

Annual General Body Meeting - Neurological Society of India

Draft Minutes

(13th December 2014 Le Meridien Coimbatore)

- **2014/Dec/GB/01: Call to order**

President welcomed the members present in the house and the meeting called to order. He further requested Dr R C Mishra to continue the proceedings.

- **2014/Dec/GB/02: Obituary**

The Secretary informed the house that Dr Gopikrishnan from Coimbatore passed away during the year. The members observed silence for one minute to pay regards and offered condolence to the bereaved family.

- **2014/Dec/GB/03: Congratulations**

The Secretary informed all the members about the felicitations received by the members during this year:

Dr Ashish Suri for being put on the academic roll of IIT Delhi as adjunct professor.

Dr Amaresh Deginal, Neurosurgeon at Bagalkot, Karnataka has been selected as Editor of International Journal of Clinical and Diagnostic Research, neuro section from February 2014.

Prof. (Dr.) Bibhukalyani Das has received the Lifetime Achievement Award of Indian Society for Study of Pain (ISSP) for the year 2014

Prof Dr V Nagaraajan have been awarded the National Distinguished Teacher Award, from the Association of Physicians of India, which is a prestigious single national award, for the year 2013, and awarded during February of 2014, during APICON function at Ludhiana.

Dr P Sarat Chandra, has been elected as the President Elect of Asian Epilepsy Surgery Society (AESC)

All the members applauded for the achievements of the members.

- **2014/Dec/GB/04: Ratification of the Minutes of EC Meetings & Secretary's Report**

Dr RC Mishra, Secretary NSI presented a brief report of the activities done during the year and expressed his thanks to all the members for their continued faith, support, guidance, co-operation and counseling to manage the day to day issues of society administration. He also expressed his gratefulness to the colleagues in the Executive committee for very qualified support to discharge his duties in the last year as a secretary of the society.

He mentioned that academic participation of the members has increased in manifolds and we had received more abstracts than previous years, an all time high of 246. Guest login key

worked very well and added 30 members to its credit. Scientific chairman and President Elect Prof B S Sharma charted the scientific programme with the increased number of hours and number of participants.

He said that the year has been very eventful and the society could manage to keep up the pace because of e-communication.

The problem of last minute membership trailed by abstract submission had also been resolved with guest login for abstract submission has fetched around 30 abstracts and almost the same number of members have joined the society. He felt it was time to acknowledge the communication speed and changing scenario.

He brought to the attention of the general body that the Central Office has been working efficiently and concept of having CEO is giving its dividend.

He acknowledged the central office for updating the database very comprehensively and in proportion to the co-operation by members. He exhorted further co-operation of the members to upgrade it. Presently it is being updated on a regular basis and shall remain as a regular ongoing process.

He mentioned that the website affairs taken up by the central office under proper guidance and inputs are now bearing the results. With the suggestions of the members the updated website is active with suggested improvements and amendments. The website has now become more user friendly and updations become genuinely smooth. He urged that with the increasing usage of smart phones in our daily routine we shall have an android mobile database application accessible on mobile soon.

He sought further direction and deliberation from all the members to take the society to newer heights in terms of intra society management, its relationship with other societies in neurosciences at national and international level for academic pursuits and exchanges.

The report was approved by the general body.

The minutes of the last GBM and EC meetings were also ratified.

Proposed by Dr V G Ramesh and seconded by Dr B S Sharma.

2014/Dec/GB/05: – Central Office Report

The secretary informed the council that as per the decision by the EC and ratified by the GBM last year, the Central Office has been working efficiently. As far as purchasing a central office is concerned, the issue of place, price and property could not be resolved and yet to be worked out. The efforts are continuing for logical conclusion. The discussions went again back to the starting point of having or not having a permanent NSI office. Dr Mishra mentioned a lot of running expenses are involved in the running of permanent office. Dr Rajshekhar mentioned that until now Dr C Deopujari address has been used for the society address. A lot of paper work from the government agencies need a permanent address. Also expenditure has also to be made during the year. Deliberations were made. He mentioned that the council had

assigned Dr R C Mishra and Dr V P Singh to come out with a final proposal for the same in the next midterm EC at Chennai.

