

# British Association of Accredited Ayurvedic Practitioners

## CONSTITUTION

Adopted on the 26<sup>th</sup> June 2010

### 1. ADOPTION

- 1.1 The association and its property will be administered and managed in accordance with the provisions in this constitution.

### 2. NAME

- 2.1 The name of the Association is **British Association of Accredited Ayurvedic Practitioners** or the acronym "**BAAAP**" (hereinafter referred to as the "Charity").

### 3. OBJECTS

- 3.1 The Association's objects are as follows (the "Objects"):

- 3.1.1 to advance the health of the public through the promotion and use of the ancient Indian medical science of Ayurveda ("Ayurveda"), including but not limited to:

3.1.1.1 assistance in the treatment and care of persons suffering from physical and mental illness of any description or in need of rehabilitation as a result of such illness by the provision of various ayurvedic therapies, as well as ancillary practices such as yoga, breathing techniques ("pranayam") and meditation;

3.1.1.2 provision of facilities for persons wishing to seek ayurvedic treatments and/or to practice yoga, pranayam and meditation;

- 3.1.2 to advance the education of the public in health care through the promotion of Ayurveda, its practice and its benefits, including but not limited to:

3.1.2.1 the promotion of the use of Ayurveda as a form of preventative medicine;

3.1.2.2 the provision of lectures about Ayurvedic healthcare;

3.1.2.3 the publication of newsletters about Ayurvedic healthcare;

3.1.2.4 establishing a strong evidence base for Ayurvedic treatment modalities by encouraging research and dissemination of findings

- 3.1.3 to promote the awareness of the public of the importance of using the services of appropriately qualified Ayurvedic practitioners, including but not limited to:

3.1.3.1 informing the public about the nature of the requisite qualifications of an Ayurvedic practitioner and about simple measures that the public can take in order to verify the qualifications of a particular practitioner;

3.1.3.2 alerting the public to the potential health-related dangers of using the services of a person falsely claiming to be a qualified Ayurvedic practitioner, or a person claiming to be able to practice Ayurveda without the requisite education and training;

3.1.3.3 creating a directory and database of qualified Ayurvedic practitioners, in particular but not limited to, in the United Kingdom;

- 3.1.3.4 creating a forum through which members of the public can make complaints about an Ayurvedic practitioner and developing procedures to allow such cases to be notified to the relevant medical authorities in order to facilitate further investigation by such medical authority.
- 3.1.4 to advance the professional development of ayurvedic practitioners, including but not limited to by the following means:
  - 3.1.4.1 providing lectures, seminars, professional and clinical workshops, informal discussion groups and publications;
  - 3.1.4.2 developing networks of ayurvedic practitioners, educational institutions and hospitals in order to promote the creation of opportunities for ayurvedic graduates to obtain clinical internships required for qualification purposes, and for newly qualified, junior and experienced practitioners to obtain further professional experience and education;
- 3.1.5 To advance the continued development of the science of Ayurveda, including but not limited to through the following means:
  - 3.1.5.1 to promote and, where practicable, raise funding for the continued support of high quality research into traditional Ayurvedic therapies and treatment modalities;
  - 3.1.5.2 to encourage the sharing of experience and creating a database of good practice;
  - 3.1.5.3 to encourage practitioners to participate in and contribute to education and training events.
- 3.1.6 To promote the official recognition of Ayurveda as a medical science globally and the need for formalised regulation of the practice of Ayurveda, including but not limited to through the following means:
  - 3.1.6.1 lobbying administrative, legislative and regulatory bodies, including but not limited to the British government and other European governments, for the recognition of Ayurveda as a distinct and independent system of health care with full statutory recognition of practitioners;
  - 3.1.6.2 promoting the need to protect patients and members of the public by ensuring that Ayurvedic Medicine is only practised by practitioners with a BAMS (Bachelor of Ayurvedic Medicine & Surgery) degree from a recognized Indian university or with a recognized Higher Education degree in Ayurveda BA (Hons)/ B.Sc (Hons) from a recognised university;
- 3.1.7 To preserve and protect the health and safety of the public by promoting access to safe and good quality Ayurvedic medicinal products to practitioners and their patients, including but not limited to through the following means:
  - 3.1.7.1 making strong recommendations to the Ministry of Health, Govt of India and manufacturers of authentic Ayurvedic medicines to conform to international GMP requirements.
  - 3.1.7.2 encouraging the Govt. of India and Ayurvedic medicines manufacturers to secure marketing authorization for authentic medicines in accordance with the regulatory requirements in the UK/EU;
  - 3.1.7.3 encouraging the Govt. of India and Ayurvedic medicines manufacturers to get patents for traditional Ayurvedic medicines and therapies as a way of protecting the intellectual property of qualified Ayurvedic practitioners.

