

## **Indian Academy of Neurosciences**

### **Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting held on October 24, 2013 at NASI, Allahabad**

The meeting of the Executive Committee (EC) of Indian Academy of Neurosciences (IAN) was held on October 24, 2013 in the Conference Room at NASI, Allahabad. The meeting was presided over by Dr. Mahender K Thakur and following members were present,

1. Shashi Bala Singh, DIPAS, New Delhi
2. Subrat Sinha, NBRC, Manesar
3. A.K. Agrawal, Lucknow
4. P.K. Seth, Biotech Park, Lucknow
5. Laxmi T. Rao, NIMHANS, Bengaluru
6. Subhash C. Pandey, USA
7. U.C. Srivastava, University of Allahabad, Allahabad
8. Pankaj Seth, NBRC, Manesar
9. Akshay Anand, PGIMER, Chandigarh
10. Vinay K. Khanna, CSIR – IITR, Lucknow
11. M.K. Thakur, BHU, Varanasi

#### Special Invitees

1. Ishan K. Patro, Jiwaji University, Gwalior
2. Bindu Dey, DBT, New Delhi
3. Niraj Kumar, NASI, Allahabad

The meeting proceeded as per agenda.

1. The minutes of the last EC meeting held at GNDU, Amritsar on October 27, 2012 were confirmed unanimously.
2. Progress on the possibility to bid for IBRO Congress in 2019 in India was discussed. It was felt that holding the IBRO Congress in India is a good opportunity to showcase the strength of neuroscience research in the country. During the discussions, it was also felt necessary to identify the institute(s) and person(s) willing to host / organize the Congress. Further, it was suggested that help and guidance from the nodal agencies including DBT, DST, ICMR and CSIR be sought in advance before bidding for Congress. Dr. Pankaj Seth, General Secretary and Dr. Subrata Sinha, Dean were requested to hold the meeting in New Delhi alongwith other members and decide to bid for the IBRO Congress. The General Secretary was also suggested to identify the agency which could help in preparing papers for bidding.

3. Dr. S. Sinha, Dean, IAN and Chairman of the Academic Committee informed that nomination of following four members were received for the election of Fellows of IAN,

- (1). Dr. S.Cowsik Mahajan; JNU, New Delhi
- (2). Dr (Ms). Swapna Chaudhuri, School of Tropical Medicine, Kolkata
- (3). Dr. A.B. Pant; CSIR – IITR, Lucknow
- (4). Dr. Dipak K. Sarkar; Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, USA

He informed that the Academic Committee had recommended Dr. A.B. Pant; CSIR – IITR, Lucknow and Dr. Dipak K. Sarkar; Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, USA for the Fellowship. The recommendation of the Academic Committee was approved by the EC.

The recommendation of the Search Committee about the selection of Dr. Nihar Ranjan Jana, NBRC, Manesar for KT Shetty Memorial Oration for 2013, informed by the Dean was also approved by the EC. He further informed that the Search Committee has recommended Dr. P. Satishchandra, NIMHANS, Bengaluru for Professor B.K. Bachhawat Memorial Life Time Achievement Award for 2014 and Dr. BSS Rao, NIMHANS, Bengaluru for KT Shetty Memorial Oration for 2014. The recommendation of the Search Committee was considered and approved by the EC.

4. The composition of Search Committee for selecting candidates for BK Bachhawat Memorial Lifetime Achievement Award and KT Shetty Memorial Oration and Academic Committee for electing Fellows for the year 2014 was discussed. The EC approved that the same Search committee and Academic committee as in 2013 be continued,

**Search Committee for BK Bachhawat Memorial Life Time Achievement Award and KT Shetty Memorial Oration** (Ex-officio members – Dean, President, General Secretary, Secretary HQ, Editor, Fellows – Dr. P. N. Tandon, Manesar, Dr. B.N. Dhawan, Lucknow, Dr. U.S. Bhalla, Bengaluru).

**Academic Committee** (Ex-officio members – Dean, President, General Secretary, Secretary HQ, Fellows – Dr (Ms). Shashi Bala Singh, New Delhi; Dr. P.K. Seth, Lucknow and Dr. Shashi Wadhwa, New Delhi).