2014/Dec/GB/06: – Constitution Amendment

Dr Mishra mentioned that during the June newsletter it was published that:

As decided earlier the third amendment poll “One term on EC must to contest for the President Elect, Secretary and Treasurer” had received majority (64.7%) but could not clear 2/3rd majority. The EC decided to take the matter to GB as amendment notice. The following was notified in accordance with the EC decision.

Election for Office bearers

A candidate should have served a TERM in EC at some stage to be eligible to the election of President Elect, Secretary and Treasurer"

Explanation: There is no election for president. The President Elect takes over as President for next year. The member who goes for the post of officers should be aware of the day to day activities and decision making process in the management of the society. This amendment will take care of the lacuna existing in our constitution. Other eligibility criteria vide constitution No.9.1 subclause 1 through 4 shall remain the same.

Dr Rajshekhar explained the genesis and the reason for this amendment. Deliberations were made. Dr Turel shared his experience with the general body that he had no experience of the EC when he took over in the council. So the first year he struggled a bit with the working of the society. Dr B K Misra also mentioned his views that President Elect is to be seen as the leader of the society and it is not required that he should not have this criteria. This is also not followed in most other international societies. Dr Atul Goel mentioned that all elections in the society should be all inclusive. Dr Sampath Somanna also put his views that elections should not have this criteria. Dr Thomas Abraham also mentioned his views that we should leave the president elect for following this criteria. The secretary and treasurer should have the criteria to be followed. Dr SN Mathuriya also mentioned his views that secretary should have the experience and the criteria should be followed. He also mentioned that grievances should not lead to breakup or heartburn in the society.

Dr Sundar also presented his views and asked for the basis of this amendment. Dr Rajshekhar explained that the intent and attempt is not to deny any member the opportunity to serve the society. It is only suggested that before we run we must learn how to walk.

Dr Deopujari mentioned that this is something which we have been discussing for the past few years and it has come for voting after lot of deliberations and getting a majority of about 65% during online voting. He urged that the merits of the amendment should be taken into consideration. He mentioned that most national societies have these norms.

Dr V P Singh deliberated that the online voting was not a decision. He suggested considering the sentiments of the house that the proposal may be taken up into parts. The first for the president elect and the other regarding the secretary and the treasurer.

Further deliberations were made by Dr Somanna, Dr Hemant Bhartiya, Dr S N Mathuriya, Dr Atul Goel and Dr Basant K Misra. The President mentioned that most of the members spoke against the motion, hence after the show of hands, the amendment was turned down. He further mentioned that if Dr V P Singh wants to bifurcate the amendment, he should send a proposal to the central office, which shall be printed as a notice in the January newsletter.

2014/Dec/GB/06: – Election Results

Dr B S Sharma mentioned that online polling was technically very successful and flawless and lot of dummy polls were conducted in the last year. Two constitutional amendments were passed on the basis of online poll resulting into creation of international membership and EC expansion.

The general elections were conducted online and concluded 48 hours ago. Total votes casted were 356. It has been flawless and has also upheld the sanctity of free and fair elections very much needed for a democratic society. He mentioned that these successful online activities have also given strength and paved the way for more e-interaction with members and we are hoping to make its use for well structured online educational programme and online self assessment portal.

The results are as follows:

Unopposed elected officers are

President Elect : Dr R C Mishra

Secretary : Dr V P Singh

EC Posts in Neurology

Dr Vinay Goyal and Dr Bhawna Sharma

Allied EC member

Dr Geeta Chacko

Treasurer : Dr Sarat P Chandra

EC Members

Dr Ashish Suri, Dr Suresh Sankhla, Dr Daljit Singh, Dr N Muthu Kumar, Dr S K Gupta, Dr Paritosh Pandey, Dr Mall Bhaskar Rao

The President congratulated all the new office bearers of Neurological Society of India.

2014/Dec/GB/07: – Vision Statement – Guidelines and Roadmap

Dr B S Sharma presented his vision of the future. He said that in the field of Training, Education and Patient Care we must take our neighbor countries together. We wish to extend education and training programme to them so that their patients can be served in their own countries by training their residents and neurosurgeons with our infrastructure and senior fraternity. He also proposed to open a chapter for SAARC countries on a lesser fee for members from those countries and encourage their participation in NSI activities.

