

Indian Academy of Neurosciences

Minutes of the General Body Meeting held on October 28, 2012 at Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar

The meeting of the General Body (GB) of Indian Academy of Neurosciences (IAN) was held on October 28, 2012 at Gurunanak Dev University, Amritsar, the venue of the XXX annual conference of Indian Academy of Neurosciences. The meeting was chaired by Professor Mahender K Thakur, President of the Academy. He welcomed the members and the meeting proceeded as per the agenda. The list of members present during the meeting is enclosed as supplementary sheet (Annexure – I).

1. The minutes of the last GB meeting held at New Delhi on October 31, 2011 were confirmed.
- 2/3. The members readily agreed to take up the action taken point as per the agenda item no. 2 and possibility to hold the CIMP Regional Meeting at Lucknow by Professor Rakesh Shukla at agenda item no. 3 for discussions together.
3. The members readily agreed that point no. 2 and 3 as per agenda, the action taken point and possibility to hold the CIMP Regional Meeting at Lucknow by Professor Rakesh Shukla in 2013 respectively may be discussed together. In the absence of Dr. Rakesh Shukla who could not attend the meeting due to unforeseen reasons, the Secretary HQ, Dr. Vinay K. Khanna explained that a meeting with Gill Moore, CIMP Executive Secretary was to be organized in Lucknow with Dr. Rakesh Shukla for discussing the modalities for organizing the event in July 2012. However, the meeting could not be materialized. He further informed that the issue was discussed in the EC meeting on October 27, 2012 that time to hold this regional meet in 2013 is now short. The recommendation of the EC that possibility to hold such meeting in later years be explored if possible was approved by the GB.
4. Dr. Pankaj Seth, the General Secretary of IAN in his report informed the members about the year round activities of the Academy and its local branches. He shared with pride that the Academy had around 900 Life Members of which 80 were added last year. He informed that around 115 Associate Members have also joined the Academy which shows the increasing strength of the Academy. Highlighting the importance of the Academy in coordinating the Brain Awareness Program in the country in collaboration with National Brain Research Centre, Manesar, he stressed on the fact that the Academy has a major role to play to promote neuroscience research for the benefit of the Society and in building up the capacity to take up research in challenging areas by producing trained manpower. Dr. Seth apprised the members that a DBT sponsored Scientific Communication and Grant Writing Workshop organized during the XXX annual

conference of IAN as a separate entity will benefit the young researchers. The General Secretary informed the members that for the first time FAONS sponsored 5 fellowships to IAN nominated young students to attend the Australian Neuroscience Society meeting which indicates recognition of the Academy and global presence of IAN members. He requested the members to update their profile and contact information by logging on to IAN website or by contacting Dr. Vinay K. Khanna, Secretary HQ and Dr. A.K. Agrawal, Treasurer of the Academy in an effort to update the IAN Directory.

5. The report presented by Dr. A. K. Agrawal, the Treasurer of the IAN was approved unanimously by the GB.

6. Efforts of Dr. Akshay Anand in bringing out the issues of Annals of Neurosciences were appreciated by the GB. He took a note of requests by some of the members for not receiving copy of the journals by them and assured them to check the matter in his office so that they receive copies of the journal. The point as discussed in the EC to approach the publishers for bringing out regular issues of Academy's official journal Annals of Neurosciences was also addressed. The GB approved the recommendation of the EC that details of the terms and conditions of publishers be explored by the Editor and discussed with President, General Secretary and other office bearers to evaluate the approach.

7. Dr. (Ms). Gurcharan Kaur, the Organizing Secretary of the XXX IAN Conference presented the report on the scientific sessions organized and number of papers presented in oral and poster sessions. In her brief report, Dr (Ms). Kaur apprised that 3 workshops, 6 plenary lectures, 12 symposia, 4 oral sessions, 2 award sessions, invited lectures and poster sessions were held and were well attended and received by the delegates. One of the highlights of the meeting was the ISN-Wiley-Blackwell JNC lecture delivered by Prof Philip J Robinson from Australia. The lecture was appreciated by the audience for its scientific content and simplicity. The annual meeting involved a sessions that involved the interaction of school children with well known neuroscientists from India and abroad, including President of FAONS, Prof Sarah Dunlop. Students had opportunity to learn how normal neurons fire and wire together during the session through simple tools from the peers in the field. She also informed that a panel discussion with Chairpersons of all symposia has been scheduled on October 30, 2012 to understand the recent advancement in the fields and a Session on "Neuroscience Research Promotion programs" of National funding agencies was also organized which involved advisors from DBT and ICMR. She said that there was a lot of enthusiasm amongst young researchers to participate in this conference and the conference registered a considerable attendance. She thanked the science agencies, faculty member and colleagues for their support to organize this Neuroscience meet.

