BYLAWS

THE PUERTO RICO CHAPTER
OF THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF CARDIOLOGY
CARDIAC CARE ASSOCIATES

ARTICLE I
NAME AND PURPOSE

Section 1. Name: The name of this organization shall be the Puerto Rico Chapter of the American College of Cardiology –CARDIAC CARE ASSOCIATES (ACCPR-CCA), a non-for profit organization, as established by the parent organization ACC.

Section 2. Purpose
1. The purpose for which is organized is to support the purpose of the parent organization (ACCPR), *

2. To contribute to the promotion of cardiovascular health, and prevention of cardiovascular diseases

3. Ensure optimal quality of care to individuals with cardiovascular diseases, serving as advocates, and proposing public policy

4. To develop and support the improvement of services and education of cardiovascular healthcare professionals through consultation, continuing education, testing, evaluation, and other activities

5. To work with voluntary, governmental, and other agencies, groups and organizations for the advancement of cardiovascular care practice and towards the achievement of comprehensive cardiovascular health care.

* The Cardiac Care Associates section will be part of the ACCPR- which will be formed as a 501 (c), (6) not-for–profit corporation under the federal and state tax codes

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ARTICLE II
MISSION

ACCPR-CCA is a professional member organization recognized for promoting excellence in cardiovascular care through leadership, research, education and advocacy.

ARTICLE III
MISSION OBJECTIVES

A. To promote the specialty of cardiovascular care.
B. To promote the interests of ACCPR’s members and improve the professional environment of the cardiovascular care professional through education and public awareness.
C. To actively collaborate with other health related organizations to improve cardiovascular care.
D. To be the primary resource on leadership, education, and research for the cardiovascular team (Registered Nurses (RN), Nurse Practitioners (NP), Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNS), Physician Assistants (PA) and Clinical Pharmacists (PharmD)).
E. To define standards that serve as a basis for cardiovascular care practice.
F. To develop, disseminate and evaluate cardiovascular care education and research.
G. To encourage interaction and mentorship among the Cardiac Care Associates.
H. To identify and disseminate information on key trends, affecting and pertinent, to the Cardiac Care Associate.
I. To serve as an advocate for the public regarding cardiovascular care.

ARTICLE IV
MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: Classifications

A. Active Member:
   (1) Professional Registered Nurses (RN), Nurse Practitioners (NP), Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS), Physician Assistant (PA) and Clinical Pharmacologists (PharmD), licensed in Puerto Rico or the United States whose area of practice include care of cardiovascular patients and whose dues are current as a member of the parent organization ACC and the ACCPR-CCA.

B. Membership dues: Annual dues will be set at $25.00 and the board of directors will approve any adjustment to this fee.
Section 2: Responsibilities of Membership
Each member has the responsibility to support the purpose, mission objectives, and positions of ACCPR-CCA

Section 3. Voting and Office Holding Rights:

Only active members of the ACCPR-CCA in good standing shall be eligible to vote

Section 4: Termination of Membership

A. Members may have their membership terminated by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board of Directors for failure to adhere to the bylaws or other reasonable cause.
B. Automatic termination when the member fails to pay chapter dues

ARTICLE V
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1: Description
The Board of Directors shall be the ACCPR-CCA official governing body responsible for the management and the affairs of ACCPR-CCA.

Section 2: Powers

A. To debate and determine ACCPR-CCA policy.
B. To provide strategic direction for ACCPR-CCA.
C. To provide leadership for all of the component divisions of ACCPR-CCA.
D. To participate in the decision making process of issues that affect the Cardiac Care Associates, as part of the cardiac care team brought up by the parent organization (ACCPR).

Section 3: Composition
The Board of Directors shall be composed of the President, Secretary and Treasurer and a member of the parent organization (ACCPR) with no voting privileges.

A. Officers:
   (1) Description:
   There shall be three (3) voting Officers: President, Secretary and Treasurer.
   (2) Eligibility Requirements:
   a. Each Officer must be a current Active Member of ACCPR-CCA
(3) **Term of Office:** The term of office for President, Secretary and Treasurer shall be 2 years, elected by the active members in general assembly or by mail ballot.

**Section 4: Responsibilities:**

A. **President:** A President should be the executive officer and administer all business of the ACCPR-CCA provided by the bylaws. It is the chief representative of section activities. The President shall be an Ex-officio member of all committees.