Dr Atul Goel was of the view that we should increase our members rather than expanding to SAARC countries, whole world or humanity. Dr B K Misra mentioned that the time has come to take the leadership and we should take the vision. A new concept of corresponding membership was also put up. This is good for the members to get recognition. Dr S N Mathuriya also appreciated the idea and believed that whatever can be done should be done to them.

2014/Dec/GB/08: – Education cell report

Dr C E Deopujari presented the Education cell report. He mentioned that the 5th course was held at Bangur Institute Kolkata and the 6th NSI Educational Course was held at Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Lucknow under the stewardship of Prof Sanjay Behari. Dr Arun Kumar Srivastava. Among the NSI office bearers Prof R C Mishra, Secretary, NSI, Prof C E Deopujari, chairman, NSI Education Cell and Prof Deepu Banerji, Treasurer, NSI attended the Course as faculty. Prof V Rajshekhar of CMC, Vellore was also a faculty. The courses were attended by 30 candidates each from all over India.

Didactic lectures were conducted and MCQs were introduced. He also mentioned that boot camp like foundation course is also being introduced in January 2015. The sponsorships will continue for 2 more years. This foundation course for freshers is being organized for the first time. He mentioned that we are hoping to develop this idea into a Neurosurgical Education Foundation in the near future.

The Executive Committee (EC) of the NSI felt the need to constitute a Board of Education which would oversee the academic activities of the NSI. It is being proposed for the formation of board of education. Subsequently the Board needs to be constituted with input from Convener and Co-Conveners and from EC members which have been conducting the academic activities of the NSI.

The objectives of the foundation shall be as follows :

- Look after the academic activities of the resident members and full members of the NSI other than the national conference.
- Do the selection process for the various travelling fellowships offered by the NSI for the resident members by conducting selection tests and interviews.
- Conduct of mock exams and instructional courses for the residents
- Conduct of CMEs, workshops and updates for the member of NSI

- Create a uniform Neurosurgery curriculum across the country.
- To create e-learning portal for the NSI.
- To approve and co-ordinate pre conference activities.
- Superspecialty fellowships

Dr Sarat Chandra mentioned the hard work done for the uniform neurosurgery curriculum. Resolved to send the details to all MCH and DNB program directors for open discussion. It was resolved that it shall be put on the website for the next 3-6 months. Dr Rajkumar, Dr Sanjay Behari also discussed on the issue. Dr Sanjay briefed about the details of course conducted in Lucknow. Dr B K Misra mentioned we have to be very careful to issue certificates. He also discussed regarding shifting the dates of the annual conference to avoid clashing the dates with exams.

- **2014/Dec/GB/09: Treasurer's Report by Dr Deepu Banerji**

Dr Deepu Banerji presented the Treasurer's Report. He thanked all the members including EC at the end of his 3 year term. He informed the meeting that this year quite a large number of members have joined the society. He showed the list of all the members who had applied. He informed that a total of 204 new member applications were received out of which 54 were life members, 150 associate member applications were received.

He also informed the house about the expenses of the year. The details of the same were given in the balance sheet which showed a detail of incomes and expenditures of NSI.

The Audited account could not be submitted due to technical reason related to service tax and same will be printed in the News Letter.

The report was approved by the general body. Proposed by Keki Turel seconded by Prof. V. G. Ramesh.

Dr R C Mishra also briefed the details of WFNS (I) Trust. He mentioned that 29 members have received fellowships and 2 members have received international fellowship.

- **2014/Dec/GB/10 – CME conveners Report**

Dr V P Singh presented the GB with the updated CME report. Dr Singh informed that the CME has already been conducted on 12th December 2014.

He briefed that the pattern of the CME is being kept the same – with a common session followed by concurrent pediatric neurosurgery and neurology sessions covering advances, controversies and evidence based neurosciences. Aim has been to induct people who have not spoken before. The CME book has been published by Thieme Publishers. He thanked all the members for their support.

