners, who are engaged in the provision of breast health care. Associate members may attend meetings and introduce visitors, but shall not hold any office or hold voting rights.
3. Honorary Life Membership may be granted at the discretion of the executive committee to members who have retired from practice. They would no longer be liable for annual subscriptions and the Executive Committee may award a reduced cost to these individuals to attend Congresses.
4. Honorary membership will be bestowed to the keynote speaker of each annual scientific meeting.

OFFICERS

1. The Officers of the Society shall be a President, a president elect, who becomes president after the 2-year term of office, Secretary, Treasurer and 8 other members shall together constitute the Executive Committee. There shall be 12 executive committee members in total – 2 representatives from each speciality – General Surgery, Plastic Surgery, Radiology, Pathology, Medical Oncology and Clinical and Radiation Oncology. They shall be elected by and from the members of the Society.
2. The elected members of the executive committee have the right to co-opt 2 further members to the executive committee by majority decision of the elected executive committee. This body shall be known as the BIGOSA Council. The BIGOSA Council shall be representative of the majority of professionals involved in breast healthcare.
3. Members over the age of 65 shall not hold any office except that of President.
4. The President's term of office is 2 years. The president will be succeeded by the president-elect. The president shall preside at all meetings of the Society and of the Executive Committee.
5. The Secretary, Treasurer and other members of the Executive Committee, except for the President-elect and President, shall be elected for a 2 year period, and may be re-elected after a nomination has been received in writing by the secretary of the society 2 weeks before the annual meeting of the society.
6. The BIGOSA Council shall conduct the affairs of the Society and consider the applications for membership. It meets at least annually and before the meeting of the society. A quorum of at least two-thirds members needs to be present for the meeting to be considered legitimate.
7. The BIGOSA Council may appoint Technical Working Groups of no more than 3 members of the Society for a period of maximum 2 years to formulate reports concerning matters of interest to the Society.
8. Honorary Vice-Presidency may be bestowed on a member in recognition of outstanding service rendered to the Breast Interest Group and Breast Health Care in Southern Africa. Nomination for the office will be at the discretion of the Executive Committee and must be confirmed by a two-thirds majority of the Annual General Meeting of the Society. The number of Honorary Life Vice-Presidents shall be limited to six at any one time.

MEETINGS

1. The Society shall meet at least once a year to discuss matters pertaining to the objective of the Society.
2. The scientific business shall consist principally of short papers followed by discussion.
3. The Society shall meet in different centres in rotation.

4. An annual meeting of the members shall be held at some time during each meeting of the Society to consider matters raised by the Council, or by members, to elect the Committee and Council and to receive the report of the Secretary and Treasurer. A quorum of at least one-third paid up members needs to be present for the meeting to be considered legitimate.
5. Members can exercise their rights to vote by proxy which is submitted prior to the meeting to the secretary of the society.
6. Titles of communications, by an abstract of not more than 200 words, must be sent to the Secretary by the notified date before the meeting at which they are to be presented.
7. When more communications are received than can be given at a meeting the Committee or, if there is urgency the President shall have the power of deciding which shall be chosen for presentation.

FINANCE

1. The annual subscription shall be fixed at the annual general meeting. Associate members shall be required to pay a reduced subscription.
2. Any member who does not pay his subscription within one year, in spite of due notice, shall cease to be a member.

VISITORS

1. Any member or associate member may introduce a visitor for the purpose of reading a paper or attending a meeting.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS

Interested parties can apply directly to the society secretary for membership. Successful applicants will be notified within 1 calendar month of the receipt of their application.

AMENDMENTS OF THE CONSTITUTION AND RULES OF THE SOCIETY

1. A proposal to change the Constitution or Rules of the Society must be submitted in writing by 5 members of the Society to the Secretary at least 2 months before the Annual General Meeting.
2. The Secretary shall notify each member of the Society in writing about this proposal at least 1 month before the Annual General Meeting, when the proposal will be considered.

3. No change in the Constitution or Rules of the Society shall be made unless, at least one third of the members of the Society are present, and two thirds of members present support the change.