

## **Minutes of the 8<sup>th</sup> General Body Meeting of ASSOPI**

(held on 15<sup>th</sup> October, 2022, during the 8<sup>th</sup> ASSOPICON held at AIIMS Nagpur)

### **AGENDA**

The eighth meeting of General Body (GB) of Association of Physiologists of India was conducted on 15<sup>th</sup> October, 2022, at 5.30 PM, organized at All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Nagpur.

Forty-seven GB members of ASSOPI participated in the meeting and the following agenda items were discussed.

#### **1. Obituary and Apologies, if any**

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. Ritu Gupta, Professor, Dept. of Physiology, GMC, Jammu and Kashmir, who left her mortal body on 7<sup>th</sup> September, 2022. It was informed that General Secretary will send a condolence message on behalf of the association to the family members of Late Dr. Ritu Gupta.

#### **2. Approval of the minutes of the 7<sup>th</sup> GB meeting held on 08.09.2021**

Dr. G. K. Pal informed that the minutes of the 7<sup>th</sup> GB held on 8<sup>th</sup> September, 2021 via Zoom, at Pramukhswami Medical college, Karamsad, Gujarat was circulated to all the GB 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 approved the minutes of the 7<sup>th</sup> GBM held on 8<sup>th</sup> September, 2021.

### 3. Presentation of annual report by General Secretary

Dr. G. K. Pal, General Secretary, presented the report of ASSOPI of last one year (September 2021 – September 2022). The summary of the report is depicted below.

#### **Report of General Secretary, ASSOPI 2021-2022**

1. Newly enrolled life members: **138** (Total life members as on 03.10.2022: **674**)

2. Nomination/Application and finalization of various ASSOPI Awards:

- Total nominations received: 25 award applications and 4 fellowship nominations

<b>Name of the Award</b>	<b>Number of Applications Received</b>	<b>Award Winner</b>
<b>ASSOPI Annual Oration of an Outstanding Physiologist</b>	1 Applicant	<b>Dr. S. B. Deshpande,</b> Professor Emeritus & Academic Consultant, Apollo Institute of Medical Sciences & Research, Chittor, A.P.
<b>Prof. A. S. Paintal Oration Award</b> (Best research work in Physiology)	2 Applicants	<b>Dr. G. K. Pal,</b> Executive Director, AIIMS Patna, Bihar.
<b>Dr. Artatran Nanda Memorial Award</b> (Best research work in Respiratory Physiology)	3 Applicants	<b>Dr. Ajay Kumar Verma,</b> Professor Junior Grade, Department of Respiratory Medicine, KGMU, Lucknow.
<b>Prof. S. B. Deshpande Award</b> (Best research work in Neurophysiology)	3 Applicants	<b>Dr. Revand R.,</b> Senior Resident, Dept. of Physiology, AIIMS, New Delhi.
<b>Prof. G. K. Pal Award</b> (Best research work in Cardiovascular Physiology)	6 Applicants	<b>Dr. Meenakshi Sinha,</b> Professor, Dept. of Physiology, AIIMS Tatibandh, Raipur, Chhattisgarh.
<b>JIPMER Golden ASSOPICON Award</b> (Best research work by a postgraduate student in Physiology)	1 Applicant	<b>Dr. Kavitha N.,</b> Junior Resident, Dept. of Physiology, JIPMER, Puducherry.

<b>Shri Ram Murti Smarak Award</b> (Best research work in Yoga and Naturopathy)	2 Applicants	<b>Piyush Sharma,</b> PhD Scholar, Dept. of Physiology, AIIMS, New Delhi.
<b>Ramesh Bijlani Lifetime Achievement Award</b> in Medical Sciences	1 Applicant	<b>Dr. Narsingh Verma,</b> Professor & Head of Physiology, KGMU, Lucknow, U. P.
<b>Shri B. M. Patil Memorial Award</b> (Best research work in Physiology by a Physiologist below the age of 45 years)	6 Applicants	<b>Dr. Jayanti Pant,</b> Associate Professor, Dept. of Physiology, AIIMS Rishikesh, Uttarakhand.
<b>Fellowship Title of ASSOPI (FAPI)</b>	4 Applicants	<b>Dr. Nitin Ashok John,</b> Professor & Head, Dept. of Physiology, AIIMS, Bibinagar, Telangana.
		<b>Dr. Varun Malhotra,</b> Associate Professor, Dept. of Physiology, AIIMS, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.
		<b>Dr. Ritushree Kukreti,</b> Chief Scientist, Genomics and Molecular Medicine Unit, CSIR-Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology, Delhi.
		<b>Dr. Meenakshi Sinha,</b> Professor, Dept. of Physiology, AIIMS Tatibandh, Raipur, Chhattisgarh.

