

Minutes of the 7th General Body Meeting of ASSOPI

(held on 8th Sept., 2021, during the 7th ASSOPICON held at Pramukhswami Medical College, Karamsad, Gujarat, as online conference)

(Members attended the meeting through video-conferencing via Zoom)

AGENDA

The seventh meeting of General Body (GB) of Association of Physiologists of India was conducted online, on 8th September, 2021, at 6 PM, organized at Secretariat of 7th ASSOPICON, Pramukhswami Medical College, Karamsad, Gujarat.

Seventy eight life members of ASSOPI participated in the meeting and the following agenda items were discussed.

1. Obituary and Apologies, if any

The members were requested to report obituaries, if any. There was no obituary of ASSOPI members reported in the last two years.

2. Welcome address by President

Prof. Narsingh Verma, President, ASSOPI, welcomed all the members to the 7th GB meeting of the association.

Dr. Narsingh Verma briefly highlighted the major achievements of ASSOPI in last two years and thanked General Secretary for making all sincere efforts for a steady progress of ASSOPI. The President wished the job opportunities for Physiologists to be displayed regularly in the ASSOPI website and members to conduct various programmes of ASSOPI at national level and zonal level during different times of the year. President requested the life members of ASSOPI to motivate other physiologists to become life member of the association. President requested General Secretary to discuss the agenda items of GB as listed in the Agenda.

3. Approval of the minutes of the 6th GB meeting held on 13.09.2019

Dr. G. K. Pal informed that the minutes of the 6th GB held on 13th September, 2019, at JSS Medical College, Mysuru, was circulated to the 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 6th GBM held on 13th September, 2019.

4. Presentation of annual report by General Secretary

Dr. G. K. Pal, General Secretary, presented the report of ASSOPI of last two years (October 2019 – August 2021). The summary of the report is depicted below.

Report of General Secretary, ASSOPI 2019-2021

1. Newly enrolled life members: **183** (Total life members as on 31.08.2021: **536**)
2. News bulletin published: 5 issues (Sept-Oct, 2019; Jan-Feb, 2020; Mar-April, 2020; Sept-Oct, 2020; Mar-April, 2021)
4. Nomination/Application and finalization of various ASSOPI Awards:
 - Total nominations received: 39 award applications

Name of the Award	No. of applications Received	Award Winners
Prof. A. S. Paintal Award (Best research work in Physiology)	5 Applicants	Dr. Dipti Magan, Assistant Professor, Department of Physiology, AIIMS, Bathinda
Dr. Artatran Nanda Memorial Award (Best research work in Respiratory Physiology)	2 Applicants	Dr. Musharaf Bashir, Lecturer, Department of Physiology, Government Medical College, Srinagar, J&K. Currently working in UCMS, Delhi.
Prof. S. B. Deshpande Award (Best research work in Neurophysiology)	8 Applicants	Dr. Anant Kumar, Senior Resident, Department of Physiology, AIIMS, Jodhpur.
Prof. G. K. Pal Award	5 Applicants	Dr. Jean Fredrick,

(Best research work in Cardiovascular Physiology)		Assistant Professor, Dept. of Physiology, Mahatma Gandhi Medical College and Research Institute, Puducherry.
JIPMER Golden ASSOPICON Award (Best research work by a Postgraduate student in Physiology)	2 Applicants	Dr. Revand R., Junior Resident, Institute of Medical Sciences, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi.
Shri S. N. Choudary Memorial Award (Best research work in Environmental Physiology)	2 Applicants	Dr. Shelka Dua, Associate Professor, Indo-Bhutan Friendship Hospital, Thimphu.
Shri Ram Murti Memorial Award (Best research work in Yoga and Naturopathy)	2 Applicants	Dr. Varun Malhotra, Associate Professor, Department of Physiology, AIIMS, Saket Nagar, Bhopal.
Shri B. M. Patil Memorial Award (Best research work by a scientist below the age of 45 years)	6 Applicants	Dr. B. N. Srikumar, Associate Professor, Dept. of Neurophysiology, NIMHANS, Bengaluru.
Ramesh Bijlani Lifetime Achievement Award in Medical Sciences	1 Applicant	Prof. Randeep Guleria, Director, AIIMS, New Delhi.
Prof. S. K. Singh Award (Best research work conducted by an undergraduate medical student)	6 Applicants	Mr. Dishant Upadhyay, Intern, SVP Hospital, Ahmedabad, Gujarat.
Fellowship Title of Association of Physiologists of India (FAPI)	No Nomination	-

5. Affiliation to other bodies like FIPS, SAAP, IUPS, etc.

- A) **Inclusion in IUPS:** General Secretary informed that the process of registration as a constituent member of IUPS has started. On 29th May, General Secretary had sent a mail to Secretary General of IUPS for inclusion of ASSOPI as a regular member of IUPS. We received a positive reply from IUPS Secretariat that in General Assembly of IUPS to be held in May 2022, in Beijing, ASSOPI will be included as a member of IUPS. The PDF copy of communication from IUPS displayed for information of all.

