

43rd Annual Meeting of the Indian Immunology Society, the IMMUNOCON-2016, Visakhapatnam, Dt.: February 16-18, 2017.

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting

General Body Meeting: February 17, 2017

MEMBERS:

Standing Executive Committee Members

Secretary: Dr. Nibhriti Das,

Joint Secretary: Dr. K. Balakrishnan

Treasurer: Dr. Alpana Sharma

Vice-President: North Zone: Dr. Satya N. Das

Vice-President: South Zone: Dr. Shripad A. Patil

Vice-President: West Zone: Dr. SavitaKulkarni

Past President: Dr. Pawan Sharma, Guest Member

Executive Council Members: Dr. Arindam Bhattacharya, Dr. Aparanjee Poosarla, Dr. Kaustuv Nayak, Dr. S.B Anand, Dr. Dil-Afroze, Dr. Vandana Pradhan (Absent), Dr. Ramendra Pati Pandey (Absent), Dr. Taruna Madan, Co-opted due to long absence of Dr. Ramendra Pati Pandey on visit to abroad.

Newly elected Executive Committee Members, (IIS Election: October, 2016)

Dr. D.N. Rao: President (Absent due to family urgency at USA)

Dr. Nibhriti Das: Secretary

Dr. Alpana Sharma: Treasurer

Vice-President: North Zone: Dr. Satya N. Das

Vice-President: South Zone: Dr. Shripad A. Patil

Vice-President: West Zone: Dr. SavitaKulkarni

Vice-President: East Zone: Dr. Arindam Bhattacharya (Proposed, seconded and elected at GBM against the vacant position)

Joint Secretary: Dr. Kaustuv Nayak

Executive Council Members: Dr. Aparanjee Poosarla, Dr. K. Balakrishnan, Dr. S.B. Anand, Dr. Madhu Khanna (Absent), Dr. Archana Singh (Absent), Dr. Amit Awasthi, (Proposed, seconded and elected at GBM against the single vacant position), Dr. Vandana Pradhan (Absent), Dr. Taruna Madan.

No. of GBM Present: 110

Proceedings

The meeting was chaired by Dr. Nibhriti Das, Secretary, Indian Immunology Society. The past and present executives were introduced to the life members present

Charge taken over by the new executive members. Secretary, IIS welcomed and congratulated the new members

Secretary's report was circulated to the members present. IIS activities over the period of 2015-2016 were read by Dr. Das Report is now websited.

On behalf of IIS, and on her own behalf Dr. Das congratulated and gave a big hand to GITAM team for hosting the IMMUNOCON-2016 successfully despite a very short notice and funding constraints. Special thanks were given to young volunteers and co-ordinators.

Dr. Das informed the house that IIS received the IUIS best international DoI campaign award of 2000 Euro for the year 2015-2016. The amount had directly been deposited to the IIS account by the IUIS. The award certificate was received by Dr. Das at ICI, 2016 , Melbourne as the ambassador, IIS. She also made a presentation of the award winning campaign at the ICI award function where she projected the contribution by each and every organizer. This amount will be used in promoting educational activities of IIS. Dr. Das profusely thanked all the DOI organizers for making IIS so proud and strengthening its mandate. She gave an account of the CMEs organized and future CMEs during 2015-17 and thanked all the CME organizers and the IIS members for their trust and support to the IIS office bearers.

Dr. Das informed that IIS is now an associate member to FOCIS and plans to host a FOCIS associate member symposium in the year 2018.

Dr. Das apprised that society regularly updates its activities at the IUIS which had hardly ever been done in earlier days and pays the membership dues regularly.

Dr. Das congratulated Dr. Sunil Arora and Dr. Uma Kanga for being nominated by IIS as the members of the IUIS general assembly and getting these seats for the years 2016-18. On behalf of IIS, Dr. Das congratulated Dr. Sunil Arora for the success of the FIMSA training course a joint IIS-FIMSA venture organized by him with endorsement from IIS. He was also congratulated for continuing as a FIMSA council member since 2015 when IIS nominated and recommended him for the position.

Dr. Das thanked Dr. Talwar for instituting mid-career scientist award for the life members of IIS. She congratulated the senior and mid- career scientist award winners at the IMMUNOCON 2016.

Dr. Das announced that one post of the Vice-President, East Zone and a post of the IIS Member, Executive Council was lying vacant. She invited the interested members to file their nominations at the GBM. She requested Dr. Pawan Sharma, the past president IIS and the member election commission to conduct the election.

Dr. Anirban Bhattacharya and Dr. Amit Awasthi, respectively got elected to the vacant posts of Vice-President and the Executive Council Member. They took over the charge with huge applause.

