

Neurosciences Newsletter

House Magazine of

INDIAN ACADEMY OF NEUROSCIENCES

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For Members Only

August 2005.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings to all the members of the Academy. At the outset I would like to thank the membership and the council members for electing me to this chair. With it comes the realization of the onerous responsibility that goes with the chair.

Over the years, the Academy has been nurtured by the untiring efforts of the stalwarts in neuroscience in this country. Every subsequent generation must therefore keep the flame alight and glowing with their contributions to this specialty. Unprecedented growth in the study of the nervous system is taking place world wide as the importance of doing this has been realized. *We, in India, need to attract and nurture fresh young talent into this field with greater fervor to keep pace with its growth elsewhere and in other fields.*

While discoveries and inventions in the laboratory must reach out for the benefit of mankind for better treatment, there is, still much more to understand about the brain and its functioning. It is critical to obtain detailed knowledge on how the brain develops, undergoes maturation in the critical years of infancy and adolescence, and maintains cognitive functions with the advancing age in order to understand the basis of many of the psychosocial problems that affect these age groups. Unraveling also how the nervous system with exposure to experiential activity and hormonal changes evolved and develops into a complicated multisensory organ with complex behavioral output is still a challenge to the neuroscientific community. This basic understanding would also help explain the basis of psychological and mental illnesses, response to drugs and addictions. *It is this basic research which would translate into clinical cures.*

Practice of yoga and meditation in transforming the states of brain from negative to positive ones and leading better lives is being understood at more scientific levels. *Facilitating development of healthy brains, preventing the development of disease in addition to treating and curing brain disease are the prime objectives of neuroscience research.*

Many of the Indian systems in medicine are proving to be valuable and there is an upsurge in scientifically understanding their basis to further their promotion. *This provides an impetus to formulate proper research protocols to be used more uniformly in the conduct of research in this direction and put the technical advances of high through put drug screening (HTS) in place.*

The growing realization that gaining knowledge about function and disease of the nervous system requires it to be studied by various modalities is bringing together researchers from all the fields of science under the umbrella of neuroscience. *Therefore there is the greater responsibility of training young future neuroscientists with broad-based curricula.*

The study of modern neuroscience entails high-end technology and the cost of technology is forbidding. *This is an indicator to pool our resources and develop collaborative projects.*

Neuroscience is all about enriching our experience to become better human beings in the service of mankind. It holds the key to human well being, health and progress. *We need to disseminate knowledge about the brain through brain awareness programs for the public and school children.*

To keep the members abreast of the activities of IANS, the website www.neuroscienceacademy.org is being updated. Our endeavor would be to keep you well informed of the various events. We would appreciate your suggestions for further improvements on all aspects. Do make it a point to join in the scientific deliberations at the Annual Meeting of 2005 which is being organized from December 11th to 14th at NIMHANS, Bangalore under the able organization of Professor Preeti Joshi.

With warm regards and best wishes,

Shashi Wadhwa

FROM THE DESK OF THE SECRETARY (HQ)

Dear Fellow Neuroscientists,

The XXII annual conference of the Academy held at Gwalior on January 28-30, 2005 was a success scientifically and socially. The new executive has been elected with Professor (Ms) Shashi Wadhwa as President. Minutes of the General Body meeting held at Gwalior are included in this issue of the Newsletter.

The second issue of 2005 of Annals of Neurosciences is out and you may have received the same. We thank Professor Rakesh Shukla, the Editor and his team for their commendable job in getting the publication of journal on time. You will agree with me that the success of the journal is dependent on the quality manuscripts and their processing in time. The Editor has already contacted the Fellowship and Membership of the Academy to contribute their research papers for publication in the journal. I am sure with your support and co-operation our journal will attain wide acceptance nationally and internationally.

You will be happy to know that the XXIII annual meeting/conference of our Academy is to be held at National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS), Bangalore from December 11-14, 2005. Please note the dates and try to attend this conference in large number.

Our Academy will be entering into the Silver Jubilee Year soon. Perhaps ours is the first scientific body in the area of neurosciences which will be celebrating its silver jubilee. It has been decided to have the year round Silver Jubilee celebrations. We invite your suggestions to hold activities at different neuroscience centres in the country during this time. Let us work together and join hands to make the Academy stronger both scientifically and professionally.

May I take this opportunity to request you to forward information of your achievements/honours/awards to me. I will include it in the next issue of the Newsletter so that good news is shared among the members of the Academy.

