ELIZABETH THE SECOND
By the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and of Our other Realms and Territories Queen, Head of Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith:

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, GREETING!

Whereas an humble Petition has been presented unto Us by The Faculty of Ophthalmologists (hereinafter called “the Faculty”) and The Ophthalmological Society of the United Kingdom (hereinafter called “the Society”) praying that We should grant a Charter of Incorporation to The College of Ophthalmologists (hereinafter referred to as “the College”) for the better advancement of the science and practice of ophthalmology and the training of medical practitioners therein:

AND WHEREAS We having taken the said Petition into Our Royal consideration are minded to accede thereto:

NOW THEREFORE KNOW YE that We by virtue of Our Prerogative Royal and of all other powers thereunto Us enabling, of Our especial grace, certain knowledge and mere motion have granted and declared and by these Presents do for Us, Our Heirs and Successors grant and declare as follows:—

3. (1) The objects for which the College is incorporated shall be to:
   (a) advance the science and practice of ophthalmology;
   (b) educate medical practitioners in the science and practice of ophthalmology;
   (c) maintain proper standards in the practice of ophthalmology for the benefit of the public;
   (d) promote study and research in ophthalmology and related subjects and publish the useful results of such study and research;
   (e) further instruction and training in ophthalmology both in the United Kingdom and overseas;
   (f) educate the general public in all matters relating to vision and the health of the human eye.

“Ophthalmology” means the branch of medical science concerned with the study of the eye and visual system and the investigation diagnosis and treatment by medical surgical or optical means of disorders affecting them;
“Ophthalmologist” means a medical practitioner who practises ophthalmology;
“The College” means The College of Ophthalmologists;
“The Council” means The Council of the College;
“The Ordinances” means the Ordinances of the College; and
“Special Resolution” means a resolution of a General Meeting of which not less than 21 days' written notice has been given prior to such meeting carried by a majority of not less that two thirds of those voting in person or by post.
(2) For the purpose of attaining the aforesaid objects but not further or otherwise the College may exercise the following powers:

(a) to conduct examinations and award Certificates and Diplomas in ophthalmology and related subjects, provide, establish and maintain offices, examination halls, lecture rooms, libraries and museums, with all requisite equipment, establish lecturerships in ophthalmology and related subjects and award prizes and scholarships: PROVIDED THAT no Certificate, Diploma or other like award issued by the College shall contain any statement expressing or implying that it is granted by or under the authority of any department or authority of Our Government;

(b) to maintain a Register of members;

(c) to disseminate information on all matters affecting ophthalmology and related subjects, and establish, print, publish, issue and circulate such papers, journals, magazines, books, periodicals and publications and hold meetings, conferences, congresses, seminars and instructional courses as shall be necessary to attain the objects or in any way beneficial to the work of the College;

(d) to develop the application of ophthalmology and related subjects in relation to medicine with a view to maintaining the highest possible standards of professional competence and practices and act as an authoritative body for the purpose of consultation in matters of public and professional interest concerning ophthalmology and related subjects;

(e) to receive into its possession the assets of the Faculty and the Society;

(f) to undertake and execute any charitable trusts with may lawfully be undertaken by the College;

(g) to invest the moneys of the college not immediately required for its purposes in accordance with the provisions of the Ordinances;

(h) to establish and support or aid in the establishment and support of any charitable associations or institutions and to subscribe or guarantee money for charitable purposes in any way connected with the purposes of the College or calculated to further its objects;

(i) to do all such other things as shall further the attainment of its objects or any of the them: PROVIDED THAT the College shall not support with its funds any object which would make it a Trade Union, nor shall its objects extend to the regulation of relations between workers and employers or organisations of workers and organisations or employers.

4. The income and property of the College whencesoever derived, shall be applied solely towards the promotion of its objects, and no portion thereof shall be paid or transferred directly or indirectly, by way of dividend, bonus or otherwise howsoever by way of profit, to the members of the College; PROVIDED THAT nothing herein shall prevent the payment in good faith of reasonable and proper remuneration to any officer or servant of the College, or to any member of the College, in return for any services actually rendered to the College nor prevent the payment of interest at a rate not exceeding five per centum per annum on money lent or reasonable and proper rent for premises demised or let by any member of the College; but so that no member of the Council shall be appointed to any salaried office of the College or any office of the College paid by fees, and that no remuneration of other benefit in money or money’s worth shall be given by the College to any member of such Council except repayment of out-of-pocket expenses and interest at the rate aforesaid on money lent or reasonable and proper rent for premises demised or let to the College; PROVIDED THAT the provision last aforesaid shall not apply to any payment to any company of which a member of the Council may be a member, and of which such member holds no more than one-hundredth part of the capital, and such member shall not be bound to account for any share of profits he may receive in respect of any such payment; AND FURTHER PROVIDED that this provision shall not apply to any payment to a member of the Council for services rendered to the College as an examiner or lecturer.

5. There shall be three classes of members of the College, namely, (i) Fellows (ii) Members and (iii) Affiliates, who shall be such persons who shall be admitted to such classes in such manner as may from time to time prescribed by the Ordinances.

