

March 8, 2018

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BY-LAWS OF RIO GRANDE VALLEY PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT SOCIETY

These By-laws (referred to as the "By-laws") govern the affairs of RIO GRANDE VALLEY PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT SOCIETY, a nonprofit corporation (referred to as the "Corporation") organized under the Texas Non-Profit Corporation Act (referred to as the "Act").

ARTICLE 1

OFFICES

Principal Office

1.1. The principal office of the Corporation in the State of Texas shall be located at 828 Canterbury Hill Street, San Antonio, Texas 78209. The Corporation may have such other offices, either in Texas or elsewhere, as the Board of Directors may determine. The Board of Directors may change the location of any office of the Corporation.

Registered Office and Registered Agent

1.2. The Corporation shall comply with the requirements of the Act and maintain a registered office and registered agent in Texas. The registered office may, but need not, be identical with the Corporation's principal office in Texas. The Board of Directors may change the registered office and the registered agent as provided in the Act.

ARTICLE 2

MEMBERS

Class of Members

2.1. The Corporation shall have three classes of members:

(a) Fellow. Practicing or retired Physician Assistants as defined by the American Academy of Physician Assistants.

(b) Associate. Other medical professionals, organizations, supporters and spouses of Fellow members.

(c) Life. Special memberships granted by the majority vote of the Board of Directors, which may be of Fellow or Associate status.

Admission of Members and Renewal of Membership

2.2. Natural persons may be admitted to membership in the Corporation by the Board of Directors or a committee designated by the Board to handle such matters. The Board of Directors or a Board-designated committee may adopt and amend application procedures and qualifications for membership in the Corporation. An affirmative vote of the majority of the Directors or a Board designated committee present and voting shall be required for admission of any applicant who meets the membership qualification then in effect. A member may renew membership by paying all required fees and dues.

## Membership Fees and Dues

2.3. The Board of Directors may set and change the amount of an initiation fee, if any, and the annual dues payable to the Corporation by members. The Membership Year being from the date of joining for one calendar year, dues shall be payable in advance on the week before the due date.

## Certificates of Membership

2.4. The Board of Directors may provide for the issuance of certificates evidencing membership in the Corporation. When a person has been admitted as a member and has paid any required fees and dues, the Corporation shall may issue a certificate of membership to the person. Membership certificates shall be signed by the president or a vice president and by the secretary or an assistant secretary. Membership certificates shall be numbered consecutively. If a certificate is lost, mutilated, or destroyed, a new certificate may be issued.

## Voting Rights

2.5. Each Fellow member shall be entitled to one vote on each matter submitted to a vote of the membership. Associate members and student members will not have voting rights.

## Resolution of Disputes

2.6. In any dispute between members relating to the activities of the Corporation, all parties involved shall cooperate in good faith to resolve the dispute. If the parties cannot resolve the dispute between themselves, they shall cooperate to select one or more mediators to help resolve the dispute. If no timely resolution of the dispute occurs through mediation, any party may demand binding arbitration as described in the Revised Civil Statutes Article 238-20 regardless of whether the parties have met together with a mediator. This paragraph shall not apply to a dispute involving the Corporation as a party relating to the sanctioning, suspension, or expulsion of a member from the Corporation. The Board of Directors shall have the discretion to authorize the use of the Corporation's funds for mediation or arbitration of a dispute described in this paragraph.

## Sanction, Suspension, or Termination of Members

2.7. The Board of Directors may impose reasonable sanctions on a member, or suspend or expel a member from the Corporation, for good cause after a hearing. Good cause includes the default of an obligation to the Corporation to pay fees or dues for a period of thirty (30) days following delivery of notice of default, or a material and serious violation of the Corporation's Articles of Incorporation, By-laws, or rules or of law. The Board of Directors may delegate powers to a regular or ad hoc committee to conduct a hearing, make recommendations to the Board of Directors, or take action on behalf of the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors or a committee designated by the Board of Directors to handle a matter involving sanctioning, suspension or expulsion may not take any action against a member without giving the member adequate notice and an opportunity to be heard. To be deemed adequate, notice shall be in writing and delivered at least fourteen (14) days prior to the hearing. However, shorter notice may be deemed adequate if the Board of Directors or a committee designated by the Board of Directors to handle a matter involving sanctioning, suspension, or expulsion determines that the need for a timely hearing outweighs the prejudice caused by the member and if a statement of the need for a timely hearing is included in the notice. If mailed, the notice shall be sent by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested. A member shall have the right to be represented by counsel at and before the hearing. The Board of Directors or a committee designated by the Board of Directors to handle a matter involving sanctioning, suspension, or expulsion may impose sanctions, suspend a member or expel a member by vote of a majority of directors or a committee designated by the Board of Directors to handle a matter involving sanctioning, suspension, or expulsion who are present and voting.

