

Minutes of the General Body Meeting of Indian Immunology Society

Held on 18.12.2009

The annual GBM of the society was convened on 18.12.2009 at 5.30 PM in the convention hall, NIMHANS Convention Center, Bangalore. The meeting was called to order by Dr Sita Naik, President, IIS. following issues were discussed and general body approved the same.

1. The minutes of the GBM held at ILS, Bhubneswar 2008 were approved.
2. The Secretary presented the brief highlights of the year. The Treasurer could not present the audited statement, as the previous papers were not received. She gave a brief outline of the financial status of he society.
3. The problems and issues related to handing over the affairs of the Society to a new executive following the elections was placed before the house by the Secretary, Dr DN Rao. After much discussion the GBM approved that
 - i. The process of electing a new executive should be completed before the commencement of the annual conference (every alternate year)
 - ii. The newly elected executive should take charge on the day of the inauguration.
 - iii. The audited statements (for the 2 preceding years, up to 31st March of the current year) of accounts and all other relevant papers should be handed over by outgoing executive (Treasurer and Secretary) during the General Body Meeting.
 - iv. Since it has been a matter of concern that many EC members do not attending the annual conference of the society, the consent statement of the candidate standing for elections (part of the nomination paper) will be modified to include an undertaking that "I will attend the EC meetings and both GBMs during my tenure, except for exceptional circumstances"
 - v. President, Secretary and the Treasurer should be Ex-officio members of the new executive.
4. It was decided that the General Body Meeting should be held in the evening of the first day of the conference to ensure larger attendance
5. It was also approved that it will be mandatory for the Organizing Secretary of the annual conference to arrange the program such that the Senior Scientist oration is scheduled for the pre-lunch session on the first day and the G.P. Talwar award for the pre-lunch session on the second day.
6. It was felt the organizing committee of the annual conference should finalize the program in close co-ordination and consultation with executive Committee. The earlier practice of sending two circulars (even if brief and referring to the website) by the Organizing Secretary before the conference should be continued. The circulars should contain details about the Senior IIS award, the GP Talwar Award, bursary to the students and the broad overview of the specific topics.

7. In order to improve the annual conferences further and encourage wider attendance it was decided that
 - i. The Brain storming sessions which were organized in the last few conferences were highly appreciated by the young participants. The program should be re-introduced and the Organizing Secretary should ensure that a time slot is provided before dinner on the 2nd day of the conference for this activity. Two or three topics should be identified in consultation with Senior Immunologists and can even be circulated in advance.
 - ii. The Awards for Best Poster and Best Oral Presentation and the time allotted to each speaker for young students etc should be decided in advance and publicized by the Organizing Secretary through the conference website
 - iii. A few travel/ registration fee waivers/local hospitality should be provided by the Organizing Secretary and advertised in advance
8. It was decided that the audit statement of account of the conference should be submitted to the Secretary of IIS before 31st March by the Organizing Secretary
9. It was suggested that the Senior Scientist Oration Awardee, should be paid the air travel costs/ or the ticket in addition to the present medal and cash prize. However, there was no agreement as to whether this will be borne by the conference organizer or the IIS. Hence no decision was taken.
10. Himalayan Drugs made an offer for donating a corpus amount to the IIS. It was decided that this would be taken up as and when the official offer came.
11. It was agreed that the offer of Dr. Mustaq Siddique to host 37th Immuncon at Srinagar would be accepted. The offer of Dr. Ashok Tripathi, UCMS, New Delhi and Dr. Rama S. Verma IIT, Chennai for 2011 and 2012 has been received.
12. A report was given of the successful conduct of CMEs in Basic Immunology at Trichy and Baroda in September and November resp. The GB was informed that CMEs are planned in February 2010 at GITAM University, Vishakapattinam and in August 2010 at Nagpur organized by Dr. Kashyap.
13. It was decided that the student Newsletter had been a good activity and should be revived. Dr. Kaustuv Nayak of TRC, Chennai was identified to start the newsletter in consultation with his group.
14. The need for initiating an M.Sc. program in Immunology was discussed. It was left to the EC to pursue the matter and report to the GB.

