

[Text of the Royal Charter of the Royal College of General Practitioners]

*At the Court at Windsor Castle*

THE 23<sup>RD</sup> DAY OF OCTOBER 1972

PRESENT,

THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY  
IN COUNCIL

WHEREAS there was this day read at the Board a Report of a Committee of the Lords of Her Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, dated the 12<sup>th</sup> day of September 1972, in the words following, viz.:-

“YOUR MAJESTY having been pleased, by Your Order of the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of December 1971, to refer unto this Committee the humble Petition of the Royal College of General Practitioners, praying for the grant of a Charter of Incorporation:

“THE LORDS OF THE COMMITTEE, in obedience to Your Majesty's said Order of Reference, have taken the said Petition into consideration and do this day agree humbly to report, as their opinion, to Your Majesty, that a Charter may be granted by Your Majesty in terms of the Draft hereunto annexed.”

HER MAJESTY, having taken into consideration the said Report and the Draft Charter accompanying it, was pleased, by and with the advice of Her Privy Council, to approve thereof and to order, as it is hereby ordered, that the Right Honourable Robert Carr, one of Her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, do cause a Warrant to be prepared for Her Majesty's Royal Signature for passing under the Great Seal a Charter in conformity with the said Draft which is hereunto annexed.

*W.G Agnew*

# 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 the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith:

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, GREETING!

WHEREAS The Royal College of General Practitioners (hereinafter referred to as "the existing College") has by an humble Petition prayed that We would be graciously pleased to grant it a Charter of Incorporation:

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. The members and associates of the existing College at the date hereof 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 General Practitioners" (hereinafter referred to as "the College") 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 from time to time 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. The object for which the College is incorporated shall be to encourage, foster and maintain the highest possible standards in general medical practice and for that purpose to take or join with others in taking any steps consistent with the charitable nature of that object which may assist towards the same.

For the purpose of attaining the said object but not further or otherwise the College may exercise the following powers:-

- (a) To acquire, take over and accept by way of gift from the existing College all the property and assets of every description now belonging to the existing College or held in trust for the same and to undertake, execute and perform any trusts or conditions affecting any of such assets and to defray and to provide for any debts and liabilities to the discharge of which the said assets or any of them shall at the moment of such acquisition be applicable and to give any trustees in whom any such stocks, funds, securities or other assets may be vested a valid receipt, discharge and indemnity for and in respect of the transfer or handing over of the same to the College.
- (b) To establish and maintain an academic and educational headquarters for general medical practitioners.
- (c) To establish and maintain regional faculties or other organisations, whether within or without the structure of the College, designed to further the object for which the College is established.
- (d) To undertake or assist others in undertaking training courses or other educational activities designed to enhance the medical knowledge and skill of general medical practitioners.
- (e) To encourage the carrying on by general medical practitioners and others of research into medical matters with a view to the improvement of general medical practice in any field and to undertake or assist others in undertaking such research.
- (f) To encourage the publication by general medical practitioners of original work on medical or scientific subjects connected with general medical practice.
- (g) To diffuse information on all matters affecting general medical practice and establish, print, publish, issue and circulate such papers, journals, magazines, books, periodicals and publications and hold such meetings, conferences, seminars and instructional courses as may assist the object of the College.
- (h) To co-operate with other bodies in all matters relating to or connected with the attainment of the object for which the College is established.
- (i) To encourage persons of ability to enter the medical profession and become general medical practitioners.
- (j) To conduct examinations and award postgraduate diplomas or other certificates of proficiency or standard in general medical practice as a whole or in any subject required to be covered in general medical practice (whether upon examination or upon thesis or upon outstanding work in or in connection with general medical practice considered worthy of special commendation or upon other grounds which may be

considered to justify such grant) and to establish professorships and lectureships and award prizes and scholarships.

Provided that no such diploma or certificate 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 Our Government or any Department thereof.

- (k) To purchase, acquire, rent, construct and otherwise obtain land and building which may be required for the purposes of the College and may lawfully be acquired for those purposes, and to deal with or dispose of the same as may be deemed expedient with a view to promoting the object of the College.
- (l) To invest the moneys of the College not immediately required for its purposes in accordance with the provisions of the Ordinances.
- (m) To raise or borrow money on any security and to secure or discharge any debt or obligation of the College in such manner as may be thought fit.
- (n) To subscribe or guarantee money for any charitable purpose.
- (o) To undertake, accept, execute, perform and administer any lawful trusts and conditions affecting any real or personal property held or owned or to be held or owned in trust for the College or any other charitable association, institution, society or body and any other charitable trusts.
- (p) To do all such other things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the object of the College.

Provided that –

- (i) In case the College shall take or hold any property which may be subject to any trusts, the College shall only deal with or invest the same in such manner as allowed by law, having regard to such trusts;
- (ii) In case the College shall take or hold any property subject to the jurisdiction of the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales or of Our Secretary of State for Education and Science, the College shall not sell, mortgage, charge or lease the same without such authority, approval or consent as may be required by law, and as regards any such property the Council of the College shall be chargeable for any such property that may come into its hands and shall be answerable and accountable for its own acts, receipts, neglects and defaults and for the due administration of such property in the same manner and to the same extent as such Council would have been if this Our Charter had not been granted, and the grant of this Our Charter shall not diminish or impair any control or authority exercisable by the Chancery Division of Our High Court of Justice, the

Charity Commissioners for England and Wales or Our Secretary of State for Education and Science over such Council.

