

GBM Meeting 18th December 2015 Hyderabad

Call to order: Dr. BS Sharma, the President, NSI called the meeting to order and asked the Secretary NSI Dr. V. P. Singh to conduct the proceedings.

1. Obituary

Dr. V. P. Singh informed about the sad demise of 7 senior members of NSI this year. They were Dr. R. N. Verma, Dr. Subimal Roy, Dr. Jawahar Dar, Dr. S. P. Agrawal, Dr. Sanjeev Sinha, Dr. G. M. Taori and Dr. Chandramouli Shah. The members of the General Body stood in silence for a minute to pay their homage to the departed souls.

2. Congratulations

Dr. V. P. Singh informed the General Body that congratulations are due to Dr. Basant Misra who has been elected the President of the Asian Australasian Society of Neurological Surgeons (AASNS). The GB applauded the achievement of Dr. Misra.

Dr. V. P. Singh then informed the General Body that Dr. Ashish Suri has been enrolled as the youngest Fellow of the National Academy of Medical Sciences (India), selected for National Bioscience Award 2014 – DBT and made an adjunct professor at IIT. The General Body applauded the achievements of Dr. Ashish Suri.

3. Ratification of the Minutes of last GBM

Dr. V. P. Singh informed the general body that the minutes of the last GBM in Coimbatore were circulated to the members in the January 2015 Newsletter. The minutes of the GBM were passed unanimously. Proposed by Dr. V. S. Mehta and seconded by Dr. K. Sridhar.

4. Secretary's Report

Dr. V. P. Singh informed that as of 11th December 2015 there are 2785 members of NSI - out of which 1828 are full members and 957 are associate members. This year there are 34 new full members, 184 new associate members and 21 associate members have converted to full membership. He informed that the number of associate members is very high and those associate members who have completed their specialty training have been requested to convert their membership to full – failing which their associate membership would be terminated.

He informed the GB about the academic activities of the society during the year. The first activity was the WFNS-NSI Education Course which was held from the 23rd to 25th January, 2015 at Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Lucknow. It was followed by the Foundation and Instructional Courses in Bengaluru. He explained that a

new Foundation Course has been started for the 1st year trainees which gives them training about the basics of neurosciences. The next activity was the Cadaver Spine Workshop in February. Another foundation and instructional course was conducted at GB Pant, New Delhi in August. Lastly there was the NSI-CNS Stimulation Course right before this NSICON.

He informed about the series of friendship meetings throughout the year. The Russian society had invited an NSI delegation to their meeting in Kazan in June 2015 and their team is now attending the NSICON at Hyderabad. The French speaking Neurosurgeons had attended the NSICON 2014 at Coimbatore and had invited the NSI delegation of 7 members to Paris in end November for the reciprocal meeting. The Saudi Arabian Neurosurgical Society has invited a 3 member delegation to Riyadh in March 2016 as part of the reciprocal Pan Arab Society initiative who had attended the NSICON two years ago. The CNS has invited the NSI Delegation to their spine meeting to be held in Orlando in March 2016. The Society of British Neurological Surgeons (SBNS) has tentatively accepted our invitation to have a friendship meeting at Chennai in 2016 and the NSI delegation will be attending their meeting the same year. For 2017 we have an agreement with the South African Neurosurgical Society to have joint meetings in Durban in 2017 and NSICON Nagpur. Dr. V. P. Singh was happy to announce that for the first time the Asian Australasian Congress of Neurological Surgeons (AACNS) will be held in India in 2019 with Dr. Basant Misra as the Congress President and Dr. B S Sharma as the organizing chairman.

He then informed the general body about the new proposals that have been initiated this year. A Women in Neurosciences Forum has been started and will be holding their first meeting during the NSICON. There has also been a meeting with officials of the various neurosurgical sub-specialty Societies to come together and form a loose association. There would be collaboration to sort out dates of various society meetings and jointly plan the scientific programs. The response received was very positive and he hoped to have such meetings in future also.

In addition a Subspecialty CME has been proposed to involve the young neurosurgeons- those full members who have completed their MCh/DNB and are less than 40 years of age. This CME would cover a different subspecialty every year. There would be 80 to 100 members attending and there would be a national faculty of 8-10 people and at most one foreign faculty. All the arrangements for the travel and accommodation for both the delegates and faculty will be taken care of by NSI with the help of an educational grant promised by Intas Pharma.

