

THE CONSTITUTION OF
THE INDO-AMERICAN PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION, Inc.

ARTICLE I: NAME

SECTION I:

The name of this Association shall be: THE INDO-AMERICAN PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION, Inc., herein after to be referred to as the Association.

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

SECTION I:

To promote learning, research, and dissemination of knowledge in areas related to personality development, psychopathology, ethno- psychopharmacology, effects of immigration and other mental health issues as related to delivery of, appropriate, culturally congruent and quality services to people of Indian origin or descent (person of Indian origin or descent as defined by the Government of India).

SECTION II:

To provide, a forum for communication and exchange of ideas amongst Psychiatrists of Indian origin or Indian descent (where one parent is of Indian origin as defined above).

SECTION III:

To establish close ties and build on collaborations with the American Psychiatric Association, Indian Psychiatric Society and other National and International Mental Health Organizations.

SECTION IV:

To be an advocate for the specific professional needs of the Psychiatrists of Indian origin or descent in Mental Health Related issues.

SECTION V:

To establish, funds and awards to promote, the cause of mental health in the USA and India.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

1. General Member: Psychiatrists of Indian origin or descent, who have completed the required residency training in psychiatry, are board eligible or certified, and hold an active license to practice medicine in a state or province in the United States or Canada, or formerly held such an active license in good standing, and then retired, and live in the United States or

Canada. Members who belonged to the Life Member category before the adoption of this amended constitution will hereafter be categorized as General Members, and any reference to Life Membership in documents prepared prior to the adoption of this amended constitution will hereafter be recognized as referring to General Membership. General Members is the only category that can vote and hold elected office. The prevailing Membership fees have to be paid as set forth in the bylaws.

2. Resident/Fellow Member (RFM): Physicians of Indian descent who are in an approved residency or fellowship training program in psychiatry in the United States or Canada. Once they become board eligible, they can become a General Member by applying and paying the prevailing membership fees.

3. Associate Member: Non-psychiatric physicians, Indian Psychiatrists practicing in another country, other mental health professionals (*such as psychologists, social workers, nurse practitioners, guidance counselors, marriage counselors, substance abuse counselors, clergy, etc*), academicians, and psychiatrists of non-Indian descent, with an interest in the IAPA, or trainees in the above categories. Associate members may be from any country and of any ethnicity. Associate members must maintain good standing in their respective disciplines.

4. Medical Student Member: Indo-American medical students who are in an approved medical school.

5. Honorary Members: Individuals elected by the Indo-American Psychiatric Association (IAPA) Executive Council (EC) and approved by the Board of Trustees.

Category 1 (General Members) are voting members and categories 2, 3, 4, and 5 are nonvoting members.

SECTION II:

Procedure for becoming an IAPA Member:

1. Completion of application form
2. Payment of applicable fees.
3. Acceptance by the IAPA Executive Council.

SECTION III:

Rights and Duties of Members

1. Only General Members are eligible to vote.
2. All Members may attend meetings of the Association, Executive Council and Board of Trustees, unless they are executive sessions.
3. Only General Members may hold elected office.
4. Any category of member may serve on the various Committees at the pleasure of the President.
5. All members are expected to pay their dues, maintain their professional standing and adhere to professional conduct.

SECTION IV:

Termination of membership:

The following will constitute grounds for termination of membership:

1. Members whose professional license is suspended or revoked in any State of USA or Canada. The procedure for termination will be outlined in the bylaws.

SECTION V: Reinstatement of Membership:

The procedure will be outlined in the bylaws.

SECTION VI:

Dues

All members except Honorary members are responsible for the payment of such dues and levies as determined (or fixed) by the Indo-American Psychiatric Association (IAPA) Executive Council and Board of Trustees from time to time.
(These will be outlined in the bylaws).

ARTICLE IV: OFFICERS of the Indo-American Psychiatric Association:

SECTION I:

The voting members of the Indo-American Psychiatric Association (IAPA) Executive Council (EC) shall be comprised of the President, President- Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, and the Immediate Past President. The President, President-Elect, Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected positions. The Chair of the Board of Trustees will be an ex-officio member of the EC. The qualifications for the above offices will be outlined in the bylaws.

The Board of Trustees (BOT) of IAPA will have a minimum of 5 members and a maximum of 7 members, as determined by the majority of the BOT. Three Immediate Past Presidents will serve on the board and the other members will be elected by the voting members, as outlined in the bylaws.

