

Indian Immunology Society

General Body Meeting held on 25th November 2022

Venue: PGIMER, Chandigarh during 49th Annual Conference of the Indian Immunology Society, IMMUNOCON-2022

Minutes of the General Body Meeting

The GBM started with the brief welcome note by Dr. Taruna Madan Gupta, President, IIS. The meeting was attended by a total of 45 members in person including the Senior Members such as Prof. G.P. Talwar, Prof. N.K. Mehra, Prof. Santosh Kar, Dr. Pawan Sharma, Dr. Javed Agrewala, and nine IIS EC members Dr. Taruna Madan (President), Dr. K. Balakrishnan (Secretary), Dr. Kaustuv Nayak (Treasurer), Dr. Archana Singh (Jt. Secretary), Dr. Dipankar Nandi (VP South), Dr. Savita Kulkarni (VP West), Dr. Dipyaman Ganguly (VP East), Dr. Rupesh Srivastava (Member, EC), Dr. Rajiv Kumar (Member EC). There were 25 IIS members who had joined the GBM online. Among these were six EC Members namely Dr. Geeta Rai (VP North), Dr. Aparanji Poosarla (Member EC), Dr. Pramod Gupta (Member EC), Dr. Ravi Gutti (Member EC), Dr. Sujata Mohanty (Member EC), and Dr. Suktilang Majaw (Member EC).

1. Approval of the Minutes of the Meetings (MOMs) of the past GBMs.

MOM's of the GBM, held on 15th Nov 2019, at BARC, Mumbai and the extraordinary GBM held on 17th Sep 2022, at AIIMS, New Delhi, were displayed page by page on the screen for the members and both the MOM's minutes were passed by the GBM by voice vote.

2. Honouring COVID-19 warriors/heroes/researchers.

As proposed by the Senior Member Prof. Santosh Kar, the GBM thanked all those IIS members who whole-heartedly participated in the war against COVID-19 and contributed towards diagnosis, therapy, development and evaluation and administration of vaccines and saved millions of lives. Prof. N. K. Mehra was applauded for his regular articles in the Editorial page of a National Daily regarding the simplified updates on new knowledge generated for diagnosis and therapy of COVID19.

3. Presentation on the IIS-Golden Jubilee Conference at AIIMS, New Delhi by Dr. Uma Kanga.

Dr. Uma made a presentation regarding 50th Annual conference of the Indian Immunology Society. The presentation included details of the local organising team, conference venue, probable dates, names of Conference Patrons-Prof. N.K Mehra and Prof. M. Srinivas (Director, AIIMS).

As 18th IUIS-ICI will be held at Cape Town is from 27th November to 2nd December 2023, members present suggested that the IMMUNOCON- 2023 should be planned in October.

Dr. Kanga apprised regarding the halls and conference facilities available at AIIMS. It was suggested that the conference can also be held at a convention centre/hotel in Delhi Aero City.

She mentioned that one of the highlights will be a special session to felicitate all the past IIS-Presidents. GBM appreciated this gesture.

She mentioned the program would include a session for early career researchers, a session by clinical researchers, a day dedicated for educational activity (Quiz/workshops/poster competition etc) for medical colleges and/or high school students. After discussions, it was proposed to organize Day-1 Quiz for high school/college students. Dr. Talwar suggested that M.Sc. Life Sciences students should be involved. Dr. Mehra suggested that Dr. Kalpana Luthra and Dr. Archana Singh should take this initiative to conduct quiz and poster competition for school and college students.

Prof Santosh Kar while expressing happiness about the Golden Jubilee event, suggested that organizers must make sure that it does not turn out to be a Meeting of the AIIMS. It is important to spread the message of Immunology all across. He suggested that the organizers should include members from across the country, and involve all regions for this important historical event.

Dr Uma thanked everyone for their suggestions and stated that these will help her and colleagues in creating a more vibrant organizing team.

A young member raised a concern regarding the sincerity/attention towards the poster sessions which are the most affected during time constraints. Scholars take so much efforts to present their recent findings as posters, while the patronage is very less. GB thanked the member and urged the future IMMUNOCON organisers to please take a serious note of it and take some appropriate action to encourage more interactions at the posters. Round table meetings of the presenters with dedicated faculty for a theme of posters should be planned. Poster viewing time needs to be increased.

Dr. Uma mentioned that to incorporate all the suggested sessions, the 50th IMMUNOCON might be a four-five day event. On behalf of the organisers, she requested Prof. Talwar that Immunology Foundation may please agree to support the IMMUNOCON-2023 with a sum of Rs. 5 lakhs. Prof. Talwar agreed that the Immunology Foundation would generously support the event. GB appreciated the plans presented by Dr. Kanga. Prof. Mehra suggested Dr. Uma to block all the required conference rooms/halls as soon as possible as October-November is conference season in Delhi.

4. Short presentation on the proposal to start an IIS e-Newsletter by Dr. Rupesh Srivastava (Member, EC).

Dr. Rupesh made a short presentation on the planned IIS e-Newsletter and its proposed contents named as "ImmunoConnect", which will be launched in the 50th Immunocon. And regarding plans to get an ISSN number for the same, Dr. Rupesh further apprised the expenses of getting the ISSN registration would be a one-time charge (approximately within Rs 5,000). It will be published annually and will be in online mode only, without any major financial implications on IIS. GBM approved the proposal.