Dr. Apana Sharma distributed the audit report and presented the Treasurer's report, invited more and more membership to make society economically more viable to promote its educational and organizational activities. She told that IIS is undergoing economic constraints due to enhanced IUIS Membership charges, and tax deductions. She also shared

the amount of efforts she had to put in to get audited statement of accounts from different organizers of IMMUNOCONs who misused IIS Pan cards and overburdened IIS with taxation. With the help of an experience CA, society could partially resolve the over-taxation issue and had paid all the pending taxes. This had prevented the society from getting exempted from Taxation so far. Now IIS is planning to file application for getting exempted of taxation. Her efforts were applauded.

Dr. Sarat Dalai is the organizer of IMMUNOCON-2017 at the Nirma University, Ahmedabad. He proposed and presented his bid which was accepted by the general body.

Dr. Das thanked all the members for their support to keep the society vibrant and contributing to make it more visible internationally. She thanked IUIS for electing her to the coveted position of the IUIS assembly member, congratulated Dr. Mehra and Dr. Subhada Chiplunkar for being a member of the IUIS Education and GEC committee respectively.

Disputes & Resolutions

Dr. Sunil Arora resented that the same body of executives are getting elected and making the society stagnant and non-productive thereby bringing bad name to it.

Dr. Giridhari Lal raised that voting had only been by about 35% of the members, so election might be declared as null and void.

Dr. Arora also expressed that his request for 20 registration waiver bursary for 20 participants at the FIMSA training program organized by him had not been considered by IIS.

He agreed that he had readily been offered a seed money of Rs. 1,00,000/- by IIS but he did not accept the same as it had been on returnable basis . He felt that the society was going commercial by asking the organizers of conferences under its umbrella to pay 10% of the earning from the registration.

Dr. Das explained that allocating society funds for a purpose is a joint responsibility, nothing personal either on the part of the Secretary or the President. Society belongs to all of its members, not only to the executives or to some specific personalities. Each one has to have enough maturity and sensitivity to see the reasons and see that the society executives had been working hard and getting good name for its good work. Healthy constructive criticisms would always be accepted. She also explained that Dr. Sunil Arora raised the same points at the IMMUNOCON-2015, when it was discussed in details along with the treasurer's inputs on increasing financial burden on the society and GBM's recommendations were followed.

Dr. Arora also blamed the executives for getting into the executive positions over and again and questioned the validity of the election procedure since many society members did not get involved in voting.

Dr. Das agreed that there is a need to improve the communication processes and updation of the contact addresses, IIS had been trying hard.

Dr. Talwar emphasized that this responsibility should be shared by all the IIS members.

Dr. Das assured that a list of good speakers for CMEs and IMMUNOCONs are always provided to the organizers. Suggestions from each of the IIS members are more than welcome.

For herself, she said that during recent years, she definitely refuses more than accepts invitations plenaries and guest speakers role to give room to the upcoming scientists. Dr. Uma Kanga echoed the same for Dr. Das by quoting her personal experience.

Prof. Talwar mediated these issues and disputes. He said that the society and its executives had been doing very well, for the first time he found a GBM so well organized and transparent. He also praised the secretary and said no fingers could be raised on the election and elected candidates. Dr. ShripadPatil and Dr. Satya N. Das also kept their viewpoints supporting the sanctity of IIS elections.

Prof. Talwar said that it was more of a responsibility of the society members to keep their contact and communication addresses updated. Quite a few members praised that the election commissioner had continuously been reminding the members to update the mail address.

Prof. Talwar along with some G.B. Members requested IIS Secretary to consider some form of financial support for youngsters to attend FIMSA meetings. Dr. Talwar emphasized on the importance of FIMSA especially because it started with the initiatives from India.

The secretary accepted the concept and promised to discuss the point with full body of IIS executives for a policy decision.

Dr. Talwar pleaded not to go personal and dispute ended with a happy note with exchanges of friendly gestures from Dr. Arora and Dr. Das.

Dr. AmitAwasthi and few others suggested that the IIS constitution needs to be reviewed and revised. Dr. Das agreed and Dr. Pawan Sharma said that a committee may be made to look into this aspect as a special committee should discuss and decide over the constitution reforms. Dr. Das assured of forming a committee for the purpose.

Dr. Das a call to volunteer to organize CMEs in Immunology and that Rs.20,000/- is given to each organizer for the purpose by the IIS. Dr. Das also apprised the youngsters of the benefits of IIS Life membership and requested the message to be disseminated to have more life members under the umbrella of the Indian Immunology Society.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to all of the attendees, conference participants and organizers of the IMMUNOCON-2016, forthcoming CMEs and acknowledged nice stay and hospitality at Visakhapatnam by the GITAM team.