### 3. Affiliation to other societies:

- i) **Inclusion of ASSOPI in IUPS:** General Secretary informed that he attended the 39<sup>th</sup> Congress of International Union of Physiological Sciences from 7<sup>th</sup> May, 2022 to 11<sup>th</sup> May, 2022 held at Beijing, China, in which our request to include ASSOPI as a member of IUPS family was discussed with Susan Wray, the President IUPS and our request was placed before the General Assembly of IUPS. We received a mail on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2022 that ASSOPI has been approved by the IUPS general assembly as a new full-time member of the IUPS. The PDF copy of the communication from IUPS displayed for information of all. On behalf of the Association, Dr. S. B. Deshpande placed

the high note of appreciation for Dr. G. K. Pal for all his sincere efforts to register the ASSOPI as a full-time member in IUPS.

ii) Application has been submitted to FIPS, and SAAP.

#### 4. ASSOPI Representation to NMC

General Secretary informed that he has taken up the issues of ASSOPI with NMC, especially to make the subject more clinical and provide more scope to physiologists in clinical services. He said he will actively pursue till the major objectives are achieved.

#### 5. Zonal activities:

1. ASSOPI – U.P. Chapter is regularly publishing newsletter cum research bulletin “Physiology Insight”. During last year (September, 2021 to September, 2022) **4 issues of Physiology Insight** were published. The total number of write-ups published in all the 4 issues are as follows:

Editorials	Scientific articles	Reflections	Extracurriculars	Achievements	Total
10	28	2	7	6	53

#### **Academic Programme conducted by Physiology Insight:**

- i. Panel Discussion on “ICMR STS-2022” by the Editorial Team of Physiology Insight (UP Chapter) on 30<sup>th</sup> January, 2022
  - ii. Symposium cum Panel Discussion on “Sleep Medicine-Opportunities Infinite” by the Editorial Team of Physiology Insight (UP Chapter) on 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2022.
  - iii. Symposium cum Panel Discussion on “Electives” by the Editorial Team of Physiology Insight (UP Chapter) on 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2022.
  - iv. Other activities
2. Virtual Symposium on “Chronomedicine: Relevance in COVID times” by the Department of Physiology, AIIMS Raipur on 18<sup>th</sup> September, 2021.

3. CME & Workshop on “Exploring Sleep Medicine & Polysomnography” by Dept. of Physiology, Hind Institute of Medical Sciences, Barabanki on 12<sup>th</sup> November, 2021 (Organizing Secretary: Dr. Arvind Kanchan).
4. CME on “Chronobiology and Sleep Update” by Dept. of Physiology, Dr. RMLIMS, Lucknow on 7<sup>th</sup> May, 2022 (Organizing Chairman: Prof. Sunita Tiwari, Organizing Secretary: Dr. Rajani Bala Jasrotia).

#### **4. Approval of ASSOPI Awards, 2022**

Dr. G. K. Pal, General Secretary informed the GB that a total of 25 nominations for various awards of ASSOPI and 4 nominations 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. GB approved the list of recipients of ASSOPI Awards, 2022 during the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> October, 2022 and the awardees received awards on 15<sup>th</sup> October, 2022 in the inaugural ceremony.

#### **5. Presentation of audited statement of account by Finance Secretary**

General Secretary informed that statement of accounts for last 2 years (2019-20, 2020-21) were not presented in 7<sup>th</sup> ASSOPICON, 2021 as it was not audited due to severe COVID situation in Pondicherry, for which the office of Auditor was closed for about a month as few of the staff members in the Auditor’s office are affected by COVID. Therefore, he informed that the audited statements, which were supposed to be presented in the last conference, will be presented in this meeting along with the statement of account for 2021-22. Statement of account was presented by Dr. Pravati Pal, Joint Secretary of South zone, who was nominated by Finance Secretary of ASSOPI. The Founder President of ASSOPI, Dr. S. B. Deshpande, suggested finding out from Chartered Accountant if there is any chance of stopping the TDS being deducted, as ASSOPI being a non-profit and academic organization.

After detailed presentation, the audited statement of accounts for the last three years were approved by the GB.

## **6. Status of ASSOPI Journal**

General Secretary informed that the website development was done and intimated to everyone from his side and from Dr. Raj Kumar Yadav, Editor-in-Chief (EIC), but we could not get quality papers. And he also informed that few papers have come and it was sent for review. Dr. G. K. Pal mentioned that nomination for the next EIC has been received.

## **7. Organizational matters**

### **i. Creation of new state branches/chapters**

Proposals for creation of new chapters of ASSOPI in Rajasthan, Gujarat, Punjab, were received.