After finishing his report Dr. V. P. Singh invited suggestions or comments from members. Dr. Atul Goel enquired about the selection criteria for the NSI delegates who go for the international friendship meetings, who pays for their travel and accommodation and why

general members of NSI were not invited to participate in their personal capacity. Dr. V. P. Singh explained the selection criteria for the official delegation– one or two office bearers from the EC – the President, the Secretary or the President Elect, one or two members from the EC, the member who had initiated contact with the foreign society and one or two members from the general body. The final selection was made by the international liaison committee which was formed by the EC. The travel expenses for these delegates are borne by the delegates themselves and NSI does not bear any expenditure. The local hospitality is borne by the inviting society. He clarified that information regarding these friendship meetings was published in the newsletters and communication was also sent to the members requesting them to attend these friendship meetings. Members wanted that a mass mail should also be sent to them in the future so that more members can attend. They were informed that this was already being done - however members were asked to check in their spam folder as a lot of mass mails end up there.

Dr. Atul Goel further enquired that despite being a very senior teacher - why was he not invited as a faculty for any teaching program. He was reminded that he was indeed a faculty in the Lucknow course. Dr. V. P. Singh further informed that the faculty for the foundation and the instructional courses are usually local faculty from the city conducting the course.

Suggestions were made to invite the sub-specialty societies to have one hour sessions in parallel halls. Dr. V. P. Singh informed that the various Societies would not like to merge their meetings with the NSI but their office bearers are already helping out in preparing the scientific program for the last couple of years and hoped to further the process in the coming times.

5. Treasurer's Report

Dr. Sarat Chandra, Treasurer NSI presented the Treasurer's Report for this year and briefed the General Body regarding the various expenses and revenues of the society. He thanked the organizers of NSICON 2013 for the generous contribution to NSI. He also informed the general body that the accounts of NSICON 2014, Coimbatore are yet to be audited. Suggestion was made that the corpus for each activity like the orations should be kept separately and interest accrued from them should be used for the orations only. It was decided the CA would be consulted and appropriate action taken. The general body asked the Treasurer to make a more detailed Treasurer's report as per standard format.

6. Editor's Report

Dr. Sanjay Behari presented the Editor's Report for the year 2015. He informed the general body that all the 6 issues of the journal this year were published in time and the process has being streamlined. Now the issues are out on the website in the first week of the cycle and distributed by the end of the first month. This year there were significant numbers of

hits on the website also. He urged the members to visit the website more. He further explained that the cover page of the journal now has a theme - it includes a main photograph highlighting India and taken by a neuroscientist and two photographs from articles in that issue as insets. The criteria for selecting the photograph are that it has to highlight our country and should not be religious or institutional. It should also have a very high pixel rate to be prominent on the cover page. He invited the members to send in their photographs for the same.

He also informed about the other initiatives that are being started for Neurology India like; Editorial debates, Cents (Concepts, Ergonomics, Nuances, Therbligs, Shortcomings), Commentary on a technique or procedure, Pathology panorama, The quest, Citadels sculpting future, the Fourth dimension and Journey through the eons. These features will enhance the content of Neurology India. He urged the members to contribute such features to the journal. He also outlined the performance and the impact factor of the journal.

He informed the GB that a new contract has been signed with Medknow, the publishers of Neurology India for the next 6 years. He urged the members to bring in advertisements to the journal to make it self-sufficient. He informed that efforts were being made to streamline the process of distribution of the journal and to update the database of members. Unfortunately there are many members who have not updated their email addresses or their pin codes- which are mandatory for the postal distribution and urged them to do so.

He then informed the general body regarding his future plans for the journal. He proposed to start a video library from 1st January 2016 on the journal website and Dr. Ashish Suri will be looking after it. Dr. V. Rajshekhar will be taking the responsibility of starting webinars on the journal's website. He also informed that two text books have also being proposed by senior neurologists of the society. He finally asked for the support of all the members to take the journal to greater heights.

The general body was appreciative of the efforts of Dr. Sanjay Behari in streamlining the journal and passed his report unanimously.

