



Puerto Rico  
CHAPTER

**BYLAWS**  
**THE PUERTO RICO CHAPTER**  
**OF THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF CARDIOLOGY**  
**CARDIOVASCULAR TEAM**

**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 -Cardiovascular Team- (ACCPR-CVT), a non-profit organization, as established by the parent organization ACCPR.

**Section 2. Purpose:** The purpose for which is organized is to support the purpose of the parent organization Puerto Rico Chapter of the American College of Cardiology (ACCPR)\* and to contribute to the promotion of cardiovascular health, and prevention of cardiovascular diseases. Ensure optimal quality of care to individuals with cardiovascular diseases, serving as advocates and proposing public policy. To develop and support the improvement of services and education of cardiovascular healthcare professionals through consultation, continuing education, testing, evaluation and other activities. 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 Cardiovascular Team 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

**ARTICLE II**  
**MISSION**

ACCPR-CVT 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 interest 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 Clinical Nurse Specialist, Clinical Pharmacist, Clinical Psychologist, Clinical Social Worker, Exercise Physiologist, Genetic Counselor, Nurse Practitioner, Occupational Therapist, Physical Therapist, Physician Assistant, Registered Cardiac Electrophysiology Specialist, Registered Cardiac Sonographer, Registered Cardiovascular Invasive Specialist, Registered Congenital Cardiac Sonographer, Registered Diagnostic Cardiac Sonographer, Registered Dietician, Registered Nurse, Registered Vascular Specialist, Registered Vascular Technologist.
- 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 Cardiovascular Team.
- H. To identify and disseminate information on key trends, affecting and pertinent to cardiovascular team.
- I. To serve as an advocate for the public regarding cardiovascular care.

ARTICLE IV  
MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Classifications:

- A. Active Member: Clinical Nurse Specialist, Clinical Pharmacist, Clinical Psychologist, Clinical Social Worker, Exercise Physiologist, Genetic Counselor, Nurse Practitioner, Occupational Therapist, Physical Therapist, Physician Assistant, Registered Cardiac Electrophysiology Specialist, Registered Cardiac Sonographer, Registered Cardiovascular Invasive Specialist, Registered Congenital Cardiac Sonographer, Registered Diagnostic Cardiac Sonographer, Registered Dietician, Registered Nurse, Registered Vascular Specialist, Registered Vascular Technologist, licensed in Puerto Rico or the United States whose area of practice include care of cardiovascular patients whose dues are current as a member of the parent organization ACCPR and the ACCPR-CVT.
- B. Membership Dues: Annual dues will be set at \$25.00/year 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-CVT.

Section 3. Voting and Office Holding Rights: Only active members of the ACCPR-CVT in good standing shall be eligible to vote.

Section 4. Termination of Membership:

- A. Members may have their membership terminated by a two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) 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-CVT official governing body responsible for the management and the affairs of ACCPR-CVT.

Section 2. Powers:

- A. To debate and determine the ACCPR-CVT policy.
- B. To provide strategic direction for ACCPR-CVT.
- C. To provide leadership for all of the component divisions of ACCPR-CVT.
- D. To participate in the decision making process of issues that affect the Cardiovascular Team, 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 and Secretary and a member of the parent organization ACCPR with no voting privileges.

Officers:

- a). Description: There shall be two (2) voting Officers: President and a Secretary.
- b). Eligibility Requirements: Each Officer must be a current Active Member of the ACCPR-CVT.
- c). Term of Office: The term of Office for President and the Secretary shall be three (3) 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-CVT 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.

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, established 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: Elections shall be held annually or as required. A committee shall be responsible for the nominations and elections process.

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, by conference call or electronic means, on a quarterly basis or more frequently as circumstances warrant. Minutes should be approved on the following meeting.

Section 8. Quorum: 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 ACCPR and the ACCPR-CVT.

Section 2. Additional Powers and Responsibilities: To approve, revised or amend these Bylaws. The General Assembly shall receive the results of the elections of Officers and Directors, reports of the Board of Directors, committees and other volunteer group; the findings of the annual audit and transact such other business as may come before meeting.

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-CVT shall have Committees appointed by the Board of Directors in sufficient numbers necessary to address mission objectives and position of the ACCPR and ACCPR-CVT.

- A. Education Committees (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-CVT.

ARTICLE VIII  
PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES

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

ARTICLE IX  
AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the Bylaws may be proposed by the Board of Directors and must be submitted to the ACCPR-CVT at least ninety (90) days prior the General Assembly.

1. Amendments which support the purpose, mission objective and position of ACCPR-CVT, as well federal and State laws will be submitted to the membership at least forty-five (45) days prior to the General Assembly.
2. In order to approved, any amendment must be approved by a two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) vote of the general Assembly.
3. 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-CVT 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-CVT shall inure to the benefit of any private individual. Further, no part of the income of ACCPR-CVT 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-CVT 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.