

**ASSOCIATION OF PHYSIOLOGISTS OF INDIA
(ASSOPI)**

Minutes of the 10th General Body Meeting of ASSOPI

(held on 25th October 2024, during the 10th ASSOPICON held at AIIMS Patna)

AGENDA

The 10th meeting of General Body (GB) of Association of Physiologists of India was conducted on 25th October 2024, at 5.30 PM, conducted at Auditorium, All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Patna. Eighty-seven life members of ASSOPI participated in the meeting.

The following agenda items were discussed.

1. Obituary and Apologies

At the outset, Dr. G. K. Pal, General Secretary, ASSOPI, requested all members to stand up and observe 2 minutes silence as mark of respect for Late Dr. S. K. Singh, former Professor & Head of Physiology at Pramukhswami Medical College, who left his mortal body in February, 2024.

2. Approval of the minutes of the 9th GB meeting held on 28th October, 2023

General Secretary informed that the minutes of the 9th General Body Meeting (GBM), held on 28th October 2023, during 9th ASSOPICON held at KGMU Lucknow, was circulated to all the members through their e-mails with a request to provide their comments/inputs for corrections, if any. However, as no comments have been received, he requested GB to approve the minutes. GB unanimously approved the minutes of 9th General Body Meeting, proposed by Dr. Sabita Yograj and seconded by Dr. Y. Dhanalakshmi.

3. Presentation of annual report by General Secretary

Dr. G. K. Pal, General Secretary, presented the report of ASSOPI of last one year (October, 2023 to September, 2024). The summary of the report is depicted below.

Report of General Secretary, ASSOPI 2023-2024

- i. Newly enrolled life members: **241** (Total life members as on 22.10.2024 are **1014**)
- ii. Nomination/Application and finalization of various ASSOPI Awards:
 - Total nominations received: 31 award applications including 1 for Fellowship title

Name of the Award	Award Winner
Dr. Artatran Nanda Memorial Award (Best research work in Respiratory Physiology)	Dr. Arpita Singh, Additional Professor, Dept. of Pharmacology, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Institute of Medical Sciences, Lucknow.
Prof. S. B. Deshpande Award (Best research work in Neurophysiology)	Dr. Estelle Havila Earl, Senior Resident, Dept. of Physiology, AIIMS Bibinagar.
Prof. G. K. Pal Award (Best research work in Cardiovascular Physiology)	Dr. Manpreet Kaur, Professor, Dept. of Physiology, VMMC and Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi.
JIPMER Golden ASSOPICON Award (Best research work by a postgraduate student in Physiology)	Ms. Mitali, PhD student, Department of Physiology, AIIMS Delhi.
Shri S. N. Chaudary Memorial Award (Best research work in Environmental Physiology)	Dr. Revand R., Senior Resident, Dept. of Physiology, AIIMS New Delhi.
Shri B. M. Patil Memorial Award (Best research work in Physiology by a Physiologist below the age of 45 years)	Dr. Pooja Ojha, Associate Professor, Department of Physiology, AIIMS Jodhpur.
Prof. S. K. Singh Award (Best research work conducted by an	Mr. Ritu Lahkar, UG Medical Student,

undergraduate medical student in Physiology)	AIIMS Bhubaneswar, Odisha Mr. Atul Kumar Sharma, UG Medical Student, AIIMS Nagpur, Maharashtra.
Prof. Narsingh Verma Award (Best research work conducted in Chronobiology)	Dr. Smriti Rastogi, ICMR SRF, Department of Physiology, KGMU, Lucknow.
Fellowship Title of ASSOPI (FAPI)	Dr. G. K. Pal, Executive Director & CEO, AIIMS Patna

iii. Zonal activities:

- General Body Meeting of ASSOPI – UP Chapter held on 16th March, 2024 at KGMU Lucknow. New Office Bearers of the ASSOPI – UP Chapter were elected.
- Department of Physiology, Geetanjali Medical College and Hospital, Udaipur organized the 1st Webinar in Lifestyle Medicine Series on the topic “Lifestyle Medicine: For Prevention and Management of Diseases” on 29th June, 2024 under the ASSOPI Chapter of Rajasthan.
- Department of Physiology, Geetanjali Medical College and Hospital, Udaipur organized the 2nd Webinar in Lifestyle Medicine Series on the topic “Health Augmentation with Yoga: A Holistic Health Pillar of Lifestyle Medicine” on 27th July, 2024 under the ASSOPI Chapter of Rajasthan.
- Department of Physiology, Govt. Medical College, Anantnag organized the 1st Physiology CME & Workshop on “Heart Rate Variability & Its Clinical Insights (Heart Rhythm, Mind’s Symphony)” on 11th September, 2024.
- Jammu & Kashmir Chapter of ASSOPI has been formed under the patronship of Prof. Sabita Yograj.

