



Neurosciences Newsletter

House Magazine of

INDIAN ACADEMY OF NEUROSCIENCES

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From the Secretariat

Dear Member,

We all grow old and when we grow older, we experience the full richness of human behavior. The brain helps us to think and feel, to remember and create and wonder about the world we live in and about ourselves. We always wonder how it all happens. There is always a need to know what is the neurological basis of racism - the fear and hatred of people who are socially and culturally different? Do terrorism and crime get built into human brain circuits? Why do man knowingly contribute to self-destruction? Perhaps, only neuroscience can ultimately address all these issues and more. This is why Professor P.N. Tandon once said: "The greatest challenge to biologists lies in understanding the human behavior, for ultimately the destiny of man depends upon better understanding of human behavior which in turn is governed by the brain itself".

Neuroscience has been one of the thrust areas of most funding agencies of Govt. of India involved in developing academic and research centers as well as human resource development. Our senior scientists have been making sincere efforts to develop the subject very effectively and helped the various agencies in identifying individuals and groups with potential and interest in taking up research in neuroscience as their career. We still have limited human resource and there is always a need to encourage young scientists to take-up challenges of neuroscience.

Indian neuroscientists have also become greatly interested in various aspects of the functioning of the brain and the remedies of its malfunctioning. The Indian Academy of Neurosciences is an integrated forum that provides a platform to all neuroscientists of the country to come together and discuss the problems, possibilities and tenure of neuroscience. The Academy tries to help the growth of the subject and individuals interested in it. The Academy has around 430 life members, 13 honorary members, 30 fellows and several ordinary members. The official journal of the Academy, *Annals of Neurosciences* has qualitatively improved enormously during past two years. Now we have a Journal Endowment fund. This has been possible by the generous contribution from some of our members and we are thankful to all and would request the other members to join in this venture and contribute substantially. In addition, I would like to take this opportunity to request all the members of the Academy to contribute quality articles to the Journal with the spirit "charity begins at home".

There have been some important recent happenings. We have now been able to raise a endowment and instituted the "B.K. Bachhawat Life Time Achievement Award" w.e.f. 2002. We would like to express our gratitude to Dr. R.C. Srimal, Dr. B.N. Dhawan, Prof. P.S. Sastry, and Prof. J.S. Chopra for all their efforts and to all the members who have contributed towards this endowment.

Dr. Vijayalakshmi Ravindranath has been keenly following the IBRO activities and the Academy's representation at the International front. She has been instrumental in keeping the IBRO-IAN linkage alive.

The National Brain Research Centre has been very helpful to the neuroscientists by bringing them together through the NBRC-Neuroscience Centres networking activity. Such networking meetings have been most successful in identifying our strengths and in encouraging the subject. This is a challenge for both

NBRC and individual neuroscientists outside NBRC. The INDO-US Forum on Neuroscience Research and the Round Table on consciousness have been two important activities, which were attended by many of our members. Dr. John Miller our US collaborator with NBRC has contributed Rs. 31,680/- as a fund to meet travel of one young scientist attending the Academy's Conference every year. Please visit the NBRC website: www.nbrc.ac.in for more details.

A Symposium on "Depression: Current Concepts and Management" was organized on January 23, 2002 at Lucknow by the Lucknow chapter of IAN at Industrial Toxicology Research Center, Lucknow. Dr. G.N. Pandey, Professor of Psychiatry at Univ. of Illinois, Chicago and Fellow of the Academy was the key speaker. The other speakers were Dr. Devika Nag, the then President of the Academy, Prof. Atul Agarwal and Prof. Anil K. Agarwal. This branch also had an invited lecture of Professor D. Schiffmann in December 2001 on Application of Microelectrode Array Biosensors in Toxicology.