5. The EC was informed that six papers received for consideration for Jyotsnamoyee Raghunath Bhattacharya Prize for the year 2013 were got reviewed by the following committee constituted by the Dean,

Dr. Raghu Vemuganti, USA  
Dr. Renu Wadhwa, Japan  
Dr. Debmoy K. Lahiri, USA  
Dr. R.C. Srimal, New Delhi  
Dr (Ms). Shashi Bala Singh, New Delhi  
Dr (Ms). Raj D. Mehra, New Delhi

It was further informed that scores received from the Reviewers were collated and the paper published in Journal of Biological Chemistry by Vijay Paramanik et al. was selected for Jyotsnamoyee Raghunath Bhattacharya Prize for the year 2013. The recommendation of the Dean to appoint panel of Reviewers for evaluating these papers to select the best paper for the award was approved by the EC.

6. The following panel of judges was approved by the EC to adjudge papers presented in the Award Session during the XXXI annual meeting of Indian Academy of Neurosciences for the year 2013

Dr. Mark Resnik, USA  
Dr. Subhash Pandey, USA  
Dr. Dipak K. Sarkar, USA  
Dr. Rajesh Miranda, USA  
Dr. PK Seth, Lucknow

The EC also approved that distinguished delegates from India and abroad be invited to judge the best papers presented in Poster Session.

Dr. Michael Zigmond, Univ of Pittsburgh, USA  
Dr. Beth Fischer, Univ of Pittsburgh, USA  
Dr. Samarjit Bhattacharya, IISER-Mohali  
Dr. Neeraj Jain, NBRC, Manesar  
Dr. Anita Jagota, University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad  
Dr. Meera Singh, Kansas Uni, USA  
Dr. Nihar Ranjan Jana, NBRC, Manesar  
Dr. Renu Wadhawa, AIST, Japan

7. Dr. Akshay Anand presented the Editor's report and informed that he is pursuing hard to get the Annals of Neurosciences indexed on Pubmed. He also acknowledged the help of Editorial Board and Staff in bringing out the volumes of the journal on time. While appreciating the efforts of Dr. Anand in bringing out the journal, the EC suggested him to look for the publisher who could bring out regular issues of the Annals of Neurosciences. The

Editor was suggested to discuss with Dr. U.C. Srivastava and Dr. Niraj Kumar, NASI, Allahabad the working between NASI and Springer in bringing out regular issues of PNAS (India) and explore if they would agree for the Academy's journal.

8. Dr. Ashok K. Agrawal, Treasurer IAN, presented the audited statement of accounts. In his report, Dr. Agrawal informed about the induction of new Life and Associate Members during the year. The EC was happy to note from him that the financial status of the Academy is reasonably good. The EC suggested Dr. Agrawal to find out the mechanism if small grants could be provided to the local chapters on their requests to organize activities as discussed earlier. It was also suggested that amount of support and other modalities may be discussed once the proposal is properly framed.
9. The EC appreciated the efforts of local chapters at Lucknow, Bangalore, Gwalior, Kolkata and Varanasi in holding seminars/workshops and other activities during the year. The EC further emphasized that academic activities be organized at regular intervals.
10. The proposal received from NIMHANS, Bangalore for holding the XXXII annual conference of Indian Academy of Neurosciences in 2014 was discussed. In the absence of Dr. BSS Rao who could not attend the meeting and conference due to unavoidable reasons, Dr (Ms). Laxmi T. Rao present at the meeting assured the EC that there will not be any problem in holding the annual conference of IAN in 2014. The EC approved the proposal unanimously to place before the GB.
11. Based on the nominations received for various posts, the Executive Committee for 2013 – 2014 was proposed as mentioned in Annexure - I for the approval of the General Body.
12. Any other matter with permission of the Chair.  
Following matters were discussed –
  - (i) Consider election of Honorary Fellows –  
  
Proposal to elect Dr. Michael Zigmond, USA and Dr. V.M Katoch, India as Honorary Fellows of IAN was discussed and approved by the EC unanimously.
  - (ii) Consider payment of FAONS Membership dues at enhanced rate -  
  
The General Secretary apprised the EC that FAONS membership has been revised and raised for most of the nations affiliated with it as its constituent members. He further mentioned that for IAN, the

membership has been raised from US \$100 to US \$500 recently and IAN is expected to pay membership fee at revised rates from 2012. The EC suggested that FAONS may be requested to accept the enhanced membership fee only from year 2013 due to account auditing issues. It was further resolved that the old membership fee @ US \$100 may be paid for the year 2012 and new membership fee @ US \$500 may be paid from 2013 onwards.