## Resignation

2.8. Any member may resign from the Corporation by submitting a written resignation to the secretary. The resignation need not be accepted by the Corporation to be effective. A member's resignation shall not relieve the member of any obligations to pay any dues, assessments, or other charges that had accrued and were unpaid prior to the effective date of the resignation.

## Reinstatement

2.9. A former member may submit a written request for reinstatement of membership. The Board of Directors or a committee designated by the Board of Directors to handle the matter may reinstate membership of any reasonable terms that the Board of Director or committee deems appropriate.

## Transfer of Membership

2.10. Membership in the Corporation is not transferable or assignable. Membership terminates on the dissolution of the Corporation or the death of a member. Membership in the Corporation is not a property right that may be transferred after a member's death.

## Waiver of Interest in Corporation Property

2.11. All real and personal property, including all improvements located on the property, acquired by the Corporation shall be owned by the Corporation. A member shall have no interest in specific property of the Corporation. Each member hereby expressly waives the right to require partition of all or part of the Corporation's property.

## ARTICLE 3

### MEETINGS OF MEMBERS

#### Annual Meeting

3.1. The Board of Directors shall hold an annual meeting of the members at 10:00 A.M. on the first day of October each year or at another time that the Board of Directors designates. If the day fixed for the annual meeting is a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday in the State of Texas, the meeting shall be held on the next business day. At the annual meeting, the members shall elect directors and transact any other business that may come before the meeting. If, in any year, the election of directors is not held on the day designated for the annual meeting, or at any adjournment of the annual meeting, the Board of Directors shall call a special meeting of the members as soon thereafter as possible to conduct the election of directors.

#### Special Meetings

3.2. Special meetings of the members may be called by the president, the Board of Directors, or not less than one-fourth of the voting members.

#### Place of Meeting

3.3. The Board of Directors may designate any place, either within or without the State of Texas, as the place of meeting for any annual meeting or for any special meeting called by the Board of Directors. If the Board of Directors does not designate the place of meeting, the meeting shall be held at the registered office of the Corporation in Texas.

#### Notice of Meetings

3.4. Written or printed notice of any meeting of members, including the annual meeting, shall be delivered to each member entitled to vote at the meeting not less than ten (10) days nor more than fifty (50) days before the date of the meeting. If the Corporation has more than 1,000 members at the time the meeting is scheduled or called, notice may be given by publication in any newspaper of general circulation in Rio Grande Valley, Texas. The notice shall state the place, day, and time of the meeting, who called the meeting, and the general purpose or purposes for which the meeting is called. Notice shall be given by or at the direction of the president or secretary of the Corporation, or the officers or persons calling the meeting. If all of the members meet and consent to the holding of a meeting, any corporate action may be taken at the meeting regardless of a lack of proper notice.

#### Quorum

3.5. The members holding one tenth of the votes that may be cast at a meeting who attend the meeting in person (or by proxy) shall constitute a quorum at that meeting. The members present at a duly called or held meeting at which a quorum is present may continue to transact business even if enough members leave the meeting so that less than a quorum remains. However, no action may be approved without the vote of at least a majority of the number of members required to constitute a quorum. If a quorum is present at no time during a meeting, a majority of the members present may adjourn and reconvene the meeting one time without further notice.

#### Actions of Membership

3.6. The membership shall try to act by consensus. However, the vote of a majority of voting members in good standing, present and entitled vote at a meeting at which a quorum is present, shall be sufficient to constitute the act of the membership unless the vote of a greater number is required by law or the By-laws. A member in good standing is one who has paid all required fees and dues and is not suspended as of the date of the meeting. Voting shall be by ballot or voice, except that any election of directors shall be by ballot if demanded by any voting member at the meeting before the voting begins.

#### Proxies

3.7. A member entitled to vote may vote by proxy executed in writing by the member. No proxy shall be valid after eleven (11) months from the date of its execution, unless otherwise provided in the proxy.

#### Voting by Mail

3.8. The Board of Directors may authorize members to vote by mail on the election of directors and officers or on any other matter that may be voted on by the members.

### ARTICLE 4

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

##### Management of the Corporation

4.1. The affairs of the Corporation shall be managed by the Board of Directors.

##### Number, Qualifications, and Tenure of Directors

4.2. (a) The number of Directors shall be a number determined by the Board of Directors that is not less than four and not greater than nine.

(b) Directors shall be residents of currently in residence in Texas.

(c) Directors shall be fellow members of the Corporation.

(d) Elected officers of the Corporation shall serve as ex officio members of the Board of Directors.

(e) Each director Elected Directors at Large shall serve for a term of two (2) years. Corporation Officer membership on the Board of Directors will be for that period that they hold their elected office.

