

Minutes of the General Body Meeting held on November 23, 2007 at Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi

The meeting of the General Body (GB) of Indian Academy of Neurosciences (IAN) was held on November 23, 2007 at Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi. The meeting was chaired by Professor P.N. Tandon, President of IAN. He welcomed the members and the meeting proceeded as per agenda. The list of members present during the meeting is enclosed as supplementary sheet.

1. The minutes of the last GB held at Lucknow on December 18, 2007 were confirmed.
2. The President asked Dr. Vinay K. Khanna, Secretary (HQ) to present a brief account of year round activities held to commemorate the silver jubilee of IAN. Dr. Khanna informed the members that the silver jubilee activities started with the Silver Jubilee Year Conference of Indian Academy of Neurosciences at Lucknow on December 17 – 20, 2006. He said that several symposia were organized at different places in the country and abroad to commemorate the silver jubilee of IAN as per following details,
 - a. National Scientific Conference on The Expanding Frontiers of Neurosciences, Department of Psychiatry, University of Illinois at Chicago, USA, May 11, 2007
 - b. Symposium on Neurodegeneration and Neuroregeneration : Current Trends and Future Strategies, Industrial Toxicology Research Centre, Lucknow, July 30, 2007
 - c. Symposium on Current Trends in Auditory Research, Department of Anatomy, Maulana Azad Medical College, New Delhi, September 21 – 22, 2007
 - d. National Symposium on Glial Neurobiology, School of Neuroscience, Jiwaji University, Gwalior, October 23, 2007

The members expressed their gratefulness and thanked the Association of Scientists of Indian Origin in America, Inc. for organizing a one day scientific conference at the Department of Psychiatry, University of Illinois at Chicago, USA to commemorate the silver jubilee of IAN. The GB felt that it is an important hallmark and milestone in the history of the Academy. While thanking all the members and the organizers for extending their whole hearted support in organizing these activities successfully, Dr. Khanna said that it is a happy moment that as per plan the Silver Jubilee Conference has been organized at Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi.

3. The GB was informed the recommendations of the Search Committee selecting Professor S.S. Parmar for Professor B.K. Bachhawat Memorial Life Time Achievement Award and Academic Committee for the award of IAN Fellowship to Dr. U.C. Srivastava, University of Allahabad, Allahabad; Dr (Ms). S.B. Singh, DRDO, New Delhi and Dr (Ms). Ratna Sircar, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, New York and its approval by the EC.
4. The guidelines for Dr. R. Nath Memorial Travel Fellowship drafted by the Treasurer and Dean and approved by the EC were finally approved by the GB.
5. While reviewing the status of commemorative volume containing status of neuroscience in the country, the GB was informed that four chapters have been received so far. The GB was informed that Dr. P.K. Seth has been requested to coordinate with other authors and to compile the issue within six months. The GB was also informed that the draft of the history of Indian Academy of Neurosciences is almost ready with the efforts of Dr. M. Hasan and Dr. R.C. Srimal and it will be finalized soon after incorporating relevant pictures. The members were happy to note the progress.
6. The Treasurer's Report, presented by Dr. Vinay K. Khanna in the absence of Dr. A.K. Agrawal, Treasurer of IAN, was approved by the GB.
7. The Editor's Report was presented. All the members highly appreciated the efforts of Dr. Rakesh Shukla, Editor of the IAN journal, Annals of Neurosciences and expressed gratitude to him for taking pains in improving the quality of the journal and bringing out

the issues on time. President requested the members to contribute articles and reviews to the Editor to facilitate the publication.

8. Proposal for organizing the FAONS Congress in 2010 in India and recommendations of EC electing Dr (Ms). V. Ravindranath as the President of the FAONS Congress was informed to the GB. The recommendation of the EC that the annual meeting of the IAN should be joined with the FAONS Congress was approved by the GB. It was informed that finalization of venue and dates will be done after discussing the modalities and logistics by Dr (Ms). Ravindranath. Professor Tandon, President IAN appealed that members should join hands to make the event successful.
9. The invitation for holding the next conference of the IAN at Cochin by Dr. C.S. Paulose or Hyderabad by Dr. P. Prakash Babu was discussed. The GB approved that the XXVI annual meeting of IAN be held at Cochin as an independent event. It was further suggested that either a pre or post conference workshop be organized. Dr. C. S. Paulose happily accepted the proposal.
10. Dr. M.K. Thakur, Organizing Secretary of the Silver Jubilee Conference of IAN presented the report of the conference and thanked the members of the organizing committee for their whole hearted support. Dr. Thakur also thanked the participants from India and abroad for their active participation and making the event a success. The house congratulated Dr. M.K. Thakur for developing an excellent scientific programme and thanked him, the organizing committee and the volunteers for extending excellent hospitality.
11. Recommendations of the EC for the new executive were presented and approved by the GB.

Any other matter

12. President informed the GB the recommendations of the committee (Chairman – Dr. P.K. Seth, Members - Dr. B.N. Dhawan, Dr. R.C. Srimal, Dr. M. Hasan) to update Rules and Byelaws of IAN and about the revised document prepared. He said that it was circulated among the members and comments / suggestions were received from few members of IAN. He also apprised the recommendations of EC that a finer look on the document is required to make it more clear with focused objectives and a committee (Dr. P.N. Tandon, Dr. P.K. Seth, Members – Dr. B.N. Dhawan, Dr. M. Hasan, Dr. R.C. Srimal, Dr (Ms). V. Ravindranath) will go through it to amend the document and circulate again among the life members of the IAN for their final approval.
13. The GB unanimously approved the recommendation of the EC electing Dr. Colin Blakemore, UK; Dr. V.S. Ramchandran, USA and Dr. A. Aguaoua, Canada as Honorary members of IAN.
14. Impressed with the potential nucleus of neurosciences at Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, the EC decided to recommend to the University authorities to create a centre to impart M.Sc. (Neuroscience) and Ph.D. (Neuroscience) degrees. The members strongly supported the proposal and also felt that its collaboration in the country and abroad will foster the growth of neuroscience in the country.
15. The issue of opening of account by the local chapters of IAN was discussed during the meeting and recommendation of the EC that the local chapters are authorized to open a bank account to be jointly operated by the Secretary and Treasurer of the Chapter was approved by the GB.
16. The GB approved that payment of dues to FAONS towards membership of IAN as an affiliate body be made from IAN funds. The Treasurer was requested to pay the FAONS membership dues.
17. The GB agreed that organization of IAN supported meetings / symposia / seminars / conferences / workshops at different places be encouraged to promote neurosciences and recommended that the organizers should remit savings out of the conference funds to the parent body.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.