- (iii) Consider increase in the fee of Life Membership and Associate Membership -

Proposal to enhance the fee for Life Membership and Associate Membership was discussed. It was felt that expenses for running the activities and logistics have increased in recent years. The EC considered the proposal favourably and approved that fee for Life membership / Associate Life membership be raised to Rs. 4, 000/- and for Associate Membership to Rs. 500/- from January 1, 2014.

- (iv) Consider amendment in the conditions for Jyotsnamoyee Raghunath Bhattacharya Prize -

Amendments in the conditions for Jyotsnamoyee Raghunath Bhattacharya Prize were discussed to overcome difficulties in deciding the prize. The EC approved that existing phrase In case of multi-authored publication, the awardee should be the first author and at least one of the authors should be a member of the Academy be modified / rephrased as **In case of multi-authored publication, the applicant should be the first author and member of the Academy.**

- (v) Consider amendment in the format of election of fellows -

Amendments in the format of nominations of Fellows were discussed and approved. The EC approved that the nomination may be proposed by one Fellow and supported by one Fellow instead of two that existed earlier.

- (vi) Remarks by Dr. Bindu Dey, Special Invitee -

Dr (Ms). Bindu Dey was of the opinion that IAN may interface more with funding agencies and enhance its connectivity with DBT. Of various suggestions given by her, she emphasized to motivate young Indian neuroscientists and train them appropriately to take up the neuroscience research in challenging areas. She also emphasized that there is no dearth of money but the neuroscientists should take up research with innovative ideas with

translational approach. She said that IAN must also explore about the association / formal linkages with other neuroscience academies and societies to in the interest of the young researchers. She said that a series of booklets on Brain Disorders : Causes and Management could also be brought out for the benefit of masses. She said guidance and help from senior neuroscientists may be taken and ICMR / DBT / INSA could be requested for funding. In response to the suggestion to create a national Brain Bank and repository in North region, Dr. Dey apprised that DBT is considering strengthening the existing Brain Bank at NIMHANS, Bangalore and interested persons may take advantage of that in close collaboration. Dr. Dey further suggested that IAN and DBT may work together more closely and some focused programs of DBT research agenda may be channeled through Indian Academy of Neurosciences.

(vii)Remarks by Dr. M.K. Thakur, President -

Prof. M.K. Thakur, President IAN suggested that proposals for symposia / workshops be submitted timely by the Conveners to avoid overlaps formulate a good scientific programme by the Scientific Programme Committee.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair.

## New Executive Committee 2013 - 2014

**President**

Dr. Mahendra K. Thakur  
Varanasi

**Vice Presidents**

Dr. Subhash C. Pandey  
Chicago, USA

Dr. Sasanka Chakraborty  
Kolkata

**Dean**

Dr. Subrata Sinha  
Manesar

**General Secretary**

Dr. Pankaj Seth  
Manesar

**Secretary HQ**

Dr. Vinay K. Khanna  
Lucknow

**Secretary International Affairs**

Dr. Debomoy K. Lahiri  
Indianapolis, USA

**Treasurer**

Dr. Ashok K. Agrawal  
Lucknow

**Chief Editor**

Dr. Akshay Anand  
Chandigarh

**Members**

Dr Rajat Sandhir  
Chandigarh

Dr. T.S. Roy  
New Delhi

Dr (Ms). Laxmi T. Rao  
Bangalore

Dr (Ms). Vidita Vaidya  
Mumbai

Dr. (Ms). Shashi B. Singh  
New Delhi

Dr. RV Omkumar  
Thiruvananthapuram

**IBRO and FAONS Representative**

Dr. Prahlad K. Seth  
Lucknow

**Immediate Past President**

Dr. Rakesh Shukla  
Lucknow

**Immediate Past General Secretary**

Dr Mahendra K. Thakur  
Varanasi