

INDIAN SOCIETY FOR MEDICAL STATISTICS (ISMS)

Minutes of the General Body (GB) meeting held on 14th October 2015 at Auditorium, KLE University, Belagavi, at 5:30 pm

Members present: 35 (The Meeting adjourned and reassembled in view of lack of quorum.)

1. Welcome

The President welcomed the GB members to the meeting and thanked the members for electing him as the President, and also thanked the KLE University authorities for hosting the conference.

2. Confirmation of the Minutes of the GB meeting held on 2nd November 2014 at Jammu University, Jammu

The minutes of the GB meeting held on 2nd November 2014 at Jammu University, Jammu, were accepted as a true record of the proceedings.

3. Report of the General Secretary

In the absence of the General Secretary, Treasurer Dr. A K Bansal presented the report as provided by General Secretary Dr. Anil Mathew, and explained various activities undertaken by the Society during the preceding year. The members appreciated the hand written member-register prepared by the General Secretary which was a long felt need of the Society, and hoped that this will be regularly updated by him and all the General Secretaries in future.

The GB also decided that 'Expired' be written in red for those life members about whom we know have expired.

The General Body decided that one more email be sent to ISMS Group for

- i. Helping in locating email IDs of more members, and
- ii. Helping to identifying the members who have expired.

The members may be asked to look at the list at the ISMS website and requested to help in updating this list. (Action: General Secretary)

Dr. B. Binukumar, NIMHANS (binukumarb@gmail.com), and Dr. Vasudeva Guddattu, Manipal University (vasudev.guddattu@gmail.com), volunteered to help in locating the missing email IDs through Facebook and such other social sites. The President welcomed the suggestion. For this purpose, a list of members whose email IDs are not known will be sent to them. (Action: General Secretary)

4. Report of the Treasurer

Dr. A K Bansal, Treasurer, presented the audited report, and awards Excel sheet he has assiduously prepared that gives the current amount available for each award and year-wise expenditure since 2013. Such an accounting for ISMS awards is available for the first time in the history of the Society.

Dr. A K Bansal informed that all the papers required for the registration of the Society were submitted to the Registrar in Delhi office along with the required bundle of papers of proceedings of previous 3 years. This entailed a total expenditure of less than Rs 5000/-. He also informed that the Registrar office in Delhi is being split into 4 parts, and because of this reason no action is expected in next 3 months. The GB appreciated his sincere efforts for completing the job in time that was pending for decades, and approved Treasurer's report.

The GB approved the decision of the EC that henceforth the seed money of Rs 10,000/- given to organize a conference will not be asked to be refunded.

5. Report of the Editor

Dr. Ajit Sahai, Editor, presented the report and mentioned that the ISMS Bulletin is being regularly published every 6 months without break, ever since he has taken over. The EC appreciated his enormous efforts in raising the level of content and quality of our Bulletin. Dr. Sahai informed that he is trying to get ISSN number for our Bulletin that will give it more credibility. He mentioned that he has prepared one hard copy of each of the five issues brought out by him for record.

The Editor also mentioned of expenditure of Rs 10,000/- for the last two years. (Action: Treasurer)

He mentioned about being gradually relieved from Editor's position because he is retiring. But the GB decided that he will continue as the Editor for the remaining 2 years of his term, but can choose his team for helping him in the work. This will be in addition to the Editorial Board and the International Advisory Board constituted by him.

The GB approved Editor's report.

6. Report of the Web Coordinator

Dr. B Antonisamy, Web Coordinator, presented the report of the work done during the year and informed the committee that the website is being regularly updated and the facility for the login of members has also been created so that they can themselves change their address and other details. He also mentioned the work for hosting and domain maintenance has been done through a

professional agency who is charging Rs.4,795 per annum. but the work of content uploading and updating is being done by the volunteers in his department. This is the same amount as was paid for the last two years.

For immediate updating the membership on the website it was decided that the Treasurer will send a copy of intimation of new members to the Web Coordinator also in addition to the President, President-Elect and the General Secretary now being sent. (Action: Treasurer and Web Coordinator)

The GB appreciated his efforts and approved Web Coordinator's report.

7. Report of the FSMS Committee

The President presented the report of the FSMS Committee and informed the GB that there was only one nomination and the nominee passes the eligibility requirement. However, the EC members were not convinced and decided not to award FSMS to anybody this year.

The General Body recommended that the FSMS Committee henceforth be dynamic by retiring two senior most members each year and replacing them by two next senior most members. This seniority will be decided by the year of their election as the Fellow of the Society. (Action: General Secretary)

8. Report of the Nomination Committee

Dr. Arvind Pandey, Chairman of the Nomination Committee, was not present but sent his report to the President. He informed that six (6) nominations were received for three (3) vacant position of EC member. The Nomination Committee recommended the names of Dr. Abha Rani Agarwal, Dr. L Jeyeseelan and Dr. Venkat Putcha. The GB approved their election as EC member with effect from 01-01-2016 as per the rules in this regard. (Action: General Secretary to inform all concerned).