7. CME Convener Report

Dr. V. P. Singh informed the general body that despite some major personal issues Dr. Muthukumar had specifically come to conduct the CME. The General Body was appreciative of the efforts of Dr. Muthukumar and Dr. Vinay Goyal for the excellent CME and passed the CME report unanimously. Dr. V. P. Singh informed the general body that this year the society was able to get an education grant from Intas Pharma and were able to publish the CME book without any cost to the society.

8. Education Cell Report

Dr. C. E. Deopujari presented the Education Cell Report. He informed the general body that the education grant has now doubled with the introduction of the Instructional and Foundation courses for the students. The foundation courses which were discussed in the general body meeting last year has now being started with some lectures on basic topics followed by practical table demonstrations. The instructional courses have case discussions in the form of presentation of long and short cases followed by exam modules. The students are also sent their results of the MCQ so that they can get an idea about their performance. The responses for these education courses have been very good and are being arranged very well by the organizers. The next course is being conducted by Dr. Vernon Velho at Grant Medical College Mumbai in January 2016. He also informed the general body that feedback about the faculty of these courses is also being taken from the attendees.

9. Board of Education formation

Dr. C. E. Deopujari explained the concept behind the formation of the Board of Education. The concept came about during the conduct of the education courses during the last couple of years and from the proposal received from Dr. V. G. Ramesh regarding the uniform neurosurgery curriculum for MCh / DNB. The board of education will be involved in the conduct of the education activities of the society namely the foundation and instructional courses for the residents and the conduct of CMEs, workshops and updates for the members of NSI. The board will also be involved in the formulation of the neurosurgery curriculum.

Dr. V. P. Singh then informed the general body regarding the selection of members for the board and informed that nominations were invited from the members of the society. There was one application received for the Chairman, Board of Education from Dr. V. Rajshekhar who was selected as the Chairman. There were two nominations as members from Dr. V. G. Ramesh and Dr. Malla Bhaskar Rao. He informed that there is a need for more nominations and invited the members to send in their nominations. The final board will be constituted by the select committee of office bearers as defined.

Dr. V. P. Singh reported on the common Neurosurgery curriculum which has being designed with efforts from Dr VG Ramesh and Dr Sarat Chandra who had organized a meeting of senior teachers to come to a consensus. This was circulated to all the members and put up on the website for suggestions. The suggestions received were incorporated and sent to the MCI for consideration. The MCI has responded and informed that the same cannot be incorporated as there is already a curriculum for Neurosurgery Training. They informed that the whole curriculum cannot be changed and asked for suggestions regarding the portions which NSI wants to change. Dr VG Ramesh and Dr Sarat Chandra have been requested to look into it.

10. Legal Cell Report

Dr. Daljit Singh the convener of legal cell appraised that the legal cell has been formed with the objectives to provide knowledge of Consumer Protection Act to the members, to practice safe medicine ethically so as to minimize the risk of litigations and to guide members in case of litigations against them. The legal cell will include one member from each major zone of India with maximum of 11 consultants including Neurosurgeon, Neurologist, Neuroanaesthetist, Neuropathologist, Neuroradiologist, a lawyer and a medico-legal expert. Dr. V. P. Singh further clarified that the views of the legal cell will not be binding on the court; however it is likely to have some influence in avoiding harassment in courts/council.

11. Elections Results & Awards Announcements

The President Elect, Dr. R. C. Mishra reported on the elections for the post of President Elect this year. The election notification was given to all the members in due time in June through mass mails and notification in the newsletter. There were two nominations received from Dr. Deepu Banerji and Dr. V. G. Ramesh. The online election process started on 10th November 2015 and ended on 15th December 2015. Two election observers were appointed Dr. V. S. Mehta and Dr. Girish Menon to oversee the process of elections. He informed that Dr. Deepu Banerji has been elected as the President Elect of NSI.

12. International Travel Fellowship Program

Dr. V. P. Singh informed that there are a few international travel fellowships available for members. This year no valid applications were received. He invited members to avail the fellowships and urged them to visit the NSI Website for the details.

13. Website Report

Dr. V. P. Singh informed the general body that the website is functional and a new academic area has been introduced on the website under the guidance of Dr. Malla Bhaskar Rao. Dr. V. P. Singh invited all the members to visit the area and to send in suggestions and material to be uploaded on the same.