4. Endorsement of ASSOPI Awards, 2024

Dr. G. K. Pal, General Secretary informed the GB that a total of 31 nominations for various awards of ASSOPI including 1 nomination for Fellowship Title of ASSOPI were received, and a committee consisting of two subject experts for each award was constituted for

evaluating the nominations. The report of the committee was approved by the President of ASSOPI. EB in its meeting held on 23rd October, 2024, approved the list of recipients of ASSOPI Awards, 2024. The awardees received awards on 24th October, 2024 in the inaugural ceremony of ASSOPICON-2024. The GB unanimously endorsed the list of recipients of ASSOPI Awards.

5. Presentation of audited statement of account by Finance Secretary

Dr. S. Velkumary, Finance Secretary presented the detailed audited statement of account for the year 2023-24. After a thorough discussion, the audited report was approved by GB, which was proposed by Dr. B. S. Shankaranarayana Rao and seconded by Dr. S. B. Deshpande.

6. Status of ASSOPI Journal

Dr. G. K. Pal informed that as discussed in the last GBM held on 28th October 2023, during 9th ASSOPICON held at KGMU Lucknow to transfer the International Journal of Clinical and Experimental Physiology (IJCEP), which is owned by Dr. G. K. Pal as Editor-in-Chief, will be transferred to ASSOPI as the official Journal ASSOPI by paying Rs. 10.00 lakhs to its Proprietor Dr. Mueen Ahmad. Accordingly, journal IJCEP has now been formally acquired by the association. The transfer of ownership included the copyright, domain, and all associated assets of the journal. This acquisition was finalized following financial negotiations with the proprietor, reducing the initial quoted expense from ₹12 lakhs to ₹10 lakhs. Funds were duly transferred from the association's account, and the journal is now the official organ of ASSOPI.

As approved in the last GBM, in addition to the Editor-in-Chief of the journal to be elected/nominated every two years as per bye-law, Dr. G. K. Pal will be the regular Executive Editor of IJCEP. General Secretary informed that the efforts are underway to index the journal in reputed databases such as PubMed and Scopus to enhance its visibility and credibility. Members were requested to submit articles and promote the journal within their professional networks to increase its reach and impact.

7. Organizational matters

i. Creation of new State branches / Chapters

Jammu & Kashmir Chapter of ASSOPI has been formed under the patronship of Prof. Sabita Yograj and this was also presented by General Secretary in his report as stated above.

ii. **Recruitment of new members**

General Secretary informed that in the last one year (September 2023 to September 2024) a record number of 241 new life members and 18 annual members have been enrolled. Now, the total life members have crossed 1000, a landmark achievement of the association. He congratulated all ASSOPIANS for this unique feat.

8. Election for the new Office Bearers (OB) & Executive Body (EB) posts

General Secretary informed that as per bye-law of ASSOPI, the tenure of present EB and OB members is coming to an end. This year, we had announced for nomination for various posts in the last ASSOPI news Bulletin (May-June issue, 2024) circulated to all the life members of ASSOPI. The nominations received for various posts were presented in the GB meeting and GB has approved the new EB and OB members for various posts of ASSOPI, for next two years tenure, as mentioned below.

Office Bearers

President: Dr. Latika Mohan, Professor & Head of Physiology, and Former Dean (Academics) AIIMS Rishikesh, Uttarakhand.

General Secretary: Dr. Gopal Krushna Pal, Professor (Senior Scale) of Physiology, JIPMER, Puducherry; Former Dean, JIPMER-Karaikal, & Dean, Faculty of Medicine, Pondicherry University; Former Executive Director and CEO, AIIMS Patna & AIIMS Gorakhpur.

Founder President: Dr. Shripad B. Deshpande, Professor of Physiology, Nobel Medical College & Teaching Hospital, Kanchanbari, Biratnagar, Nepal.

Immediate Past President: Dr. Narsingh Verma, Principal and Dean, Hind Institute of Medical Sciences, Ataria, Lucknow, U. P.

Vice-Presidents: (arranged alphabetically)

East Zone: Dr. Dinesh Kumar, Principal, Professor and Head of Physiology, Govt. Medical College, Bettiah, Bihar.

West Zone: Dr. Hasmukh Shah, Professor of Physiology, Pramukhswami Medical College, Karamsad, Gujarat.

