

## Indian Academy of Neurosciences

### Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting held on October 31, 2014 at NIMHANS, Bengaluru

The meeting of the Executive Committee (EC) of Indian Academy of Neurosciences (IAN) was held on October 31, 2014 in the Board Room at NIMHANS, Bengaluru. The meeting was presided over by Dr. Mahendra K Thakur, President, IAN and following members were present,

1. Shashi Bala Singh, DIPAS, New Delhi
2. Subrata 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. BSS Rao, NIMHAS, Bengaluru
8. Pankaj Seth, NBRC, Manesar
9. Akshay Anand, PGIMER, Chandigarh
10. Vinay K. Khanna, CSIR – IITR, Lucknow
11. T.S. Roy, AIIMS, New Delhi
12. Rajat Sandhir, Panjab University, Chandigarh

#### Special Invitee

1. T.R. Raju, NIMHAS, Bengaluru

Professor Thakur formally welcomed the members and the meeting proceeded as per agenda.

1. The minutes of the last EC meeting held at NASI, Allahabad on October 24, 2013 were confirmed unanimously.
2. Action taken report -  
Progress on the possibility to bid for IBRO Congress in 2019 in India

Dr. Pankaj Seth, General Secretary informed the members that possibility to bid for IBRO Congress in 2019 in India was discussed in two round of meetings at NBRC, Manesar. Director and faculty of NBRC and the representative from M/s KW Conference, a conference outsourcing agency were present during these meetings. He informed that the magnitude of IBRO Congress in terms of participants is quite high and needs preparedness in identifying a suitable venue and the organizer. In spite of repeated and rigorous efforts by the General Secretary and Director, NBRC technical difficulties were felt to bid for the IBRO Congress in 2019 unless the organizer is identified which may take time. The matter was discussed by the EC members at length and it was decided that IAN should focus efforts on regional meetings and may organize satellite meetings on focused themes in neuroscience.

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,
  - i. Dr. S.Cowsik Mahajan; JNU, New Delhi
  - ii. Dr (Ms). Swapna Chaudhuri, School of Tropical Medicine, Kolkata
  - iii. Dr. Renu Wadhwa, AIST, Japan
  - iv. Dr. S.K. Trigun, BHU, Varanasi

He informed that the Academic Committee assessed all these nominations and recommended Dr. Renu Wadhwa, AIST, Japan for the Fellowship. The recommendation of the Academic Committee was approved by the EC.

Further, the EC members were apprised that no nominations were received for BK Bachhawat Memorial Life Time Achievement Award and KT Shetty Memorial Oration for 2015 and 2016. It was suggested that IAN should write to the major neuroscience institutions for inviting nominations for the two prestigious awards of the Academy. An advertisement inviting nominations for the two awards be brought out in IAN journal and newsletter. It was also suggested that the advertisement for these awards may be sent to certain other journals that may accommodate the advertisement on complimentary basis.

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 2014-15 and 2015-2016 was discussed. The EC approved following names for the Search committee and Academic committee -

**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. PN Tandon, NBRC, Manesar; Dr. PK Seth, Biotech Park, Lucknow; Dr. TR Raju, NIMHANS, Bengaluru.

**Academic Committee**

(Ex-officio members – Dean, President, General Secretary, Secretary HQ,

Fellows – Dr. Shashi Wadhwa, New Delhi; Dr. PK Seth, Lucknow; Dr. Sasanka Chakraborty, Kolkata.

5. The EC was informed that following five papers were received for consideration for Jyotsnamoyee Raghunath Bhattacharya Prize for the year 2014,
  - i. Golime Rama Rao, Efficacy of antidotes (midazolam, atropine and HI-6) on nerve agent induced molecular and neuropathological changes. **BMC Neuroscience 2014, 15:47.**
  - ii. N. Rajasekar, Protection of streptozotocin induced insulin receptor dysfunction, neuroinflammation and amyloidogenesis in astrocytes by insulin. **Neuropharmacology 2014, 1:16.**
  - iii. Shashi Kant Tiwari, Curcumin-Loaded Nanoparticles Potently Induce Adult Neurogenesis and Reverse Cognitive Deficits in Alzheimer's Disease Model via Canonical Wnt/ $\beta$ -Catenin Pathway. **ACS NANO 2013, 76 – 103.**
  - iv. K. Vijayalakshmi, Role of VEGF and VEGFR2 Receptor in Reversal of ALS-CSF Induced Degeneration of NSC-34 Motor Neuron Cell Line. **Molecular Neurobiology DOI 10.1007/s12035-014-8757-y.**
  - v. Menaka Chanu Thounaojam, MicroRNA 155 Regulates Japanese Encephalitis Virus Induced Inflammatory Response by Targeting Src Homology 2-Containing Inositol Phosphatase. **J Virology 2014, 88, 4798 – 4810.**

These papers were reviewed by the following committee constituted by the Dean, IAN -

Dr. Raghu Vemuganti, USA; Dr. Bholu Nath Dhawan, Lucknow; Dr. (Ms). Shashi Bala Singh, New Delhi; Dr. Nihar Ranjana Jana, Manesar; Dr. (Ms) Raj Mehra, New Delhi.