### **ii. Recruitment of new members**

Presented by General Secretary in his report as stated above.

### **iii. Interim activities of ASSOPI**

Presented by General Secretary in his report as stated above.

### **iv. Affiliation to other bodies like FIPS, SAAP, IUPS, etc.**

Discussed above in the Annual Report presented by General Secretary.

## **8. Election for the new EB & OB posts**

General Secretary informed that as per bye-law of ASSOPI, the tenure of present EB and OB members ended in December last year. But due to prevailing COVID situation in the country, election was not held last year; hence one year extension was given to the existing executives. This year, he had announced for nomination for various posts in the last ASSOPI news Bulletin (March-April issue) circulated to all the life members of ASSOPI. The nominations received for various posts were

presented in the GB meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> October, 2022 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, AIIMS, Rishikesh, Uttarkhand

**Founder President:** Dr. Shripad B. Deshpande, Professor Emeritus & Honorary Consultant in Academics and Administration, Apollo Institute of Medical Sciences & Research, Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh.

**Immediate Past President:** Dr. Narsingh Verma, Professor & Head, Dept. of Physiology, King George's Medical University, Lucknow, U. P.

**Vice-Presidents:** (arranged alphabetically)

**East Zone:** Dr. Dinesh Kumar, Head of Physiology, GMC, Bettiah

**West Zone:** Dr. Hasmukh Shah, Professor & Head 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

**General Secretary:** Dr. Gopal Krushna Pal, Executive Director, AIIMS, Patna

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

**Editor-in-Chief:** Dr. Nitin Ashok John, Professor & Head of Physiology, and Dean (Examinations) AIIMS, Bibinagar.

**Joint Secretaries:** (arranged alphabetically)

**West Zone:** Dr. Mrunal Phatak, Professor & Head, AIIMS Nagpur

**East Zone:** Dr. Rituparna Barooah, Professor & Head of Physiology, NEIGRIHMS, Meghalaya

**North Zone:** Dr. Sabita Yograj, Professor of Physiology, GMC, Kathua

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

**Executive Body Members** (arranged alphabetically)

1. **Dr. Ajay Bhatt**, Associate Professor of Physiology, Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Medical College, Indore, Madhya Pradesh
2. **Dr. S. Anandhalakshmi**, Professor & Head, Department of Physiology, AIIMS Kalyani
3. **Dr. Anil Warkar**, HoD of Physiology, IGMC, Nagpur
4. **Dr. Charushila Rukadikar**, Assistant Professor, Department of Physiology, AIIMS, Gorakhpur
5. **Dr. Ekta Khandelwal**, Additional Professor, Department of Physiology, AIIMS Raipur
6. **Dr. Jolly Bhattacharjya**, Assistant Professor of Physiology, Gauhati Medical College, Assam
7. **Dr. Kaviraja Udupa**, Professor of Neurophysiology, NIMHANS
8. **Dr. Manjinder Kaur**, Additional Principal, Prof & Head, GMC, Udaipur
9. **Dr. Padmaja Hari**, Professor, MESMC, Kerala
10. **Dr. Prafull Kamble**, Associate Professor, AIIMS, Bibinagar, Hyderabad
11. **Dr. Prasunpriya Nayak**, Professor of Physiology, AIIMS Jodhpur
12. **Dr. Rajay Bharshankar**, Prof. & Head, Dept. of Physiology, AIIMS, Bhopal
13. **Dr. Rajeev Sharma**, Dean, GGSMC, Faridkot
14. **Dr. Rupali**, Professor & Head of Physiology, AIIMS Bilaspur
15. **Dr. Sandip Sardesai**, Professor of Physiology, Goa Medical college
16. **Dr. Sudhanshu Agrawal**, NCRIMS, Meerut
17. **Dr. Tribhuvan Kumar**, Additional Professor and Head, AIIMS Patna
18. **Dr. K. C. Thirupathy**, HoD, MMC, Chennai



19. **Dr. Y. Dhanalakshmi**, Head Quarter Office Secretary of ASOPI, & Additional Professor, Dept. of Physiology, JIPMER
20. **M. Renugasundari**, Office Secretary to General Secretary, JIPMER, Puducherry.

Dr. G. K. Pal informed that the newly elected executive of ASSOPI will take of the mantle of the association from 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2023.

He sincerely thanked the entire outgoing OB & EB members for their contribution 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 2023 was proposed by Dr. Narsingh Verma. The proposal of 9th ASSOPICON, 2023, to be organized by Department of Physiology under the leadership of Dr. Narsingh Verma, KGMU, Lucknow, was approved by the GB.

