



Indian Society for Medical Statistics

Minutes of the Governing Council Meeting - 2023

The Governing Council meeting was held at Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam, Kerala on November 1, 2023 at 5:30PM with the following agenda.

The Governing Council (GC) meeting agenda – 2023:

1. Welcome by President
2. Silent prayer in respect of sad demise of Prof. C. R. Rao & Prof. C.M Pandey
3. Approval of minutes of the 2022 GC & GB meetings
4. Report of General Secretary
5. Report of Treasurer
6. Report of Bulletin Editor
7. Report of Web coordinator
8. Award Committee report
9. Nomination committee report
10. Search committee report
11. FSMS committee report
12. Arrangement for the ISMSSCON-2023
13. Venue for the ISMSSCON-2024
14. Renewal of Registration of the society
15. Proposal from the National Academy of Medical Sciences (NAMS)
16. Amendment in awards rules: Prof. Indrayan Travel Grant
17. Thanking the retiring GC members
18. Any other point with the permission of the chair
19. Vote of thanks by General Secretary

The GC meeting started with a condolence silent prayer in respect of the demised members, Prof. C.R Rao and Prof. C.M Pandey. Then, President-ISMS, Prof. S.N.

Dwivedi welcomed GC members, Committee Chairs and past presidents who attended the meeting. Later, the President requested General Secretary of the society to take up agenda item one by one.

Members of the GC unanimously approved minutes of the 2022 GC and GB meetings.

General Secretary presented report of the activities held during 2023 and the following is the summary of the report.

Prof. N. Sreekumaran Nair, the former General Secretary, was instrumental in transferring the ISMS secretariat to NIMHANS, Bengaluru. Prof. Nair has handed over society-related documents, including the ISMS registration certificate, and provided access to the ISMS Google group. The Secretariat began functioning from last week of February 2023. The society's all finance-related documents were handed over to Dr. C. Ponnuraja, Treasurer by the General Secretary, in March 2023.

ISMS secretariat has made time-to-time communications about various announcements, notifications of the society, and various news items like Minutes of the meeting, notifications of ISMS bulletin, conferences, workshops, and vacancies, etc., which were relevant for the members through the google group.

The secretariat closely worked with the Web coordinator, Dr. Prasanna Samuel, and contributed to the activities of the Web sub-committee to update the ISMS website. The committee had many meetings during the year and is on the job of modernizing and updating the website. Though they sent many requests to members regarding updating their communication addresses and other contact details, the responses received have not been encouraging.

Contents on many web pages of our website have been updated. Past Conference details have been updated as the uploaded information had some significant errors. This has been done after circulating it to the society's past Presidents and General Secretaries. Further, Minutes of GC and GB, audit reports, recent ISMS Bulletin, and copies of general communication for members, membership list, etc., have been uploaded.

The Secretariat has initiated the creation of databases for society's activities and awards. The draft version of office bearers of the ISMS/ FSMS awardees list has been updated and uploaded to the website. In addition, the Secretariat looks forward to create a database for various other awards constituted by the society.

An invitation was sent to all awardees to receive the prestigious awards of the ISMS during the inaugural session of the ISMSCON-2023. All awardees have been kind enough to accept and make their presence during inauguration, except a few due to unavoidable or health circumstances.

In 2023, 35 new life members have been enrolled. Membership certificates to all new members have been sent after the treasurer confirms membership fee payment and scrutinizing the applications.

The Secretariat has updated the membership list, and all attempts have been made to update e-mail IDs in the Google group. Currently, we have nearly 800 e-mail IDs in Google Group and nearly 1100 life members of the society. Among them, 38 members are living outside of India. However, many of our senior members' e-mail IDs must be updated in the existing directory.

Secretariat closely worked with conference secretariat of ISMSCON-2023 in organizing the annual conference in terms of finalising scientific programmes, Inaugural function and other meetings and ISMS activities during the conference.

General Secretary's report concluded with a thanking message to all GC members, all ISMS committees: Chairs and its members - High power committee, Nominations committee, Search committee, award committee, conference organizing secretariat, Web subcommittee, etc.for their support and co-operation. Council approved the General Secretary's report.