While we have identified neuroscience as a thrust area of research in our country, there is a paucity of scientists to work in the subject. We have limited trained human resource and there is always a need to encourage young students to take up the challenges of neuroscience. Recognizing the need of trained human resource and getting inspired by the neuroscience events in the country, the Jiwaji University, Gwalior has recently made some efforts. The Neuroscience Centre at Jiwaji University, Gwalior has introduced a two years M.Sc. Neuroscience programme which is truly interdisciplinary and involves inter-institutional teaching. Most of our visiting professors to this programme have been leading members of the Academy. As of today, the University is on its way to upgrade this center to a University Teaching Department for teaching and research leading to M.Sc., Ph.D. and D.Sc. degrees in Neuroscience.

It is a pleasure to inform that several of our members have been honored with Honors and Awards. I only came to know of a few of them. I have mentioned them below. Please do let me have more such information that we can share and feel proud of.

With great pleasure we announce the official website of the Academy. Please visit www.neuroscienceacademy.org to download the Proceedings of the 19th Meetings of the Academy and all details about nomination of Fellows, Honorary Members, Annual Elections and Awards.

We acknowledge the efforts of Dr. K.P. Mohan Kumar for successful organization of 19th Conference of the Academy at Kolkata.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,
Ishan Patro,
General Secretary.

ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE MEMBERS

Prof. P.N. Tandon has been honored by the Indian Science Congress Association with the New Millennium Plaque of Honor in Medical and Physiological Sciences 2002-03. He has been nominated India's Representative to International Bioethics Committee of UNESCO and the Supreme Court of India has nominated him as Member of the Committee to monitor the activities of the Medical Council of India. Prof. Tandon also delivered the Vikram Sarabhai Memorial Lecture of ICSSR.

Prof. B.N. Dhawan has been awarded the Dhanwantri Award 2001 for his outstanding contributions in herbal medicines by the Indian National Science Academy.

Prof. P.K. Seth, Director, ITRC and Past President of IAN received the Raj Kristo Dutt Award during the Indian Science Congress for his outstanding contributions in the subject of Neuroscience. He has also been elected as President of the Society of Toxicology (India).

Prof. (Ms.) Devika Nag, Past President of the Academy has become Emeritus Professor of Neurology at King George's Medical College, Lucknow. Dr. Nag also presented Dr. Bhatia Misra Oration at Lucknow and Prof. B.C. Bansal & Uma Bansal Oration by Indian Epilepsy Society at Mumbai. She has been nominated as a member of ICMR committee on non-communicable Neurological disorders and the President of Alzheimer's Society UP branch.

Dr. Goutam Palit has been elected fellow of Indian Pharmacological Society recently.

Dr. K.C. Singhal was awarded D.Sc. by Aligarh Muslim University. Dr. Singhal has been appointed Honorary Consultant, WHO Centre for ADR monitoring. He attended conference of European Society of Clinical Pharmacology at Odense Denmark 2001.

Dr. Usha Singhal attended conference of International Union of Physiological Sciences, New Zealand and was resource person to workshop on Teaching Physiology. She has been nominated as liaison person for South East Asia. Dr. Singhal has been invited as visiting professor to Xijntong University, China where she is joining in April 2002.

Prof. Vijayalakshmi Ravindranath has been honored with the Dr. O.P. Bhasin award for her contributions in Medical Sciences.

Dr. K.P. Mohan Kumar has been awarded the National Bioscience Award of the Department of Biotechnology.

Dr. Ishan Patro was awarded the INSA-DFG Fellowship and visited the University of Cologne, Cologne, Germany.

THE ACADEMY CONGRATULATES THE AWARD WINNERS!

TULSA BAI SOMANI EDUCATIONAL TRUST AWARD

P. Prakash Babu: A.K. Kota, P. Malekar, S. Singh and P.P. Babu, The pathology of fatal murine cerebral malaria in mice brain is a necrosis-apoptosis morphological continuum. Department of Animal Sciences, School of Life Sciences, University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad 500 046 and Centre for Cell and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad.

