

Indian Immunology Society

Minutes of the General Body Meeting held at JN tata Auditorium During 51st Immunocon , IISc, on 17th October 2024.

Agenda for the 51st Immunocon General Body Meeting (17/10/24)

1. Formally accepting the minutes of General body meeting held on 6th October 2023 during golden jubilee celebrations of the IIS with the following corrections.
 - a. Word 'defaulter' to be removed
 - b. Word "penal action" to be removed.

Membership

2. As accepted in the last GBM, Life Membership fee will be Rs 5000 from 18th October 2024.

New proposal accepted by EC:

CME, DOI, Immunocon

1. Increase CME grant from INR 30000 to 40000
2. Increase Day of Immunology support from INR 10000 to 15000
3. Increase Seed money for supporting IMMUNOCON meetings from INR 50000 to 100000 (one lakh). This seed money should be treated as 'loan without interest' and to be returned post IMMUNOCON.
4. All future Immunocon organisers will be requested to have the student poster presentation in prime time only. It should not be during lunch time.
5. Dr. Dil Afroze (Kashmir) would be given an opportunity to host Immunocon-2026
6. The EC will call bids for Immunocon 2027-28.
7. **Local IIS chapters** to be introduced to promote immunology education at grassroot level.
8. Life membership to group of 5 or more will be charged Rs 4000 per member.
9. Student member (M.Sc., M. Tech, MBBS, M. Pharm.) will be charged Rs 1000 for 2 years from the date of payment. Only ONE TIME they can get this opportunity. If they wish to become life member, they will have to pay full fee as of that day. No voting rights will be given to the student members. Student members will not be eligible for travel grants and IIS awards.
10. Any other agenda from the permission from the Chairman?

1. The General Body meeting of the Indian Immunology Society held on 17th Oct., 2024 at JN Tata Auditorium in IISc Bangalore was attended by 66 (sixty six) delegates. It was co-chaired by Dr Amit Awasthi (President-IIS) and Dr Kaustuv Nayak (Secretary-IIS). Dr K Balakrishnan (Former Secretary-IIS) also was present. Dr Awasthi welcomed the members and requested Dr Nayak to start the proceedings. Dr Balakrishnan was requested to present the previous secretary report.
2. Dr Balakrishnan presented the Secretary report of the year 2023-2024.
3. Dr Kaustuv Nayak added to the outgoing secretary report by giving a short presentation on the International Immunology Day organized at 22 different locations in India that were funded.
4. Dr Kaustuv Nayak also presented the Treasurer's report for the term 1st April 2023 till 31st March 2024 and latest till 15th October 2024.
5. The reports were approved by voice-vote with appreciation by all the members present in the General Body, with a remark from President that the announcement of newly instituted awards (as indicated in the previous secretary's report) would need reconsideration and kept at abeyance till the

interest money for awards is available after the committed funds are credited into the IIS accounts.

6. The first agenda was regarding acceptance of the minutes of GBM held at 50th Immunocon. Referring to Point no-5 in the General Body meeting minutes of 50th Immunocon, the Secretary informed the GB regarding the majority decision of current EC to accept the report but remove the words “defaulter” and “penal action” against any member of society (refer to point no. 5 of EC minutes). No objections were raised and the previous GB report was accepted with these proposed amendments.

As per the detailed discussion in the GBM, following points regarding IMMUNOCON during a financial year needs to be spent in the same year. It should be explored whether this rule applies to our society. The financial report was approved by the GBM.

