

Minutes of the 4th General Body Meeting of ASSOPI

(held on 2nd Dec., 2017, at KGMU, Lucknow)

The fourth meeting of General Body (GB) of Association of Physiologists of India (ASSOPI) was conducted at KGMU, Lucknow, on 2nd December, 2017, at 6PM. Seventy-two members of ASSOPI participated in the meeting and the following agenda items were discussed.

1. Welcome address by President

Honorable President of ASSOPI, Prof S. B. Deshpande welcomed all the members to the 4th GB meeting of the Association. Dr. Deshpande briefly highlighted the major achievements of ASSOPI in last one year and thanked Prof. G. K. Pal, General Secretary, for making all sincere efforts for rapid progress of ASSOPI. He also emphasized that all the office bearers and executive body members should actively contribute in enrolling new members and making the association vibrant. President requested General Secretary to discuss the agenda items of GB as listed in the Agenda.

2. Approval of the minutes of the GB meeting held on 16.09.2016

Dr. G. K. Pal informed that the minutes of the 3rd GB held on 16th September, 2016, at BLDEA University, Bijapur, Karnataka was displayed in ASSOPI Website and also was circulated to members through Dec. 2016 issue of ASSOPI News Bulletin, requesting the members to provide their comments/inputs for correction, if any. However, as no comments for corrections have been received so far, he requested GB to approve the minutes. GB approved the minutes of the 3rd GB held on 16th September, 2016.

3. Presentation of annual report by General Secretary

Dr. G. K. Pal, General Secretary presented the report of ASSOPI of last one year. The summary of the report is depicted below.

Summary of the Report of General Secretary, 2016-2017

1. Newly enrolled life members: **43** (Total life members as on 30.11.2017: **243**)
2. Opening of the State Chapters: North-Eastern Chapter of ASSOPI was launched on 4th March, 2017, at NEIGRIMS, Shilong, and the Telangana Chapter of ASSOPI was on 11th June, 2017, at Bhaskar Medical College, Hyderabad, by Dr. G. K. Pal, the General Secretary of ASSOPI. Thus, presently ASSOPI has **4 state chapters** (Pondicherry, Sikkim, North-Eastern and Telangana).
3. News bulletin published : 3 issues were published (Nov-Dec., May-June, July-Aug.)
4. Recipients of ASSOPI Awards, 2017:

Name of the Award	Award Winner
Prof. A. S. Paintal Award (Best research work in Physiology)	No one found suitable for the award
Dr. Artatran Nanda Memorial Award (Best research work in Respiratory Physiology)	Dr. Shelka Dua, Associate Professor of Physiology AFMC, Pune
Prof. S. B. Deshpande Award (Best research work in Neurophysiology)	Dr. Bindu M. Kutty, Professor & Head, Dept. of Neurophysiology, NIMHANS, Bengaluru
Prof. G. K. Pal Award (Best research work in Cardiovascular Physiology)	No one found suitable for the award
Shri S. N. Choudary Memorial Award (Best research work in Environmental Physiology)	No Applicants
Shri Ram Murti Memorial Award (Best research work in Yoga and Naturopathy)	Dr. Satish G. Patil, Assistant Professor of Physiology, BLDE University's Sri B.M.Patil Medical College, Bijapur, Karnataka
Shri B. M. Patil Memorial Award (Best research work in Physiology by a scientist below the age of 45 years)	Dr. A. N. Syam Sundara Kiran, Assistant Professor of Physiology, Konaseema Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS), Amalapuram, A. P

5. Affiliation to other societies:

- Application has been submitted to FIPS, and SAAP.

4. Approval of ASSOPI Awards, 2017

Dr. G. K. Pal, Gen. Secretary informed the GB that a total of 27 nominations were received for various awards of ASSOPI, and a committee consisting of three subject experts for each award was constituted for evaluating the nominations. The report of the committee was approved by the EB of ASSOPI, and awards have been presented to the awardees in a special 'Award Giving Ceremony' in the conference. The names of the awardees are mentioned above (listed in the agenda item no. 3, in General Secretary's report). GB approved the list of recipients of ASSOPI Awards, 2017.

5. Presentation of Audited statement of account for 2016-2017

Audited statement of account was presented by General Secretary, in the absence of finance secretary. After a detailed discussion, the audited statement of account was approved by the GB.