#### Nomination of Directors

4.3. At any meeting at which the election of a director nominations of Directors at Large or officers occurs, a voting member in good standing may nominate a person with the second of any other voting member in good standing. In addition to nominations made at meetings, a nominating committee the Board of Directors shall consider possible nominees and make nominations previously submitted written nominations or letters of intent to seek office for each election of directors. The secretary shall include the names nominated by the nomination committee of those who have accepted nomination by the voting membership, and any report of the committee, with the notice of the meeting at which the election occurs.

#### Election of Directors

4.4. A person who meets any qualification requirements to be a director and who has been duly nominated may be elected as a director. Directors shall be elected by the vote of the voting membership of the Corporation. Directors In addition to Officers of the Corporation, one Director at Large shall be elected annually by the voting membership at the annual meeting of the members. In electing directors and/or officers, members shall not be permitted to cumulate their votes by giving one candidate as many votes as the number of directors or officers to be elected or by distributing the same number of votes among any number of candidates. Each director or officer shall hold office until a successor is elected and qualified. A director or officer may be elected to succeed himself or herself as director as incumbent.

#### Vacancies

The Board of Directors shall fill Any vacancy occurring in the Board of Directors, and any director position to be filled due to an increase in the number of directors, 4.05.. A vacancy is filled by the affirmative vote of a majority of the remaining directors, even if it is less than a quorum of the Board of Directors, or if it is a sole remaining director. A director elected to fill a vacancy shall be elected for the unexpired term of the predecessor in office.

#### Annual Meeting

4.6. The annual meeting of the Board of Directors may be held without notice other than these By-laws. The annual meeting of the Board of Directors shall be held immediately after, and at the same place as, the annual meeting of members.

#### Regular Meetings

4.7. The Board of Directors may provide for regular meetings by resolution stating the time and place of such meetings. The meetings may be held either within or without the State of Texas and shall be held at the Corporation's registered office in Texas if the resolution does not specify the location of the meetings. No notice of regular meetings of the Board is required other than a resolution of the Board of Directors stating the time and place of the meetings.

#### Special Meetings

4.8. Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by or at the request of the president or any two directors. A person or persons authorized to call special meetings of the Board of Directors may fix

any place within Texas as the place for holding a special meeting. The person or persons calling a special meeting shall notify the secretary of the information required to be included in the notice of the meeting. The secretary shall give notice to the directors as required in the By-laws.

#### Notice

4.9. Written or printed notice of any special meeting of the Board of Directors shall be delivered to each director not less than seven (7) days or more than thirty (30) days before the date of the meeting. The notice shall state the place, day, and time of the meeting, who called the meeting, and the purpose or purposes for which the meeting is called.

#### Quorum

4.10. A majority of the number of directors then in office shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of the Board of Directors. The directors present at a duly called or held meeting at which a quorum is present may continue to transact business even if enough directors leave the meeting so that less than a quorum remains. However, no action may be approved without the vote of at least a majority of the number of directors required to constitute a quorum. If a quorum is present at no time during a meeting, a majority of the directors present may adjourn and reconvene the meeting one time without further notice.

#### Duties of Directors

4.11. Directors shall exercise ordinary business judgment in managing the affairs of the Corporation. Directors shall act as fiduciaries with respect to the interest of the members. In acting in their official capacity as directors of this Corporation, directors shall act in good faith and take actions they reasonably believe to be in the best interests of the Corporation and that are not unlawful. In all other instances, the Board of Directors shall not take any action that they should reasonably believe would be opposed to the Corporation's best interests or would be unlawful. A director shall not be liable if, in the exercise of ordinary care, the director acts in good faith relying on written financial and legal statements provided by an accountant or attorney retained by the Corporation.

#### Actions of Board of Directors

4.12. The Board of Directors shall try to act by consensus. However, the vote of a majority of directors present and voting at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be sufficient to constitute the act of the Board of Directors unless the act of a greater number is required by law or the By-laws. A director who is present at a meeting and abstains from a vote is considered present and voting for determining the decision of the Board of Directors. For determining the decision of the Board of Directors, a director who is represented by proxy in a vote is considered present.

#### Proxies

4.13. A director may vote by proxy executed in writing by the director. No proxy shall be valid after three (3) months from the date of its execution.

#### Compensation

4.14. Directors may receive salaries for their services. The Board of Directors may adopt a resolution providing for payment to directors of a fixed sum and expenses of attendance, if any, for attendance at each meeting of the Board of Directors. A director may serve the Corporation in any other capacity and receive compensation for those services. Any compensation that the Corporation pays to a director shall be commensurate with the services performed and reasonable in amount.

## Removal of Directors

4.15. The members may vote to remove a director at any time with or without good cause. A meeting to consider the removal of a director may be called and noticed following the procedures provided in the By-laws. The notice of the meeting shall state that the issue of possible removal of the director will be on the agenda. The director shall have the right to present evidence at the meeting as to why he or she should not be removed, and the director shall have the right to be represented by an attorney at and before the meeting. At the meeting, the Corporation shall consider possible arrangements for resolving the problems that are in the mutual interest of the Corporation and the Director. A director may be removed by the affirmative vote of fifty percent of the members.