With sincere thanks to all the members and Fellows of the Academy for kind support and trust reposed in me.

August 17, 2005.

Vinay K. Khanna

Minutes of the General Body Meeting held at Jiwaji University, Gwalior on January 29, 2005

The General Body (GB) meeting of Indian Academy of Neurosciences (IAN) held on January 29, 2005 at Jiwaji University, Gwalior was presided over by Dr. (Ms). Vijaylakshmi Ravindranath, President, IAN.

1. The minutes of the last GB held at University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad on May 7, 2004 were confirmed.
2. The issue of eligibility for Jyotsnamoyee Raghunath Bhattacharya Prize and other prizes of the Academy was discussed. It was felt that the work done in India should be considered. Also, the work on which award has been received from the Academy or from elsewhere earlier should not be submitted for consideration of any other award of the Academy. The GB approved the recommendations of the Executive Committee (EC) that conditions of the award should be reviewed to avoid any discrepancy in future. It was suggested that the Secretary (HQ) and Treasurer may work to amend the eligibility conditions of the awards to make it more clear and transparent and get it approved by the Dean.
3. Matter of Silver Jubilee Celebrations of IAN in 2006 was discussed in the GB. The GB approved the recommendation of EC that an international meeting may be organized on this occasion and a calendar of activities at different neuroscience centres in the country and local branches of the Academy be planned by the new EC.
4. Since Prof. Rakesh Shukla had to leave for Lucknow due to an important work, the Editor's Report was read by the Secretary (HQ). It was informed to the House that 2 issues of the journal - Annals of Neurosciences have been brought out during 2004. The GB appreciated efforts of the Editor and his team and discussed on the issue to increase the frequency of the journal to 4 issues/ year. The GB recommended the suggestion of the EC that Fellows and foreign members of the Academy may be requested to contribute articles (original research/ review) for the journal.
5. The GB accepted the Treasurer's Report presented by Dr. A.K. Agrawal. Dr. Agrawal requested the members to help in raising funds through sponsors.
6. Dr. A.K. Agrawal informed that the IAN Directory is being updated. He requested that change in addresses/contact numbers of any of the members or of their own may be informed to him or to the Secretary (HQ) to update in the directory. He also emphasized that emails of members be provided as far as possible for quick contact.
7. The proposal of the next annual meeting at Bangalore was discussed. The GB approved the proposal and recommended that Prof. (Ms). Preethi Joshi may be the Organizing Secretary. The members suggested to hold the meeting in December 2005 so that more foreign members may also participate.
8. Professor Peter S. Spencer, Honorary Member of the Academy discussed the possibility to institute an award by the Third World Medical Research. He said that he will discuss this matter in USA and inform the Academy. The GB thanked him for the gesture and approved the proposal.
9. The proposal of Dr (Ms). V. Ravindranath to place/ setup addresses with emails of IAN members on the NBRC server for quick dissemination of information was approved by the General Body. The Treasurer was requested to forward the updated directory of IAN members to Dr. Ravindranath.
10. The new executive (list enclosed) was elected by the GB.
11. The GB thanked the Vice Chancellor and other officials of Jiwaji University, Organizing Secretary (Dr. Ishan K. Patro), Joint Organizing Secretary (Dr. Nisha Patro) and their team for the excellent scientific and social feast.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair.

Executive Committee

President

Dr. (Ms) S. Wadhwa, New Delhi

Vice Presidents

Dr. I.K. Patro, Gwalior

Dr. V. Mohanakumar, New Delhi

Dr. B.G. Unni, Jorhat

Dean

Dr. Y.K. Gupta, Lucknow

General Secretary

Dr. (Ms) P.G. Joshi, Bangalore

Secretary (HQ)

Dr. V.K. Khanna, Lucknow

Secretary (International Affairs)

Dr. S.C. Pandey, Chicago, USA

Joint Secretary

Dr. P. Seth, Manesar

Treasurer

Dr. A.K. Agrawal, Lucknow

Chief Editor

Dr. R.Shukla, Lucknow

Co-Editors

Dr. R.K. Garg, Lucknow

Dr. N. Jain, Manesar

Members

Dr. (Ms) S. Tole, Mumbai

Dr. S. Bhatnagar, Udiapur

Dr. (Ms) A. Jagota, Hyderabad

Dr. A. Agrawal, Lucknow

Dr. S.B. Deshpande, Varanasi

Dr. B.S.S.N. Rao, Bangalore

IBRO Representative

Dr. (Ms) V. Ravindranath, Manesar

FAONS Representatives

Dr. P.K. Seth, Lucknow

Immediate Past President

Dr. (Ms) V. Ravindranath, Manesar

Immediate Past General Secretary

Dr. I.K. Patro, Gwalior

New Elected Fellows

Congratulations!!