After report of general secretary, Treasurer, Dr. C. Ponnuraja presented the audited report of the society. The treasurer explained the financial positions and presented the audited report for the FY 2022-'23, and hardcopy of the report was circulated among

the members and later uploaded in the website. Council approved the Treasurer's report.

Due to family emergency, the bulletin editor, Dr. Binu V.S, could not attend the meeting. On his behalf, General Secretary presented the report submitted to the Secretariat. The Editorial Office is planning to publish two issues in a year for the periods. A five members Editorial Board has been constituted with members namely Dr. Binu. V.S (NIMHANS, Bengaluru), Dr. Vasudeva Guddattu (MAHE, Manipal), Dr. Kamal Kishore (PGIMER, Chandigarh), Dr. Ravishankar (VP Chest Institute, Delhi), and Dr. Amrutha Jose (ICMR-NIIH). The Editorial Office had requested all the esteemed members for their contributions in terms of technical notes, news, and events. However, the response from the members were almost nil and they received only two reports of academic events held during the period; the report of the Organizing Secretary of the previous ISMS Conference; and the report from Dr. B.L Verma regarding the High Power Committee on Biostatistics in Medical Education & Health Research. The Editorial Board has already compiled all these reports and will be publishing in the ISMS bulletin 2023 in due course. The GC discussed all these matters and decided to inform the Bulletin Editor to explore the possibility of a journal, and approved the report of the Bulletin Editor.

The Web coordinator, Dr. Prasanna Samuel, also could not attend the meeting due to personal reasons. However, he sent the report to the General Secretary, and General Secretary presented the report to Governing council. In brief, the following activities are undertaken and reported.

The ISMS website is designed and maintained by the Dept. of Biostatistics, Christian Medical College, Vellore. The log of changes made during the year on the website content (change log) and other activities is shown below. All these updates were smoothly executed over the year as requested.

Change log for ISMS website content & activities:

- 06-Jan-2023 - Audit Report- FY 2021-22
- 11-Jan-2023 – GC and GB meeting minutes

- 07-Feb-2023- Current Office bearers and updation of membership form
- 27-Jun-2023 - First ISMS conference announcement
- 20-Jul-2023 – Updation of Membership Directory
- 15-Sep-2023- ISMS office bearers (past & present), FSMS awardees, GC members,
- Bulletin Editor, Web coordinators and Conferences
- 05-Oct-2023- ISMS Bulletin 2020 & ISMS Bulletin 2022.

Further discussion has been made on this report and it is decided to communicate the web coordinator to attend the ISMS GC meetings. GC approved the report of the Web Coordinator.

Chairs of Various committees presented their recommendations on awards and Nominations.

Award committee Chair, Prof. R.M. Pandey could not attend the meeting. However, Prof. Pandey communicated the following recommendations of the award committee to the secretariat and general secretary presented the recommendations to GC.

| ISMS AWARDS FOR 2023 | RECOMMENDED NAME |
|---|-------------------------|
| Prof. P.V. Sukhatme Award | Mr. S.Marimuthu |
| Prof. K. R. Sundaram Young Researcher Award | Mr. Sachit Ganapathy |

Recommendations of the award committee have been approved by the Governing council.

Nomination committee Chair, Prof. P. Venkatesan, briefed about the election procedure and election results of Dec 2022. He has reported that the election committee received very good responses and 504 members actively participated in the election and casted their votes. Voting patterns for each positions has been shared with those respective contestants. Detailed results were discussed in the GC. Further, Prof.

Venkatesan informed GC that two nominations are received from ISMS members for the full term position of governing council members and the details are as follows.

| Name | Institute |
|-------------------|--|
| Dr. Kamal Kishore | PGIMER, Chandigarh |
| Dr. M. Rajeswari | JIPMER, Puducherry. Currently at AIIMS, Mangalagiri |

GC further discussed this matter and approved the recommendation of the Nomination Committee.