Dr Bhartiya wanted to know who all can participate in the CME. Dr Singh mentioned that he had mainly selected people who had not spoken in the last six years

2014/December/GB/11 - Editor's Report

Dr J M K Murthy presented the editors report before the GB on the **performance and finances of the journal in the past one year.**

Dr J M K Murthy mentioned that this was the last year of his editorship. The journal has made steady progress in the last six years in all the performance indices. There is a steady growth in the number of submissions. The number of submissions in the year 2008 was 527 and it was 1215 as on 7-12-2014, a growth of more than 100%. This is in spite of low acceptance rate of about 20%. The journal gets submissions from all the six continents, mostly from Asian countries. There is steady decline in the number of articles withdrawn, in the year 2008 it was 38 and in the year 2014 till date only 3 articles are withdrawn. This data indicate the high visibility of the journal and also the confidence the authors have in the review process of the journal. The journal has attained International Journal status and particularly for Asian countries.

There is steady improvement in the impact factor of the journal, when he took over it was about 0.5 and the impact factor for the year 2014 is 1.084. This was in spite of 75% increase in the number of manuscripts published. He was optimistic that the impact factor will further improve for the year 2013 and 2014.

During these six years the journal also did well in the financial front. He was able to raise about 40% of costs incurred in publishing and posting. The auditor had not charged for auditing the editor's accounts during these six years.

He thanked the members of Neurological Society of India in reposing complete faith in him during these six years of his editorship and to the previous and the present Executive Committees for their unstinted support and liberal financial assistance. He also thanked the reviewers and the associated editors and the members of editorial board. Some of the reviewers had done review of about 200 articles. He mentioned that he might have disappointed some of the members by rejecting some of their articles that might have merited possible publication but it was not intentional and was purely based on the scientific content of the article and the limited number of available pages.

He wished all the success to Dr Sanjay Behari and blessed him to take the journal to newer heights.

Dr Atul Goel mentioned that in 2008 the impact factor was 1.32 and now it is 1.08.

The GB acknowledged the contribution of Dr J M K Murthy and Dr Atul Goel and the report was unanimously approved.

2014/Dec/GB/12 - NSICON 2014

Dr V Rajesh Babu Organizing Secretary presented his report on NSICON 2014 held from 12th to 15th December 2014 at Coimbatore. He informed that on 11th preconference workshops was organized which was very successful. He thanked the audio visual and other people who have made the conference a success. He hoped rest of the conference will be smooth. The numbers of registrations have crossed 650 and 95 neuro-nurses. The President thanked Dr Rajesh Babu for his efforts and the most impressive thing was that every member of Coimbatore Neurological Society participated in a great manner.

The GB was appreciative of the efforts of Dr Rajesh Babu and his team.

2014/Dec/GB/13 - NSICON 2015

Dr Manas Panigrahi Organizing Secretary updated on the progress of NSICON 2015 to be held from 17th to 20th December 2015 at Hyderabad, United States of Andhra. He informed that there were committees had been formed, auditors had been selected and necessary procedures were being and taken care of. The Brochure has already been launched during NSICON 2014 and early bird registration started with a special rate during the conference. He also informed that website has also started and online payment gateway is active. He welcomed the members and also urged the members to register in large numbers. He invited all the members and informed that the co-organizing secretary is Dr Sita Jayalakshmi. The venue shall be the HICC which is a very famous convention centre and one of its kind in south Asia. Reaching Hyderabad is very convenient from all over India, very well connected to all parts of the country. There are a lot of rooms in the venue and also nearby.

Dr V P Singh mentioned that Twin cities society is organizing the conference. It was emphasized that Twin cities society shall only be the hosting society and the same should be mentioned in the upcoming brochures.

The GB was satisfied with the preparations.

- **2014/Dec/GB/14 - NSICON 2016**

Dr V G Ramesh presented the report on NSICON 2016 on behalf of the organizers. He mentioned that the arrangements for the conference are in process. The venue has already been finalized as ITC Grand Chola. The dates are on the website.

