

42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference of the Indian Immunology Society, Immunocon 2015

October 9-11, 2015 at the RMRIMS, Patna

### **Minutes of the General Body Meeting held in the evening of October 10, 2015**

The GBM was attended by 96 life members of the Indian Immunology Society.

The meeting commenced with Greetings and Cheers to the organizing team at RMRIMS for organizing a very successful and memorable conference with special thanks to Dr. PKDas, the Director, RMRIMS .

Dr. Nibhriti Das presented the report of IIS activities since the new members of the executives took over the responsibilities of IIS and distributed a copy of the same to the members. The report will be available at the IIS website.

Briefly, On Jan,2015,the local IIS executives from NCR met to decide on emerging issues for discussions with the national executives and then the national executives of the IIS met on April 4, 2015 at the IIS Head office, the Department of Biochemistry, AIIMS. The meeting was attended almost in the full strength .Decisions on the future activities of IIS were taken. These included, framing the syllabus and, setting the guidelines for the CMES being conducted by the organizers from different regions of India under the aegis of IIS ,taking up a nation –wide campaign for the celebration of the World Immunology Day on April 29, 2015,taking up a vigorous membership drive ,initiating an IIS journal in collaboration with the **Ology** group of publishers, conferment of honour to luminaries of the Indian Immunology Society , preparing a panel of speakers for CMES as well as annual conferences of the society ,initiating bench level technical workshops for the students and young researchers ,redesigning the IIS website and reviving the IIS newsletter, deciding the sites for futures CMEs.Executives also gave valuable suggestions for the Immunocon 2015.

The society worked on these lines.A syllabus for the CMEs had been framed and a list of speakers had been suggested for CMEs and Immunocon which will be enriched further. From Jan 2015, five CMEs were organized in different parts of the country. The institutions were; Rangaraya Medical College, Kakinada, A.P. Dolphin (PG) Institute of Biomedical & Natural Sciences Dehra Dun-(U.K.), Tripura University, Tripura, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore, TN, AIIMS Bhopal, MP. These CMEs were attended by 200-500 young participants ,the students, researchers and faculty. The world day of immunology was celebrated by twenty two institutions. These were; THSTI, Faridabad, RMRIMS, Patna, AIIMS, New Delhi, AIIMS, Patna, College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, CSK HPKV, Palampur, H.P. National JALMA Institute for Leprosy and Other Mycobacterial Diseases, Agra, Dept. of Microbiology, Jnana Sahyadri, Kuvempu University, Shimoga, Karnataka, Armed Forces Medical College, Pune, University of Veterinary Science, Mathura, National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal, 132001, Haryana, JIPMER, Puducherry, Govt. Med. College Kakinada, A.P., UCMS, New Delhi, MKU, Madurai, Andhra University, Vishakapatnam, Tezpur University, Tezpur: B. V. Patel Pharmaceutical Education and Research Development (PERD) Centre, Ahmedabad, Gujarat, Bhabha Atomic Reserach Center, Mumbai, National Institute for Research in Reproductive Health, Mumbai , Lala Lajpat Rai University of Veterinary & Animal Sciences, Hisar Haryana.

IIS executives decided to honor Prof.GP Talwar and Prof. **V.R** Muthukarruppan at Immunocon 2015.Since Prof. Muthukarruppan had confirmed pre commitment to attend another event out of country,this year only Dr. Talwar was conferred the honor. IIS decided to confer honor to Prof. Muthukarruppan at Immunocon 2016.

IIS executives and organizers of the Immunocon 2015 worked together in finalizing the scientific program and other essentials of the conference.As per decision of the IIS executives ,a special session on the 1<sup>st</sup> session of the Day1 of the Immunocon 2015 was designed to honor and felicitate Prof.GPTalwar.This had been a joint venture by the IIS and Immunocon 2015. Twelve young researchers received IIS bursaries for attending the conference and presenting their work. The senior scientist award was conferred to Dr. Anirban Basu,NBRC,Manesar, Haryana. Presentations for GP Talwar young scientists oration award were of very high standard and,therefore instead of two, three researchers were given the award. Awardees were Shibabrata Mukherjee,Kolkata,Asif Amin Dar, Mumbai and Gaurang Pradhan,Hyderabad.