5. The serious issue that the organisers of IMMUNOCON 2022, Chandigarh, have not deposited the 10% of the registration fee collected from the IMMUNOCON participants to the society account was discussed at length. This happened despite the understanding that as per the Annual General Body Meeting (AGBM) of the Society held on 8.2.2011 at 1.00 PM at Jammu in “General Zorawar Singh Auditorium Complex” University of Jammu, Point No. 7 on page 2, 10% of the registration fees should be submitted to the IIS account along with the profit gained. Dr. Kaustuv apprised the GBM that PGIMER Chandigarh didn't deposit the 10% of the registration fee even after being notified through e-mail on 21.6.2023 with the minutes of University of Jammu meeting (as mentioned above). The issue of the Virtual IMMUNOCON (2021) organized by 4 members of former IIS EC (2018-2022) was also discussed where the seed money was returned partly without any prior or post-facto approval from the IIS-EC. Senior members advised that the rules should be followed by all the IMMUNOCON organisers and a copy of the rules related to the organization of IIS supported IMMUNOCONs, CMEs, and World Immunology Day should be sent to the organisers as well as to the administration of the host Institution. A signed and endorsed undertaking should be provided by the organisers to the EC prior to release of sanction letter or seed money or financial support. The audit statement should be ratified by a Chartered accountant preferably a government approved chartered accountant. The GBM gave approval and empowered the IIS-EC to discuss regarding the disciplinary action to address the problem about the two defaulters and find solutions and to prevent/deter any such incidence in the future IMMUNOCON.
6. As per the detailed discussion in the GBM, following points regarding IMMUNOCON

7. IIS-Membership:

The formal acceptance of increase in life membership fee from Rs 4000 to Rs 5000 was accepted. Thus, IIS increased its life membership fee to Rs 5000 from midnight of 17th October 2024.

The EC floated an idea of student membership for Rs 1000. The eligibility will be students of M.Sc., M. Tech, M Pharma, MBBS. This will be valid for two years only and can be availed only once. The student-member, however, will not be eligible for any other benefits offered to IIS life members like IIS awards, travel grant, voting rights, contesting IIS elections etc. A student member will be eligible for registration for Immunocon like a IIS life member. The student can become a life member any point of time later by paying the valid life membership fee prevailing at that time. As of 18th October 2024, it is Rs 5000 (Five thousand only). The proposal was accepted by GBM.

The idea of group membership (10% discount on 5 or more people becoming members at one time) was not accepted by the GB.

8. International Immunology Day and Continuing Medical Education:
Dr Amit Awasthi explained to the members present that it was during 2018-2022 tenures, the EC had increased the token money for (1) International Immunology Day from Rs 5000 to 10000 and (2) Continuing Medical Education (CME) from Rs 20000 to 30000. It has been six years since then and no change has been made. The EC proposed to increase the International Immunology Day funding further to Rs 15000 (Fifteen thousand only) and CME funding to Rs 40000 (Forty thousand only). The general body approved the resolution.
9. It was also decided to increase the seed money for organizing an Immunocon to 100,000 (Rs One lakh only). This proposal was also approved.
10. The Executive Committee proposed to advise all the future Immunocon organisers to keep a dedicated time-slot for the poster presentation for better interaction with presenting researchers and avoid to club it with lunch time. The proposal was accepted the proposal.
11. The Executive Committee informed the GB that Immunocon-2025 to be organised by Dr Ambak Rai from Motilal Nehru National institute of Technology (MNNIT) at Paryagraj (Allahabad) and Immunocon-2026 by Prof Dil Afroz at Sher-e-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences, Srinagar. The GB happily approved the upcoming Immunocon allotments as proposed.
12. The EC proposed to activate the existing local chapters under the flagship of IIS and also open new ones, which was overwhelmingly accepted by GB.
13. A discussion on formal handover-takeover of charge by the new EC, lead to the suggestions to resume the traditional protocol of performing the handover-takeover ceremony in a ceremonial manner in the GBM during the Immunocon only. The GB approved and strongly suggested to follow this protocol as far as possible in future without any controversies.
14. The President informed the GB about a representation made by Dr Mayank Singh of AIIMS, New Delhi, regarding the election process for the post of treasurer and requested the Chairman of election Committee to respond. To this, Prof Pawan Sharma clarified the decision of Election committee and referred to the fact-finding efforts of other members of election committee to ascertain the eligibility etc. Although few members suggested for a vote on this issue, referring to some clause of recently amended constitution, but the President insisted that the matter should be considered as

settled after the due clarification made by the chairperson of election committee, who incidentally was also the chairman of constitution amendment committee.

15. The meeting was adjourned after Dr Amit Awasthi and Dr Kaustuv Nayak thanked everyone for their presence.