Dr. D. M. KAR PRIZE

Phalguni Anand Alladi: Phalguni A. Alladi, Shashi Wadhwa, T.S. Roy and Neeta Singh, Transcription factors in auditory nuclei of prenatally stimulated chick. Department of Anatomy and Biochemistry, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi 110 029.

S.S. PARMAR RESEARCH FOUNDATION (USA) AWARD

1. **Namratta Manhas:** N. Manhas, S. Verma and R. Raghubir, Sensitivity of iontophoretically applied clonidine onto ventrolateral medullary neurons. Division of Pharmacology, Central Drug Research Institute, Lucknow 226 001.

2. **Jayashree C. Jagtap:** Jayashree C. Jagtap, A. Chandele, B.A. Chopde and P. Shastry, Sodium pyruvate protects against H₂O₂ mediated apoptosis in human neuroblastoma cell line. National Centre for Cell Sciences, NCCS Complex, Ganesh Khind, Pune 411 007 and Department of Microbiology, Poona University, Pune 411 007.

JYOTSNAMOYEE RAGHUNATH BHATTACHARYA AWARD

No paper, from amongst those submitted for consideration, was found suitable.

These awards will be conferred during the inaugural function of XX Annual Conference of Indian Academy of Neurosciences at Udaipur.

LIFE TIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD OF INDIAN ACADEMY OF NEUROSCIENCES IN MEMORY OF PROF. B.K. BACHHAWAT

Members of the Indian Academy of Neurosciences have created an endowment to give an award in memory of late Prof. B.K. Bachhawat, one of the stalwarts of Neuroscience in India and a former president of the Academy. The award will be called "B.K. Bachhawat Life Time Achievement Award in Neuroscience" to be given to an outstanding Neuroscientist, based on the research contributions. The contributions in Neuroscience in India will be judged by: i. Research publications, ii. Awards, iii. Contributions to growth of Neuroscience in India. For more details of the award, please visit www.neuroscienceacademy.org.

NOMINATIONS FOR ACADEMY'S AWARDS INVITED

There will be competitions for the four awards of the Academy:

- **Tulsa Bai Somani Education Trust Award:** For best oral presentation by young neuroscientist below 40 years of age at the annual conference. The nominee has to submit the MSS of the paper in 3 copies to the General Secretary of the Academy at least 6 weeks prior to the meeting for peer reviewing. The papers awarded shall be published in the official journal of the Academy 'Annals of Neuroscience'.
- **D. M. Kar Prize:** For best oral presentation by young neuroscientist below 35 years of age at the annual conference. The nominee has to submit the MSS of the paper in 3 copies to the General Secretary of the Academy at least 6 weeks prior to the meeting for peer reviewing. The papers awarded shall be published in the official journal of the Academy 'Annals of Neuroscience'.
- **Professor S. S. Parmar Foundation Award:** For best poster presentation by young neuroscientist below 35 years of age at the annual conference.
- **Jyotsnamoyee Raghunath Bhattacharya Award:** For research publication in the field of basic neuroscience that includes the disciplines of Neuroanatomy, Neurophysiology, Neurochemistry, Neuropharmacology, Neuroimmunology and Neurotoxicology. The paper should have been published during past 2 years with respect to the year of the award. The age of the awardee shall not exceed 40 years. In case of multi-authored publication, the awardee must be the first author and at least one of the authors should be a member of the Academy. Please send 3 reprints/copies of the paper.

All nominations for the awards should reach the General Secretary on or before **5th January 2003**. A Nominee for the awards must be an IAN Member with good standing.

NOMINATIONS FOR THE ACADEMY'S FELLOWSHIP

The Academy confers fellowship to outstanding scientists. Nominations are invited along with complete bio-data. A Life member of the Academy or Honorary Member of the Academy with at least 10 years of research experience in the field of Neuroscience can be nominated. Nominations, supported by three members of the Academy, be forwarded to the Dean of the Academy, Professor Shashi Wadhwa, Department of Anatomy, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Ansari Nagar, New Delhi 110 029, on or before **5th January 2003**.