## ARTICLE 5

### OFFICERS

#### Officer Positions

5.1. The officers of the Corporation shall be a president, two a vice presidents, a secretary, and a treasurer, and a president elect. The Board of Directors may create additional officer positions, define the authority and duties of each such position, and elect or appoint persons to fill the positions. Any two or more offices may be held by the same person, except the offices of president or president elect and secretary. The officers shall be ex officio members of the Board of Directors.

#### Election and Term of Office

5.2. The officers of the Corporation shall be elected annually by the Board of Directors voting membership at, or before the regular annual meeting of the Board of Directors Corporation. If the election of officers is not held at this meeting, the election shall be held as soon thereafter as conveniently possible. The nomination and election process shall be as described in paragraphs 4.03 and 4.04 above. The term of office for these officers is one (1) year. Each officer shall hold office until a successor is duly selected and qualified. An officer may be elected to succeed himself or herself in the same office

#### Removal

5.3. Any officer elected or appointed by the membership may be removed by the membership with or without good cause. The removal of an officer shall be without prejudice to the contract rights, if any, of the officer.

#### Vacancies

5.4. A vacancy in any office may be filled by the Board of Directors for the unexpired portion of the officer's term.

#### President

5.5. The president shall be the chief executive officer of the Corporation. The president shall supervise and control all of the business and affairs of the Corporation. The president shall preside at all meetings of the members and of the Board of Directors. The president may execute any deeds, mortgages, bonds, contracts, or other instruments that the Board of Directors has authorized to be executed. However, the president may not execute instruments on behalf of the Corporation if this power is expressly delegated to another officer or agent of the Corporation by the Board of Directors, the By-laws, or statute. The president shall perform other duties prescribed by the Board of Directors and all duties incident to the office of president.

#### Vice President

5.6. When the president is absent, is unable to act, or refuses to act, a the vice president shall perform the duties of the president. When a the vice president acts in place of the president, the vice president shall have all the powers of and be subject to all the restrictions upon the president. If there is more than one vice president, the vice presidents shall act in place of the president in the order of the votes received when elected. A The vice president shall perform other duties as assigned by the president or Board of Directors.

#### Treasurer

5.7. The treasurer shall:

- (a) Have charge and custody of and be responsible for all funds and securities of the Corporation.
- (b) Receive and give receipts for moneys due and payable to the Corporation from any source.
- (c) Deposit all moneys in the name of the Corporation in banks, trust companies, or other depositories as provided in the By-laws or as directed by the Board of Directors.
- (d) Write checks and disburses funds to discharge obligations of the Corporation.
- (e) Maintain the financial books and records of the Corporation.
- (f) Prepare financial reports at least annually.
- (g) Perform other duties as assigned by the president or by the Board of Directors.
- (h) If required by the Board of Directors, give a bond for the faithful discharge of his or her duties in a sum and with a surety as determined by the Board of Directors.
- (i) Perform all of the duties incident to the office of treasurer.

#### Secretary

5.8. The Secretary shall:

- (a) Give all notices as provided in the By-laws or as required by law.
- (b) Take minutes of the meetings of the members and of the Board of Directors and keep the minutes as part of the corporate records.
- (c) Maintain custody of the corporate records and of the seal of the Corporation.
- (d) Affix the seal of the Corporation to all documents as authorized.
- (e) Keep a register of the mailing address of each member, director, officer and employee of the Corporation.
- (f) Perform duties as assigned by the president or by the Board of Directors.
- (g) Perform all duties incident to the office of secretary.

#### President Elect



## 5.9. President Elect

The President Elect shall serve for one year, in transition to elected office of President, as a voting member on the Board of Directors. His or her assumption of duties and responsibilities as President will occur concurrently with installation of new officers on the first anniversary of his or her election. The President Elect shall not be subject to assignment of other duties by the President or the Board of Directors.

## ARTICLE 6

### COMMITTEES

#### Establishment of Committees

6.1. The Board of Directors may adopt a resolution establishing one or more committees delegating specified authority to a committee, and appointing or removing members of a committee. A committee shall include two or more directors and may include persons who are not directors. If the Board of Directors delegates any of its authority to a committee, the majority of the committee shall consist of directors. The Board of Directors may establish qualifications for membership on a committee. The Board of Directors may delegate to the president its power to appoint and remove members of a committee that has not been delegated any authority of the Board of Directors. The establishment of a committee or the delegation of authority to it shall not relieve the Board of Directors, or any individual director, of any responsibility imposed by the By-laws or otherwise imposed by law. No committee shall have the authority of the Board of Directors to:

- (a) Amend the Articles of Incorporation.
- (b) Adopt a plan of merger or a plan of consolidation with another corporation.
- (c) Authorize the sale, lease, exchange, or mortgage of all or substantially all of the property and assets of the Corporation.
- (d) Authorize the voluntary dissolution of the Corporation.
- (e) Revoke proceedings for the voluntary dissolution of the Corporation.
- (f) Adopt a plan for the distribution of the assets of the Corporation.
- (g) Amend, alter, or repeal the By-laws.
- (h) Elect, appoint or remove a member of a committee or a director or officer of the Corporation.
- (i) Approve any transaction to which the Corporation is a party and that involves a potential conflict of interest as defined in paragraph 7.04, below.
- (j) Take any action outside the scope of authority delegated to it by the Board of Directors.
- (k) Take final action on a matter that requires the approval of the members.

#### Authorization of Specific Committees

6.2. The Board of Directors shall define the activities and scope of authority of each committee by resolution.

## Term of Office

6.3. Each member of a committee shall continue to serve on the committee until the next annual meeting of the members of the Corporation and until a successor is appointed. However, the term of a committee member may terminate earlier if the committee is terminated, or if the member dies, ceases to qualify, resigns, or is removed as a member. A vacancy on a committee may be filled by an appointment made in the same manner as an original appointment. A person appointed to fill a vacancy on a committee shall serve for the unexpired portion of the terminated committee member's term.

## Chair and Vice-Chair

6.4. One member of each committee shall be designated as the chair of the committee and another member of each committee shall be designated as the vice-chair. The members of the committee shall elect the chair and vice-chair. The chair shall call and preside at all meetings of the committee. When the chair is absent, is unable to act, or refuses to act, the vice-chair shall perform the duties of the chair. When a vice-chair acts in place of the chair, the vice-chair shall have all the powers of and be subject to all the restrictions upon the chair.

## Notice of Meetings

6.5. Written or printed notice of a committee meeting shall be delivered to each member of a committee not less than seven (7) and no more than thirty (30) days before the date of the meeting. The notice shall state the place, day, and time of the meeting, and the purpose or purposes for which the meeting is called.

## Quorum

6.6. One half (1/2) of the number of members of a committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of the committee. The committee members present at a duly called or held meeting at which a quorum is present may continue to transact business even if enough committee members leave the meeting so that less than a quorum remains. However, no action may be approved without the vote of at least a majority of the number of committee members required to constitute a quorum. If a quorum is present at no time during a meeting, the chair may adjourn and reconvene the meeting one time without further notice.

## Actions of Committees

6.7. Committees shall try to take action by consensus. However, the vote of a majority of committee members present and voting at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be sufficient to constitute the act of the committee unless the act of a greater number is required by law or the By-laws. A committee member who is present at a meeting and abstains from a vote is considered present and voting for determining the act of the committee.

## Proxies

6.8. A committee member may vote by proxy executed in writing by the committee member. No proxy shall be valid after eleven (11) months from the date of its execution.

## Compensation

6.9. Committee members shall not receive salaries for their services. The Board of Directors may adopt a resolution providing for payment to committee members of a fixed sum and expenses of attendance, if any, for attendance at each meeting of the committee. A committee member may serve the Corporation in any other capacity and receive compensation for those services. Any compensation that the Corporation pays to a committee member shall be commensurate with the services performed and shall be reasonable in

amount.

## Rules

6.10. Each committee may adopt rules for its own operation not inconsistent with the By-laws or with rules adopted by the Board of Directors.

## ARTICLE 7

### TRANSACTIONS OF THE CORPORATION

#### Contracts

7.1. The Board of Directors may authorize any officer or agent of the Corporation to enter into a contract or execute and deliver any instrument in the name of and on behalf of the Corporation. This authority may be limited to a specific contract or instrument or it may extend to any number and type of possible contracts and instruments.

#### Deposits

7.2. All funds of the Corporation shall be deposited to the credit of the Corporation in banks, trust companies, or other depositories that the Board of Directors selects.

#### Gifts

7.3. The Board of Directors may accept on behalf of the Corporation any contribution, gift, bequest, or devise for the general purposes or for any special purpose of the Corporation. The Board of Directors may make gifts and give charitable contributions that are not prohibited by the By-laws, the Articles of Incorporation, state law, and any requirements for maintaining the Corporation's federal and state tax status.

#### Potential Conflicts of Interest

7.4. The Corporation shall not make any loan to a director or officer of the Corporation. A member, director, officer, or committee member of the Corporation may lend money to and otherwise transact business with the Corporation except as otherwise provided by the By-laws, Articles of Incorporation, and all applicable laws. Such a person transacting business with the Corporation has the same rights and obligations relating to those matters as other persons transacting business with the Corporation. The Corporation shall not borrow money from or otherwise transact business with a member, director, officer, or committee member of the Corporation unless the transaction is described fully in a legally binding instrument and is in the best interests of the Corporation. The Corporation shall not borrow money from or otherwise transact business with a member, director, officer, or committee member of the Corporation without full disclosure of all relevant facts and without the approval of the Board of Directors or the members, not including the vote of any person having a personal interest in the transaction.