B. **Secretary:** The secretary shall prepare and distribute minutes to all board members and correspondence to active members. The secretary shall maintain a current roster of all active and inactive members.

C. **Treasurer:** The treasurer shall be the custodial of the chapter’s fund. Shall prepare and propose budget for all activities of the ACCPR-CCA. The treasurer shall be responsible for maintenance of adequate books and accounts and for the receipt and disbursement. Deposit all funds and securities of the ACCPR-CCA.

**Section 5: Vacancies:** If a vacancy for office occurs for any cause, it shall be filled after consultation with the parent organization and in conjunction with the remaining board members, establish a board appointee who will prepare a slate of nominees and submit to the membership for vote at the next meeting or extraordinary meeting or mail ballot.

**Section 6: Elections**

A. Elections shall be held annually or as required.

B. **Nominations:**
   a. **Electoral Process:**
      1. All active Members shall have the opportunity to elect Officers and Directors by ballot.
      2. Candidates receiving the highest number of votes for each position shall be declared elected.

**Section 7: Meetings**

The Board of Directors shall meet either in person or by conference call or electronic means, on a quarterly basis or more frequently as circumstances warrant.

A. Minutes should be approved on the following meeting.
Section 8: Quorum
A. Majority of the voting members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum for all meetings.

ARTICLE VI
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Section 1: Description
The General Assembly (active members in good standing) provides direction and stewardship for the organization. It creates professional cardiovascular care policy and positions statements that support the purposes of the ACC and the ACCPR-CCA.

Section 2: Additional Powers and Responsibilities
A. To approve, revise, or amend these bylaws.
B. The General Assembly shall receive the results of the election of officers and directors, reports of the Board of Directors, committees and other volunteer groups, the findings of the annual audit, and transact such other business as may come before the meeting.

A. Section 5: Quorum
A quorum for all meetings is a majority of the total voting members who are active and in good standing.

ARTICLE VII
COMMITTEES

Section 1: Description
ACCPR-CCA shall have Committees appointed by the Board of Directors in sufficient numbers necessary to address mission objectives, and positions of the ACCPR and ACCPR-CCA.

a. Education Committee (Practice and Research):

Two members will be appointed for this committee. The objective of this committee is to disseminate information and educate the general public on cardiovascular health problems.

b. Government Relations Committee (leadership, advocacy and public policy):

Two members will be appointed for this committee. The objective of this committee is to promote regulations and legislation and serve as advocate for any issue regarding to cardiovascular health care.
c. Nominating Committee (membership involvement)

Two members will be appointed for this committee. The objective of this committee is to nominate prospective candidates for any position available. In addition, this committee will in charge to recruit new members and their involvement in the ACCPR-CCA.

ARTICLE VIII
PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES

The rules contained in *Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised, 10th Edition*, shall govern in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the Bylaws.

ARTICLE IX
AMENDMENTS

Section 1:
Amendments to the Bylaws may be proposed by the Board of Directors,.

Section 2:
Amendments must be submitted to ACCPR-CCA at least ninety (90) days prior to the General Assembly.

Section 3:
Amendments which support the purpose, mission objectives and positions of ACCPR-CCA, as well Federal and State Laws, will be submitted to the membership at least forty-five (45) days prior to the General Assembly.

Section 4:
In order to be approved, any amendment must be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the General Assembly.

Section 5:
The final amendment will be sent to the Board of Directors of the ACCPR which after approval will refer it to the Board of Governors steering committee for final approval.

ARTICLE X
INDEMNIFICATION

ACCPR-CCA will be covered under the indemnification proposed by the parent organization (ACCPR) in its bylaws, Article XI.
ARTICLE XI
LIMITATIONS

No part of the net earnings of ACCPR-CCA shall inure to the benefit of any private individual. Further, no part of the income of ACCPR-CCA shall be distributed to its members, directors or officers, provided however, that the payment of reasonable compensation for services rendered shall not be deemed a distribution of income. ACCPR-CCA shall not participate in or intervene in (including the publication or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

These bylaws were approved by the Puerto Rico ACC chapter Board of Directors and by the Board of Governors of the American College of Cardiology on: 01/03/2009