NOMINATIONS FOR ANNUAL ELECTIONS

Nominations for the positions of the Executive Committee, i.e., President, Vice-Presidents (3), Dean, General Secretary, Jt. Secretary, Secretary International Affairs, Treasurer, Chief Editor, Co-Editors (2), Representative to IBRO, Representative to FAONS and the Executive Members (6), may please be forwarded to reach the General Secretary, Dr. Ishan Patro on or before **5th January 2003**. Only members of the Academy can be nominated. While one Member has to propose, at least another member has to second the nomination. The nominations may be made on plain paper mentioning the details of the member being nominated and his membership No. of the Academy. The membership Nos. of the proposer and the seconder should invariably be mentioned.

VENUE FOR THE XX ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ACADEMY

The next Annual meeting of the Academy and the XX Annual Conference of Indian Academy of Neurosciences will be held at Department of Zoology, MLS University, Udaipur- 313 001 during February 21-23, 2003. Members are requested to contact the Organizing Secretary at the following address for further details:

Professor Maheep Bhatnagar
Organizing Secretary, IAN-2003
Department of Zoology
MLS University, UADIPUR 313 001 (Rajasthan)
Phone: +91 294 2413955 Extn. 250 (O), 2441250 (R)
Email: neuroglia2003@yahoo.co.in; mbhatnagar@yahoo.com
Also visit: www.neuroscienceacademy.org

TRAVEL GRANT FOR YOUNG SCIENTISTS

The Academy has an endowment from a donation from Dr. John Miller to extend travel grants to young scientist(s) depending on availability of funds. The Organizing Secretary is also making efforts to get grants for the purpose from various agencies. Please contact Prof. Maheep Bhatnagar for such supports.

XX ANNUAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The next meeting of the members of the Executive Committee will be held on 20th February 2003 (5 pm.) at the Conference site, Udaipur. All the members of the Executive Committee are requested to attend the meeting. Prof. Gomathy Gopinath shall preside over the Meeting.

XX ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING

The next General Body Meeting will be held on 22nd February 2003 (6 pm.) at Udaipur at the Conference site. All the members of the Academy are requested to participate in the meeting. Prof. Gomathy Gopinath shall preside over the Meeting.

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

The directory shall now be available on line at www.neuroscienceacademy.org. Please send your email ID, phone and FAX numbers to the General Secretary as soon as possible.

All nominations, news to be included in the next issue of the Newsletter and information for the Membership Directory may please be mailed to:

Dr. Ishan Patro, General Secretary, Indian Academy of Neurosciences, Neuroscience Centre, School of Studies in Zoology, Jiwaji University, Gwalior 474011, FAX: +751-343063, neurons@sancharnet.in

Pre-GB meeting of the Executive Committee of IANS was held on 28-01-2001 in the Department of Neurology, King George Medical College, Lucknow.

Prof. J. N. Sinha, the President of IANS welcomed the members and presided over the meeting. At the out set, silence was observed as a mark of respect and prayer for those who lost life following tragic earth quake which has caused tremendous human sufferings in Gujarat state. Members prayed for the peace of departed souls and grant of strength to withstand the loss for the members of the bereaved families.

Minutes of the previous GB meeting were reviewed and the actions taken/initiated were noted. Among the major decisions of the previous GB meeting were reviving the official NEWSLETTER and the JOURNAL of the organization the responsibility of which were entrusted to the Secretary and the newly appointed Editor of the Journal Prof. A. M. Kar, respectively.