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. It was further informed that scores received from the Reviewers were collated and the paper published in ACS Nano by Mr. Shashi Kant Tiwari et al. was selected for Jyotsnamoyee Raghunath Bhattacharya Prize for the year 2014. Since the selected paper had the first two authors that had contributed equally to the work, EC members suggested that while the prize money may go to the first listed author of the study, the certificate for the award be given to both the authors.

6. The following panel of judges was approved by the EC to adjudge papers presented in the Award Session for the year 2014 during the XXXII annual meeting of Indian Academy of Neurosciences,

Dr. Subhash C. Pandey, UIC, USA; Dr. P Seth, Manesar; Dr. V.K. Khanna, Lucknow; Dr. Kunjan Dave, University of Miami, USA; Dr. Neeta Kanekar, Illinois University, USA

The EC also approved that distinguished delegates from India and abroad be invited to judge the best papers presented in Poster Session. Dr. Pankaj Seth, NBRC, Manesar and Dr (Ms). Laxmi T Rao were entrusted with the responsibility to select and coordinate with the judges to adjudge the papers.

7. Based on the request received from the Nath family, the issue of Lalita – Ravindra Nath Travel Fellowship being provided to young researchers for attending the IAN conference in the country and creating the IAN Ravindra and Lalita Nath International Travel fellowships was discussed in detail. The EC approved following recommendations for the Lalita – Ravindra Nath Travel Fellowship and also approved the guidelines for IAN Ravindra and Lalita Nath International Travel fellowships.

- a) Lalita - Ravindra Nath domestic travel fellowships – Dr. Pankaj Seth apprised the EC members that the Nath family has expressed the desire to increase the amounts of domestic travel fellowships from current Rs 1500/- to Rs 5000/- so that travel and other partial expenses of student applicants are covered. The family suggested that there should be 5 such awards and had transferred Rs 10,000/- to meet the expenses due to this increase in the amount of award. The family has committed funds for 10 years accordingly. The EC appreciated the gesture of the Nath family.

Further, to encourage younger participation to annual IAN meetings, it was decided to match 5 travel fellowships up to Rs 5000/- each from its interest earned from IAN savings. The total number of travel fellowships will be 10 (Rs. 5000/- each) onwards.

- b) The EC also approved the draft guidelines prepared on the lines suggested by the Nath family for creating two International IAN Ravindra and Lalita Nath International Travel fellowships.

### **IAN – Ravindra and Lalita Nath International Travel Fellowships**

- i. Applicant should be a presenting and first author on the abstract and an IAN member at the time of application.

- ii. Applicant **should** be pursuing research work in the area of neuroscience in a national laboratory or UGC recognized university or a young PDF (awarded Ph.D degree within last **2 years**).
- iii. Applicant should have a strong scholastic record and the application be supported by two recommendation letters, including one from the Ph.D Supervisor.
- iv. Applicant should provide a paragraph to describe the scientific questions being pursued and as to how the meeting/workshop will help in his research (within 200 words).
- v. Wherever possible, an attempt may be made to have representation from various institutions and parts of the India, universities, R & D institutions.
- vi. Applicant should have not availed IAN Ravindra and Lalita Nath International Travel fellowship in last three years.
- vii. Preference may be given to the young researchers (Ph.D students or PDF) attending the FAONS conference or neuroscience schools - training workshops / conference in the Asian region / conference / workshops in other regions of the globe.
- viii. The application would be reviewed by a committee consisting of the EC members (3) of IAN and Prof. Avindra Nath or a nominee from the Nath family.

The EC suggested that the advertisement for the travel fellowship be sent out as soon as possible on IAN website and included in the newsletter and IAN journal. The members also suggested that a formal thank note should be sent to the Nath family.

Further, the EC members also were of the opinion that the John Miller family be contacted to consider increase in the amount of travel fellowship to Rs 5000/-.

