



Indian Immunology Society, General Body Meeting 21st November 2025, 7:00PM

52nd Annual meeting of the Indian Immunology Society,
Immunocon-2025
MNNIT Allahabad, Prayagraj, UP

Minutes of the Annual General Body Meeting (GBM) of the Indian Immunology Society

The Annual General Body Meeting (GBM) of the Indian Immunology Society (IIS) was held at M.P. Hall, Motilal Nehru National Institute of Technology, Prayagraj, during the 52nd Scientific Conference of the Society on November 21, 2025.

The meeting was chaired by IIS President Prof. Amit Awasthi, along with Secretary Dr. Kaustuv Nayak and Treasurer Dr. Deepak K. Rathore. The meeting was attended by Executive Committee members and approximately 80 life members of IIS.

Opening Remarks

The IIS President addressed the gathering and highlighted the achievements and initiatives undertaken by the present Executive Committee for the advancement of the Society. Prof. Awasthi also complimented the organizers for the excellent organization of **Immunocon 2025**.

This was followed by the presentation of the Secretary's report and the financial statement by the Treasurer.

Major Achievements Highlighted in the Secretary's Report

- IIS received the **Second Prize (€2000)** at the International Union of Immunological Societies World Immunology Day celebrations, enhancing national and international visibility.
- For the first time in IIS history, **13 women scientists from across India** were formally recognized for outstanding contributions to immunology education and research.
- IIS successfully organized the **FIMSA Immunology Course (February 2025)**, strengthening advanced training initiatives.
- The Society supported **5 CME programs** and **19 World Immunology Day celebrations**.

Major Achievements Highlighted in the Treasurer's Report

- The Society's corpus was strengthened with a new ₹8 lakh fixed deposit, improving long-term financial sustainability.
- Introduction of **digital payments (UPI QR)** and an online membership portal improved transparency and accessibility.
- Funding for academic activities increased:
 - CME grant increased from ₹30,000 to ₹40,000

- World Immunology Day token grant increased from ₹10,000 to ₹15,000

Agenda-wise Discussion and Decisions

Agenda 1: Approval of Previous GBM Minutes

The minutes of the GBM held during IMMUNOCON-2024 at the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, circulated via email on November 5, 2024, were unanimously approved.

Agenda 2: Discussion on Constitution Review Committee Recommendations

The General Body discussed in detail the recommendations of the Constitution Review Committee regarding amendments to the IIS Constitution, election procedures, and eligibility criteria, as outlined in Annexure-1. The Committee meeting was held on October 4, 2025.

The Executive Committee of the Indian Immunology Society had constituted the review committee comprising Dr. Pawan Sharma, Dr. V. D. Ramanathan, and Dr. Praful Tailor, with IIS representatives Prof. Amit Awasthi and Dr. Kaustuv Nayak.

After detailed discussion, the following recommendations were presented and approved:

2.1 Removal of Controversial Terminology

- Terms with negative or unparliamentary connotations such as “*punishments*” or “*defaulters*” will be removed.
- The EC will have no authority to impose penalties on IIS members.
- No distinction will be made between permanent/regular and non-permanent employees for nominations to IIS EC positions.
- IIS membership guarantees equal rights to all members irrespective of employment status.

2.2 EC Code of Conduct During Elections

- Once elections are announced, the outgoing EC will not exercise decision-making authority that may influence the process.
- EC members should refrain from communicating with IIS members through email, WhatsApp, or other media in ways that may influence election outcomes.
- The Election Officer may take appropriate action, including revoking nominations in case of violations.

2.3 Number of Immunocons per EC Term

- An incumbent EC may organise a maximum of **two Immunocon conferences** during its tenure.

2.4 Number of General Body Meetings per EC Term

- An incumbent EC may chair a maximum of **two GB meetings** during its tenure, in line with past practice.

2.5 Eligibility Criteria for Executive Committee Positions

- Candidates for key EC positions (President, Vice-President, Secretary, Joint Secretary, Treasurer) must have previously served at least one term as an EC member.
- This rule will apply prospectively.

2.6 Eligibility of Treasurer from Any Location in India

- The Treasurer's position will not be restricted to Delhi-NCR.
- Eligible candidates from anywhere in India may contest, considering advances in digital banking.

2.7 Code of Conduct for Election Nominees

- Nominees must provide only verifiable scientific credentials in their biodata submitted to the Election Officer.

After discussion, the General Body unanimously approved all recommendations (Points 2.1–2.7) of the Constitution Review Committee. The approved recommendations are attached as Annexures 1 and 2.

Agenda 3: Discussion on IIS Award Review Committee Recommendations

The Executive Committee of the Indian Immunology Society constituted an IIS Award Review Committee to evaluate the norms and eligibility criteria for various IIS awards and to submit recommendations for consideration by the EC.

The Committee comprised:

- Dr. Shubhada Chiplunkar (Chairperson)
- Dr. Sunil Arora (Member)
- Dr. Shripad Patil (Member)
- Dr. Dil Afroze (Member)

IIS-EC representatives:

- Prof. Amit Awasthi (President)
- Dr. Sarat Dalai (Vice President, West Zone)
- Dr. Kaustuv Nayak (Secretary)
- Dr. Gaurav Sharma (Joint Secretary)

The Committee meeting was held online on September 2, 2025. The recommendations were presented to the IIS-EC, approved, and subsequently placed before the General Body in Prayagraj. The General Body approved the recommendations.