#### Prohibited Acts

7.5. As long as the Corporation is in existence, and except with the prior approval of the Board of Directors or the members, no member, director, officer, or committee member of the Corporation shall:

- (a) Do any act in violation of the By-laws or a binding obligation of the Corporation.
- (b) Do any act with the intention of harming the Corporation or any of its operations.

- (c) Do any act that would make it impossible or unnecessarily difficult to carry on the intended or ordinary business of the Corporation.
- (d) Receive an improper personal benefit from the operation of the Corporation.
- (e) Use the assets of this Corporation, directly or indirectly, for any purpose other than carrying on the business of this Corporation.
- (f) Wrongfully transfer or dispose of Corporation property, including intangible property such as good will.
- (g) Use the name of the Corporation (or any substantially similar name) or any trademark or trade name adopted by the Corporation, except on behalf of the Corporation in the ordinary course of the Corporation's business.
- (h) Disclose any of the Corporation business practices, trade secrets, or any other information not generally known to the business community to any person not authorized to receive it.

## ARTICLE 8

### BOOKS AND RECORDS

#### Required Books and Records

8.1. The Corporation shall keep correct and complete books and records of account. The Corporation's books and records shall include:

- (a) A file-endorsed copy of all documents filed with the Texas Secretary of State relating to the Corporation, including, but not limited to, the Articles of Incorporation, and any articles of amendment, restated articles, articles of merger, articles of consolidation, and statement of change of registered office or registered agent.
- (b) A copy of the By-laws, and any amended versions or amendments to the By-laws.
- (c) Minutes of the proceedings of the members, Board of Directors, and committees having any of the authority of the Board of Directors.
- (d) A list of the names and addresses of the members, directors, officers, and any committee members of the Corporation.
- (e) A financial statement showing the assets, liabilities, and net worth of the Corporation at the end of the three(3) most recent fiscal years.
- (f) A financial statement showing the income and expenses of the Corporation for the three (3) most recent fiscal years.
- (g) All rulings, letters, and other documents relating to the Corporation's federal, state, and local tax status.
- (h) The Corporation's federal, state, and local information or income tax returns for each of the Corporation's three (3) most recent tax years.

#### Inspection and Copying

8.2. Any member, director, officer, or committee member of the Corporation may inspect and receive copies of all books and records of the Corporation required to be kept by the By-laws. Such a person may

inspect or receive copies if the person has a proper purpose related to the person's interest in the Corporation and if the person submits a request in writing. Any person entitled to inspect and copy the Corporation's books and records may do so through his or her attorney or other duly authorized representative. A person entitled to inspect the Corporation's books and records may do so at a reasonable time no later than five (5) working days after the Corporation's receipt of a proper written request. The Board of Directors may establish reasonable fees for copying the Corporation's books and records by members. The fees may cover the cost of materials and labor, but may not exceed ten cents per page. The Corporation shall provide requested copies of books or records no later than five (5) working days after the Corporation's receipt of a proper written request.

#### Audits

8.3. Any member shall have the right to have an audit conducted of the Corporation's books. The member requesting the audit shall bear the expense of the audit unless the members vote to authorize payment of audit expenses. The member requesting the audit may select the accounting firm to conduct the audit. A member may not exercise these rights to compel audits to subject the Corporation to an audit more than once in any fiscal year.

#### ARTICLE 9

##### FISCAL YEAR

For tax reporting purposes, the fiscal year of the Corporation shall begin on the first day of January and end on the last day in December in each year.

#### ARTICLE 10

##### INDEMNIFICATION

###### 10.1. When Indemnification is Required, Permitted and Prohibited

(a) The Corporation shall indemnify a director, officer, committee member, employee, or agent of the Corporation who was, is or may be named defendant or respondent in any proceeding as a result of his or her actions or omissions within the scope of his or her official capacity in the Corporation. For the purposes of this article, an agent includes one who is or was serving at the request of the Corporation as a director, officer, partner, venturer, proprietor, trustee, partnership, joint venture, sole proprietorship, trust, employee benefit plan, or other enterprise. However, the Corporation shall indemnify a person only if he or she acted in good faith and reasonably believed that the conduct was in the Corporation's best interests. In a case of a criminal proceeding, the person may be indemnified only if he or she had no reasonable cause to believe that the conduct was unlawful. The Corporation shall not indemnify a person who is found liable to the Corporation or is found liable to another because of improperly receiving a personal benefit. A person is conclusively considered to have been found liable in relation to any claim, issue, or matter if a court of competent jurisdiction has adjudged the person liable and all appeals have been exhausted.