8. Dr. Akshay Anand presented the Editor's report and informed the members that the IAN journal Annals of Neurosciences has been indexed in PubMed from the year 2010. He also acknowledged the help of Editorial Board and Staff in bringing out the volumes of the journal on time. The members appreciated efforts of the Editor in getting the journal indexed. and suggested him to find out a publisher who could bring out regular issues of the Annals of Neurosciences. This will increase the subscription and visibility of the journal and also help the Editor to reduce his burden. He was also suggested to focus on the scientific contents to improve its

visibility. He was also suggested that awardees of Prof BK Bacchawat Life time and PT Shetty may be requested to submit their articles or reviews to the IAN journal annals of Neurosciences that may be published after undergoing peer review process.

The Editor was suggested to discuss with Dr. PK Seth, Lucknow; Dr. AB Pant, Lucknow and Dr. Shashi Bala Singh, New Delhi to find out the publisher for the IAN journal.

9. Dr. Ashok K. Agrawal, Treasurer IAN presented the audited statement of accounts. The EC was happy to note that the financial status of the Academy is reasonably good. Dr. Agrawal in his report also informed about the induction of new Life and Associate Members during the year.

The EC suggested Dr. Agrawal to work out in introducing 5 travel fellowships of Rs 5000/- each from the interest earned from IAN savings for the students / participants attending the annual conference of IAN as discussed earlier. The EC also suggested that the interest earned from BK Bachhawat endowment may be used to honor the awardees each year with a token amount of Rs 10,000/- . Dr. Agrawal in principle agreed and assured that he would work out on both these suggestions.

10. 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.

Dr Subash C. Pandey proposed the idea that an IAN-US chapter be considered as there are several IAN members and neuroscientists of Indian origin in US. The EC members appreciated and approved the idea and requested Dr. Sunhash C. Pandey to be the convener of the IAN-US chapter. It was also suggested that a NCR Chapter be constituted. Dr. Shashi Bala Singh and Dr. Subrata Sinha were requested to discuss the possibility to form the Chapter and start the activities.

11. The proposal received from Dr. Rajat Sandhir, Panjab university, Chandigarh for holding the XXXIII annual conference of Indian Academy of Neurosciences in 2015 was discussed. Prof. Rajat Sandhir assured the EC that he and his colleagues will ensure a successful IAN 2015 at Chandigarh. The EC approved the proposal unanimously to place before the GB. It was suggested that the format of the scientific program and guidance on timelines for applying for funding, inviting abstracts etc may be communicated to Dr. Sandhir by IAN Secretary to ensure smooth and successful meeting at Chandigarh.

12. Based on the nominations received for various posts, the Executive Committee for 2014 – 2015 was proposed as mentioned in Annexure - I for the approval of the General Body.

13. Any other matter with permission of the Chair.

(i) Consider election of Honorary Fellow –

Proposal to elect Dr. K Vijay Raghavan, Secretary DBT as Honorary Fellow of IAN was discussed and approved by the EC unanimously.

(ii) Consider payment of FAONS Membership dues at enhanced rate US \$ 500 -

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) Holding Professor Mahdi Hasan Memorial Lecture as a tribute

The EC appreciated the efforts of the organizers to hold Professor Mahdi Hasan Memorial Lecture as a tribute to him.

(iv) Consider continuation of the position of Chief Editor for one year -

While the term of the Chief Editor was up to 2014, the nominations for the position could not be invited due to some confusion. The issue was discussed with the President. It was suggested that Dr. Akshay Anand may continue as Chief Editor for one year and nomination for the position be invited later for two years.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair.

## New Executive Committee 2014 - 2015

**President**

Dr. Subrata Sinha  
Manesar

**Vice Presidents**

Dr. Subhash C. Pandey  
Chicago, USA

Dr. Sasanka Chakraborty  
Kolkata

**Dean**

Dr. Shashi Bala Singh  
New Delhi

**General Secretary**

Dr. Pankaj Seth  
Manesar

**Secretary HQ**

Dr. Vinay K. Khanna  
Lucknow

**Treasurer**

Dr. Ashok K. Agrawal  
Lucknow

**Chief Editor**

Dr. Akshay Anand  
Chandigarh

**Members**

Dr. M. Patri,  
Cuttack

Dr. Shyam Diwakar  
Cochin

Dr Rajat Sandhir  
Chandigarh

Dr. T.S. Roy  
New Delhi

Dr (Ms). Laxmi T. Rao  
Bangalore

Dr (Ms). Vidita Vaidya  
Mumbai

**IBRO and FAONS Representative**

Dr. Prahlad K. Seth  
Lucknow

**Immediate Past President**

Dr Mahendra K. Thakur  
Varanasi

**Immediate Past General Secretary**

Dr Mahendra K. Thakur  
Varanasi