Search committee Chair Prof. B. L. Verma presented the following recommendations.

| Sl. no. | Name of the Award | Committee's Recommendation For Conferment of the Award | Nominee's Consent Received or Not | Year when the Award is to be presented* |
|----------------|------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| 1. | Lifetime Achievement Award | Dr. K. R Sundaram | Received | In the current year (2023) at Kottayam |
| 2. | Professor S K Bhattacharya Oration | Dr. L. Jeyaseelan | Received | In the following year (2024) |
| 3. | Smt. Ramrati Lalima Sahai Award | Dr. S. S Ganguly | Received | In the following Year (2024) |
| 4. | Professor P. P. Talwar Lecture | Dr. Sanjay Zodpey, President – Public Health Foundation of India, New Delhi. | Received | In the current year (2023) at Kottayam |
| 5. | Professor A Indrayan Travel Grant | Dr. P. Venkatesan | Received | In the current year (2023) at Kottayam |

The search committee also proposed to the GC that, the *Lifetime Achievement Award for the year 2023* to Prof. K R Sundaram may be presented in 2023 at Kottayam (Kerala) as a special case on health ground. After a brief discussion, these recommendations were approved by the GC.

President of the ISMS, as the Chair of FSMS committee, presented recommendation regarding FSMS award for the year 2023 to Dr. Kaushlendra Kumar Singh, Senior Professor, Department of Statistics, BHU, Varanasi. GC approved it.

The GC also recommended Prof. L. Jeyaseelan, Immediate Past President of ISMS, in the FSMS committee to fill-up the vacancy due to sad demise of Prof. C.M Pandey.

ISMS Secretariat received two proposals for hosting the 42nd Annual Conference of the Indian Society for Medical Statistics (ISMSCON-2024). One of the proposal was submitted by Prof. Brijesh P. Singh, Department of Statistics, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, and the other by Dr. Prabhaker Mishra, Department of Biostatistics and health Informatics, SGPGIMS, Lucknow. However, GC approved BHU's proposal to host the ISMSCON-2024.

Prof. S.N Dwivedi briefed to the GC, about the proposal from Dr S.K Sarin, President of the National Academy of Medical Sciences (NAMS), to jointly organize NAMS Orations and awards in the annual meetings of the related professional bodies. The GC discussed various aspects of organising such NAMS orations during the annual ISMS conference and decided to refrain from entertaining such proposals.

There were some proposals to change the award rules for the Prof. Indrayan Travel grant due to limited time from the announcement of the award and conference date, as well as those selected for this grant not being able to utilize the fund effectively. After several deliberations, the GC has decided not to change the rules for the time being.

The General Secretary has raised some concerns about the current status of the registration of ISMS. Various aspects in this regard were discussed, and GC proposed to form a committee with GC member, Dr. C.B Tripathi, IHBAS, Delhi (as Chair), and Dr. Jeethendra Yadav, ICMR-NIMS, New Delhi, (as Member), along with the general

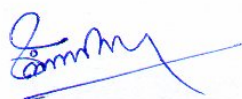
secretary and treasurer as Ex-officio members, to look into this matter; and duly communicate it to GC.

Other items with the permission of Chair:

- FSMS Fee: GC also looked into the matter of contribution to the society against FSMS award. It was decided that all future applications should accompany a cheques/DD worth Rs. 10,000/- and cheques of only elected members will be deposited to the ISMS bank account. The remaining cheques will be returned to applicant's address after FSMS committee's recommendations.
- Prof. P.P Talwar Lecture: Prof. N.Sreekumaran Nair raised a concern regarding the conduct of prestigious ISMS Orations/ Lectures in online mode. GC elaborately discussed into this matter, and took a decision that all society's Orations/ Lectures should be conducted in Offline mode.
- Revisit the award/ constitution rules: There was a proposal by Prof. P. Venkatesan to amend the ISMS constitution in items like membership eligibility, application for award eligibility, etc. GC deliberated over this issue and requested Prof. B.L Verma and other committee members to work on the related constitution amendment, and communicate it to GC.

Governing council appreciated and thanked all retiring members from GC, Dr C.M Singh, AIIMS, Patna and Dr. S.B Singh, RIIMS, Ranchi for their service to ISMS.

Finally, the meeting was concluded with a vote of thanks by General Secretary.



Dr. B. Binukumar
General Secretary-ISMS