



# THE SOCIETY FOR CLINICAL DENTAL TECHNOLOGY

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## CONSTITUTION

Interim Constitution based on principles and motions agreed upon at the inaugural meeting on 17 August 1998 and accepted by the Interim Executive Committee.

## NAME

The name of the association shall be:

**The Society for Clinical Dental Technology**, hereafter referred to as **The Society**

## OFFICE AND LANGUAGE

The headquarters of The Society shall be the office of the Secretariat and the official language shall be English.

## DEFINITIONS

- 1 Clinical Dental Technology  
is the practice of supplying and fitting dentures where both chair-side and laboratory work are performed by one and the same person, qualified and authorized for the purpose. The training of a dental technician is a prerequisite for the CDT training.
- 2 Clinical Dental Technologist (CDT)  
is a highly skilled oral health professional who have specifically been trained to design, construct, fit, patient aftercare and care of removable prosthetic appliances. These skills enables a CDT as a professional member of the Oral Health Team to work independently of other Oral Health Care providers to ensure optimal fit, maximum comfort and general well-being of denture wearers, and to refer the denture wearer to other Oral Health Team members when necessary or appropriate.
- 3 Removable prosthetic appliances  
includes acrylic & metal full dentures, partial dentures, immediate dentures, over- dentures, dentures over implants, mouth guards, oral protectors (bruxism splints), and sleep apnea appliances and the repair, reline or adjustment thereto.

- 4 Equity  
is the quality of being fair and reasonable in a way that gives equal treatment and opportunity to everyone. Equity is also the right of recourse to principles of justice, used to correct laws when these would apply unfairly in special circumstances

## OBJECTIVES

The objectives of The Society shall be:

- 1 To promote the establishment and maintenance of a professional oral health category of clinical dental technologist under an Act of Parliament in South Africa;
- 2 To prepare and recommend minimum standards of training and qualification for clinical dental technologists in South Africa;
- 3 To negotiate at an international, national, provincial or local level or otherwise to assist members and branches to establish, maintain and/or improve the practice of clinical dental technology;
- 4 To work with other professional Associations, Societies, NGOs or organizations towards achieving these objectives;
- 5 To collect and distribute information relating to the profession, including existing and proposed legislation and experience gained through the practice of the profession of denturism worldwide;
- 6 To hold conferences related to CDT and to facilitate in the establishment and maintenance of a culture of continuous education;
- 7 To publish books, reports, articles and other literature relating to clinical dental technology;
- 8 To compile and publish a Code of Ethics and Practice Guidelines for the profession;
- 9 To oversee and facilitate the orderly conduct and function of Humanitarian Outreach Programs to serve poor communities, as determined from time to time by the Executive Committee;
- 10 To engage in all other activities consistent with these objectives.

## MEMBERSHIP

Membership of The Society shall be voluntary, but restricted to individuals who are registered dental technicians/technologists with the SA Dental Technicians Council or persons who qualifies for registration in terms of Act 19 of 1979, and to individuals who, in the opinion of the Executive Committee, are committed to the objectives of The Society.

## **PROOF OF ELIGIBILITY**

Applicants for membership of The Society shall submit to the Secretary a signed declaration testifying to their acceptance of The Society's objectives together with their personal particulars. The Executive Committee shall have the power to accept or reject applications for membership in conformity with the requirements of the Constitution.

## **TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP**

Members wishing to resign from The Society shall do so by giving no less than three month's notice in writing to the Secretary but shall remain liable for subscription payment for the period to the month on which their resignation becomes effective. No refund of subscription already paid shall be made in the event of resignation

A member may be expelled from The Society by the Executive Committee on the grounds of violating its objectives or code of ethics or having brought The Society into disrepute. The member concerned shall have the right to appeal to the General Council at an annual general meeting, whose decision will be final.

## **PRIVACY OF MEMBERSHIP**

Pro-denturism advocators have in the past been victimized with a total boycott of work from their only prescribed clients who also holds the monopoly of supply of dentures. The Society has accordingly adopted a policy of privacy of membership.

## **SUBSCRIPTIONS AND FINANCE**

All members shall pay to The Society on demand an annual subscription at the appropriate rate as determined by the General Council at an annual general meeting. The Society will accept funding in the form of donations to be used towards attaining the objectives of The Society.