The Qualifications for officers in the Executive Council and Board of Trustees, and Procedures for electing them may be changed from time to time as described in the by-laws.

SECTION II:

Nomination of Officers of the Indo-American Psychiatric Association (IAPA) Executive Council and BOT shall be done by the Nominations Committee after careful review of the credentials, and approved by the Executive Council and Board of Trustees as outlined in the Bylaws.

The members of the Indo-American Psychiatric Association (IAPA) are to be notified of all nominations as provided by the Bylaws.

Call for nominations are to be placed in the Indo-American Psychiatric Association's website and on the Indo-American Psychiatric Association Executive Council (IAPA – EC) list serve.

The Nominations Committee:

Shall consist of the immediate Past President (Chair), the President, the President-elect, a member of the Board of Trustees, one chapter President and a General member. The Nominating Committee shall draw up a slate of nominees for the office of President-elect, Secretary, and Treasurer and for vacancies on the Board of Trustees. This slate will be presented to the Executive Council for its final approval, no later than one month prior to the annual election.

SECTION III:

Election of officers shall be conducted as specified in the bylaws.

SECTION IV:

A) All Officers shall assume their respective office for a term as outlined in the bylaws at the close of the annual meeting prior to which they have been elected, and shall continue in office until the close of the annual meeting when their term expires. The president-elect shall assume the office of the president at the close of the annual meeting.

B) If the office of the president shall become vacant, the President-Elect shall assume the office. If for any reason, the accession of the president-elect becomes impossible, a successor to the office of the president shall be appointed by the Board of Trustees for the remainder of the unexpired term of the president and/or until the next election, whichever comes first. If the office of the President-elect becomes vacant, an interim President-elect shall be appointed by Board of Trustees for the remainder of the unexpired term and/or until the next election, whichever comes first. If the office of the Secretary or Treasurer becomes vacant for any reason, a successor shall be appointed by the Board of Trustees for the remainder of the term, after consultation with the Executive Council. All these appointments will be in accordance with meeting the qualifications for the office as outlined in the bylaws. For all these offices, the appointment will be ratified at the next annual meeting of the Association, if election is not held prior to the annual meeting.

SECTION V: DUTIES

The President shall preside at the meetings of the Association and/or the Executive Council. He/ She shall also communicate to the Board of Trustees on such matters and make such suggestions as may in his/ her opinion tend to promote the mission of the Association and shall perform other duties as are necessarily incident to the office of the president. The President may, with the approval of the EC, appoint members to an Extended Executive Council without votes in the EC, committees, work groups, task forces, advisors and consultants, as outlined in the Bylaws, to help carry out the work of the Association.

In the event of the absence or disability of the president, the President-Elect shall act in his/ her place.

The Secretary shall give notice of and may attend all meetings of the Association, the Executive Council and the various committees, shall keep record of their proceedings, shall conduct the correspondence of the Association, and keep all records and minutes of the Association.

The Treasurer shall collect, receive disburse and account for all sums of money due or belonging(s) to the Association. He/ She shall also furnish the necessary information about the financial transactions of the Association to the Internal Revenue Services by the due date for filing.

Except as provided otherwise in the constitution and By-Laws, the Executive Council shall have control and management of the day to day affairs of the Association and the newsletter.

The Executive Council shall also have the charge to present an annual operating budget and explore avenues to raise funds for the annual expenses of the Association. The budget will have to be approved by the Board of Trustees.

Additional duties and responsibilities of the office bearers will be outlined in the Bylaws.

SECTION VI: Discipline

Any officer of the Association who does not attend three consecutive meetings of the Executive Council or Board of Trustees without satisfactory explanation to the majority of the council may be expelled or *dropped* by the Executive Council or Board of Trustees respectively.

ARTICLE V: The Board of Trustees

SECTION: I

The President of the Association shall be advised by a Board of Trustees comprised of 5 to 7 members as outlined in the bylaws.

SECTION II: Nomination to the Board of Trustees

Elective members of the Board shall be nominated by the nomination committee and approved as outlined in the bylaws.

SECTION: III; Election of the Board of Trustees

The election of the elective members of the Board of Trustees shall be accomplished by posting the slate on the web site and on the Indo-American Psychiatric Association (IAPA) list serve. The elections will be conducted at the Annual Meeting of the Association.

