

**MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN SGPGI, LUCKNOW
ON 23 AND 24 MAY 2009**

The meeting was attended by Dr. V. K. Khosla, Dr. S. K. Prabhakar, Dr. V. Rajshekhar, Dr. C. E. Deopujari, J M K Murthy, Dr. Deepu Banerji, Dr. R. C. Mishra, Dr. Apoorva Pauranik, Dr. M. A. Aleem, Dr. V. S. Mehta, Dr. B. K. Misra. Dr. N. Khandelwal sent his apologies for not being able to attend the meeting.

Dr. V. K. Khosla, President, Neurological Society of India chaired the meeting.

- 2009/May/EC/01 The meeting was called to order by the President
- 2009/May/EC/02 *Secretary's report and action taken on minutes of last executive committee meeting.*
- 2009/May/EC/02 A *Condolence letters* have been sent to the family of deceased members Dr. Setti S. Rengachary and Dr. Yoshio Suzuki.
- 2009/May/EC/02 B *Minutes of the EC meeting Dec'08* at Pune as published in the Feb 2009 newsletter were passed.
- 2009/May/EC/02 C *CME credit* to members participating in educational activities: As of now there are no federal regulations or requirements. A few state medical councils have put in place an early system to recognize and give CME hours of credit. A need was felt to put in place a coherent, systemic, scientific and reliable method of certifying the CME hours earned by a member. A committee has been constituted - Dr.V.Rajshekhar, Dr.JMK Murthy, Dr.C.Deopujari and Dr.A.Pauranik which will submit its report in 2 months. In the meantime Dr. Rajkumar and R.C.Mishra will approach U.P.Medical council so that delegates attending and participating in forthcoming annual conference at SGPGI Lucknow may be awarded CME credits even though currently there are no statutory needs. The NSI has decided to take a lead in this matter.
- 2009/May/EC/02 D *An electronic letterhead* has been designed by the Office of Secretary for use of office bearers of NSI to cut costs and facilitate uniform correspondence (e-mails etc.).
- 2009/May/EC/02 E *Allied Neurosciences award.* In the Pune EC meeting it was decided to name this award after Dr. Bisaria. Rs.6 lakhs has been received towards the award and this will be implemented from the 2009 conference. All awards will carry a cash honorarium of Rs.5000 and a citation.
- 2009/May/EC/02 F *Constitutional Amendment*
Eligibility to become member of EC (additional requirement) - passed by the General Body in Pune in December 2008.
Members desirous of becoming EC members should have attended at least 2 out of the last 5 NSI annual conferences. They should present the attendance certificates for at least 2 annual conferences. It will become operative for elections in the year 2014.
It was recommended that an updated version of constitution and bye laws should be printed in hard copy every 5 years, in addition to being constantly updated on website so as to incorporate all cumulative changes over a period of time.
- 2009/May/EC/02 G *Prize papers for Lucknow conference*
Award (Prize) Papers for annual conference must be received on or before 15th

August 2009. A Scientific committee will then short list 3 papers in each category for Award presentation in the plenary session. The non-selected prize papers will be shifted to free paper session.

2009/May/EC/02 H

Honoring senior members of NSI members above 75 years of age

Honoring senior members older than 75 years of age by nomination will be subject to the following guidelines:

- Nominee should have been a Life member of NSI for more than 20 years
- Nominee should have contributed to the following NSI and academic activities (any two of the following)
 - a. Served as an Executive Committee member
 - b. Delivered talks (2 or more) in NSI CME program
 - c. Delivered an honorary lecture or oration at the NSI annual conference
 - d. Been a faculty of a teaching programme for 5 years
 - e. Published at least five full length articles in indexed journals

The call for nomination will be published in the June Newsletter of the NSI every year for the members to be honored in the Annual Conference of that year.

The nomination should be proposed and seconded by Life Members of the NSI.

Each year maximum number of senior fellows to be honored will not be more than 5.

The Executive Committee will make the final decision.

Local hospitality, complimentary registration and a plaque will be presented.

Proposed by Dr.B.K.Misra and seconded by Dr.C.E.Deopujari

2009/May/EC/03

Treasurer's report

New members added since December 2008:

Life members - 30; Associate members - 18

Membership fee cheque should come from personal funds of the applicant and not from any commercial sponsor.

80-G income tax exemption renewal has to be applied for again.

Chartered accountant fee and salary for secretary to Treasurer and Secretary were approved.

Date of Life membership will be from the date of General Body meeting at the Annual conference of that year. However, once the membership is approved by the Executive Committee the approved member will be eligible to present a paper at that annual conference.

The report was accepted. Proposed by Dr. R.C.Mishra and seconded by Dr.V.S.Mehta

2009/May/EC/04

Editor's Report

Dr. JMK Murthy presented the Editor's report.

Of the 527 manuscripts submitted in the year 2008, 212 manuscripts were pending with the Editor for peer-review process when I took over as the Editor. All of these manuscripts were processed expeditiously and a decision was arrived at in regard to 176 (83%) manuscripts. Still 9 manuscripts were pending with the reviewers and 27 manuscripts were sent to the authors for revision.

After I took over as the Editor, there were 302 submissions as on 22.5.09. A decision was arrived at in regard to 266 (88%) manuscripts: rejected - 146 (48%); withdrawn - 8 (2.6%), revision/re-revision - 44 (14.5%), accepted or in the final phases of acceptance - 68 (22.5%). Thirty-six (12%) manuscripts are with the reviewers.

