Constitution and Rules:

Constitution
1. The Society shall be called “The Irish Cardiac Society”. Its object shall be the advancement of knowledge of Disease of the Heart and Circulation.

2. These objects shall be pursued by meetings for communications and discussions, by lectures and by any other means.

3. The rules of the Society shall not be changed unless at the Annual General Meeting two-thirds of the Ordinary Members present vote in favour of the change. Notice of the suggested change must be sent to the Secretary, who shall notify all Ordinary Members of the proposal at least one month before the meeting.

4. There shall be a President of the Society. He shall be elected for two years. He will represent the Society at home and abroad and will preside over meetings of the Council but not necessarily at the Scientific Meeting of the Society for which a local Chairman may be elected.

Membership
5. The Society shall consist of the following membership categories: Ordinary, Extraordinary, Honorary, International and Affiliate. They shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Ordinary Members present at the Meeting. The Annual subscription will be determined at the Annual General Meeting.

Ordinary Members
6. Ordinary Members shall be Physicians or Surgeons on the Consultant Staff of a Hospital in Ireland or others whose primary interest is in the practice of Cardiology, Cardiovascular Surgery, or in research in these and allied subjects.

7. They shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Ordinary Members present at the Meeting. Every Ordinary Member is required to pay the annual subscription to the Society. A member who fails to pay the annual subscription on two consecutive years will be deemed to have resigned from the Society.

8. New Members are proposed and seconded by current Members of the Society.

Extraordinary Members
9. A Member will cease to be an Ordinary Member on retirement. He shall automatically thereafter become an Extraordinary Member unless he should elect to retire from the Society.
10. Extraordinary Members shall receive the notices, may attend the meetings of the Society, may take part in the proceedings and may propose candidates for ordinary membership. They shall have no vote in the conduct of private business otherwise.

**Honorary and Corresponding Members**
11. Men or women of distinction in Medicine, at home or abroad, who have contributed to the advancement of Cardiology and / or have been very supportive of the society may be recommended by the Council for election as Honorary Members.

**Election of Members**
12. Ordinary and Extraordinary Members may propose candidates for Ordinary membership and other categories of membership. Such proposals accompanied by a statement of the candidates professional status, public appointments and published works, shall be circulated to Members of Council by the Secretary before September 1st. The Council shall consider the names proposed and shall recommend the names of those thought most suitable. The list of names recommended shall be circulated to members by the Secretary at least one month before the Annual General Meeting.

13. The Society shall hold an Annual Meeting which will usually be held in conjunction with the Stokes Lecture and the Scientific Meeting. The Council may organise further meetings at its discretion.

14. The Chairman of each Meeting shall be appointed by the Council.

15. An Extra-Ordinary/Special Meeting can be called when circumstances demand, by three Officers of the Council or one third of the Ordinary Members of the Society.

16. Visitors may, with the permission of the Chairman, be introduced by members. They may make contributions and take part in discussions, subject to the same rules as members.

17. Communication shall be spoken, not read, and all speakers shall conform to the time-table arranged by the Council.

18. No reporters shall be permitted to be present and no report of the meetings shall be published in journals or newspapers unless sent by the Council.

**Associate Membership**

Associate Members (Affiliated) are members of Affiliated groups established by the Society who are not Ordinary Members.

Associate Members are medically qualified individuals or established scientists with a special interest in cardiovascular disease.

**President:** Dr, Jim Crowley University Hospital Galway, Galway
**Hon. Secretary:** Dr. Lana Dixon, Royal Victoria Hospital Belfast
**Hon. Treasurer:** Prof. Vincent Maher, Tallaght University Hospital, Dublin
**Exec Admin:** Barbra Dalton – Ph. 01-6685001 E: bdalton@irishheart.ie
Associate Members shall receive all relevant notices and communications of the Society, either directly or as specified via their own Affiliated Group.

Associate Members shall not be entitled to attend or vote at the Annual General Meeting, are not entitled to be elected or to nominate Officers or Ordinary Members for a position on council.

Associate Members shall pay a reduced subscription to be set on an annual basis by council.

**International Membership**

International members are those who fulfil the criteria for Ordinary Membership except that they are practicing abroad and do not wish to be considered for Ordinary Membership of the Society.

International Members are proposed and seconded by two current Members of the Society.

International Members will receive all electronic communications of the Society and have full access to the resources available on the society's website.

International Members shall pay a reduced subscription to be set on an annual basis by council.

**Election of Officers and Council**

19. Nominations of Ordinary Members for the post of president, Treasurer, Secretary, Assistant Secretary and for Members of the Council may be made by any Ordinary Member and sent in writing, with the consent of the nominee, to the Secretary before September 1st. In the normal course of events the Assistant Secretary will succeed the Secretary. The nominations shall be made at the Annual General Meeting and those names receiving the most votes shall be declared elected. In the event of a draw for any office, the Council shall decide the member to be elected.

20. The business of the Society shall be conducted by a Council which shall arrange the programme of each meeting. The Council shall consist of a President, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer and six ordinary Members. In addition the President-elect shall serve as a Council Member for the year before he takes Office and the immediate past-President shall be a Council Member for one year after he vacates Office. Each ordinary member of Council shall serve for a period of three years. The Council shall have power to co-opt additional members for a period of up to three years, if they think there is any special reason for it. Council shall have the power to appoint ex-officio members as deemed appropriate.
21. The subscription for all categories of membership shall be fixed by the Council and shall become payable by the 1st day of January. Failure to pay the subscription due within two years shall be considered equivalent to resignation.

22. The account of the Society shall be submitted to the Society by the Council at each Annual General Meeting.

**Secretaries and Treasurer**
23. Two Ordinary Members shall be elected in accordance with Rule 21 as Secretary and Treasurer respectively.

24. The Secretary, Assistant Secretary and Treasurer of the Society shall be appointed for a period of two years initially. A member can serve only two consecutive terms in each of these posts. To facilitate a smooth transition the post of Secretary should be generally filled by the outgoing Assistant Secretary.

25. The Secretary shall summon all meetings, circulate the programme to members at least one month before the meeting and be responsible in co-operation with the Chairman Elect for arranging the Annual General Meeting on behalf of the Council. The Secretary shall keep brief Minutes of the proceedings of the Society.

26. The Treasurer shall keep the accounts, collect subscriptions and be responsible for the expenditure of the Society.