8. Consideration of the recommendations of the Executive Committee

- i.
 - a) The GB approved the election of Dr. Gautam Palit, Lucknow and Dr .T R. Raju, Bengaluru as Fellows of Indian Academy of Neurosciences.
 - b) The GB also approved election of Dr. Hitoshi Okamoto, RIKEN, Japan and Dr. Phil Robinson, Australia as Honorary Fellow of Indian Academy of Neurosciences.
 - c) The recommendation of the EC conferring B.K. Bachhawat Memorial Life Time Achievement Award on Professor (Ms). Shashi Wadhwa, AIIMS, New Delhi was approved by the GB.
 - d) The recommendation of the EC to invite more nominations for KT Shetty Memorial Oration 2013 alongwith the nominations for the year 2014 and select a suitable candidate later was approved by the GB.
- ii) The GB was informed that the paper by Niranjana Kambi published in Journal of Neuroscience has been selected for Jyotsnamoyee Raghunath Bhattacharya Prize.
- iii) Modalities for Organizing the FAONS Symposium as a part of annual meetings of IAN were discussed and efforts for the initiative to start the FAONS Symposium from 2012 were appreciated. The GB further approved that as decided in the last GB meeting in New Delhi, savings of the IAN – FAONS 2010 held at Lucknow be transferred to IAN account so that corpus be created to support the FAONS Symposium every year with the annual conference of IAN and providing travel grants to young researchers for attending the FAONS meeting. Further as recommended by the EC, the GB approved that Rs.50,000/- (Rupees Fifty thousand only) from the corpus be provided to the Organizers of the XXX Annual Conference of Indian Academy of Neurosciences. It was suggested that rest of the amount be invested as FDR by the Treasurer.

Guidelines approved by the EC (mentioned below) to be observed by the Organizers to hold the FAONS Symposium regularly as part of annual conference of IAN were approved by the GB.

- ✓ A grant up to Rs. 40,000/ - to Rs. 50,000/- depending on the interest from the corpus as FDR for the purpose and not exceeding Rs. 50,000/- (Rupees Fifty thousand only) will be provided by the Treasurer to the organizers of the annual conference on request to hold the FAONS Symposium.
- ✓ The theme of the symposium should be one of the neurological issues relevant to the Asian-Oceanian region.

- ✓ The Symposium should have 4-6 established as well as young speakers from Asian Oceanian region including India.
 - ✓ The grant may be utilized to meet the partial expenses / organizational expenses including registration, domestic travel, lodging and hospitality of the speakers.
 - ✓ The Organizing Secretary will submit a report of the Symposium and statement of expenditure of the grant with in three months after organizing the conference.
- iv) The recommendation of the EC on the amendments in the procedure of Awards / Prizes specially Tulsabai Somani Educational Trust Award, DM Kar Prize, SS Parmar Research Foundation USA Prize and Jyotsnamoyee Raghunath Bhattacharya Prize were discussed and approved by the GB. The GB approved following amendments be made in the condition of the awards / prizes,
- ✓ The condition that papers awarded Tulsabai Somani Educational Trust Award, DM Kar Prize and SS Parmar Research Foundation USA Prize shall be published in the official journal of the Academy Annals of Neuroscience be made optional. It was also approved that extended abstracts up to 2 pages may be asked by the Organizers / Secretary HQ to judge merit of the work to initially select and prioritize the papers for respective awards.
 - ✓ In case of multi-authored publication, for Jyotsnamoyee Raghunath Bhattacharya Prize, the applicant should be the first author and member of the Academy.
- v) Proposal to hold regular training workshops on relevant topics including scientific communications and grant writing for capacity building of young researchers with annual meetings of IAN as recommended by the Neuroscience Task Force of the Department of Biotechnology, New Delhi was discussed and approved by the GB unanimously.
- vi) Proposals for forming new IAN local Chapters in Varanasi, Jaipur and Vellore were discussed in the GB. Request from Varanasi was approved by the GB as they met the requirement of 10 or more active IAN members. As resolved in the EC meeting, the GB agreed that Dr. Anurag Tomar be asked to send recent and complete CVs of Life Members of IAN in Jaipur to have the local branch. It was also recommended that approval be given incase CV of 10 Life Members are received by Dr. Anurag Tomar. The request for the third chapter from Vellore was not approved as the

minimum requirement of 10 Life Members was lacking as per IAN Rules and Bye-laws.

