

**Indian Society for Medical Statistics (ISMS),**  
**Minutes of the General Body (GB) Meeting held on 3rd Nov 2017**  
**during 35<sup>th</sup> National Annual Conference at SGPGIMS, Lucknow**

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**Date, Venue & time:** November 3, 2017, 6:30 PM, Lecture Hall-1, Shruti Lecture Theatre Complex, Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Lucknow (UP).

**Total number of attendees: 63**

**ISMS GB Meeting 2017: Agenda Items**

1. Welcome by the President	Prof. C.M Pandey
2. Approval of the previous minutes- EC & GB meeting.	Prof. N Sreekumaran Nair
3. General Secretary's Report	Prof. N Sreekumaran Nair
4. Status of the Registration of Society	Prof. N Sreekumaran Nair
5. Treasurer's Report	Dr. B. Binukumar
6. Bulletin Editor's Report	Prof. Ajit Sahai
7. Web coordinator's report	Dr.N. Sreekumaran Nair
8. FSMS Committee Report	Prof. C.M Pandey
9. Awards' Committee Report	Prof. Arvind Pandey
10. Search & Nomination Committees Reports	Prof. B.L Verma
11. Biostatistics Education Committee activity updates	Prof. C.M Pandey
12. Forthcoming Annual Conference of ISMS	Prof. N Sreekumaran Nair
13. Election of President – Elect	Prof. C.M Pandey
14. Prof. R. N. Srivastava Award : result announcement	Prof. C. M. Pandey
15. Name of ISMS annual Conference	Prof CM Pandey
16. Any other item (with permission of the Chair).	Any member

## 1. Welcome

President, Prof. CM Pandey, welcomed the members of the GB attending the meeting and extended sincere thanks to all outgoing office bearers of the society, particularly Prof Ajit Sahai (Editor), Prof V Antonisamy (Web Coordinator) Prof L Jeyseelan EC member) and welcomed all incoming office bearers of the society. Subsequently General Secretary, Prof. N Sreekumaran Nair took over agenda items one by one, as enlisted above. The General Secretary thanked the Organizing Team for hosting the ISMS Annual Conference 2017.

## 2. Confirmation of the Minutes of the Previous GB Meeting 2016

The GB unanimously accepted and approved minutes of the GB meeting, held on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2016 at ISI, Kolkata.

## 3. Report of the General Secretary

Prof. N. Sreekumaran Nair presented report of various activities, undertaken by the Society during the year 2017, after he had taken over charge as General Secretary of the Society. Copies of the report were circulated among the members.

General Secretary briefed the General Body regarding the transfer of the ISMS Secretariat along with the status of records and account transfer., Updating and uploading of Membership directory on the Society's website, enrolment of 35 new members (including 2 annual members). Presently, the society has, 899 members. He also briefed about the preparation of certificates and mementos for the awardees.

**Revised Constitution and Award rules:** The revised constitution and award rules of ISMS were finalized and printed.(2000 copies of each). The GB appreciated the sincere efforts made by the Constitution & Awards Rules Committee, under the leadership of Prof. BL Verma and put on record the hard work done by the committee. The printed copies were distributed to all the members attending the GB meeting

**Registration of The Society:** He informed the General Body that the follow-up of registration of the Society which is pending for a long time will be pursued by Prof. VK. Tiwari, New Delhi who is closed to Registrar Office in New Delhi and is member of our Governing Council. This was discussed with Dr. AK. Bansal and agreed upon in the GC meeting. All document related to registration have been handed over to Prof.

VK. Tiwari. The General Secretary proposed the following activities for the coming year (2018).

- a) Initiate CME programmes in collaboration with academic institutes and industry.
- b) Exploring feasibility of engaging with other field of health care, namely- AYUSH, Dental, Allied health, Public health etc.
- c) Innovative programmes to improve students' representation in ISMS.
- d) Continue membership drive.
- e) Explore feasibility of regional chapters.
- f) Create a data bank of biostatistics expertise in the country.