The funds will be kept in a bank account in the name of The Society and the financial year of The Society shall be from the 1<sup>st</sup> of March to the last day in February of the next year.

All reasonable expenses incurred by the office bearers or by other delegated members in the transaction of Society business shall be defrayed from Society funds subject to the submission of the relevant vouchers approved by the President and Treasurer.

## **THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The office bearers of The Society shall consist of a President, Deputy President, Secretary and Treasurer. They shall be responsible for the day-to-day administration of The Society and shall meet together as and when business requires. In addition there shall be elected from amongst delegated members of the General Council where possible Vice-Presidents with geographic or other areas of responsibility as the General Council may determine. The Executive Committee shall serve for a period of three years, after which they shall retire, but shall be eligible for re-election.

## **GENERAL COUNCIL**

The Society shall be governed by its members in General Council, which shall meet annually at such times and places as the General Council shall determine. The General Council shall consist of elected office bearers and all members in good financial standing.

The business of General Council shall include amongst others:

- 1 Reports by the office bearers, including presentation of audited annual accounts;
- 2 Reports from branches;
- 3 Budget of income and expenditure for the following financial year and determination of annual rates of subscription;
- 4 Election of office bearers, auditors and honorary members;
- 5 The appointment of persons with special responsibilities and the settlement of remuneration, if any, for such appointment;
- 6 Resolutions as provided for in the Rules;
- 7 Amendments to the Constitution and rules as provided for;
- 8 Any other matters of direct or indirect concern.

Motions for resolutions proposed by members or by the office bearers for determination by the General Council shall be included in the Agenda which shall be submitted to the Secretary not less than one month in advance of the meeting for which they are intended.

The Executive Committee may call extraordinary meetings. Notice of extraordinary meetings shall state the nature of the business of such meeting and only that business shall be transacted at such meeting.

## **DUTIES OF OFFICE BEARERS**

### **Chairperson**

The Chairperson at meetings of The Society shall be the President or in his/her absence the Deputy President. In the event of neither of these being present at a properly convened meeting where a quorum is present, the members shall elect a chairperson of their choice for the duration of that meeting.

### **Secretary**

The Secretary shall record the proceedings of all General Council meetings and shall distribute minutes to the members of The Society within two months of the date of the meeting. The Secretary shall be responsible for all administrative duties and correspondence.

### **Treasurer**

The Treasurer shall be responsible for ensuring that proper books of account are kept, recording all financial transactions of The Society and shall produce annual audited statements of account circulated in advance and such other statements of The Society's finances as may be required from time to time.

## **VOTING AND QUORUM**

Decisions of the General Council shall be taken on a simple majority vote by a show of hands. Each member shall have one vote, the presiding officer having a casting vote in the event of an equality of votes for and against a proposition. Voting by proxy will not be accepted on behalf of a member who is not present. The quorum for meetings of the General Council shall be 20% in good standing.

## **ADDRESS OF THE SOCIETY**

The official address shall be the address of the Secretariat and if appropriate also a Postal address.

## **AUDITORS**

An Auditor, being a professional accountant shall be appointed by the General Council but shall not otherwise be an Office Bearer of The Society.

## **INTERNATIONAL AFFILIATION**

The Society is to affiliate with the International Federation of Denturists and other global organizations to maintain communication with the international denturism community to stay abreast with international tendencies and benchmarking in the profession.

## **DISSOLUTION**

In the event of The Society dissolving or failing to exist, any money in the funds of The Society (after all outstanding debts have been defrayed), will be made available to dental technology students as bursaries. The decision to dissolve The Society can only be made by the General Council and by a two third majority vote of those members present and voting.

## **AMENDMENT OF CONSTITUTION**

In order to facilitate the registration of The Society as a Section 21 Company (Company not for gain) the Secretary have the authority to make the amendments required by legal prescription for this purpose. The constitution and rules of The Society may be amended by resolution of the General Council on a vote of not less than two thirds of members present and voting. Not less than one month notice of the intention to amend the constitution shall be given to the Secretary and the motion proposing such amendment/s shall be included in the Agenda for the meeting concerned.