6. The College shall have power to elect as Honorary Fellows such persons, and in such manner, as the Ordinances may provide and to admit Honorary Fellows so elected to such privileges (other
than that of voting as members of the College) as may from time
to time be conferred upon them by or under the Ordinances.

7. There shall be Honorary Officers of the College who shall be
appointed in the manner prescribed in the Ordinances.

8. The management of the College shall be vested in the Council
being composed of members of the College and constituted in
accordance with the provisions of the Ordinances. The Council
shall administer the affairs of the College in accordance with this
Our Charter and the Ordinances and shall exercise such powers
and do such acts and things as may be exercised or done by the
College and are not by the provisions of this Our Charter or the
Ordinances directed to be exercised or done by the College in
General Meeting.

9. (1) The Ordinances may (subject to the provisions of this Our
Charter):-

(a) prescribe the qualification for Fellowship and for Membership and
for Affiliateship of the College and the other terms of such
Fellowship, Membership or Affiliateship and prescribe or limit the
amount of the subscriptions to be paid by Fellows, Members and
Affiliates;

(b) provide for the resignation of Fellowship and of Membership and
of Affiliateship and for the removal from or other modes of
termination of Fellowship, Membership and of Affiliateship of the
College;

(c) provide for and prescribe the constitution and powers of the
Council and the mode of election of the members thereof
respectively;

(d) provide for the holding of meetings of the College and of the
Council;

(e) provide for the appointment of officers of the College;

(f) provide for the payment of the personal expenses incurred by
members of the Council or of any committee of the Council in
connection with their attendance at meetings of the Council or of
any committee of the Council or at any conference authorised by
the Council;

(g) provide for the audit of the accounts of the College;

(h) subject to this Our Charter, empower the Council to make and
from time to time revoke, add or amend Bye-laws for regulating
the proceedings at meetings of the College and of the Council
and of any committee of the Council and the conduct of the
business and affairs of the College and any other matters which
require to be so regulated;

(i) provide for the government of the College in all respects not
otherwise provided for by this Our Charter.

(2) The first Ordinances shall be those set out in the First
Schedule hereto. The Ordinances (including the first Ordinances)
may be revoked, added to or amended from time to time by the
College in General Meeting by a Special Resolution; provided that
no such revocation, addition or amendment shall be repugnant to
the provisions of this Our Charter or shall take effect until the
same shall have been approved by the Lords if Our Most Honourable Privy Council, of which approval a Certificate under
the hand of the Clerk of Our said Privy Council shall be conclusive
evidence.

10. The persons named in the Second Schedule hereto shall as from
the date of this Our Charter be the members of and form the first
Council of the College and shall continue to act as such until a
new Council shall be elected in pursuance of the Ordinances. The
persons named in the Third Schedule hereto shall be the first
officers of the College and shall continue to act as such until the
date stated in such schedule when new officers shall be elected in
pursuance of the Ordinances.

11. The College may by a special Resolution in that behalf passed at
any duly convened General Meeting of the College revoke, add or
amend any of the provisions of this Our Charter or of any
Supplemental Charter which may hereafter be granted to the
College, and such revocation, addition or amendment shall, when
allowed by Us, Our Heirs and Successors in Council become
effectual, provided that such revocation, addition or amendment
shall not enable the funds of the College to be applied for non-
charitable purposes. This provision shall apply to this Our Charter
as revoked, added to or amended as aforesaid.
12. It shall be lawful for the College by a special Resolution passed at a General Meeting specially summoned for the purpose to surrender this Our Charter and any Supplemental Charter, subject to the sanction of Us, Our Heirs and Successors in Council and upon such terms as We or They may consider fit, and to wind up or otherwise deal with the affairs of the College in such manner as shall be directed by such General Meeting or in default of such directions as the Council shall think expedient having due regard to the liabilities of the College for the time being. If upon winding up or dissolution of the College there remains after the satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, any property whatsoever, the same shall not be paid to or distributed among the members of the College or any of them but shall, subject to any special trust affecting the same, be given and transferred to some other charitable institution or institutions having objects similar to the objects of the College, and which shall prohibit the distribution of its or their income and property among its or their members to an extent at least as great as is imposed on the College under Article 4 hereof, such institution or institutions to be determined by the College in General Meeting at or before the time of dissolution or in default thereof then to some other charitable object.

13. Lastly, We do hereby for Us, Our Heirs and Successors grant that these Our Letters shall be in all things good, firm, valid, sufficient and effectual in law notwithstanding any omission, imperfection, defect, matter, cause or thing whatsoever to the contrary thereof in these Our Letters contained and shall be taken, construed and adjudged in the most favourable and beneficial sense and to the most favourable and beneficial sense and to the best advantage of and for the College as well in Our Courts of Record as elsewhere any recital, mis-recital, uncertainty or imperfection whatsoever notwithstanding.

IN WITNESS whereof We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent.

WITNESS Ourself at Westminster the ******* day of ******* in the year of Our Reign.

BY WARRANT UNDER THE QUEEN'S SIGN MANUAL