9. Report of the Awards Committee

Dr. K Sundaram, Chairman of the Awards Committee, presented the report and recommended the following:

- i. Prof. SK Bhattacharya Oration: *Prof. T Krishnan*
- ii. Prof. BG Prasad Award: *Dr. A. Arumugam Pichai*
- iii. Smt. Suraj Kali Jain Award: No nomination received
- iv. Prof. Sukhatme Award: *Dr. Vanamail Perumal*
- v. Smt. Saroj Shukla Young Researcher Award: No nominations received

- vi. Prof. K R Sundaram award: Three nominations received and the Awards Committee recommended that this be given to 2 persons this year as the money for 2013 award is still lying with the Society. After a detailed discussion, the Committee agreed this award be given to 2 persons this year as an exception. But in future award for any previous year cannot be carried forward to any subsequent year. Goes this time to *Ravi Shankar* and *Melissa Lewis* (2015 award to be given in 2016) as recommended by the Awards Committee.
- vii. Prof. Indrayan Travel Grant: There was no applicant but the EC decided to give it to *Dr. K Sreenivasan* this year (2015). (Action: Treasurer)
- viii. Smt. Ramrati Lalima Sahai Award: No nomination received but the EC decided to give it to *Dr. T Krishnan* for the year 2015 (to be awarded in 2016).

The GB approved these proposals.

A question was raised about same person getting same award in two different years. According to the rules this is not allowed. To ensure that this does not happen, the award form will have an item whereby the applicant will be asked to certify that s/he has not received this award in any of the previous years. In case any such irregularity is noted the award will be taken back and his/her ISMS membership will be terminated for misconduct. (Action: General Secretary)

10. Report of the Constitution and Awards Review Committee

This Committee was formed as per decision of General Body last year with Dr. B L Verma as the Chairman and Dr. Ajit Sahai, Dr. A Indrayan, Dr. Anil Mathew and Dr. G D Sukhla as the members. Dr. B L Verma informed that two separate reports have been prepared, one for revising the constitution and the other for revising the rules of the awards. These revisions were undertaken as per the decisions of the General Body last year and were necessary in view of large number of changes that have taken place in previous two decades. Both the reports were sent to the EC members by email and their comments were invited. The revised constitution was also sent to General Body through ISMS group. The report has been accordingly finalized and the GB approved the revised constitution.

Report for revised rules of the awards was also sent to EC and GB as per the procedure mentioned above. The GB approved the following amendments:

- i. Henceforth the Smt. Ramrati Lalima Sahai, Prof. Indrayan Travel Grant and Prof. SK Bhattacharya Oration Award will be decided by the

Search Committee of 5 senior people who will be appointed by the President in consultation with the Past President and the President-Elect. The names of 5-member Search Committee will be circulated to the EC members by email for their approval. This Search Committee will take effect immediately after this approval of the EC by email is granted. They will rotate with the senior most (as decided by the EC) retiring each year and replaced by another member (also to be decided by the EC).

- ii. The Search Committee will announce the recipient of Prof. A Indrayan Travel Grant at least 2 months in advance so that the chosen person can be informed to plan his/her participation in the upcoming conference with the funding of this Grant.

(Action: President to initiate the formation of the Search Committee)

Regarding taking approval of such matters by email, a suggestion came that this be done by sending the hard copies by postal mails. The President cited an earlier decision of the General Body that all communications will be done by electronic mails and also mentioned that most such associations are moving to digital communication and discarding the print outs. Hard copies are now discouraged everywhere and the communication will continue to be electronic through email or ISMS Group as is being currently done in ISMS and increasingly all around the world.

11. Report of the Biostatistics Education Committee

This Committee was also formed as per the decision of the General Body last year comprising Prof. A Indrayan as the chair, Dr. B L Verma, Dr. Ajit Sahai and Dr. Manoj Kumar as the members to fulfill the desire of the Society pending for three decades. Dr. Indrayan presented the report of this Committee and informed that the Committee has already finalized its recommendations for Medical Council of India, Pharmacy Council of India and Ayurvedic and Homeopathic Councils. These recommendations were circulated to the EC members by email and to the General Body through ISMS group and website. The recommendations so finalized have already been communicated to the respective Councils. He informed that the task now is to follow-up these recommendations with the respective Councils. For this purpose a focal group of 3 persons comprising Dr. A Indrayan, Dr. C M Pandey and Dr. Ajit Sahai has been constituted to pursue the issue with the respective Councils.

12. Printing of Revised Constitution Awards Rules.

The EC decided that the printing of the revised Constitution and revised Awards Rules be undertaken once the final draft is available. (Action: General Secretary)

13.Venue for ISMS 2016 Conference

The President informed that he has received the required letter from the Director, Indian Statistical Institute (ISI), Kolkata, to host our 2016 conference.

Dr. Saurabh Ghosh, our member from ISI, Kolkata, who initiated this proposal, was present and the President invited him to make his presentation. He made an extremely good presentation and GB approved ISI, Kolkata, as the venue for 2016 Conference.

14.Any other item with the Permission of the Chair

Dr. B L Verma proposed that a new award be initiated to be called ISMS Lifetime Achievement Award to be funded from ISMS corpus. The proposal was approved as follows:

The Search Committee as proposed under item 10(i) of these minutes will be assigned to search a suitable person for the award. The selected person need not to be a member of ISMS. The criteria are to be worked out by considering the contribution of person to the subject of medical biostatistics.

15.Vote of Thanks

The President thanked all the members for their valuable suggestions, and Dr. N K Tyagi for organizing the conference.