### **GBM Highlights:**

The activities and plans for the next phase of IIS and accounts audits were appreciated and approved .Dr. Alpana Sharma distributed the copy of the audited accounts to the members attending the meeting.

Immunocon 2016: Dr. Dil Afroze from Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences and Dr. Neeru Singh from RMRCT,Jabalpur volunteered to organize Immunocon 2016 as Dr. Shashi Barua from Tejpur University expressed her inability to hold the same due to certain compulsions. Since Dr. Dil Afroze was present at the GBM and she very strongly expressed her desire to organize the conference as she had volunteered for the same even on previous occasions.Her name was proposed and seconded at the GBM.She briefed her plans for the meeting . The suggested date is around October November,2016 ,and will be finalized taking care of the national festivals. She will be back to the IIS executives with her plans during the IIS national executive meeting by March or April. Dr.Arindam Bhattacharya is **suppose** to organize the Immunocon 2017 at Kolkata.

It was decided that IIS will request Dr. Neeru Singh to organize the CME in the year 2016 and may be requested to organize an Immunocon at a later date.

The general body members approved the inclusion of Dr. Taruna Madan as a co-opted member of the IIS executive because of the absence of Dr. Ramendra Pati who has gone abroad on an assignment for at least an year, Proposal came from Dr. Nibhriti Das and was Seconded by Dr.Kaustuv Nayak.

The feasibility of awarding bursaries to young researchers for participation at the international immunology conferences like FIMSA and others by IIS was discussed in great length. The IIS treasurer Dr. Alpana Sharma brought forth the audited statement of IIS accounts and explained the fund limitations of IIS .Only income for IIS is through membership and contribution to the society by the organizers of Immunocons which is just 10%of the registration amount.The expenditures are towards CMEs,World day of Immunology celebrations ,IIS meetings,travel and accommodation to ECmembers attending the meetings from outside Delhi,bursaries to young scientistsfor attending Immunocons and other essential expenditures for the meetings , documentations, maintenance of the website and accounts etc.All these activities and

expenditures are increasing day by day. This year, IIS had to pay Rs. 50,000=- in addition to the amount paid by Dr. Talwar to meet with the IUIS dues.

Therefore, the IIS executives and the general members felt that at the present situation, IIS should say 'No' to any request for bursaries for participation at the International conferences, irrespective of whether such conferences are to be held in India or abroad. IIS can provide only seed money on returnable basis to the organizers of such conferences if requested.

Simultaneously, members were requested to enthruse the young researchers to become life members of IIS. Dr. Nibhriti Das explained the benefits and privileges enjoyed by a life member.

It was desired that CMEs are organized at the remote resource restricted places but if someone offers to organize a CME in Immunology under the aegis of the IIS to improve Immunology education at their place, **such** initiatives should also be encouraged.

Three institutions came forward to organize CME. These are Chennai University, National Institute of Leprosy, RMRC and Dibrugarh Medical College **and fourth one is NIT, Warangal, (Telangana)**. However, excepting the offer by Dr. Arumugam from the Madras University, rest need to be confirmed. A formal request will be made to Dr. Neeru Singh to hold the CME at Jabalpur. It was also proposed that Dr. Gogoi from Dibrugarh and Dr. Shashi Barua join hands in organizing the CME.

Dr. GP Talwar proposed to institute an oration award for the middle level scientists during a discussion with the Secretary, IIS which was brought to the GBM by Dr. Nibhriti Das. The proposal was greeted with cheers. The details will be worked out at the National executive meeting. It was decided that the target age group should be between 36-45 years.

The need of remodelling the IIS website was re-emphasized. It was agreed that a move to go for an IIS journal in collaboration with '**Ology**' group of publishers should be taken only when the publishers have clarified the queries.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the organizers of Immunocon 2015, the participants and the General Body members who attended the conference.