Proposals were received for conducting annual conference of ASSOPI in subsequent years.

10th ASSOPICON 2024 at AIIMS, Bibinagar.

11th ASSOPICON 2025 at Geetanjali Medical College, Udaipur.

12th ASSOPICON 2026 at NIMHANS, Bengaluru

13th ASSOPICON 2027 at AIIMS, Rishikesh

14th ASSOPICON 2028 at AIIMS, Mangalagiri

Dr. G. K. Pal informed that to make the conference student friendly and scientist friendly, the “Scientific Committee” of the association has to be involved actively to give direction to the next Organizing Chairman about the major guidelines of the association to conduct the conference, especially for the scientific aspect of the conference.

## **10. Proposal for new ASSOPI awards**

Dr. G. K. Pal, General Secretary, ASSOPI informed that Dr. Anuj Maheswari, Secretary of Indian Society of Chronomedicine, has submitted a written request for institution of new award in the name of **Prof. Narsingh Verma Award for best research work in Chronobiology.**

Dr. Pal informed that as per ASSOPI Constitution, the person in whose name the award has to be instituted should have following requirements:

- i) Should have minimum 15 PubMed publications as the first author or corresponding author in the field of the proposed award.
- ii) The proposer has to contribute two lakhs as the seed money for the award.

General Secretary informed that Prof. Narsingh Verma has fulfilled the requirements and Dr. Maheswari has agreed to pay Rs. 2 lakhs for institution of the award. GB approved for institution of Dr. Narsingh Verma award for best research work in Chronobiology from the year 2023 onward.

General Secretary proposed to increase the seed money of ASSOPI Awards from existing two lakhs to five lakhs for institution of new awards for subsequent new proposals as the money generated from interest of two lakhs is not adequate to make the award plaque, medal and certificate. GB approved the proposal to increase the seed money of ASSOPI Awards to rupees five lakhs for any subsequent new proposals.

## **11. Presentation of a brief report by Organizing Chairman (Special Invitee)**

Dr. G. K. Pal invited Dr. Mrunal Phatak, Organizing Chairman of ASSOPICON 2022, to present a report and share her experience in organizing the conference. Dr. Mrunal Phatak thanked Dr. G. K. Pal, Dr. S. B. Deshpande, Dr. Narsingh Verma, and all the OB & EB members and life members of ASSOPI for attending the conference and for their full support and motivation. She suggested that framing the

guidelines for the number of symposium, panel discussion and other scientific events to be conducted in every conference by the ASSOPI, which will be easier for the Organizers to conduct the conference. GB members highly appreciated the effort of Dr. Mrunal Phatak and her team to make the ASSOPICON 2022, a grand success.

## **12. Any other matters (with permission of chair)**

Dr. G. K. Pal informed that there was a suggestion in the EB meeting for increasing the fees for Life Membership from 3,000 to 5,000. After a thorough discussion it was decided not to increase the life membership fees until we cross 1000 members.

Dr. Khamalesh Jha proposed to give a chance to the presenters of both oral and poster presentations of ASSOPI conference every year to make it as a full length original article and submit it to ASSOPI Journal for publication. Dr. G. K. Pal mentioned that this was tried earlier and still we could not get quality papers. The nomination for the next EIC was received and to give a chance to the new EIC to work on this issue and if he says that still he could not do it, as decided in the last GB meeting, plan of making IJCEP as an official journal of ASSOPI can be done for which an MoU has to be signed with the Proprietor of IJCEP.

Dr. S. B. Deshpande mentioned that usually Organizing Secretary deposit money to the association, which was collected during the conference, if unspent at the end of the conference. Dr. G. K. Pal mentioned that it was placed on record and minuted that Organizing Secretary of conference held at JSS Medical College Mysuru had deposited Rs. 42,000/- to the association. And he also added that in our constitution, minimum 5% income of the registration fees of the conference should be deposited as seed money to the central body of the association at the end of the conference.

### **13. Vote of thanks**

GB Meeting ended at 8.30 PM with vote of thanks proposed by Prof. G. K. Pal. Dr. Latika Mohan, President-Elect mentioned that ASSOPI is a highly vibrant, scientific and ethical organization. She thanked the Organizing Chairperson of the conference, Dr. Mrunal Phatak for organizing such a wonderful conference at AIIMS Nagpur. The GB members applauded the Organizing Chairman for conducting such a grand conference. Dr. Latika Mohan expressed her gratitude to Dr. G. K. Pal for putting his heart and soul and all sincere efforts for the association inspite of him being the Executive Director of AIIMS Patna, which engages him in a very busy schedule.

Dr. G. K. Pal,  
General Secretary, ASSOPI.