South Zone: Dr. Pravati Pal, Professor (Level-15) of Physiology, JIPMER, Puducherry.

North Zone: Dr. Raj Kumar Yadav, Professor of Physiology, AIIMS, New Delhi.

Finance Secretary: Dr. S. Velkumary, Professor of Physiology, JIPMER, Puducherry.

Editor-in-Chief: Dr. Jayanti Pant, Additional Professor of Physiology, AIIMS Rishikesh.

Joint Secretaries: (arranged alphabetically)

West Zone: Dr. Mrunal Phatak, Professor & Head of Physiology, and Dean (Academics), AIIMS Nagpur.

North Zone: Dr. Sabita Yograj, Professor & Head of Physiology, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Institute of Medical Excellence (SMVDIME) Medical College & Associated Hospital, Kakryal, Jammu & Kashmir.

East Zone: Dr. Sanjay Kumar, Professor & Head of Physiology, Sikkim Manipal Institute of Medical Sciences.

South Zone: Dr. Satish Dipankar, Additional Professor & Head of Physiology, AIIMS Mangalagiri.

Executive Body Members (arranged alphabetically)

1. **Dr. Ajay Bhatt**, Professor & Head of Physiology, Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Medical College, Indore, Madhya Pradesh.
2. **Dr. Hanjabam Barun Sharma**, Assistant Professor of Physiology, Institute of Medical Sciences, Banaras Hindu University.
3. **Dr. Jolly Bhattacharjya**, Associate Professor of Physiology, Gauhati Medical College, Assam.
4. **Dr. Kaviraja Udupa**, Professor of Neurophysiology, NIMHANS.
5. **Dr. Manjinder Kaur**, Additional Principal, Prof & Head, Geetanjali Medical College, Udaipur, Rajasthan.
6. **Dr. Milind A. Nisargandha**, Associate Professor, Sunderlal Patwa Govt. Medical College, Madsaur, Madhya Pradesh.
7. **Dr. Nitin Ashok John**, Professor & Head of Physiology, and Dean (Examinations) AIIMS Bibinagar, Telangana.

8. **Dr. Om Lata Bhagat**, Professor of Physiology, AIIMS Jodhpur
9. **Dr. Prafull Kamble**, Associate Professor of Physiology, AIIMS, Bibinagar, Telangana
10. **Dr. Pranati Nanda**, Professor & Head of Physiology, Kalinga Institute of Medical Sciences, Bhubaneswar.
11. **Dr. Pratik Kumar Chatterjee**, Associate Professor of Physiology, KMC, Mangalore.
12. **Dr. Punam Verma**, Additional Professor of Physiology, AIIMS Bilaspur.
13. **Dr. Rajay Bharshankar**, Professor, Dept. of Physiology, AIIMS, Bhopal
14. **Dr. Rajeev Sharma**, Dean, and Professor & Head of Physiology, Guru Gobind Singh Medical College & Hospital, Faridkot, Punjab.
15. **Dr. Rajeswari L.**, Professor & Head of Physiology, JSS Medical College, Mysuru.
16. **Dr. Renugasundari M.**, *Office Secretary to General Secretary*, Tutor, Department of Physiology, AIIMS Patna.
17. **Dr. Rituparna Barooah**, Professor & Head of Physiology, NEIGRIMS, Shilong
18. **Dr. Sandip Sardesai**, Professor of Physiology, Goa Medical college
19. **Dr. Saranya K.**, *Headquarter Office Secretary* (Additional Professor of Physiology, JIPMER, Puducherry)
20. **Dr. Sonia Kochhar**, Additional Professor and Head of Physiology, AIIMS Bathinda.
21. **Dr. Sudhanshu Agrawal**, Professor of Physiology, NCRIMS, Meerut.
22. **Dr. Syed Sadaat Ali**, Professor of Physiology, Shridevi Institute of Medical Sciences & Research Hospital, Tumkur, Karnataka.
23. **Dr. Tribhuwan Kumar**, Professor and Head of Physiology, and Associate Dean (Examinations), AIIMS Patna.

Dr. G. K. Pal informed that the newly elected executive of ASSOPI will take of the mantle of the association from 1st January, 2025. He sincerely thanked the entire outgoing OB & EB members for their significant contributions to the growth and achievements of ASSOPI.