14. Permanent Central Office

Dr. V. P. Singh informed the members of general body that the discussion regarding the permanent central office has been going on for a long time now and the executive council has looked into various options and has decided that it would not serve any purpose to buy a property anywhere. There is already an office functioning under Mr. Navneet Arora and the council was of the decision to have his office as the permanent office and the official communication address. The legal formalities for the same have been initiated and that address will be the address from where the income tax and other legal things will be filed from. In case there is a change in the central office of the society then the legal formalities

for the change will then have to be initiated again. At present Dr. Deopujari's address is the society's address. The general body approved the proposal unanimously.

15. NSICON 2015 Hyderabad

Dr. Manas Panigrahi thanked all the members of the society for the response given to NSICON 2015. He expressed that the organizing committee was not involved in the making of the scientific program, nor were any proposals accepted from them. Dr. R. C. Mishra informed that according to the bye laws - the scientific committee headed by the President Elect is in charge of formulating the scientific program and the same has been going on for the last many years. He emphasized that he himself had asked the organizers to send him a list of members whom they would like to be made chairpersons. Dr. Manas Panigrahi suggested that the scientific program should be made in conjunction with the organizing committee of NSICON. Dr. V Rajshekhar was of the opinion that all the elements of the scientific program are already pre decided and the chairman scientific committee only places the abstracts received in various sessions. It is only the breakfast sessions that are the prerogative of the President Elect. Discussions were made regarding the same. It was decided that the social program as well as the luncheon symposiums are to be under the local organizing committee, whereas the Scientific Program will continue to remain with the President Elect.

Dr. V. P. Singh suggested that there have been very few members bidding for the symposia. He suggested that the symposia may be decided by the President - who otherwise has no say in the Scientific program.

16. NSICON 2016 Chennai

Dr. K. Sridhar on behalf of the organizing committee welcomed the members of the society to NSICON 2016. He informed that the conference will be held from 15th to 18th of December 2016 and the theme for the conference would be "Heritage to Modernity, an inspiring saga". He expressed that Chennai is not what has sunken below by the floods but what has risen from them. He presented a video on Chennai and informed that the registrations have already started in Hyderabad.

17. NSICON 2017 Nagpur

Dr. V. P. Singh informed that for logistic reasons the dates of the conference have been changed to 30th November to 3rd of December. Dr. Shyam Babhulkar informed that Nagpur is the central point of our country and very well accessible by air, rail and road. He informed the general body that the venue of the conference would be Hotel Centre Point which has all the amenities to hold a national conference. There are about 8 hotels adjacent to the venue to cater to the accommodation requirements of the delegates.

18. NSICON 2018

Dr. V. P. Singh informed the general body that bids were invited for NSICON 2018 and there were three bids from Udaipur, Jaipur and Ludhiana. The bids were scrutinized and all three were found to be invalid. The primary reason was that the bids have to come from the local Neuro-Club and all three bids did not fulfill this criterion. The EC had suggested that the bids have to be invited again through the January Newsletter by 31st March and then the decision regarding the same can be taken. This was approved by the general body.

19. AASNS 2019 in Mumbai

Dr. V. P. Singh informed that for the first time Asian Australasian Society of Neurological Surgeons (AASNS) Congress is going to be held in India in 2019 and it has been decided to hold the same in conjunction with NSICON 2019. He further informed that the details regarding the conference are being worked out.

20. Awards

A proposal from Dr. Chitra Sarkar regarding instituting an award in the name of Dr. Subimal Roy had been accepted by the executive council. They proposed a Dr. Subimal Roy award for the best paper in Allied Neurosciences in Neurology India for a period of 5 years. Dr. V. P. Singh put forth the proposal to the general body for approval. The general body did not approve institution of this award and was of the consensus that no more awards should be instituted till a committee of the President and two Immediate Past Presidents formulate guidelines for new awards.

21. Any other matter with the permission of the chair

There was an inquiry from the general body regarding an advertisement in the newspaper regarding starting of a 6 month neurosurgery course by AIIMS. Dr. B. S. Sharma clarified regarding the issue.

Dr. K. Sridhar suggested that the GBM should start at 5 PM so that it finishes on time – but this was not accepted because of constraints of time.

22. Vote of Thanks

Dr. V. P. Singh proposed a vote of thanks to the local organizers for organizing a wonderful conference and hospitality.

Dr. B. S. Sharma thanked the members for having a fruitful discussion and closed the meeting.