

**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:-

1. All present members of the Faculty and of the Society and all other persons who shall pursuant to this Our Charter and the Ordinances become members of the Corporation hereby constituted are hereby created and henceforth for ever shall be one Body Politic and Corporate by the name of “The Royal College of Ophthalmologists” and by the same name shall have perpetual succession and a Common Seal with power to alter, vary, break and make anew the said Seal at their discretion, and by the same name may sue and be sued in all Courts in all manner of actions and proceedings, and shall have power to do all other matters and things incidental or appertaining to a Body Corporate.

2. In this Our Charter:

“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 Trustees” means The Trustees of the College;

“The Ordinances” means the Ordinances of the College; and

“Special Resolution” means a resolution of the members at 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 than two thirds of those voting in person or by post.

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.

(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 lectureships 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 which 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 or a Trustee shall be appointed to any salaried office of the College or any office of the College paid by fees, and that no remuneration or other benefit in money or money's worth shall be given by the College to any member of the Council or a Trustee 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 or a Trustee may be a member, and of which such person 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 or she 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 or a Trustee for services rendered to the College as an examiner or lecturer.
5. There shall be five classes of members of the College, namely, (i) Fellows (ii) Members (iii) Diplomates (iv) Affiliates and (v) Associates, who shall be such persons who shall be admitted to such classes in such manner as may from time to time be prescribed by the Ordinances.

6. The College shall have power to appoint as Honorary Fellows such persons, and in such manner, as the Ordinances may provide and to allow Honorary Fellows 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 Trustees being constituted in accordance with the provisions of the Ordinances. The Trustees 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, Membership, Diplomates, Affiliateship and Associates of the College and other terms of their membership and prescribe or limit the amount of the subscriptions to be paid by them;
  - (b) provide for the resignation, cessation or termination of Fellowship, Membership, Diplomates, Affiliateship and Associates of the College;
  - (c) provide for and prescribe the constitution and powers of the Trustees and the mode of their appointment or election;
  - (d) provide for the holding of meetings of the College and the Trustees;
  - (e) provide for the appointment of officers of the College;
  - (f) provide for the payment of personal expenses incurred by the Trustees or of any committee of the Trustees in connection with their attendance at meetings of the Trustees or of any committee of the Trustees or at any conference authorised by the Trustees;
  - (g) provide for the audit of the accounts of the College;
  - (h) subject to this Our Charter, empower the Trustees to make and from time to time revoke, add to or amend Bye-laws for regulating

- 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 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 of 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 College may by a Special Resolution in that behalf passed at any duly convened General Meeting of the College revoke, add to 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

11. 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 Trustees 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.

12. 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 Ourselves at Westminster the \*\*\*\*\* day of \*\*\*\*\* in the year of Our Reign.

**BY WARRANT UNDER THE QUEEN'S SIGN MANUAL**