- B) **Inclusion in FIPS:** General Secretary informed that the General Body Meeting of FIPS held on 28th September, 2019, under the chairmanship of Dr. G. K. Pal, Vice President of FIPS, has taken a decision for inclusion of ASSOPI as a constituent member of FIPS. But, General Secretary of FIPS, who was absent in the meeting has circulated the minutes of GBM in which the decision of inclusion of ASSOPI is absent, and this has been contested by Dr. Pal. Again, the matter was discussed in the EC meeting of FIPS held on 3rd February, 2021, and a favorable decision has been taken for inclusion of ASSOPI in FIPS.
- C) **Inclusion in SAAP:** Though the representation for inclusion of ASSOPI in SAAP was submitted to Secretary General, SAAP in the year 2016, no decision has been taken by SAAP yet. Dr. Kusal K. Das has been elected as President of SAAP in March, 2021, and General Secretary of ASSOPI had sent another representation to the President of SAAP for inclusion of ASSOPI into SAAP.

6. ASSOPI Representation to NMC:

A special GBM of ASSOPI was held on 17th October, to discuss and finalize the representation of ASSOPI on the topic “Minimum Requirements for Annual MBBS Admission Regulation 2020 and Amendment to Establishment of Medical College Regulations”, which was finalized and submitted to NMC on 30th October, 2020.

7. Zonal activities

- i) CME on Neurophysiology of Higher Brain Functions was conducted at Dr Ram Manohar Lohia Institute of Medical Sciences, Lucknow, as inaugural function of ASSOPI Chapter of UP, on 4th March, 2020.
- ii) ASSOPI International Webinar – 2020 on Research in Experimental Physiology (with special emphasis on Animal Research) at JIPMER, Pondicherry, was conducted on 22nd May, 2020.
- iii) Special GB Meeting for inviting comments to notification of NMC on “Minimum Requirements for Annual MBBS Admission Regulation 2020 and Amendment to Establishment of Medical College Regulations” was conducted on 17th October, 2020.
- iv) Virtual CME on Concepts of Sleep – Demystified was organized by Aarupadai Veedu Medical College & Hospital, Puducherry, on 21st January, 2021.
- v) Virtual CME on “Gut Microbiome, Nutrition and its impact on Physical and Mental Well-being” was organized at AIIMS, Bibinagar on 22nd February, 2021.
- vi) Symposium cum Panel Discussion on “Myths, Facts and Reality: Animal Experimentation in Physiology by the Editorial Team of Physiology Insight (UP Chapter)” was organized by Physiology Insight under the auspices of ASSOPI-UP Chapter, on 28th August, 2021.

5. Presentation of audited statement of account by Finance Secretary:

Statement of account was presented by Dr. Pravati Pal, Joint Secretary of South zone, who was nominated by Finance Secretary of ASSOPI in her absence. General

Secretary informed that statement of accounts could not be audited due to severe COVID situation in Pondicherry, for which the office of Auditor is 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 statement once carried out will be circulated to all members and will be presented in the next ASSOPICON.

6. Presentation of progress report of publication of 1st issue of Journal of Physiology and Health Care Medicine (the ASSOPI Journal)

Dr. Raj Kumar Yadav, Editor-in-Chief of Journal of Physiology and Health Care Medicine (JPHCM) reported that he has not received sufficient number of articles to release the issue as there are already two existing popular journals in Physiology (IJPP & IJCEP) published from India and there are many allied journals. It was proposed to have three issues of JPHCM in a year, and the release the 1st issue (January-April) of the journal should start from first quarter of 2022. General Secretary informed Dr. Nitin Ashok John and Dr. Amit Kant Singh have shown interest to be part of the active team of the ASSOPI Journal. It was decided that Dr. Raj Kumar Yadav will continue as Editor-in-Chief and Dr. Nitin Ashok John and Dr. Amit Kant Singh can be included in the Editorial Board of the ASSOPI Journal. All members of ASSOPI were requested to send articles for ASSOPI Journal.