- 3.1.8** To preserve and protect the heritage of Ayurveda, including but not limited to the following means:
- 3.1.8.1** establishing a watchdog body to report on attempts to patent ayurvedic medicines and treatments for commercial means; attempts to dilute or distort traditional treatments without establishing their safety or effectiveness
  - 3.1.8.2** establishing links with other Ayurvedic organisations and professional regulatory bodies
- 3.1.9** To encourage the achievement of the objects of the Association through encouraging membership of the Association by qualified Ayurvedic practitioners, other medical professionals, students and persons who support Ayurvedic medicine including but not limited to through the promotion of the following benefits of membership:
- 3.1.9.1** representation of Members and their interests with respect to both the general public and any regulatory or other bodies;
  - 3.1.9.2** representation of patients in order to understand their needs and expectations with regards to Ayurvedic practitioners and treatments
- 3.1.10** to do all acts and things which are ancillary to, or which are required or desirable in order to achieve the Association's objects, including but not limited to:
- 3.1.10.1** bank account
  - 3.1.10.2** fund-raising

#### **4. MEMBERSHIP**

- 4.1** Application for membership shall be made to and approved by the Executive Committee of the Association.
- 4.2 Categories of Membership**

There will be six classes of membership:

##### **A. Full Members**

**A (a)** Individuals with a Bachelor of Ayurvedic Medicine & Surgery (BAMS) degree from a recognized Indian or Sri Lankan university or a recognised university outside India

**A (b)** Individuals with a B.A. (Hons)/B.Sc (Hons) degree or equivalent in Ayurveda can apply for full membership after they have completed a mandatory clinical Internship of 1000 hours at a recognized Ayurvedic teaching hospital or training clinic in India or in the UK/Europe.

##### **B. Associate Members**

Qualified medical practitioners who have an interest in and support Ayurvedic Medicine.

##### **C. Student Members**

Students on an undergraduate degree programme in Ayurveda at an approved university in the UK/Europe and those who have not yet finished their internship.

##### **D. Institutional Membership**

Educational institutions offering approved programmes in Complementary/ Alternative Medicines, other organisations representing health professionals.

##### **E. Ayurvedic Therapists**

Those who have received the required standard of training at a bona fide Ayurvedic institution in

India or Sri Lanka and meet other stipulated conditions of membership (Resolution ix of AGM held on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2010).

#### **F. Friends of BAAAP**

Any individual who is supportive of Ayurveda.

- 4.3 The AGM may elect honorary members.
- 4.4 The Association may elect a Patron/ or Patrons, who would be invited to the AGM in a non-voting capacity.
5. **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**
- 5.1 All members except 'Friends of BAAAP' are eligible to vote in elections for positions in the Executive Committee.
- 5.2 The Executive Committee of the Association shall consist of a Chairperson, a President, a Vice President, General Secretary, Joint Secretary and Treasurer. The holders of these posts within the Association shall serve for a term of three years. The holders of these positions may stand for re-election in the same capacity. Nominations for officers may be submitted in writing subject to the nominees' agreement and details of nominees must be circulated with notice of the AGM
- 5.3 All nominees for Executive Committee posts should make a presentation at the AGM prior to the casting of votes.
- 5.4 Elections to posts in the Executive Committee will be held at an AGM.
- 5.5 The Association may also have additional officers to be elected once in three years by the AGM for the posts of Membership Secretary, Publicity/Press Officer, Medicines Adviser, International Liaison Officer.
- 5.6 The Executive Committee shall be assisted and supported by four main **Special Committees** for Consumer Protection, Regulatory Issues, Ethics and Disciplinary Matters, Education and Research. Honorary Members may be appointed as Chairpersons and as members of these Special Committees.
6. **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF MEMBERSHIP**
- 6.1 There shall be an AGM in the month of June each year for which at least 21 days prior notice shall be provided to all members who are entitled to vote together with an agenda.
- 6.2 The Chairperson or President shall preside at the AGM.
- 6.3 The Chairperson, the President or Vice President or the delegate of any such person, as applicable plus the Treasurer (or his/her delegate) and the General Secretary (or his/her delegate) and one member shall constitute the quorum for that meeting
- 6.4 The business of the AGM shall include reports from the Chairperson or President, General Secretary and Treasurer (the "Reporting Officers") and shall also include elections for vacant positions in the Executive Committee. Reporting Officers unable to attend the AGM should submit a written report to the Chairperson prior to the meeting.
- 6.5 Each member of the Association present at a meeting shall have one vote for each motion put before the AGM except in the case of election of Executive Committee members (see **5.1**). A resolution will require a simple majority. In the event of an equal number of votes in favour of and against the motion, the Chairperson shall have the casting vote. All votes shall be counted by a show of hands unless the meeting resolves by show of hands that a vote by ballot is required.