Recommendations

1. Terminology Revision

The term “cash award” shall be replaced with “honorarium” for all IIS awards (Annexure-3).

2. Relaxation of Eligibility for Dr. G.P. Talwar Young Scientist Award

The eligibility criterion of two years of IIS life membership at the time of application has been relaxed to **one year**.

This change was recommended to:

- Increase participation and competitiveness.
- Address the concern that many Ph.D. students obtain IIS life membership in the 2nd–4th year of their Ph.D., thereby limiting their eligibility window under the previous rule.

All other criteria remain unchanged.

3. Revision of Honorarium and Age Criteria

- **IIS Senior Scientist Award:** from ₹30,000 to ₹40,000 honorarium; Age eligibility remains same (50 years above till 65 years)
- **IIS Mid-Career Scientist Award:** from ₹15,000 to ₹25,000 honorarium; Age eligibility remains same (35 years and above till 50 years)
- **Dr. G.P. Talwar Young Scientist Award:** from ₹10,000 to ₹15,000 honorarium; Age eligibility remains same (up to 35 years)

4. Travel Bursary Age Relaxation

The upper age limit for IIS travel bursaries has been increased from **35 years to 40 years**.

5. IMMUNOCON Student Support Fund Proposal

Dr. Dipankar Nandi suggested creating a dedicated IMMUNOCON Fund to support students and young researchers. The suggestion was appreciated and noted. IIS reiterated its commitment to supporting young researchers through travel bursaries for attending Immunocon meetings.

IIS Life Time Achievement Award

The GB mutually agreed with EC proposal to felicitate senior immunologists with IIS Life Time Achievement Award for their contributions serving the mandate of Indian Immunology Society; through various scientific and academic activities over last few decades. In accordance, Drs Vadakkuppattu Ramanathan, Utpal Sen Gupta and Sunil Arora were felicitated during IMMUNOCON-2025 at Prayagraj. The proposal was agreed unanimously to support senior immunologists (upto 2 scientists every year with a cap of 10000 (INR).

The GB members approved the recommendation of awards committee decision and recommendations.

Agenda 4: IIS Women Education Committee

As part of a major reform initiative proposed by Prof. Amit Awasthi at the time of assuming office as President during IMMUNOCON at Indian Institute of Science, the Executive Committee of the Indian Immunology Society initiated a program to promote women in immunology by formally recognizing their contributions.

To implement this initiative, IIS-EC constituted the IIS Women Education Committee comprising:

- Dr. Kalpana Luthra (Chairperson)
- Dr. Pranita Sarangi (Member)
- Dr. H. Shakila (Member)
- Dr. Jyoti Prasanna (Member)
- Dr. Gayatri Mukherjee (Member)

IIS representatives included Prof. Amit Awasthi, Dr. Kaustuv Nayak, and Dr. Deepak K. Rathore.

In observance of **February 11 – International Day of Women and Girls in Science**, the committee recognized **13 women scientists** in 2025 for their contributions to immunology education and research.

The General Body ratified the committee's recommendations, appreciated the efforts of the Executive Committee, and approved this initiative as a continuing activity of the Society.

Agenda 5: Bids/Proposals for Conducting Immunocon 2027 and 2028

The General Body considered the bids received for hosting future Immunocon conferences of the Indian Immunology Society.

Immunocon 2027

The proposal to host **Immunocon 2027** in New Delhi, submitted by Dr. Sadhna Sharma and Dr. Monika Sharma of Miranda House, University of Delhi, was discussed and **unanimously approved** by the General Body.

Immunocon 2028

A proposal from BITS Goa to host **Immunocon 2028** was presented and discussed. It was decided that the proposal would first be reviewed by the Executive Committee and subsequently placed before the General Body for approval during the forthcoming Immunocon meeting in Srinagar.

Any other agenda points

Immunology Course/Winter School

IIS President, Dr Santosh Kar and others discussed the scope for organizing an Annual IIS Immunology Course/Winter School, which can be organized as a separate IIS activity in addition to IIS annual conferences. This proposal was discussed in the IIS-GBM during IMMUNOCON-2025 at Prayagraj. In this context a joint proposal from NII (Dr Devinder Sehgal) and JNU (Dr Ravi Tandon) was discussed. GB approved for this as a regular initiative of IIS.

IIS website update

Efforts of Dr Priyanka Dey for collecting required data and managing other aspects towards IIS website update were appreciated.

Forthcoming IMMUNOCON-2026 at SKIMS, Kashmir

The IIS President informed that 53rd Immunocon will be organized by Dr. Dil Afroz in Shere

Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences, Srinagar from June 10th -13th , 2026. Dr. Dil Afroz was invited to present a brief overview of her conference proposal and progress made about administrative and security approvals. She gave an account of the proposed conference plans including venue details, venue details, accommodation and connectivity aspects. All members present approved and appreciated Dr Dil's Immunocon preparation.

The meeting was concluded by a vote of thanks by the IIS President along with appreciation for the organizing team of IIS 2025 led by Dr. Ambak Rai. Members present applauded the efforts of the organizing committee