- **2014/Dec/GB/14 - Symposia for 2016**

The Secretary informed about the bids for symposia for the annual conference 2016 at Chennai. There were multiple bids for the neurology, allied, rehabilitation and neurosurgery symposia and during the annual conference 2016 at Chennai the following symposiums shall be conducted.

Neurology Rehab.: Need and role of Neurorehabilitation after the neurological disability

Convener: Dr Nirmal Surya, Mumbai

Neurosurgery Symposium: Management of Pain

Convener: Dr Deepak Agarwal

Dr Atul mentioned that interesting topics should be selected in future for symposiums. Dr V Rajshekhar mentioned that Pain is a very relevant topic and rehabilitation is also very important. They may not be very glamorous but are of much relevance.

- **2014/Dec/GB/14 - NSICON 2017**

Dr Mishra informed the GB that four bids for NSICON 2017 were received. All were in proper format and with the documents. Two bids were very close and conferences were recently held in Jaipur and Delhi. He mentioned that only Ahmedabad has presented his case in the EC. Nagpur shall present during the second EC and after that the decision shall be taken. Dr Hemant Bhartiya mentioned that last year he was the only bidder present during the EC but was not allowed to present. Dr Rajshekhar clarified that to shorten the process these two cities have been given a chance since they have not hosted the annual conference from decades. The GB agreed on the same.

- **2014/Dec/GB/15 – Any Other matters**

Dr Rajshekhar asked if there are any other matters.

Dr S N Mathuriya mentioned that this year there were problems regarding tariff of the venue and Clarion hotels. He mentioned that EC should look into this fact and there should not be any discrepancy in the rates. Dr Rajshekhar mentioned that this was correct and it is not acceptable and the EC has now been decided that in future it will not get repeated. Dr Thomas also mentioned the reasons of the extortion done by the hotels for the conference due to block bookings done by SUN Pharma. He mentioned that the EC should have taken over and changed the venue of the conference. Dr Deopujari mentioned that the 3 bid should have the rates at the time of bidding. Dr Sarat P Chandra mentioned that the rates should be sealed on a stamp paper with the venue hotel.

Dr Atul Goel mentioned about the upcoming Asia Australasia Society of Neurological Surgeons (AASNS) meeting to be held in 2019. It has been long since India bid for this meeting and suggested that a bid should be made this time. Dr Basant Misra mentioned that NSI will have no control over the conference as there is a set PCO who will take care of the conference. He also mentioned that there is a good chance of getting this meeting in India. The GB wholeheartedly agreed and decided to support and nominate Dr Basant K Misra for this conference.

Dr Manas Panigrahi mentioned that there should be a permanent conference organizer for NSICONs.

- **2013/Dec/GB/27 - Vote of Thanks**

Dr V Rajshekhar thanked the members for their kind support throughout the meeting. He apologized that during these nine years if anyone got emotionally hurt. The meeting was then adjourned after applauding the efforts of council and office bearers. The GB also thanked Dr V Rajesh Babu for the hard work and organizing a wonderful conference.

Long live NSI.

TARIFF FOR ADVERTISEMENTS IN THE NEWSLETTER

Back Cover (Last)	Coloured	Rs. 50,000/-
Any Page Inside (Full)	Coloured	Rs. 40,000/-
Shared Page Advertisement 2 on 1	Coloured	Rs. 30,000/-
Shared Page Advertisement 3 on 1	Coloured	Rs. 20,000/-

Membership Dues

The Executive Committee shall display all dues for different categories of members. These decisions will be implemented with the concurrence of the General Body. Membership shall be counted from 1st January to 31st December or 1st June to 31st May (depending on when the member was admitted) for purposes of annual subscriptions.

Members who have not paid their subscription by 31st December or 31st May shall be sent a registered acknowledgement due notice by the Treasurer of the Society giving them till 31st March or 31st August to clear all outstanding dues. Non-payment of subscription by 31st March or 31st August would result in removal of the member's name from the rolls.

Website www.neurosocietyindia.org

NSI website is in the process of being revamped and made more functional & appealing. All members, institutions may forward their URL identity & emails immediately to the webmaster at saratpchandra@gmail.com (with a copy to the secretary at secretary@neurosocietyindia.org so that data may be updated.