## **7. SUB- COMMITTEES**

- 7.1 The Executive Committee may appoint sub-committees as and when required.
- 7.2 All sub-committees shall report to the Executive Committee who shall devise their terms of reference and rules of engagement.

## **8. FINANCE**

- 8.1 The Executive Committee shall set the level of the annual subscription payable by members, which shall then be proposed at the AGM.
- 8.2 Annual subscriptions shall be payable pro rata in the first year) and shall fall due on 31<sup>st</sup> March each year. Membership shall be deemed to have lapsed should any member's subscription not be paid within one month of that date, unless good reason is provided to the satisfaction of the Executive Committee.
- 8.3 The Association's accounts shall run from 1<sup>st</sup> June to 31<sup>st</sup> May.
- 8.4 The appointment and replacement of bankers and auditors shall be made by the Treasurer following prior approval or, where necessary, ratification by the Members in an AGM.
- 8.5 All monies shall be administered by the Treasurer who will pay incoming monies into a bank account in the name of the Association and shall arrange, in consultation with the Executive Committee, for the proper investment of any available balance. The Treasurer shall account to the Executive Committee for all monies and shall produce a written report addressed to Members and present such report at the AGM.
- 8.6 Any withdrawal of monies from the Association's bank account shall be against the signatures of any two Executive Committee members or as may be required by the rules of the bank.
- 8.7 Travel expenses of members of any of the Association's committees or sub-committees shall not generally be reimbursed except in special circumstances, approved in advance by the Chairperson and the Treasurer following receipt of a written application from such member. Advance notification of other expenses likely to be incurred by members, in connection with the work of committees and sub-committees, shall be made to the Treasurer for approval. Following approval in writing by the Treasurer of any such expenses, the Treasurer shall reimburse any such approved amounts to members upon their submission of bona fide receipts. In the event the actual expenses incurred are greater than any amount approved in advance by the Treasurer, such additional amount shall only be reimbursed upon approval in writing of the Executive Committee.
- 8.8 The Treasurer shall prepare financial forecasts based on assessment of the Association's income and expenditure to be presented at the AGM and/or at half-yearly meetings.

## **9. ALTERATION OF CONSTITUTION**

- 9.1 Any proposal to alter the Constitution must be approved by a two-thirds majority of those present (or represented by proxy or voting in writing) and voting.
- 9.2 Such a proposal shall be accompanied by a copy of the relevant part of the existing Constitution and proposed amendments with the notice of the AGM circulated to Members.

## **10. TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP**

- 10.1 If the actions of any member shall, in the opinion of the Executive Committee, be injurious to the interests of the Association or the public, the Executive Committee is empowered in their sole discretion to discipline and/or suspend that member.

**10.2** Termination of membership shall be by resolution passed at the AGM by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting.

**11. DISSOLUTION OF THE ASSOCIATION**

**11.1** The Association may be dissolved only at the AGM or at a special meeting convened for the purpose of dissolution. The motion to dissolve must be carried by three quarters of members present and voting (or represented or voting by proxy).

**11.2** Before a vote for or against dissolution be taken, the meeting shall determine how the assets of the association shall be disposed of in the event of the motion to dissolve being carried.

The Amended Constitution was adopted on the **26th** day of **June** 2010.

**Signed** .....

**Date**.....

**Dr Indira Anand**

**Chair**

**British Association of Accredited Ayurvedic Practitioners**