7. Organizational matters

i) Creation of new state branches/chapters

Proposals for creation of new chapters of ASSOPI in Gujarat, Punjab, Jammu & Kashmir, Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan were received.

ii) Interim activities of ASSOPI: Presented by General Secretary in his report as stated above.

iii) Release of July-September issue of Physiology Insight

Dr. Amit Kant Singh, Editor of Physiology Insight (Newsletter cum Research Bulletin of ASSOPI-U.P. Chapter) announced the release of 1st issue (July-September, 2021) of Physiology Insight. The release of the issue was made as a special programme in the GBM and the Editors of Physiology Insight shared their views and experiences in

the meeting. The GB appreciated the effort of Editors and the Office Bearers of ASSOPI-U.P. Chapter in regularly publishing the issues of Physiology Insight.

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 posts

General Secretary proposed that till the election is held in a physical conference, the present executive body members can continue on adhoc, for which the tenure of present EB can be extended for 1 year. The proposal was accepted by the ASSOPI members.

As Dr. Kusal K. Das has resigned from EB post for his personal reason, it was decided to induct Dr. Mrunal Phatak to fill this vacancy and also Dr. Nitin Ashok John was inducted as an EB member.

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 2022 was proposed by Dr. Mrunal Phatak. The proposal of 8th ASSOPICON, 2022, to be organized by Department of Physiology under the leadership of Dr. Mrunal Phatak, AIIMS, Nagpur was approved.

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

9th ASSOPICON, 2023 at KGMU.

10th ASSOPICON 2024 at AIIMS, Bibinagar.

11th ASSOPICON 2024 at AIIMS, Mangalagiri

12th ASSOPICON 2025 at Geetanjali Medical College, Udaipur.

10. Proposal for new ASSOPI awards

As there are no oration awards of ASSOPI, it was decided that a new ASSOPI award such as ASSOPI Oration Award, should be instituted, which should be presented as

the first award immediately after the inaugural ceremony. A committee as listed below was formed to frame the criteria/guidelines for ASSOPI Oration Award.

- i) Prof. S. B. Deshpande: Chairman
- ii) Prof. Latika Mohan: Member
- iii) Prof. G. K. Pal, General Secretary: Ex-Officio
- iv) Prof. Amit Kant Singh: Member Secretary.

The committee will frame the eligibility criteria and guidelines for the oration award. With the approval of the EB, this oration award will be included in the list of awards from 2022 onwards.

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

Dr. G. K. Pal invited Dr. Hasmukh Shah, Organizing Chairman of ASSOPICON 2021, to present a report and his experience in organizing the conference. Dr. Hasmukh Shah gave a brief account of how the conference is being organized. The special events in the conference were key note address, symposia, plenary lectures, PG paper presentations and poster presentations covering a wide variety of topics. He informed that there were 650 registrations for the conference including resource faculties and 150 registrations were from the first year students of Pramukhswami Medical College, and received about 150 abstracts for presentation. He thanked all EB & GB members for guidance and support. GB highly appreciated the effort of Dr. Hasmukh Shah and his team to make the ASSOPICON 2021, a grand success.

12. Any other matters (with permission of chair): Nil

- i) Dr. Sudhanshu Agrawal proposed to represent to NMC to bring Clinical Neurophysiology and Clinical Cardiac Physiology laboratories under the control and management of Physiology department.
- ii) Dr. Jitendrakumar R. Patel proposed to conduct National Undergraduate Quiz programme under the auspices of ASSOPI annually in his institute. The GB accepted the proposal and instructed Dr. Jitendrakumar to provide the details of rules, regulations and guidelines of conducting the national quiz to General Secretary for approval and record.

- iii) General Secretary informed that Rs. 41,987/- was contributed by the Organizing committee of last ASSOPICON to the central ASSOPI fund as per the ASSOPI bye-laws of “contribution of 5-10% income of the annual conference to the ASSOPI”. The General Body highly appreciated the contribution from last ASSOPICON and thanked Dr. Rajeswari and Dr. Barath for their sincere effort in organizing a best conference at JSS Medical College, Mysuru.
- iv) The names of Dr. Mrunal Phatak and Dr. Jolly Bhattacharya were suggested to be included in the Editorial Board of Journal of Physiology and Healthcare Medicine. It was also suggested that anybody else sincerely interested to contribute to the ASSOPI journal can send the request to Editor-in-Chief. The EIC in consultation with OB members will take a final decision of inclusion of names in the list of Editorial Board.

13. Vote of thanks

EB Meeting ended at 8.30 PM with vote of thanks proposed by Headquarters Office Secretary Dr. Y. Dhanalakshmi.

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