

Minutes of 46th General Body Meeting
DAE Convention Centre, BARC Mumbai.
15th November 2019

The General Body meeting (GBM) of the Indian Immunology Society was held during 46th Annual Conference of Indian Immunology Society, Immunocon-2019 on 15th Nov., 2019 at 6:30 PM in the DAE Convention Centre, BARC, Mumbai. The meeting was chaired by the IIS President Dr Sunil Arora and co-chaired by the Secretary Dr Amit Awasthi and was physically attended by more than 90 members.

The meeting started with welcome note from the President. The print copies of GBM agenda and the IIS finance statement were distributed to all the members present. Signatures from all the members present in the GBM were taken in the IIS register.

President requested the Secretary to take-up the agenda one by one:

Agenda No. 1 Approving Minutes of Immunocon 2018 meeting.

It was informed that the soft copy of minutes of GBM held during Immunocon 2018 was circulated to all members through group email by the Secretary-IIS and the same was also projected in this meeting for members to read and approve. Dr Arora proposed that GB should approve the electronic circulation of many documents for approval. This will facilitate quick implementation of many decisions instead of waiting for 'physical GBM' after one year. Although in general the members appreciated this idea of 'virtual GBM', yet

Dr Santosh Kar suggested that electronic approvals can be applicable only to certain limit and not all, especially matters related to finances should be read in the 'physical' GBM and members should then pass it. So, it was decided that some of the proposals (primarily non-financial) may be passed by GB after electronic circulation also. Queries of other members (Dr. Nibhriti Das, Dr Shripad Patil, Dr. Chiplunkar and Dr Alpana Sharma) were responded to.

Dr NK Mehra (from AIIMS) proposed the approval of Minutes of GBM-2018 and Dr Sainis (BARC, Mumbai) seconded it. The MOM was finally approved with raise of hands. It was suggested to post the minutes of GBM on IIS-website and the GB was informed that the minutes of all past GBMs are already available on website.

Agenda No. 2 Dr Geeta Rai, convener of upcoming Immunocon-2020 at BHU, Varanasi was invited to make a presentation. She made an audio-visual presentation and formally invited everyone to participate in Immunocon-2020 at BHU.

Agenda No. 3 The GB was informed that that two bids were received for Immuncon-2021. One from Prof. Sunil Arora/Dr Gaurav Sharma for Chandigarh and second from Prof P Kaliraj for Coimbatore/Ooty through Dr Anand and Dr Balakrishnan (of Madurai).

Dr Arora announced that he offers to keep his bid on hold for year 2021 in favour of Prof. Kaliraj's bid and requested the Secretary to keep the bid for Immunocon-2022 in Chandigarh. All appreciated this gesture and accepted to hold the Immunocon-2021 in Coimbatore. Dr Anand and Dr Balakrishnan were requested to formally send a complete bid document with all details and Dr Kaliraj be formally informed.

Agenda No. 4 The President invited the convener of IUIS-IIS-FIMSA course held at Jaipur from 12-16 Oct., 2019 to present a report of the course. Dr Gaurav Sharma, Course Secretary,

presented the comprehensive course report with fine details. The course report was concluded by remarks from the Prof N K Mehra (course convener). Dr Dimpu Gogoi added that he has submitted a write up of the course to IUIS, which is available on Immunopedia for all to read.

Agenda No. 5 Dr Shashi Baruah, VP-East was asked to read a brief report on the FOCIS-Member Society symposium conducted by IIS during FOCIS-2019 held in June 2019 at Boston, USA. She gave the details of participants and talks.

Agenda No. 6 Dr. Arora informed the GB regarding details of 'Day of Immunology' (DoI) celebrations facilitated by IIS. The theme of this year's DoI was awareness about 'Check-point inhibitors against Cancer' and the DoI was observed at 29 different locations simultaneously on 29th April, 2019 all over India. He informed the GB that IIS campaign won the **Best DoI-2019 Theme campaign award**, which carried a Certificate and a cash prize award of Euro 1000. The award certificate was received by President and Secretary during the IUIS Council meeting at Beijing on 20th Oct., 2019. It was informed that this was second time in a row that IIS won IUIS-Best WID award.

Agenda No. 7 The President updated the members regarding participation of Indian contingent in IUIS -2019 at Beijing, China. The house was informed that a big contingent of around 45 researchers from different Indian Labs participated, which included around 15 students also. Participation by such large number was appreciated by the organizers of China meeting

Agenda No. 8 The GB was updated about the details of membership drive of IIS. Dr Kaustuv Nayak informed the house that IIS has around 1325 active members as on the GBM date and this number is steadily growing. The President requested all the members to facilitate the registration of more and more new members to society. He also highlighted that now the President and Secretary remain directly in touch with members through electronic media and keep sending latest information to all members electronically through group email. All members are also free to communicate with IIS-secretariat through email.

Agenda No. 9 The proposal to increase membership fee was deferred, since it was increased only recently (at NIRMA GBM in 2016). Another proposal of having two membership categories separately for students and faculty respectively with different membership fee was also deferred.

Agenda No. 10 The President explained the details of Secretarial assistance at IIS Treasurer's and the IIS secretary's office with justifications. He updated about the remuneration of Rs 35000/year at the treasurer's office and Rs 12000/year at the secretary's office to take care of IIS activities. which was unanimously considered justifiable by the GB.

Agenda No.11 Dr Arora proposed reimbursement of travel expenses of IIS award winners. Though few members advocated for no travel support for senior awardees, most of the GB agreed for the reimbursement of Air-fare (Economy class) to all the IIS award winners.

Agenda No. 12 Dr Girdhari lal (VP-West) and Dr. Geeta Rai made a presentation of the new proposed SOP of various IIS awards. The proposal for starting Best Immunology teacher' award was not accepted for the time being Members suggested that candidate's contribution to Indian immunology field, contribution to IIS and work done on Indian soil should be given due consideration for award selection. The new SOP for IIS-awards was deferred for further discussion in EC and then shared with GB in future for approval.

Agenda No. 13 Members felt that they need more time to read and discuss the **Constitution Amendment document** as prepared by a ‘Special Committee’ constituted for this purpose. The document which was circulated electronically to all members, is a big document and needs more time. Because of shortage of time, it was decided to discuss this important agenda of constitution amendment in the next GBM.

The meeting concluded with vote of thanks from Chair and co-chair.