SECTION IV: Tenure of the Board of Trustees

The tenure of the elective members shall be outlined in the bylaws. At each election the Association shall elect members to succeed those, whose terms have expired and to fill any unfilled vacancies which may have occurred.

SECTION V: Vacancies on the Board of Trustees

- In case one of the trustees leaves before expiry of term, an Acting Trustee, who meets the qualifications, will be appointed by the Board of Trustees, to be ratified by the membership at the next General Body Meeting to serve out the term.

SECTION VI: Function of the Board of Trustees

The role of the Board of Trustees is to advise and be available to guide the Executive Council, while allowing the Executive Council to manage the day to day affairs of the organization. The Chair of the BOT may, with the approval of the BOT, appoint committees, work groups, task forces, advisors and consultants, to help carry out the work of the BOT.

The Board of Trustees will be responsible for:

1. Maintaining the fiscal solvency of the Indo-American Psychiatric Association (IAPA).
2. Insuring that the goals and objectives of Indo-American Psychiatric Association (IAPA) are followed by the Executive Council.
3. Allocation of Dues from Membership as outlined in the Bylaws.
4. Helping the EC with longterm strategic planning.

ARTICLE VI: Executive Council Meetings

SECTION I: Quorum:

At any meeting of the Executive Council, presence of two-thirds of Executive Council

members shall constitute a quorum.

SECTION II: Action by the Executive Council:

At meetings of the Executive Council, resolutions adopted by a majority of those present shall constitute the action of the Executive Council. Records shall be kept of the action taken by the Executive Council and such action shall be reported to the Association at its annual meeting. Actions of the Executive Council may be overturned by majority vote of general members in a General Body Meeting.

SECTION III: Meetings

The Executive Council shall meet periodically as deemed necessary, but at least twice a year, in person, through conference call or e-mail or any such electronic format, for the effective and successful carrying out of the goals and objectives of the Association.

ARTICLE VII: General Body Meetings

The EC will inform the General Members about scheduled General Body Meetings at least 2 weeks in advance, through means specified in the Bylaws.

SECTION I: Annual Meetings

The annual meetings of the Association shall be held at such time and place as shall be determined by the Executive Council.

SECTION II: Special Meetings

Special Meetings of the Association may be called for at such and place as shall be fixed by the Executive Council.

SECTION III: Quorum

At any annual or special meeting of the Association, five percent of the voting membership or thirty voting members (whichever is less) shall constitute the Quorum and shall, except as otherwise specially provided in the Constitution or Bylaws, be sufficient for taking any action.

ARTICLE VIII: Constitution, Bylaws and Amendments

SECTION I: Amendment to the Constitution:

Proposed changes to the Constitution or the amended Constitution shall be posted on the Association's website at least one month before the date of the meeting at which time they are to be considered, and the general members will be informed about this at least two weeks before the meeting date by means outlined in the Bylaws. The changes or the

amended Constitution have to be ratified by two thirds of the EC and BOT respectively and a majority of the general members present at the General Body Meeting.

SECTION II: Amendments to the Bylaws

The Bylaws may from time to time be amended by 2/3rd votes of the officers of the Executive Council and members of the BOT, and the amendments may be operational immediately, but need to be ratified by a majority of general members of the Association present at the next General Body Meeting. Any Bylaws adopted by the Executive Council may be amended or annulled by a majority vote of general members in a General Body Meeting.

ARTICLE IX: Regional Associations:

Chapters of the Association organized by members who are in good standing in the parent organization may be formed. The relationship between the regional associations and the parent organization shall be regulated by the authority of the Executive Council with guidance from the Board of Trustees as indicated in the Bylaws.

ARTICLE X: Dissolution of the Association:

If for any reason this Association is dissolved, its assets will be transferred to the “American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI) Charitable Foundation” – a non-profit organization, with a stipulation that the funds be disbursed to promote mental health in India.

This revised constitution was reviewed and approved by the Executive Council and Board of Trustees as of April 15, 2015 and was ratified at the annual business meeting of IAPA, May 17, 2015.

Signed:

Signed:

Vani Rao, MD
President

Ashwin Patkar, MD
President Elect

Ramaswamy Viswanathan, MD
Chairman, Board of Trustees