



Constitution of Heart Rhythm UK as amended at the Annual General Meeting, 21st October, 2008

1. The Group, formerly known as The British Pacing and Electrophysiology Group, shall be redesignated "Heart Rhythm UK". Its objectives shall be the advancement of knowledge in the area of artificial pacing of the heart and in the treatment of cardiac arrhythmias including electrophysiological diagnostic and therapeutic methods.
2. These objectives shall be pursued by the organisation of Scientific meetings for communications and discussions, by lectures and by other means. The fullest co-operation of other national and international Pacing and Arrhythmia Groups will be sought where practicable.
3. The Rules of the Group shall not be changed unless at the Annual General Meeting two-thirds of the Ordinary Members present vote in favour of the change. Notice of the suggested change must be sent, by a member, at least three months before the Annual General Meeting, to the Secretary, who shall notify all Ordinary Members of the proposal at least one month before the meeting.
4. There shall be a President of the Group. He/she will represent the Group at home and abroad and will preside over meetings of the Council but not at the Scientific Meetings of the Group, for which a Chairman may be elected for each Meeting. The President will serve on Council for an additional year following his/her mandatory retirement after three years as President, and will be known as the Immediate Past President. A President Elect will be elected 1 year prior to taking up post and will also serve on Council. No member may be President for more than two terms.
5. The Group shall consist of Council, Ordinary and Extra-Ordinary Members. New Ordinary Members shall be elected by a majority of the Council.
6. Ordinary Members shall be actively engaged in the practice of cardiac pacing and/or associated electrophysiological diagnostic and therapeutic techniques or in research in these and allied subjects.
7. A Member will cease to be an Ordinary Member at the end of the academic year of his/her retirement. He/she shall automatically become an Extra-Ordinary Member, providing that he/she has been a member of good standing for the

preceding five years, unless he/she should elect to retire from the Group. Retired members continue membership with no annual fee.

8. Extra-Ordinary Members shall receive the notices, may attend the meetings of the Group, may take part in the proceedings, and may propose candidates for Ordinary Membership. They shall have no voice in the conduct of private business otherwise and will not be entitled to reduced registration fees for Heart Rhythm Congress meetings.

9. Ordinary Members may propose candidates for Ordinary Membership or positions on Council. Such proposals accompanied by a statement of the candidates' professional status, appointments and published works, shall be sent to the Secretary.

10. An Annual General Meeting shall be held, as will an annual scientific meeting. Additional meetings may be arranged, at the discretion of the Council.

11. The Council may unanimously, and for good reason, terminate the membership of any individual provided that the individual concerned shall have the right to be heard by the Council, accompanied by a colleague, before any final decision is made.

12. Visitors may, with the permission of an Officer, be introduced by Members, to meetings of the Group. They may make contributions and take part in discussions subject to the same rules as Members.

13. No Members of the Press or any other news medium shall be permitted to be present, and no report of all or any part of the meetings shall be published in any way, unless by the Council, or with written consent of the Council.

14. The business of the Group shall be conducted by a Council which shall arrange the programme of each meeting. The Council shall consist of a minimum of twelve Members and a maximum of eighteen elected Members, including the Officers (President, Immediate Past President (1y) or President Elect (1y), Secretary and Treasurer). Council members may be allocated special responsibilities for specific tasks such as Information, Education, Audit, Research etc. Each Council Member shall serve for a period of three years, including the Officers. The Secretary and President Elect will be elected by the membership as a whole with both existing Council members and ordinary members eligible to stand for election. Specific interest groups will be designated on Council to ensure adequate representation of the breadth of the specialty. Three Council members will be elected to represent the interests of interventional electrophysiology, three members to represent the interests of device therapies, four members to represent the interests of cardiac physiologists and two members to represent the interests of arrhythmia nurse specialists. Representatives of interventional electrophysiology and device therapies will normally be medically qualified, while cardiac physiologists and arrhythmia nurse specialists will normally represent their respective subgroups. It is anticipated that both the interest groups and the numbers of representatives of each group may change from time to time, subject to prior agreement at the AGM. The Council shall

have the power to co-opt an additional number of non-commercial Council Members up to a maximum of six, should any special reason require it.

15. Nominations of Members of the Group, who may not be Members of a commercial organisation, for the posts of Officers, and for any other Members of the Council, may be made by any member and sent in writing, with the consent of the nominee, to the Secretary, before 1st February. Members should be reminded at least two months prior to any vote that positions have become vacant, and they are then asked to submit their nominations within the next month. The ordinary membership of the Group shall be asked to vote by postal ballot. Each voting member will be entitled to vote for all Officer positions (President, Secretary and Treasurer) and will be entitled to cast up to 2 votes for ordinary Council members, which can be cast in either the same Council interest group or as single votes in two different Council interest groups. Members will be given a period of at least one month during which to place their vote. Those names receiving the most votes shall take office at the next Council Meeting.

16 Medicines & Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) shall be invited to nominate up to three observers who shall attend meetings of Council. The International Association of Prosthesis Manufacturers (IAPM) shall be invited to nominate an observer who shall attend meetings of Council. The British Junior Cardiologists' Association (BJCA) shall be invited to nominate one observer who shall attend Council meetings. The Society of Cardiological Science and Technology (SCST) shall be invited to nominate one observer to attend Council meetings. In addition representatives of patient organisations who from time to time Council may think appropriate will be invited to attend Council meetings as observers. Observers shall not vote at Council meetings or with the Ordinary Membership, unless a member of BPEG.

17. The Database Manager can be co-opted to Council. He/she shall not vote at Council meetings, unless he/she is an elected or otherwise co-opted Member of Council.

18. The subscription shall be fixed by the Council and shall become payable on the 1st day of July. Failure to pay due subscriptions within one year shall be considered equivalent to resignation.

19. The accounts of the Group shall be submitted to the Group by the Council at each Annual General Meeting.

20. The Secretary shall summon all meetings and circulate the programme to Members at least one month before the meeting. The Secretary shall keep minutes of the proceedings of the Group.

21. The Treasurer shall keep accounts, collect subscriptions, and be responsible for the expenditure of the Group.