International Child Health Group (ICHG) Constitution

I. Name

The Group is known as the International Child Health Group (ICHG), a speciality group of the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH).

II. Aim and Objectives

ICHG is a network of child health professionals who seek to improve the health and wellbeing of children worldwide through advocacy, education and research.

At ICHG we value justice, equity and diversity as we partner with a global network of professionals to promote a child-focussed approach to global health issues. Recognising we can learn much from each other, we are inclusive and respectful whilst encouraging good practice, research and advocacy. The group strives to inspire and equip students and child health professionals to engage with current issues in global child health through equitable collaboration with UK and international partners.

The work of ICHG is planned on a yearly basis to meet the following objectives:

1. **To promote sharing of knowledge and skills in child health** – through actions such as:

- Organising internationally accessible educational opportunities on topics and research relevant to child health globally - these include twice yearly scientific meetings and regular Education webinars
- Organising Research webinars to encourage evidence based practice and facilitate continuous professional development opportunities
- Offering yearly awards to support international child health advocacy and research projects, in addition to student awards

2.**To support individuals and networks internationally** – through actions such as:

- Providing a platform for mutual exchange of knowledge and experience between a community of child health professionals working in diverse settings
- Equitable partnership with international organisations with similar aims
- Encouraging career development with global child health focus through formal and informal mentorship
- Providing continuing professional development opportunities for LMIC based members via research and advocacy awards

To act as an advocate to magnify the voice of children internationally – for example by:

- Equipping health professionals with skills/knowledge to advocate effectively for children
- Providing financial support for specific advocacy projects
- Influencing UK government, industry, international agencies and NGO's in their policies and practices relating to child health
- Responding to international events affecting child health through a child-focused lens, highlighting the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child

Note: Although the ICHG acts independently of the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health, there is strong collaboration and respect between the two groups.

III. Membership

Membership is open to all with a professional interest in advancing child health globally. Members are welcome from all professions and disciplines and from any country. There are various types of subscription for members, these are regularly updated on the ICHG website with special effort to ensure equity and accessibility to members from low and middle income countries.

IV. Executive Committee

1. The Executive Committee will be composed of at least nine members, selected by ICHG Executive Committee following formal application. Any ICHG member can request to stand on ICHG committee in response to a request/advert for a needed committee role. A quorum will be 5 committee members including at least one of the Convenor/Deputy Convenor and Treasurer.
2. The Executive Committee is required to select from its number a Convenor, Deputy Convenor and Treasurer. Other roles such as newsletter editor and website/social media manager may be appointed as required. Executive Committee members may be appointed from any discipline, though should the committee decide to elect a chair/convenor who is not a member of RCPCH, this should be confirmed by members voting at an AGM.
3. The term of office for the Convenor will be 3 years. Committee members roles may change throughout their time as part of the Executive Committee and should be reviewed every 3 year term. It is recommended that the Convenor and Deputy Convenor should not retire from the Committee at the same time.
4. Executive Committee members offer their time voluntarily, however reasonable travel expenses may be reimbursed.
5. On joining the Executive Committee, members are expected to declare any conflict of interest and demonstrate agreement to terms of reference and the ICHG constitution.

V. Organisation

1. The ICHG Executive Committee will meet at least 3 times a year. At least one of these meetings will be face to face.
2. There will be a General Meeting annually, with notice given 3 weeks in advance to

members. Voting for any motion can be made in absentia, if received 48 hours prior to the AGM.

3. Quorum for the AGM will be 10 members including at least one of the Convenor/Deputy Convenor/Treasurer and at least three other members of the committee.

4. The Committee will organise the AGM and at least 2 scientific meetings annually, one of which will be held at the RCPCH annual conference.

5. The Constitution can be amended only at the AGM. Any amendment must be submitted to the Convenor in writing / by email not later than 6 weeks before the AGM. The Executive Committee will give notice to members in writing of these amendments not later than 3 weeks before the AGM.

6. The constitution should be reviewed every 3 years or when a new Convenor is appointed, whichever comes first.

7. Oversight of ICHG activities will be provided by an independent advisory board. Board membership will consist of at least 3 members, including one previous ICHG convenor and senior child health professionals from diverse settings. The advisory board will meet annually and review activities conducted in the previous year and current finances of ICHG. They will provide high-level recommendations to ICHG committee.

8. The committee will agree a yearly work plan.

VI. Finances

1. An annual subscription will be levied with suitable arrangements for members not normally resident in the UK (such as free membership for members from LMIC). Changes to subscription costs will be communicated clearly with members and consultation sought at AGM where appropriate.

2. There will be a bank account for the Group. A resolution of the Group will give the Treasurer authority to administer the account. Subscription via an online platform is encouraged

3. If any sponsorship is sought, the source of the sponsorship must be approved by the Committee. Sponsorship for meetings and other activities will be sought only from institutions and companies with ethical policies compatible with the objectives of the ICHG and in line with RCPCH values/policies.

4. Any expenses over or equal to £500 must be discussed with the committee via e-mail and approved by the Executive Committee at the nearest upcoming meeting.