9. Finalization of venue for next annual conference of ASSOPI and proposal for subsequent conferences:

The request for conducting next annual conference of ASSOPI in 2025 was proposed by Dr. Bindu Kutty, Dr. B. Shankarnarayana Rao and Dr. Kaviraj Ududpa, from NIMHANS, Bengaluru informed that as the Neurophysiology Department at NIMHANS is celebrating its golden jubilee in 2025, requested GB to allow to have venue for ASSOPI's next annual conference. After detailed discussions and reviewing

multiple proposals, the Executive Body approved that the **next annual conference to be held at NIMHANS Bengaluru.**

Proposals were received for conducting annual conference of ASSOPI subsequently for next three years.

12th ASSOPICON 2026 at Geetanjali Medical College, Udaipur.

13th ASSOPICON 2027 at AIIMS Mangalagiri.

14th ASSOPICON 2028 at AIIMS Rishikesh.

10. Proposal for new ASSOPI awards

Dr. Pal informed that Dr. Indira Chakravarty presented a proposal for the establishment of the *Prof. Mukta Sen Memorial Award* in the field of reproductive physiology, last year. Dr. Indira Chakravarty had agreed to pay the rupees five lakhs of seed money for the award. Dr. Pal informed that Dr. Indira Chakravarty has informed that due to her personal problems, she was not available last year, and will make award seed money payment soon. However, as the seed money for the award has not been paid yet by the donor, it has not been implemented this year.

11. Presentation of a brief report by Organizing Chairman

The organizing chairman, Dr. Tribhuvan Kumar, HoD, Physiology, AIIMS Patna, reported that the conference had seen overwhelming participation, with total registrations nearing 500. He mentioned that initial registrations were around 360, which were further supplemented by more than 150 spot registrations for workshops and conference. He highlighted that over the past three days, 12 workshops had been successfully conducted, demonstrating strong interest and engagement. He explained that the process had been initiated following approval in the last General Body GB meeting of 2023. He noted that in the past two months, he and his team had worked diligently to organize and streamline the event.

The chairman stated that expert faculty from various institutions had been invited to demonstrate techniques and mentor participants during the workshops. He informed that 10 workshops and two CME sessions focusing on animal experiments and Grant Writing had taken place. According to him, the response had been tremendous, with requests exceeding capacity. In certain cases, registrations had to be capped at 50 participants, despite ongoing interest.

He pointed out that one key realization from the workshops was the necessity to conduct more hands-on training sessions for junior colleagues and students. He emphasized that such sessions provided essential guidance in laboratory setups, technique development, and foundational skills crucial in the current medical and research environment. The chairman proposed that the association consider organizing similar workshops across different zones to ensure comprehensive coverage, suggesting that these workshops could extend over one to two days.

The chairman remarked that the conference marked a historic milestone with 22 symposiums, which he described as a first for the association and other physiology organizations including APPI and PSI. He stated that each symposium featured renowned experts, ensuring valuable insights for attendees. He acknowledged the challenge of attending all sessions due to three parallel symposiums per day. In addition to the symposiums, he reported that the conference would also include 22 plenary lectures and two panel discussions.

He assured that meticulous attention had been given to logistics, food arrangements, and overall participant experience from the beginning. According to him, a diverse food court had been curated to enhance the experience for all attendees.

The organizing chairman expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the Executive Director and CEO Dr. G. K. Pal for his full involvement in the conduct of the conference and untiring support inspite of his very hectic schedules to make this a grand event. He also thanked the entire organizing team for their hard works and sincere efforts. He concluded by expressing confidence that the conference would be remembered fondly by participants and would pave the way for future advancements in the association's events.

12. Any other matters (with permission of chair)

i. State and Zonal Chapter Coordination:

Challenges in smaller states like Goa were discussed. It was suggested that Goa can merge with Maharashtra for better organization of ASSOPI activities.

ii. ASSOPI Membership Fees:

As decided in the last EB and GB meeting, it was decided to increase the membership fees from Rs. 3,000 to Rs. 5,000 from 1st January, 2025.

iii. Fees for Fellowship Title:

It was decided to increase the fee for fellowship title from Rs. 11,000 to Rs. 16,000 (rupees sixteen thousand only), out of which one thousand will be paid

as application fee (non-refundable) and fifteen thousand will be paid as the fee for fellowship title.

iv. **Physiology in Clinical Medicine:**

Plans for integrating physiology into clinical settings, including the establishment of clinical-interventional physiology unit/department in the institutes were discussed. It was emphasized that those who are senior members of the faculty and in administrative responsibilities in the institutes should facilitate these objectives.

13. Vote of thanks

GB Meeting ended at 8.30 PM with vote of thanks proposed by Organizing Chairperson, Dr. Tribhuwan Kumar, Professor & Head of Physiology, AIIMS Patna.

Sd/-
Dr. G. K. Pal,
General Secretary, ASSOPI.