Congratulations!!

Dr. Subhash C. Pandey

Department of Psychiatry, University of Illinois at Chicago Jesse Brown VA Medical Center, 820 South Damen Avenue (M/C 151), Chicago, ILL 60612

Professor Shripad B. Deshpande

Department of Physiology, Banaras Hindu University, Institute of Medical Sciences, Varanasi – 221 005

Award Winners

Tulsabai Somani Educational Trust Award

B.N. Srikumar, T.R. Raju and B.S.S. Rao

National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences, Bangalore
Amelioration of chronic stress induced learning and memory deficit by dopaminergic and cholinergic agonists.

Dr. D.M. Kar Prize

Arnab Gupta, Aikath Devdeep, P.K. Gangopadhyay and Kunal Ray
Indian Institute of Chemical Biology, Kolkata
Molecular pathogenesis of Wilson's disease in Indian patients.

S.S. Parmar Research Foundation (USA) Prize

P. Kommaddi Reddy and V. Ravindranath

National Brain Research Centre, Manesar
Identification of a unique human brain cytochrome P4501A1 variant generated by alternate splicing.

Aikath Devdeep et al

Indian Institute of Chemical Biology, Kolkata
Clinical profile of Wilson's disease.

Pratibha Boga and Yasmin Khan

Sophia College, Mumbai

Determination of nitric oxide levels in sera of leprosy patients.

Jyotsnamoyee-Raghunath Bhattacharya Prize

A.K. Agrawal, S. Shukla, R.K. Chaturvedi, K. Seth, N. srivastava, A. Ahmad and P.K. Seth

Industrial Toxicology Research Centre, Lucknow

Olfactory ensheathing cell transplantation restores functional deficits in rat model of Parkinson's disease: A co-transplantation approach with fetal ventral mesencephalic cells.

Nominations for the Executive Committee

Nominations for the positions of President (1), Vice Presidents (3), Dean (1) and Members (6) are invited on the prescribed format (enclosed herewith). The completed nominations should be sent to Dr. Vinay K. Khanna, Secretary (HQ), Scientist, Industrial Toxicology Research Centre, MG Marg, Lucknow – 226 001 by November 15, 2005.

Nominations for Fellowship

The Academy recognizes scientists who have excelled in neurosciences by electing them as Fellows. A life member or honorary member of the Academy with at least 10 years of research experience in the field of neurosciences can be nominated. Nominations on prescribed format, supported by three Fellows of the Academy are invited along with complete Biodata by November 15, 2005. Nominations should be sent to the Dean (Professor Y.K. Gupta, Head, Department of Pharmacology, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Ansari Nagar, New Delhi – 110 029) and a copy of the same to Secretary HQ (Dr. Vinay K. Khanna, Scientist, Industrial Toxicology Research Centre, MG Marg, Lucknow – 226 001) by November 15, 2005.

Travel Award(s)

The Academy provides John Miller Travel Award that covers round trip II class sleeper fare to the candidate (below 35 years of age) presenting a paper at the annual conference on competitive basis. Depending on the availability of funds, two travel awards may be provided. Requests along with abstract of the paper may be sent to the Organizing Secretary (Dr (Ms). Preeti Joshi, Additional Professor, Department of Biophysics, National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences, Hausar Road, Bangalore – 560 029) and a copy of the same to the Treasurer (Dr. A.K. Agrawal, Scientist, Industrial Toxicology Research Centre, MG Marg, Lucknow – 226 001) by November 15, 2005

Next Meeting at Bangalore

The next annual meeting and XXIII annual conference of Indian Academy of Neurosciences will be held at National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences, Bangalore on December 11-14, 2005. Dr (Ms). Preeti Joshi is the Organizing Secretary and in the process of sending announcement to everyone. Suggestions, if any may be sent to her at the following address,

Dr (Ms). Preeti Joshi
Additional Professor
Department of Biophysics
National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences
Hausar Road
Bangalore – 560 029
Email: <pgjoshi@nimhans.kar.nic.in>

Awards/Prizes For Young Neuroscientists

To recognize the contributions of young researchers working in the area of neurosciences and encourage them, the Indian Academy of Neurosciences has instituted following awards/prizes.

