

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting held on November 22 and 23, 2007 at Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi

The meeting of the Executive Committee (EC) of Indian Academy of Neurosciences (IAN) was held on November 22 and 23, 2007 at Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi under the Chairmanship of Professor P.N. Tandon, President of IAN. Following were present in the meeting,

Dr (Ms). V. Ravindranath, Manesar
Dr. Pankaj Seth, Manesar
Dr. S.C. Pandey, USA
Dr. R.C. Srimal, Lucknow
Dr. B.G. Unni, Jorhat
Dr (Ms). Debjani Guha, Kolkata
Dr. Rakesh Shukla, Lucknow
Dr. I.K. Patro, Gwalior
Dr. M.C. Arunan, Mumbai
Dr. M.K. Thakur, Varanasi
Dr (Ms). P.G. Joshi, Bangalore
Dr. V.K. Khanna, Lucknow.

Special Invitees - Dr. B.N. Dhawan, Lucknow; Dr. M. Hasan, Lucknow; Dr. P.K. Seth, Lucknow

Welcoming the members, Professor P.N. Tandon thanked them for making convenient to attend the meeting. He said that we had an excellent Silver Jubilee Year meeting at Lucknow and had taken some important decisions for the further growth of the Academy. To implement them, inputs of members are required. He said that as the agenda is long, we may have to continue the meeting next day as well.

1. The minutes of the last EC meeting held at Lucknow on December 17 and 18, 2006 were confirmed.
2. Dr. Vinay K. Khanna, Secretary (HQ) 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 to commemorate the occasion following activities and symposia were organized at different places in the country and abroad
 - (i) National Scientific Conference on The Expanding Frontiers of Neurosciences, Department of Psychiatry, University of Illinois at Chicago, USA, May 11, 2007
 - (ii) Symposium on Neurodegeneration and Neuroregeneration : Current Trends and Future Strategies, Industrial Toxicology Research Centre, Lucknow, July 30, 2007

- (iii) Symposium on Current Trends in Auditory Research, Department of Anatomy, Maulana Azad Medical College, New Delhi, September 21 – 22, 2007
- (iv) National Symposium on Glial Neurobiology, School of Neuroscience, Jiwaji University, Gwalior, October 23, 2007

The members appreciated the initiatives of Drs. G.N. Pandey and S.C. Pandey and thanked them and other members of the Association of Scientists of Indian Origin in America, Inc. for organizing a scientific conference at the Department of Psychiatry, University of Illinois at Chicago, USA which is a new milestone in the history of the Academy. The EC thanked the organizers of other events at different places. The members also desired the Secretary to communicate the gratitude of the Academy to the Organizers of the symposia. Dr. Khanna said that it is a happy moment that as per plan the Silver Jubilee Conference is being organized at Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi.

- 3. The recommendation of the Search Committee for the award of Professor B.K. Bachhawat Memorial Life Time Achievement Award to Dr. S. S. Parmar was considered, reviewed and approved.
- 4. Dr. R.C. Srimal, Chairman of the Academic Committee and Dean of the Academy informed that following four nominations were received for consideration for Fellowship of the Academy,
 - a. Dr. U.C. Srivastava, University of Allahabad, Allahabad
 - b. Dr (Ms). S.B. Singh, DRDO, New Delhi
 - c. Dr (Ms). Ratna Sircar, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, New York
 - d. Dr. P.P. Babu, University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad

He further informed that after a thorough and careful review of nominations, the Academic Committee has recommended Dr. U.C. Srivastava, Dr (Ms) S.B. Singh and Dr (Ms). Ratna Sircar for the award of Fellowship.

The EC approved the recommendations of the Academic committee.

- 5. Following membership for the academic committee and search committee for 2007 – 2008 was approved.

Academic Committee (President – Ex officio, General Secretary – Ex officio, Dean – Ex officio, 2 IAN Fellows – Dr. P.K. Seth, Lucknow, Dr (Ms). S. Wadhwa, New Delhi)

Search Committee for Professor B.K. Bachhawat Memorial Life Time Achievement Award (President – Ex officio, General Secretary – Ex officio, Dean – Ex officio, Editor – Ex officio, 2 IAN Fellows – Dr. (Ms). V. Ravindranath, Manesar, Dr. B.G. Unni, Jorhat)

6. The committee approved the panel of judges (Dr (Ms). Shashi Wadhwa, New Delhi; Dr. M. Hasan, Lucknow; Dr. R. Shukla, Lucknow; Dr. C. Nath, Lucknow) proposed by the Dean to evaluate the papers for Jyotsnamoyee Raghunath Bhattacharya Prize.
7. The committee approved the following panel of judges to evaluate papers presented during the award sessions.