Further, recommendation of the EC that up to Rs 10,000/- (Rupees Ten thousand only) per year may be spared for activities at local chapters of the Academy was approved by the GB. The suggestion of the EC that Conveners of the local Chapters should send formal proposals to the Secretary HQ which will be evaluated by the EC before the grant is provided was also recommended by the GB.

- vii) Request by Dr. A. Nath for modification in the name of the **R. Nath Travel Fellowship** to **Ravindra and Lalitha Nath Travel Fellowship** was discussed and approved by the GB.
 - viii) The proposal to bid for hosting of IBRO 2019 meeting by India was discussed and approved by the GB. The General Secretary was requested to explore the feasibility to hold the Congress at New Delhi or Hyderabad in view of the adequate infrastructure for such event.
9. Proposal of Dr. Umesh C. Srivastava, University of Allahabad, Allahabad to host the XXXI annual conference of the IAN in 2013 at Allahabad was discussed and approved by the GB. The other proposal received from Vellore by Dr. Zaved Khan could not be taken up as he was not present.
10. The GB considered the recommendation of the EC for constituting the new executive and approved the same (list enclosed as Annexure - I).

Any other matter

11. The proposal that savings of earlier conferences if any with the Organizers may be transferred to the account of the IAN or to the respective local branch for running the activities was approved by the GB.
12. A template of the programme for the annual meeting of IAN prepared by the Secretary HQ and recommended by the EC was approved by the GB. It was recommended that the template should be passed on to the Organizing Secretary in advance to develop the programme of the conference accordingly.

Several members expressed their appreciation for the contributions of outgoing members of IAN.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair.

Annexure - I

List of members who attended the General Body Meeting on October 28, 2012

- 1 Rakesh Shukla, Lucknow
- 2 S.B. Deshpande, Varanasi
- 3 T.R. RAju, Bengaluru
- 4 Chanda Kulkarni, Bengaluru
- 5 Preeti Joshi, Bengaluru
- 6 C. Nath, Lucknow
- 7 A.B. Pant, Lucknow
- 8 R.C. Srimal, New Delhi
- 9 Pankaj Seth, Manesar
- 10 Rameshwar Singh, New Delhi
- 11 A.K. Agrawal, Lucknow
- 12 Gurcharan Singh, Amritsar
- 13 B.N. Dhawan, Lucknow
- 14 G.N. Pandey, USA
- 15 Subhash C. Pandey, USA
- 16 Raj D. Mehra, New Delhi
- 17 A.J. Vanisree, Madras
- 18 Sarah Dunlop, Australia
- 19 Mayadevi M, Thiruvananthapuram
- 20 S.K. Trigun, Varanasi
- 21 Shiv Sharma, Manesar
- 22 S.C. Biswas, Kolkata

- 23 Sumantra Das, Kolkata
- 24 Surajit Ganguly, New Delhi
- 25 Anant B. Patel, Hyderabad
- 26 Rahul, New Delhi
- 27 Purab Pal,
- 28 Subhajit Giri,
- 29 Arunibha Ghosh, Kolkata
- 30 Prosenjit Pal, Kolkata
- 31 Vedangana Saini, Amritsar
- 32 Harsimran Kaur, Amritsar
- 33 Tanima Dutta, Amritsar
- 34 Rupam Guleri, Amritsar
- 35 Amrita Angwala, Amritsar
- 36 Gundeep Kaur, Amritsar
- 37 Pritika Singh, Amritsar
- 38 Neel Kamal Sharma, Chandigarh
- 39 S.K. Shankar, Bangaluru
- 40 Mythu, Bangaluru
- 41 Rakesh Kumar, New Delhi
- 42 Aurnab Ghosh, Pune
- 43 M.C. Arunan, Mumbai
- 44 Avijit Banik, Chandigarh
- 45 S. Prasad,
- 46 Ishan Patro, Gwalior
- 47 Nish Patro, Gwalior

48 Sridhar B. , Chandigarh

49 Gillipsie Minhas, Chandigarh

50 Kritika Goyal, Chandigarh

51 Navdeep Kaur, Amritsar

52 BSS Rao, Bangaluru

53 Akshay Anand, Chandigarh

Executive Committee (2012 – 2013)

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Varanasi

Vice Presidents

Dr. S.C. Pandey
Chicago, USA

Dr. U.C. Srivastava
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Dr. S. Sinha
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General Secretary

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Secretary HQ

Dr. V.K. Khanna
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Secretary International Affairs

Dr. D.K. Lahiri
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Dr U.S. Bhalla
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Amritsar

Dr. (Ms). S.B. Singh
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IBRO and FAONS Representative

Dr. P. K. Seth
Lucknow

Immediate Past President

Dr. R. Shukla
Lucknow

Immediate Past General Secretary

Dr M.K. Thakur
Varanasi