(b) The termination of a proceeding by judgment, order, settlement, conviction, or on a plea of nolo contendere or its equivalent does not necessarily preclude indemnification by the Corporation.

(c) The Corporation shall pay or reimburse expenses incurred by a director, officer, member, committee member, employee, or agent of the Corporation in connection with the person's appearance as a witness or other participation in a proceeding involving or affecting the Corporation when the person is not a named defendant or respondent in the proceeding.

(d) In addition to the situations otherwise described in this paragraph, the Corporation may indemnify a director, officer, member, committee member, employee, or agent of the Corporation to the extent

permitted by law. However, the Corporation shall not indemnify any person in any situation in which indemnification is prohibited by the terms of paragraph 10.01(a), above.

(e) Before the final disposition of a proceeding, the Corporation may pay indemnification expenses permitted by the By-laws and authorized by the Corporation. However, the Corporation shall not pay indemnification expenses to a person before the final disposition of a proceeding if: the person is a named defendant or respondent in a proceeding brought by the Corporation or one or more members; or the person is alleged to have improperly received a personal benefit or committed other willful or intentional misconduct.

(f) If the Corporation may indemnify a person under the By-laws, the person may be indemnified against judgments, penalties, including excise and similar taxes, fines, settlements, and reasonable expenses (including attorney's fees) actually incurred in connection with the proceeding. However, if the proceeding was brought by or on behalf of the Corporation, the indemnification is limited to reasonable expenses actually incurred by the person in connection with the proceeding.

## 10.2. Procedures Relating to Indemnification Payments

(a) Before the Corporation may pay any indemnification expenses (including attorney's fees), the Corporation shall specifically determine that indemnification is permissible, authorize indemnification, and determine that expenses to be reimbursed are reasonable, except as provided in paragraph 10.02(c), below. The Corporation may make these determinations and decisions by any one of the following procedures:

(i) Majority vote of a quorum consisting of directors who, at the time of the vote, are not named defendants or respondents in the proceeding.

(ii) If such a quorum cannot be obtained, by a majority vote of a committee of the Board of Directors, designated to act in the matter by a majority vote of all directors, consisting solely of two or more directors who at the time of the vote are not named defendants or respondents in the proceeding.

(iii) Determination by special legal counsel selected by the Board of Directors by vote as provided in paragraph 10.02(a)(i) or 10.02(a)(ii), or if such a quorum cannot be obtained and such a committee cannot be established, by a majority vote of all directors.

(iv) Majority vote of members, excluding directors who are named defendants or respondents in the proceeding.

(b) The Corporation shall authorize indemnification and determine that expenses to be reimbursed are reasonable in the same manner that it determines whether indemnification is permissible. If the determination that indemnification is permissible is made by special legal counsel, authorization of indemnification and determination of reasonableness of expenses shall be made in the manner specified by paragraph 10.02(a)(iii), above, governing the selection of special legal counsel. A provision contained in the Articles of Incorporation, the By-laws, or a resolution of members or the Board of Directors that requires the indemnification permitted by paragraph 10.01, above, constitutes sufficient authorization of indemnification even though the provision may not have been adopted or authorized in the same manner as the determination that indemnification is permissible.

(c) The Corporation shall pay indemnification expenses before final disposition of a proceeding only after the Corporation determines that the facts then known would not preclude indemnification and the Corporation receives a written affirmation and undertaking from the person to be indemnified. The determination that the facts then known to those making the determination would not preclude indemnification and authorization of payment shall be made in the same manner as a determination that indemnification is permissible under paragraph 10.02(a), above. The person's written affirmation shall state that he or she has met the standard of conduct necessary for indemnification under the By-laws. The

written undertaking shall provide for repayment of the amount paid or reimbursed by the Corporation if it is ultimately determined that the person has not met the requirements for indemnification. The undertaking shall be an unlimited general obligation of the person, but it need not be secured and it may be accepted without reference to financial ability to make repayment.

(d) Any indemnification or advance of expenses shall be reported in writing to the members of the Corporation. The report shall be made with or before the notice or waiver of notice of the next membership meeting, or with or before the next submission to members of a consent to action without a meeting. In any case, the report shall be sent within the 12-month period immediately following the date of the indemnification or advance.

## ARTICLE 11

### NOTICES

#### Notice by Mail, Electronic Mail, or Telegram

11.1. Any notice required or permitted by the By-laws to be given to a member, director, officer or member of a committee of the Corporation may be given by mail, electronic mail, or telegram. If mailed, a notice shall be deemed to be delivered when deposited in the United States mail addressed to the person at his or her address as it appears on the records of the Corporation, with postage prepaid. If given by electronic mail, a notice shall be deemed delivered based on return receipt from the electronic mail service provider of the person at his or her electronic mail address as it appears on the records of the Corporation. If given by telegram, a notice shall be deemed to be delivered when accepted by the telegraph company and addressed to the person at his or her address as it appears on the records of the Corporation. A person may change his or her address by giving written notice to the secretary of the Corporation.