6. Affiliation to other bodies like FIPS, SAAP, etc.,

General Secretary informed that application for inclusion of ASSOPI as a member of SAAP has been submitted. Further, GS informed that in response to our application for induction of ASSOPI as a member in FIPS, so many queries were raised in the last GB of FIPS held at DIPAS in Nov. during FIPS conference and there was reluctance from FIPS office bearers to include ASSOPI in FIPS. It was decided that all office bearers of ASSOPI should write letters to President of FIPS separately to induct ASSOPI into FIPS. Dr. O. N. Tripathy suggested that ASSOPI can apply for Associate Membership of INSA. It was also suggested that ASSOPI can opt for Associate Membership of IUPS, without membership payment.

7. ASSOPI Journal

Everybody felt that it is high time for the ASSOPI Journal be published, as the Association has completed its four years of active existence. Prof. B. S. Rao, Editor-in-Chief, presented the front cover page design of the journal, which was approved with the advice to increase the size of the logo of ASSOPI. The will be titled as "Journal of Basic and Clinical Physiology" an official organ of ASSOPI. Initially, the journal will have

four issues in a year, to be published quarterly in the months March, June, September and December. A detailed discussion was made on the types of the articles to published (Editorial, Review Articles, Original Articles, Brief Communication, Case Report, Letter to Editors/Commentaries), the structure of each category of articles, and the review process of the articles. Prof. Rao was advised to apply for ISSN number for the journal and also finalize the list of members for editorial board and advisory board of the journal giving due representation to scientists of national and international repute from India and abroad, which may be approved by the OB of the Association by circulation. Also, Prof. Rao was requested to prepare the 'Guide to Author" pages of the journal and circulate to all members of ASSOPI and all the institutes, inviting the articles for publication. It was decided that all the OB and IB members will contribute one article each to the first few issues of the journal. However, all articles submitted to the journal for publication will undergo the detailed scrutiny and the standard review process. Prof. Rao informed that he is planning to have the Bangalore/Karnataka Chapter of ASSOPI to be inaugurated in March, 2018, during which the first issue of the journal could be launched.

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

General Secretary informed that requests have been received from Karamsad, Sikkim and Mysuru for organizing the ASSOPICON-2018. After a detailed discussion, the next annual conference (5th ASSOPICON, 2018) was decided to be held at Paramukhswami Medical College, Karamsad, Gujrat, under the dynamic leadership of Dr. Hasmukh Shah, Professor & HoD of Physiology Dept. It was proposed that conference should be held in the month of September/October. Dr. Hasmukh Shah made a brief presentation of the proposed conference, and cordially invited all to participate in 5th ASSOPICON in large number. The proposals for subsequent annual conferences were made as 6th ASSOPICON-2019 at Sikkim-Manipal Institute of Medical Sciences, Sikkim, and 7th ASSOPICON-2020 at NIMHANS, Bengaluru or the Govt. Medical College, Mysuru, 8th ASSOPICON-2021 at NEIGRIMS, Shilong and 9th ASSOPICON-2022 at Goa Medical College, Goa.

9. Proposal for new ASSOPI awards

i) Prof. S. K. Singh Award for best research work conducted by an undergraduate medical student.

General Secretary informed that he has received a request for Prof. S. K. Singh for instituting an award in his name for best research work conducted by an undergraduate medical student and he has sent a DD of Rs. One lakh for the purpose. After thorough discussion, institution of this new award was accepted by the GB. It was decided that the nomination for the award should be invited along with other nominations of ASSOPI Awards and the award should be presented to the awardee in the inaugural ceremony of the ASSOPICON of that year along with the other awards. For this award, any undergraduate medical student can apply, but the student selected for the award should become a life member of ASSOPI before receiving the award. If the work has not been published in a journal, the manuscript for the award should accompany a certificate from the Head of the Department stating that the work was conducted by the student (student's name) under the guidance of a faculty (guide's name), in his department during this period (month and year) and his nomination for the best UG research award may be considered. The selected student should register for the conference under the 'Students Registration' Category and the organizing secretary will be requested to provide accommodation (if possible) for the student for attending the conference.

ii) Prof. R. L. Bijlani Life Time Achievement Award

Dr. Pal informed that Dr. Rajkumar Yadav, Prof of Physiology AIIMS, New Delhi, a life member of ASSOPI has expressed his interest to institute an award in the name of Prof. R. L. Bijlani as the 'Life Time Achievement Award' to be awarded to an eminent physiologist or any medical scientist of the country, every year. The request for the award was made in EB meeting held on previous day, and

after a detailed discussion, the proposal was accepted by EB with the following criteria.