3. The income and property of the College, whencesoever derived, shall be applied solely towards the promotion of its object 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 six per centum per annum) on money lent or of reasonable and proper rent for premises demised or let by any member to the College or of reasonable fees for acting as an examiner or lecturer for the College or of any fellowship or scholarship or research grant awarded by the College in pursuance of its object; 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 or other benefit in money or money's worth shall be given by the College to any member of the Council except repayment of out-of-pocket expenses and interest at the rate aforesaid on money lent or reasonable and proper rent as aforesaid, or (subject to the provisions of the Ordinances) reasonable fees for acting as an examiner or lecturer for the College or the benefits of any such fellowship, scholarship or research grant as aforesaid; 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 in which such member shall not hold 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.

4. There shall be four classes of Members of the College, namely:

- (i) RCGP Fellows;
- (ii) RCGP Members;
- (iii) RCGP International Fellows;
- (iv) RCGP International Members;

and in addition there shall be associates who shall not rank as members of the College but shall (subject to the Ordinances) be entitled to participate in the activities of the College.

5. The first Fellows of the College shall be the persons the named as Fellows in the Register of Members of the existing College on the date of this Our Charter. Fellows of the College shall hereafter be appointed in such manner as shall from time to time be prescribed by the Ordinances.

6. The first Members of the College shall be the persons (other than Fellows of the existing College) named as Members in the Register of Members of the existing College on the date of this Our Charter. Members of the College shall hereafter be admitted in such manner as shall from time to time be prescribed by the Ordinances.

7. The first associates of the College shall be the persons named as associates in the Register of Associates of the existing College on the date of this Our Charter. Associates of the College shall hereafter be admitted in such manner as shall from time to time be prescribed by the Ordinances.

8. The College shall have power to appoint as Honorary Fellows such persons, and in such manner, as shall from time to time be prescribed by the Ordinances. Honorary Fellows shall be entitled to such privileges (other than that of voting as members of the College) as shall from time to time be prescribed by the Ordinances. The first Honorary Fellows of the College shall be the persons who are Honorary Fellows of the existing College on the date of this Our Charter.

9. The management of the College shall be vested in the Council (herein referred to as "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 may exercise all such powers and do all 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.

10. Each person holding office as a member of the Council of the existing College, or holding any other office of the existing College, on the date of this Our Charter shall, on such date, assume the like office of the College.

11. - (1) The Ordinances of the College (herein referred to as "the Ordinances") may (subject to the provisions of this Our Charter):-

- (a) prescribe the qualifications for membership and associateship of the College and the other terms of such membership or associateship and prescribe or limit the amount of the entrance fees (if any) to be paid on admission to membership or associateship and the subscriptions to be paid by members and associates;
- (b) provide for the resignation of membership or associateship and for the removal from or other modes of termination of membership and associateship of the College;
- (c) provide for and prescribe the constitution and powers of the Council and the mode of election of the members thereof;
- (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 and prescribe the constitutions and powers of Regional Councils, Faculties and sub-Faculties of the College;
- (h) provide for the audit of the accounts of the College;
- (i) empower the Council (subject to this Our Charter and subject or not subject to the confirmation of the College in General Meeting or other restrictions) to make and from time to time to add to, amend or revoke Bye-laws for regulating (subject to this Our Charter and the Ordinances) 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;
- (j) 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 Schedule hereto. The Ordinances (including the first Ordinances) may be added to, amended or revoked from time to time by the College in General Meeting by a Resolution of which not less than twenty-one 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 (hereinafter called "a Special Resolution"); Provided that no such addition, amendment or revocation 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 or Our said Privy Council shall be conclusive evidence.

12. The College may by a Special Resolution in that behalf passed at any duly convened General Meeting of the College, amend, add to or revoke any of the provisions of this Our Charter or of any Supplemental Charter which may hereafter be granted to the College, and such amendment, addition or revocation shall, when allowed by Us, Our Heirs and Successors in Council become effectual, provided that such amendment, addition or revocation shall not enable the funds of the College to be applied for non-charitable purposes. This Article shall apply to this Our Charter and any Supplemental Charter as amended, added to or revoked in manner aforesaid.

13. It shall be lawful for the College by a Resolution passed at a General Meeting specially summoned for the purpose by such majority as is mentioned in Article 11 (2) hereof to surrender this Our Charter and any Supplemental Charter, subject to the sanction of Us, Our Heirs or 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 the 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 object 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 3 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.

14. Lastly, We do hereby for Us, Our Heirs or 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 best advantage of and for the College as well in Our Courts of Record as elsewhere any recital, misrecital, uncertainty or imperfection whatsoever notwithstanding.

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

WITNESS Ourselves at Westminster the Twenty third day of October

in the Twenty first year of Our Reign.

DOBSON

BY WARRANT UNDER THE QUEEN'S SIGN  
MANUAL