GB discussed and approved these proposals in principle. However, the modalities of implementation need to be worked out in such a way that identity of ISMS should not be compromised at any stage while undertaking any of the above activities.

GB approved the reports presented by General Secretary.

#### **4. Report of the Treasurer**

Dr. B Binukumar, Treasurer, presented the audited report of the Society for the financial year 2016-2017. Copies of the report were circulated among the members. Further, he presented the details of various deposits and current account balance as on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2017. Prof. P. Venkatesan suggested maintaining minimum balance in the current account and transferring the remaining amount as fixed deposit. Prof. N K Tyagi raised his concern about the liabilities to the Society due to small amount of the principal award-money. In fact for some awards, the interest obtained from the award-money (principal amount) is not enough to buy the mementoes and hence, Society at times, has to make additional spending.

GB approved the report of the Treasurer.(we need to mention the amount in the societies account and total fixed deposits etc).

#### **5. Report of the Editor**

Dr.Ajit Sahai, Bulletin Editor, presented his report of the ISMS Bulletin. He mentioned that due to various reasons, some issues of the Bulletin could not be published during the past one year. Lack of contributions (publishable material) and

desired cooperation from some colleagues – mainly attributed to this state of work in the Editor's Office.

The GB appreciated Editor's efforts and approved Editor's report. GB also thanked Prof. Ajit Sahai for his continuous efforts to revive the Bulletin during his tenure (as he shall be completing his tenure as Bulletin Editor this year).

#### **6. Report of the Web Coordinator**

Web Coordinator, Prof. B. Antonisamy could not attend the GB meeting due to his foreign assignment. On behalf of Prof. B Antonisamy, General Secretary presented the report. He emphasized that web updating was smooth throughout the year. .

The GB appreciated Prof. B. Antonisamy contributions to the Society (he shall be completing his tenure as Web Coordinator this year).

#### **7. Report of the FSMS Committee**

President - as Chair of this Committee, presented the report of the FSMS Committee which was approved by the Governing Council. He informed the GB that out of four nominations received for FSMS two have been elected for FSMS in 2017. The elected fellows are:

- (a) Prof. Anil C Mathew, PSG, Coimbatore
- (b) Dr. Ajit Mukherji, ICMR, New Delhi.

The FSMS will be presented to them during the 2018 ISMS Conference.

#### **8. Report of the Awards Committee**

Prof. Arvind Pandey, Chairman of the Awards Committee, presented the award committee report to Governing Council and recommendations of the council were placed before the GB. On the above recommendations, GB approved the following awards for the year 2017:

- |    |   |                                   |
|----|---|-----------------------------------|
| a) | Prof. BG Prasad Award:                      | Dr. L Satyanarayana, NOIDA        |
| b) | Smt. Suraj Kali Jain Award:                 | Dr. Vasantha (place?)             |
| c) | Prof. P.V. Sukhatme Award:                  | No nomination received this year. |
| d) | Smt. Saroj Shukla Travel Scholarship:       | No nomination received this year. |
| e) | Prof. K R Sundaram Young Res Scholar Award: | Dr. Ashish Awasthi, Gandhi Nagar  |

## 9. Prof. RN Srivastava Award

There were four candidates for this award .Presentations were made is a special session before a committee constituted by the President. On the recommendations of the committee, President announced the name of **Dr. P V Prathyusha, NIMHANS, Bengaluru** as winner of Prof. RN Srivastava Award 2017. The award will be presented to her in 2018 ISMS conference.

**10. Report of the Search Committee** Prof. B.L.Verma, Chairman of the Search Committee presented his report to Governing Council. On the recommendations of the Governing Council, GB approved the following awards :

a) **Lifetime Achievement Award:** As this award was instituted by the Society in the year 2015 and so, Committee made its recommendations from the back date for 3 years as given below.