1. Tulsabai Somani Educational Trust Award (For best oral presentation by the young neuroscientist below 40 years of age at the annual conference).
2. Dr. D.M. Kar Prize (For best oral presentation by the young neuroscientist below 35 years of age at the annual conference).
3. Professor S.S. Parmar Research Foundation Award (For best poster presentation by young neuroscientist below 35 years of age at the annual conference).
4. Jyotsnamoyee-Raghunath Bhattacharya Prize (For published research paper in the field of basic neurosciences. Paper should have been published during the past 2 years).

Persons willing to be considered for the awards may apply directly or get them nominated. The details of the awards are on the IAN website. These may also be obtained from the Secretary HQ (Dr. Vinay K. Khanna, Scientist, Industrial Toxicology Research Centre, MG Marg, Lucknow – 226 001).

INDIAN ACADEMY OF NEUROSCIENCES
Format For Annual Elections

Nomination for the post of:

Name:

Address:

Membership No.:

Proposer

Seconder

Name:

Name:

Membership No.

Membership No.

Signature

Signature

INDIAN ACADEMY OF NEUROSCIENCES
Format For Nomination of Fellows

Name:

Address & Designation:

Qualification:

(Degree and post graduation)

Membership in Academy:

Life

Date of joining Academy

Significant Contributions

in the field of Neurosciences:

(About 200 words, attach annexure)

Most Significant Publications

During the last five years

(Please give the titles and attach copies of three publications)

Name _____

Proposed by _____

Supported by _____

Signatures _____

Address _____

Note: Proposer and Seconder should be Fellows of the Academy.

Forthcoming Meetings

6th International Mental Health Conference - What's new in mood disorders?

Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia, 2nd-4th Sept 2005

<http://www.gcimh.com.au/conference>

Inaugural Brain Plasticity Symposium

Brisbane, Queensland, Australia, 12th-15th Sept 2005

<http://www.qbi.uq.edu.au>

15th Neuropharmacology Conference

Washington DC, USA, 9th-11th Nov 2005

<http://www.neuropharmacology-conference.elsevier.com>

Asia Pacific Regional Meeting Neuro-Psychopharmacology: Challenging for Better Health

Pattaya, Thailand, March 14-17, 2006.

www.sc.mahidol.ac.th/cinp2006thailand

8th International Neuroscience Winter Conference

Solden, Austria, 25th-30th March 2006

<http://www.sambax.com/nwc2006>

4th International Symposium on Neuroprotection and Neurorepair: Cerebral Ischaemia and Stroke

Magdeburg, Germany, 3rd-6th May 2006

<http://www.neurorepair-2006.de>

6th International Congress of Neuropsychiatry

Sydney, Australia, 10th-14th Sept 2006

<http://www.inacongress2006.com>

IBRO 7th World Conference of Neuroscience

Melbourne, Australia, 12th-17th July 2007

<http://www.ans.org.au>

Honours/Awards

Professor P.K. Seth, CEO, Biotech Park, Lucknow was conferred with Vigyan Gaurav Award of Council of Science and Technology, Uttar Pradesh. He also delivered C.R. Krishnamurti Endowment Lecture under the auspices of Madras Science Foundation, Chennai.

Professor Y.K. Gupta, Head, Department of Pharmacology, AIIMS, New Delhi was conferred with AEB Honours by the Academy of Environmental Biology. He also delivered Gujral-Bhargava Oration at King George's Medical University, Lucknow.

Dr. Gautam Palit, Scientist F, Central Drug Research Institute, Lucknow received the Dr. B.N. Prasad Memorial Award of Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi for his contributions in biomedical sciences.

Dr. Alok Dhawan, Scientist, Industrial Toxicology Research Centre, Lucknow received Shakuntala Amirchand Prize of Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi for his contributions in toxicology.

Suggestion(s) For IAN Website

We are in the process to update the IAN website www.neuroscienceacademy.org. Any suggestion(s) to improve the website are welcome and may be forwarded to Dr. Ishan K. patro, Vice President, Indian Academy of Neurosciences and Head, Neuroscience Centre, School of studies in Zoology, Jiwaji University, Gwalior – 474 001, Fax +91-751-2343063, Email <ishanpatro@rediffmail.com>

News For the Next Issue

You may inform your achievements and of other members and forward news items for the next issue of the newsletter to Dr. Vinay K. Khanna, Scientist, Industrial Toxicology Research Centre, MG Marg, Lucknow – 226 001, Fax: +91-522-2628227, E-mail: <vkkhanna1@rediffmail.com>