#### Signed Waiver of Notice

11.2. Whenever any notice is required to be given under the provisions of the Act or under the provisions of the Articles of Incorporation or the By-laws, a waiver in writing signed by a person entitled to receive a notice shall be deemed equivalent to the giving of the notice. A waiver of notice shall be effective whether signed before or after the time stated in the notice being waived.

#### Waiver of Notice by Attendance

11.3. The attendance of a person at a meeting shall constitute a waiver of notice of the meeting unless the person attends for the express purpose of objecting to the transaction of any business because the meeting is not lawfully called or convened.

## ARTICLE 12

### SPECIAL PROCEDURES CONCERNING MEETINGS

#### Meeting by Telephone

12.1. The members, Board of Directors, and any committee of the Corporation may hold a meeting by telephone conference call procedures in which all persons participating in the meeting can hear each other. The notice of a meeting by telephone conference must state the fact that the meeting will be held by telephone as well as all other matters required to be included in the notice. Participation of a person in a conference call meeting constitutes presence of that person at the meeting.

#### Decision Without Meeting

12.2. Any decision required or permitted to be made at a meeting of the members, Board of Directors, or any committee of the Corporation may be made without a meeting. A decision without a meeting may be made if a written consent to the decision is signed by all of the persons entitled to vote on the matter. The original signed consents shall be placed in the Corporation minute book and kept with the Corporation's records.

#### Voting By Proxy

12.3. A person who is authorized to exercise a proxy may not exercise the proxy unless the proxy is delivered to the officer presiding at the meeting before the business of the meeting begins. The secretary or other person taking the minutes of the meeting shall record in the minutes the name of the person who executed the proxy and the name of the person authorized to exercise the proxy. If a person who has duly executed a proxy personally attends a meeting, the proxy shall not be effective for that meeting. A proxy filed with the secretary or other designated officer shall remain in force and effect until the first of the following occurs:

- (a) An instrument revoking the proxy is delivered to the secretary or other designated officer.
- (b) The proxy authority expires under the terms of the proxy.
- (c) The proxy authority expires under the terms of the By-laws.

### ARTICLE 13

#### AMENDMENTS TO BY-LAWS

The By-laws may be altered, amended, or repealed and new By-laws may be adopted either by the membership or the Board of Directors. The notice of any meeting at which the By-laws are altered, amended, or repealed, or at which new By-laws are adopted shall include the text of the proposed By-law provisions as well as the text of any existing provisions proposed to be altered, amended, or repealed. Alternatively, the notice may include a fair summary of those provisions.

### ARTICLE 14

#### MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

##### Legal Authorities Governing Construction of By-laws

14.1. The By-laws shall be construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas. All references in the By-laws to statutes, regulations or other sources of legal authority shall refer to the authorities cited, or their successors, as they may be amended from time to time.

##### Legal Construction

14.2. If any By-law provision is held to be invalid, illegal, or unenforceable in any respect, the invalidity, illegality, or unenforceability shall not affect any other provision and the By-laws shall be construed as if the invalid, illegal, or unenforceable provision had not been included in the By-laws.

##### Headings

14.3. The headings used in the By-laws are used for convenience and shall not be considered in construing the terms of the By-laws.



#### Gender

14.4. Wherever the context requires, all words in the By-laws in the male general shall be deemed to include the female or neuter gender, all singular words shall include the plural, and all plural words shall include the singular.

#### Seal

14.5. The Board of Directors may provide for a corporate seal. Such a seal would consist of two concentric circles containing the words "RIO GRANDE VALLEY PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT SOCIETY", "Texas, in one circle and the word "Incorporated" together with the date of incorporation of the Corporation in the other circle.

#### Power of Attorney

14.6. A person may execute any instrument related to the Corporation by means of a power of attorney if an original executed copy of the power of attorney is provided to the secretary of the Corporation to be kept with the Corporation records.

#### Parties Bound

14.7. The By-laws shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the members, directors, officers, committee members, employees, and agents of the Corporation and their respective heirs, executors, administrators, legal representatives, successors, and assigns except as otherwise provided in the By-laws.

#### CERTIFICATE OF SECRETARY

I certify that I am the duly elected and acting secretary of RIO GRANDE VALLEY PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT SOCIETY and that the foregoing By-laws constitute the By-laws of the Corporation. These By-laws were duly adopted at a meeting of the Board of Directors held on the 24th day of March 1993.

Paul D. Sanchez, PA-C

Secretary

Rio Grande Valley Physician Assistant Society