5. Short presentation on the proposal to reinstate the IIS Scholars e-Newsletter by Dr. Kaustuv Nayak (Treasurer).

Dr. Kaustuv informed that the IIS Scholars e-Newsletter, whose last issue was brought out almost 10 years ago will be reinstated. He will ask volunteers from North, East, South and West. The student editors will invite articles, travelogues; short findings etc from respective regions and also will be responsible for editing them to some extent. Dr Nayak will be the coordinator. Dr Pawan Sharma suggested to have one student editor from North East. Dr Nayak agreed and added that there will be no financial implications on IIS and the newsletter will be in online mode only. GBM approved the proposal. Dr Mehra suggested that this can be combined with ImmunoConnect and one Newsletter would be sufficient.

6. Short presentation on IIS symposium at FOCIS 2023 by Dr. Savita Kulkarni, VP West.

Dr Savita Kulkarni updated the GBM that after a call was given for FOCIS member symposium to all the IIS members, 13 abstracts were received by IIS. It has been decided by the EC to take-up all the 13 abstracts as all may not get travel support, visa etc. The participants will be making their own arrangements like registration, accommodation, visa and travel. GBM appreciated and approved the proposal. Dr Mehra suggested the EC to do a similar collaborative meeting with IUIS.

7. Short presentation on the first IIS-American Society of Reproductive Immunology Symposium by Dr. Rupesh K Srivastava, Member, EC.

He mentioned that a draft proposal prepared was submitted with Indian Reproductive Immunologists to the ASRI 2023 committee by Dr. Taruna Madan, Dr. Sashi Baruah and Dr. Rupesh Srivastava. The participants will be making their own arrangements like registration, accommodation, visa and travel. Thus, this symposium will have no financial implications on IIS. GBM appreciated and approved the proposal.

8. Approval of Golden Jubilee Oration Award: a special award instituted by IIS to commemorate 50th Year of IIS. Criteria, Guidelines and SOP for the award will be drafted by the EC.

Dr Sanjeev Kumar Gupta, Managing Consultant, Intrust-Consulting LLP, proposed that his company will be happy to take care of all the expenses related to the Golden Jubilee Oration Award. The proposal was seconded by Prof. N. K. Mehra and was approved by GBM.

9. Composition of Committee for Revising the IIS Constitution.

Prof. N. K. Mehra suggested that a new committee should be instituted that will look into the IIS constitution and give its comments to make reforms/ amendment. A five-member team may be suggested. It was suggested that the EC Team present there will call out the suggestions for the names of the members for the Constitution Reforms Committee and the members present in the GBM may agree/disagree to it.

Dr. Kanga reminded that as per the present IIS constitution, EC has authority to constitute a sub-committee when desired. Dr. Santosh Kar proposed that GBM should suggest names and EC should agree /disagree on it. A few names were suggested: (1) Dr. Pawan Sharma; (2) Dr. Sarat Dalai; (3) Dr. Uma Kanga; (4) Dr. Kalpana Luthra; (5) Dr. L.M. Srivastava; and (6) Dr. Sanjeev K Gupta. Further, Dr. Sunil Raghav and Dr. Kaustuv Nayak suggested that at least two members of the Constitution Reforms Committee should be mid-career level faculty/Scientists.

Dr. Santosh Kar suggested few critical points like (1) "Secretary" should not be called as "General Secretary" (2) The tenure of EC should remain as 2 years. To this, Dr. Talwar said that 2 years is a genuinely good time and three years for a term is not required. Prof. Mehra emphasised that the three years term was proposed as it is coherent with the three years term of international bodies such as FIMSA, IUIS where IIS sends its nominees.

Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Gupta made a point that without legal authorisation of the constitution, no constitution has legal protection. A lawyer needs to be consulted to get it registered/authorised. Hence, it is agreed that after the recommendations of Amendment/Reformation committee and approval by GBM, the same may be given to a lawyer for vetting. EC may then register the revised constitution with the Delhi Govt.

10. Institution of 2 IIS Awards for Immunology Teaching and Research: A brief presentation by Prof. Santosh Kar

Prof. Santosh Kar apprised that his R&D Company Polyfeenolix Research Laboratory Pvt. Ltd. has brought Nanocurcumin into the market for treatment of multiple ailments. From the revenue generated, he proposed to institute 2 awards annually of Rs 1 lakh each. This will include cash award, accommodation and travel to the IMMUNOCON venue. The applicants have to be from Colleges/ Universities and not from IITs. Dr. Taruna seconded the proposal. GBM applauded the noble thought and approved it for consideration of EC for further details on the eligibility criteria, selection process and the needed corpus for smooth functioning of the awards.

11. Future IMMUNOCONS.

Dr. Madan apprised that there were four proposals received for the 51st IMMUNOCON by Dr. Dipankar Nandi, IISc., Bengaluru; Dr. Shripad Patil, NIMHANS, Bengaluru; Dr. Ashish Sharma, Geetanjali Medical College and Hospitals, Udaipur and Dr. Jyoti Kode, ACTREC, Mumbai. EC advised Dr. Dipankar Nandi may organise 51st IMMUNOCON at IISc and Dr. Shripad Patil to organise one of the sessions on Neuroimmunology to which they both agreed. EC advised to have two presentations in GBM, one by Dr. Dipankar Nandi and the second by Dr. Ashish Sharma. Dr. Dipankar Nandi presented in the GBM but Dr. Ashish Sharma could not join in person owing to an emergency. He submitted his presentation. GBM approved the proposal by Dr. Dipankar Nandi, Vice President South to organise the 51st IMMUNOCON at IISc and Dr. Ashish Sharma may organise the 52nd IMMUNOCON at Udaipur. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks by Secretary, Dr. K. Balakrishnan.