- a) Nomination for this award will be invited along with other nominations of ASSOPI Awards and the award will be presented to the awardee in the inaugural ceremony of the ASSOPICON of that year
- b) The nomination for the award should be proposed and seconded by the life members of ASSOPI along with the consent of the nominee.
- c) The nominee should be an eminent physiologist or a scientist (not less than 55 years of age) in any branch of medicine and should have outstanding contribution in the field of medical research.
- d) The nomination should have a brief CV of the nominee along with the list of all publications (only list).
- e) A duly constituted committee will scrutinize the nominations received and will recommend the awardee, if anybody found suitable. The total number of publications, total citations, scientist h index and i-10 index as displayed in the Google Scholar will be considered for selecting the awardee.
- f) Any senior physiologist/medical scientist may be nominated for this award, but the person selected for the award should become a life member prior to the award being presented to him in the annual conference.
- g) The awardee will make a summary presentation of his research works, along with presentation of other award papers in the "Award paper presentation session" of the conference.

GB accepted the proposal and advised Dr. Rajkumar Yadav to arrange to contribute at least one lakh for instituting the award and to submit a formal request letter addressed to General Secretary to institute the award that should contain a written consent from Dr. R. L. Bijlani, having no objection for institution of this award.

iii) Change of procedure for selecting JIPMER Golden Jubilee ASSOPICON Award for best PG research paper.

Dr. G. K. Pal informed that the JIPMER Golden Jubilee ASSOPICON Award instituted in 2014 for best research paper/work conducted by a PG student in Physiology. Though initially it was meant to be invited as nominations along with the other awards of ASSOPI and decided beforehand to present the award to the awardee in the inaugural ceremony of Annual Conference, for last three years it is being decided in a separate 'PG Award Paper Session' during the annual conference and the award is being presented in the valedictory function of the conference. Dr. Pal requested GB to consider the original schedule of selecting the award as requested by the donor department (Physiology Department of JIPMER). After a detailed discussion, GB accepted the request to the original proposal of selection of this award, i.e., the application for this award will be invited along with the other awards of ASSOPI, and a committee duly constituted for the award will scrutinize the research papers/manuscripts and will recommend the name of the awardee (if anyone found suitable) to receive the award to presented in the inaugural ceremony of the annual conference. Other criteria of selection will remain same, as listed earlier. However, it was decided that the trend of 'Best research paper presented by a PG student in the annual conference' should continue every year as a separate programme to be conducted during the annual conference, which should be organized by the organizing committee of the conference.

iv) Change of criteria for receiving ASSOPI Awards.

It was pointed out that in the ASSOPI rules, it has been mentioned that the office bearers of ASSOPI can't contest for ASSOPI Awards and Fellowships. A request was made to change this criterion, so that office bearers of ASSOPI should be allowed to participate in the award competitions. As awards and fellowships are purely based on the merit of the published papers or research works or the established credentials as depicted and defined in the by-law for each category of award and fellowship, it was felt that there should not be restriction for

anybody to participate in the award competition. Moreover, as many senior and experienced physiologists are the office bearers of ASSOPI, it is not desirable to restrict them from this opportunity. After a detailed discussion, the proposal was accepted that the office bearers can participate in the competition for ASSOPI Awards and Fellowship, but it was decided that the office bearer who has applied for an award, can't be the judge for any award of that year, and as per ASSOPI norm the nomination will be restricted to competition for one award per year.

10. Presentation of a brief report by Organizing Secretary/Chairman of ASSOPICON-2017

Dr. Narsingh Verma, Organizing Chairman of ASSOPICON-2018 gave a brief account of how the conference is being organized. Dr. Verma informed that more than 50 senior physiologists were felicitated in the conference. Conference was attended by many renowned physiologists, physicians, scientists and vice-chancellors. Special events in the conference were the conduct of workshops, CME, plenary lectures, PG paper presentations and symposia covering a wide variety of topics. Members appreciated the effort of Prof. Verma and his team in making the ASSOPICON 2017 a big success.

11. Any other matters (with permission of chair)

- i) To increase the number of ASSOPI life members, all OB and EB members were requested to make effort to register at least 10 new life members each from their college and nearby areas.
- ii) It was decided that if an OB or EB member does not attend the two GB/EB meetings consecutively, he/she will not be considered subsequently for OB/EB posts of the Association.
- i) It was proposed that on behalf of ASSOPI, an "Appreciation Certificate" should be presented to the Organizing Chairman/Secretary of the conference of that year in the valedictory function of the conference, as a token of appreciation and encouragement to the organizing team. The proposal was approved.

12. Vote of thanks

Meeting ended with vote of thanks proposed by General Secretary.