Secretary and the editor informed the members about having re-started the official NEWSLETTER and the JOURNAL of the organization. Regarding the reason for not being able to come out with the second edition of the Newsletter, the secretary stated that there were no news items coming from the members, which needs to be looked into. He sought the opinion of the members to consider the feasibility of including invited commentaries/write ups about the matters related to neuroscience such as priorities in neuroscience in Indian context, the lack of infrastructure to pursue cutting edge of science in Indian scenario etc., which may be thought provoking. Availability of such materials may keep the regular publishing of the NEWSLETTER along with the news items that may be flowing from the members.

Secretary also informed the members of about New Membership Directory being brought out, the copies having handed over to the Treasurer for distribution. Members were told that the information regarding the pending updating of the said directory was informed through the NEWSLETTER published, soliciting corrections regarding the change of address, if any, needs to be incorporated in the newer edition. Whatever the (limited number) corrections received from the members were incorporated in the new Directory. He also pointed out the inclusion of By-Laws of the organization, in the new directory brought out, for the benefit of members.

Members were also told about the secretary of having raised the required money through advertisement towards the expenditure towards both the NEWSLETTER and the new edition of DIRECTORY brought out. The remaining balance amount was transferred to corpus fund of the organization.

Regarding the corpus fund for the Journal, it was decided that each of the EC members to contribute Rs.1000/-and the same spirit may be inculcated among the members during the GB meeting. Suggestion was accepted and some of the members (Drs. K.C. Singhal, M. Hussein, P.K. Seth, V. Ravindranath, Devika Nag and K. T. Shetty) on the spot committed their payment towards this cause.

Committee appreciated the Editors efforts in bringing out the journal. Editor called upon the EC members to motivate the other members to contribute articles for the journal so that the continuity can be maintained. It was also decided that the EC members to come forward to submit their manuscripts to the journal as an exemplar action to promote the official journal.

The issue regarding the status quo of proposed Prof. Bachhawat Memorial Corpus fund to institute an award for lifetime achievement in neurosciences in India. Dr. R.C. Srimal briefed the members about the efforts on the part of the committee constituted for the purpose of which himself and Prof. P.S. Shastry were the members. It was given to understand that in spite of several attempts by the said committee to raise fund the response was very poor. However, the Lucknow chapter of IANS was able to mobilize sizeable amount (**Attn: Dr. Patro: please include the exact amount, information of which may be with Dr. A. K. Agarwal, Treasurer**) towards this. Dr. K. T. Shetty informed the members about the decision of organizing committee of XV Annual meeting of IANS held at Bangalore to donate Rs. 11,111/- for the corpus fund in memory of Prof. Bachhawat and also told that two of the IANS members from NIMHANS having contributed Rs.1001 each for this purpose. It was suggested that the proposed award in memory of Prof. Bachhawat be introduced with effect from the year 2002.

Dean was authorized to constitute various committees to evaluate the presentations/papers/posters for different awards.

Committee was informed about Dr. V. Ravindranath, one of the vice presidents of IANS, having been appointed as the Director of NBRC, New Delhi and was congratulated on this new assignment. EC also

noted, with a sense of appreciation, about the extension of Prof. G.N. Pandey as a member of NIH study section for the second term. Dr. V. Ravindranath informed that IANS has been recognized by IBRO and has agreed to get an official communication to that effect and pass on the same to the IANS secretariat for record purpose. Committee also noted with appreciation to the recognition conferred on to Dr. A.K. Agarwal and Dr. V. Ravindranath as member of CINB. EC also nominated Dr. V. Ravindranath as an official nominee to IBRO. Further the committee also suggested that NBRC might be asked to bear the IBRO international membership of IANS.

It was decided to have a better communication with international members of IANS through secretary of international affairs of IANS Secretariat to take appropriate steps to initiate action on this.

Dr. K. T. Shetty, the secretary informed the EC that having completed two years of tenure he wants to be relieved of the responsibility of secretary. EC went through the nominations received for the various posts and prepared the list to be presented before GB for its consideration.

EC appreciated the service of outgoing president, secretary and other office bearers. Meeting ended with vote of thanks from the secretary.

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