Tulsabai Somani Educational Trust Award and Dr. D.M. Kar Prize

Dr (Ms). Chanda Kulkarni, Bangalore; Dr. James Geddes, USA; Dr. R.C. Srimal, Lucknow

Dr. S.S. Parmar Research Foundation (USA) Prize

Dr. B.G. Unni, Jorhat; Dr. D.K. Lahiri, USA; Dr. Renu Wadhwa, Japan

8. The EC approved the guidelines for Dr. R. Nath Memorial Travel Fellowship drafted by the Treasurer and Dean. The EC also recommended that a thanks letter to Dr. Arvind Nath be sent by the Secretary.
9. Dr. Rakesh Shukla, Editor of the IAN journal, Annals of Neurosciences informed that four issues (January, April, July and October) have been brought during the year 2007 on time. He also informed the number of original articles, reviews and case reports brought out in different issues of the journal. The EC expressed gratitude to Dr. Shukla for taking pains in improving the quality of the journal and bringing out issues of the journal on time.
10. The Treasurer's Report was presented by the Secretary (HQ) in the absence of Dr. A.K. Agrawal who could not attend the meeting due to personal reasons. The report was approved by the EC.
11. The issue of forming / reviving local branches at Bangalore, Aligarh, Kolkata and Gwalior was discussed at length. Dr (Ms). Debjani Guha informed that during a meeting of IAN members at IICB, Kolkata on August 28, 2006, the Kolkata Chapter has been formed with Dr. J.J. Ghosh, Ex Professor of Biochemistry, University of Calcutta as its President. She also presented the details of other activities held under the

aegis of Kolkata Chapter. The EC appreciated Dr (Ms). Debjani Guha Secretary of the Kolkata Chapter for her endeavours in holding various activities. The Secretary informed the house that with the efforts of Dr. U.C. Srivastava, Professor, Department of Zoology, University of Allahabad, Allahabad Chapter has also been formed.

The EC requested Dr (Ms). Preeti Joshi to form a local branch at Bangalore soon. Dr. M. Hasan was requested to see the possibility to revive the local branch at Aligarh. Dr. I.K. Patro was requested to organize activities under the aegis of local branch at Gwalior. All the resource persons were requested to plan different activities and inform the Secretary. It was suggested that the programmes may be placed on the IAN website. Dr. Pankaj Seth, Joint Secretary offered to render all possible help.

12. Professor P.N. Tandon, President of IAN apprised the EC 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. He said that a draft of the revised document of Rules and Byelaws was circulated among the life members of the IAN. While appreciating the efforts of the committee for an excellent job to revise the Rules and Byelaws, the President suggested that a finer look on the document is required to make it more clear with focused objectives. It was suggested that 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) may go through the amended document and circulate again among the life members for their final approval.

13. Proposal for organizing the FAONS Congress in 2010 in India was discussed at length. The EC requested Dr (Ms). V. Ravindranath to be the President of the FAONS Congress. Dr (Ms). Ravindranath while accepting the responsibility said that venue and dates will be finalized after discussing all modalities and logistics. The EC suggested that the annual meeting of the IAN should be held alongwith the FAONS Congress. Professor Tandon said that IAN members should join hands collectively to make the event successful.

14. With respect to the Current Status Report on Neuroscience, Dr. P.K. Seth informed that four chapters have been received so far. Expressing concern about the delay Professor P.N. Tandon suggested that reminders to remaining contributors be sent to submit their chapters at the earliest.

Dr. M. Hasan informed that the draft of the history of Indian Academy of Neurosciences is almost ready and will be finalized soon after incorporating relevant pictures. The EC appreciated the efforts and requested Dr. Hasan to finalize it soon.

15. Two proposals for holding the next conference of the IAN at Cochin (Dr. C.S. Paulose) or Hyderabad (Dr. P. Prakash Babu) were discussed. The EC felt that the venue for holding the XXVI annual meeting be finalized by the General Body.

16. Based on the nominations received for various posts, a new Executive Committee was constituted to place before the General Body for approval (list enclosed).

17.

Any other matter

18. Proposal to elect Honorary Members of IAN was discussed. The EC unanimously approved for the award of Honorary Fellowships to Dr. Colin Blakemore, UK; Dr. V.S. Ramchandran, USA and Dr. A. Aguaoua, Canada.

19. Impressed with the potential nucleus of neurosciences at Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, the EC felt that recommendations of the meeting at BHU, Varanasi be brought out as Silver Jubilee declaration. The EC also decided to recommend to the University authorities to create a centre of neuroscience to impart M.Sc. (Neuroscience) and Ph.D. (Neuroscience) degrees. The members also felt that its collaboration in the country and abroad will foster the growth of neuroscience in the country.

20. The issue of opening of account by the local chapters of IAN was discussed. The EC approved that the local chapters are authorized to open a bank account to be jointly operated by the Secretary and Treasurer of the Chapter.

21. Payment of dues to FAONS towards membership of IAN as an affiliate body was discussed during the meeting. The EC requested the Treasurer to pay the FAONS membership dues from the IAN funds.

22. The EC encouraged organization of IAN supported meetings / symposia / seminars / conferences / workshops at different places and recommended that the organizers should remit savings out of the conference funds to the parent body after the conference is over.

23. The EC congratulated Dr. M.K. Thakur for developing an excellent scientific programme and thanked him, the organizing committee and the volunteers for extending the excellent hospitality.

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