- (i) Prof. PSS Sundar Rao, Bengaluru 2015 (presented in 2017)
- (ii) Dr. S. Radhakrishna, Hyderabad 2016 (presented in 2017)
- (iii) Prof. PP Talwar, New Delhi 2017 (to be presented in 2018)

b) **Smt. Ramrati Lalima Sahai Award**

- (i) Prof. Arvind Pandey New Delhi 2017 (to be presented in 2018)

(c) **Prof. A Indrayan Travel Grant:** As this grant was not given to anybody in 2016, following rules, the previous year's grant was carried over to this year and was recommended to be shared by two members :

- (i) Dr. R J Yadav, New Delhi 2016 (50% of the grant amount)
- (ii) Dr. Abha Aggarwal, New Delhi 2016 (50% of the grant amount)

The grant for the year 2017 was awarded to Prof. N K Tyagi, Belagavi

(d) **Professor SK Bhattacharya Oration 2017:**

Prof Rakesh Shukla, Cincinnati ,USA has been nominated for this oration. This Oration shall be delivered by him during 2018 ISMS annual conference.

## 11. Report of Nominating Committee

Prof. B L Verma, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, presented his report to Governing Council. On the recommendations of Governing council, GB approved the nomination of following office bearers for the term mentioned against their names:

- (a) Governing Council Member:** Out of five nominations received against two vacant positions, the following were nominated as member of Governing Council.
- (i) Dr. S S Ganguly, Oman (2018-2020)
  - (ii) Dr. C B Tripathi, Delhi, (2018-2020)
  - (iii) Prof B Antonisamy, Vellore (2018) for the remaining period of vacancy created by Prof L Jeyaseelan (nominated as Web Coordinator)
- (b) Editor-in-Chief:** Only one nomination of Prof. K Thennarasu, Bengaluru, was received. However, the complete homework was not completed by the Committee, constituted for the journal last year (2016) and some basic issues related to the publication of the journal are still undecided. In such a situation, the Committee did not recommend any name for the position of Editor-in-Chief. It was desired by the members that the Committee formed for the Journal should complete its work soon and explore feasibility of starting the Society's journal.
- (c) Editor-ISMS Bulletin:** The Nominating Committee, nominated Prof. K. Thennarasu, Bengaluru, for the position of Bulletin Editor (2018-2022), and desired that he should accept this position. Prof. Thennarasu very kindly agreed to accept the responsibility of bulletin editor
- (d) Web Co-ordinator:** Prof. L Jeyaseelan was nominated by the Committee for the position of Web Coordinator for the next term (2018-2020). Further, Prof. Jeyaseelan is already member of Governing Council. While he takes over the Charge as Web Coordinator, his present position as GC member will get vacated
- GB approved these proposals and congratulated all above elected members.

## 12. Biostatistics Education Committee Report

President Prof. CM. Pandey, as Chair of this Committee, updated the GB members about the efforts taken by this Committee (including his efforts on getting MCI President for the 2017 ISMS Conference at Lucknow). Members discussed various options on activities of this Committee for improving biostatistics component in medical colleges and other para-medical institutions of the country and suggested to include AYUSH / DENTAL Councils etc. in the domain of its work. Members emphasized that we should prepare a Document on 'outcome of 2017 Conference'-

highlighting current problems of our discipline and ask for the Govt's help in the State of UP as well as in the Union Govt.

Members agreed to work for the development of the discipline (including career promotion of our fellow biostatisticians), using different available resources. Prof N K Tyagi raised his concern about MCI decision on degrading the post of Assistant Professor of Biostatistics in medical colleges and requested to address this legally. Prof Uttam Singh expressed his reservations regarding legal way of moving forward. He further reported about Govt of UP for possible creation of one additional post of Assistant Professor in Biostatistics – solely for the hospital information management system in medical colleges of UP in near future. Prof. SN Dwivedi suggested that we should route the above 'degradation' issue through the MCI (i.e., MCI Oversight Committee, constituted by the Hon. Supreme Court) and should demand for a separate Department of Biostatistics in medical colleges.

