

Charter of the UK Chapter

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Rationale

This document provides the Terms of Reference for the UK Chapter of the Virtual Physiological Human (VPH) Institute (hereinafter VPH-UK). It can be modified at any time with the qualified (2/3) majority vote by the chapter Board; any modification must be approved also by the VPH Institute Board, before it enters in force. A definition of the VPH can be found here:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Virtual_Physiological_Human

Membership

The members of the VPH-UK chapter are individual persons or organisations who are members in good standing of the VPH Institute, and that are affiliated to a UK-based organisation, or UK-based branch of such organisation.

Consistently with the membership rules of the VPH institute, the individual members of the VPH-UK chapter can work for any organisation, including universities, research institutes, companies, governmental and non-governmental organisations, regulators, funding agencies, charities, etc.

Organisations whose rules prevent them from becoming members, but whose employees are interested in specific outputs of the VPH-UK chapter, can be invited by the Board to join as observers. In such role, one or more of their employees will periodically receive updates on the outputs of interest, and will be consulted when a topic relevant for such organisation is discussed.

Mission

The mission of the VPH Institute is to ensure that the Virtual Physiological Human is fully realised, universally adopted, and effectively used both in research and clinic. The UK Chapter shares the same mission, with particular reference to the territory of the United Kingdom and the organisations based in it.

Vision

The vision of the UK Chapter is that by 2050, mechanistic, physiology-based, subject-specific modelling will become the UK's preferred approach to transform data and information about the human body into actionable knowledge to support discovery, innovation, and delivery of healthcare.

Objectives

The UK Chapter will pursue five distinct objectives:

- A common View: Develop and periodically update a collegial view on the strength, weaknesses, threats, and opportunities for *in silico* medicine research, innovation, and its adoption in UK;
- Support, community, sharing: Establish a community of practice that provides mutual support, constructive peer review, exchanges best practices and tools, shares clinical champions;
- Formalise the Network: Seek network funding to expand the community, develop a common narrative on vision, scope, achievements, impact, etc. and interact more effectively with funding bodies;
- Public Policy Communication: use the community and the network outputs to promote the VPH to policy makers and funders;
- The grand challenge: To develop an *in silico* medicine national grand challenge that can attract extraordinary investments from the government.

Governance

The UK Chapter of the VPH Institute will operate as an internal articulation of the institute, without an independent legal personhood. In this sense, it will not be incorporated, and will not be able to operate commercially, if not through the VPH Institute, or through its member organisations.

No individual or organisation can be a member of the UK Chapter without being a member (of any type) of the VPH Institute. Any member of the VPH Institute who operates in a UK-based organisation is automatically added to the UK Chapter membership; however, upon request, a member can be suspended from the Chapter, in which case no communications will be sent to that member about the chapter activities. Similarly, any time an individual or an organisation loses for any reason its membership of the VPH Institute, it automatically loses also its membership of the Chapter.

The UK Chapter is governed by two bodies, the General Assembly, and the Chapter Board.

All members of the UK Chapter form the General Assembly, which is the governing authority of the Chapter. Each member is entitled to one vote. The General Assembly has the exclusive power of:

- Modifying the articles of this charter and any other internal regulation;

- Dissolving the VPH Institute UK Chapter;

The Chapter Board is formed by five (5) members, nominated by the General Assembly during an ordinary General Assembly, or elected through an electronic ballot, among candidates expressed by the membership. The mandate of each board member is three years; each board member can be re-elected once, which limits to six years the presence of one individual in the Chapter board. The members of the Board can be removed at any time by the General Assembly. Every member of the Board can resign after written notification to the Board's chairperson.

The Board runs the general affairs and represents the UK Chapter in all circumstances. It represents the organization by the majority of the members of the Board. The Board is authorized to deal with all affairs, except those explicitly appointed to the General Assembly.

The Board shall be responsible for affairs such as:

- Coordinating the activities of the UK Chapter;
- Establishing general policies and operating procedures for the UK Chapter;
- Designing the time and place of meetings of the General Assembly as well as meetings of the Board;
- Designing the specific duties and responsibility of each individual member of the Board;

The Board shall hold at least two regular meetings (either physical or by teleconference) each year. The Board's chairperson can call extraordinary meetings if he/she deems them necessary. Meetings shall be notified to members of the Board at least 30 calendar days in advance of each meeting, together with the agenda. All decisions of the Board require the support of the simple majority of the members attending, or voting by proxy, or by email.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Board will elect among its members a President of the UK Chapter, who will act as Board's chairperson, and UK Chapter spokesperson. The President's mandate will last three years, and can be renewed at most once. The President will also chair the General Assembly.