Dr B L Verma – a Member of the ISMS Biostatistics Education Committee, expressed his great concern for the poor status of the discipline in medical colleges in the country. He informed – Society had once formed a MCI Committee in 80s and submitted its report to MCI but nothing had happened. Society again, as recommendation of the Biostatistics Education Committee, submitted its recommendations to MCI in the year 2015 – asking for a separate Dept. of Biostatistics in all PG medical colleges of the country. These recommendations are to be pursued at MCI level urgently with full force.

Members opined that members of MCI Oversight Committee should be approached for this purpose ASAP, without any further delay. Prof. Rakesh Shukla proposed to constitute a Committee for this purpose and we should sincerely work to move forward. Members agreed to his proposal. The **Biostatistics Education Committee has been proposed as under:**

Prof C M Pandey , President ISMS	Chair
Prof Rakesh Shukla, USA	
Prof. BL. Verma, Jhansi	
Prof VK, Srivastava, Lucknow	
Prof Ajit Sahai, Lucknow	
Prof. SN Dwivedi New Delhi	
Prof N K Tyagi, Belgavi	

Prof. K. Thennarasu Bangaluru  
 Prof N Sreekumaran Nair. General Secretary ISMS      Convener

It was further decided that additional members may be co-opted, if required, to help us in this matter. Also, it was proposed to split this group into a Core Committee and an Advisory Committee. Prof. CM Pandey proposed to arrange a meeting with MCI Over-Sight Committee members in early near future.

### **13. Future ISMS Conferences**

General Secretary Prof. N. Sreekumaran Nair presented three proposals for upcoming annual conferences.

**2018 Conference** – A proposal from Prof. P Marimuthu Dept of Biostatistics NIMHANS, Bengaluru along with a letter of invitation from the Director NIMHANS, was presented to organize the 2018 Conference. Prof Mariamuthu explained the facilities and infrastructure etc available at the Institute Prof. K Thennarasu, HOD – Biostatisttics, NIMHAMS also supported the proposal.

GB approved the proposal of 2018 Conference at NIMHANS, Bengaluru.

The other proposal received from Tata Memorial Institute Mumbai was kept as standby.

**2019 ISMS Conference:** General Secretary informed that there was an E-mail communication from Dr Aleyamma Mathew, Professor and Head, Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Regional Cancer Centre (place & State name missing??).

GB advised to explore its possibility during the year, along with other possible venues.

### **14. Election of the President Elect:**

President informed the GB that since there was no consensus amongst the nominees for this position, as per the new ISMS Constitution, President has to constitute an Ad-hoc Committee to conduct the election. Following members were nominated by the President and approved by the GB to conduct the election:

Prof. K R. Sundaram, Kochi  
 Prof. Ajit Sahai, Lucknow,(Convener)  
 Dr. Anil Kumar, Agra.



It was decided that the election will be conducted electronically and process should be completed before 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2017. The members enrolled in the Society, before 1st December 2016 shall be eligible for casting their votes. One more attempt will be made to update the email of these members.

### **15 Name for the ISMS Annual Conference**

President suggested that some catchy name be given to the society's annual meeting such as:

**National Congress of Medical Statistics**  
**National Congress of Medical Statistics and Epidemiology**  
**National Convention of Biostatistics and Epidemiology**  
**Indian Congress of Biostatistics**

The members welcomed the idea and advised that suggestions should be invited from all members on our Google group and ISMS website to finalize the name.

### **16. Long term goals: Vision 2025**

Under any other items, some members raised their concern about future plans of the society. Prof. Rakesh Shukla and Prof.PSS. Sundar Rao opined to have long term plan for ISMS. Dr B L Verma agreed with the idea and suggested that ISMS may have a Vision Document 2025 (on the lines of some other organizations, like the ICMR) and work accordingly. Members showed their agreement with these suggestions.

President thanked all outgoing office bearers , the host institute for providing infrastructure to hold the meeting and all the members for their active participation and valuable inputs . He congratulated all award winners and welcomed the incoming office members. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the chair.



**President**

**General Secretary**

Dated: 27-12-2017

Puducherry