Several systems were introduced to reduce the time interval between submission and decision process. This has resulted in considerable reduction in the time taken at arriving decision, 3 - 4 weeks.

Now the journal is bimonthly. We have already brought out two issues and the third issue is in preparation. We will be going to have advanced preparation of the PDF file of the accepted articles very shortly. Shortly we will be having advanced e-publication of important articles.

I have introduced a new feature 'Indian Perspective'. Under this feature, the contribution of Indian Neurologists and Neurosurgeons will be reviewed. Each issue will have two editorials, neurology and neurosurgery one each. There will be two review articles, neurology and neurosurgery one each. We may be introducing some new features in due course of time.

As the numbers of issues are increased from four to six and also the number of pages, the journal needs liberal assistance from the Society. Each issue will cost Rs 200,000 for printing and Rs 40,000 for mailing. The total expenditure for annum will be about Rs 1,500,000. We print 2100 copies for each issue. The dues to be paid to the publisher are Rs 411, 232. There is a balance of Rs 346,615 in the old account. I have yet to get the financial statement from Dr Atul Goel.

We got one advertisement for the first issue and four advertisements for the second issue. I am trying to get as many advertisements as possible from the pharmaceutical companies. I need the help of senior neurosurgeons to get advertisements from the surgical companies. I also request the neurologists for the same from the pharmaceutical companies. We should raise about Rs 100,000 for each issue from advertisements.

I also wish to archive all the issues from 1952 and make the articles available at the journal website. It is a big project and needs finances. I need the approval of

Performance for year

Year 2009	
Submitted to First Decision for the Year: 2009	
Number of Articles Submitted	302
Days to Suggest Reviewers	2.94 [0,70]
Days Taken by Reviewers	10.00 [0,41]
Days taken by Editor for Decision	5.09 [0,72]
Days until Paper is Under Review	18.03
Revisions for the Year: 2009	
Days from First Decision Until Revision Arrives	10.96 [0,45]
Days for Editor to take Decision	0.54 [0,2]
Articles Re-Reviewed	35
Days for Re-Review	5.13 [0,22]
Days to send Revision Decision by Editors	0.54 [0,2]
Days from Revision Receipt to Revision Decision	6.21
Accepted Papers for the Year: 2009	
Days from First Submission to Acceptance	30.31 [5,61]
Days from Acceptance to Publication	36.73 [17,77]

Present Status							
Article Phase	Original Article	Case Report	Neuroimage	View and Review	Letter to Editor	Others	Total
External Review	18	8	-	2	5	3	36
Decision	10	7	-	-	1	1	10
Revision	15	21	1	-	-	2	39
Rejected	35	74	1	4	19	13	146
Accepted	1	1	1	-	1	1	5
Published	1	1	-	-	1	8	11
Re-revision	5	-	-	-	-	-	5
External Re-review	5	3	-	-	-	-	8
Article Withdrawn	2	3	-	-	2	1	8
Technical Editing	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Pre-Accepted	-	1	-	-	1	1	3
Editor check	3	8	-	-	9	1	21
TOTAL	95	128	3	6	39	31	302

It was discussed whether to provide the option of e-subscription of journal without delivering the print version. No decision was taken.

Dr. Atul Goel to be asked to transfer balance amount from previous account.

2009/May/EC/05

CME convener's report

CME conveners' report was presented by Drs. Apoorva Pauranik and Deepu Banerji. They presented the topics and the speakers for the CME program to be held in Lucknow in December 2009.

Dr. Vedantam Rajshekhar - to be directly in touch with HH Dalai Lama's office to confirm the protocol for his talk during the CME of the Annual Conference in Lucknow, through Dr. Rajkumar, Org. Secretary of the Conference.

2009/May/EC/06

Webmaster's report

Dr. Rajshekhar presented the Webmaster's report. He reported that Chimera Technologies, Bangalore are now redesigning the NSI website and creating the new Abstract Centre for the Annual Conference abstract submission. He presented some visuals of the new website which should be incorporated in the website by mid-June. The space available on the website had to be increased to accommodate the increased activity on the website.

2009/May/EC/07

Venue of 2010 NSI Conference

There were 4 bids for annual conference in 2010. The bids were from Delhi, Mumbai, Jaipur and Hyderabad. The EC members voted unanimously for Jaipur. The 2010 Annual Conference is a joint meeting with the Congress of Neurological Surgeons, USA. The Organizing Secretary is Dr. H. Bagaria, SMS Medical College, Jaipur.

Discussion was held about inviting bids and deciding about venues of future conferences 3 years in advance. A Constitutional Amendment has to be made to enable this suggestion.

- 2009/May/EC/08** *Orators in Lucknow Conference*
 Dr. B. Ramamurthi Oration is to be delivered by Dr. Marc Sindou, Paris
 Dr. R. G. Ginde Orator has not been finalised.
- 2009/May/EC/09** *NSI delegates at the WFNS 2009* meeting in Boston.
 Since Dr. Khosla will not be attending the WFNS meeting in Boston, the delegates for the WFNS in Boston will be
 1. Dr. B.K.Misra and
 2. Dr. Vedantam Rajshekhar
- 2009/May/EC/10** *Financial assistance* from NSI to delegates attending the CNS meeting in New Orleans is not possible.
- 2009/May/EC/11** *Making Neurosurgery Department mandatory for new Medical Colleges:* letter from Dr. Deepu Banerji
 It was decided to approach MCI again with the resolution that independent departments of neurology and neurosurgery should be made mandatory for all medical colleges. The teaching at MBBS level should highlight common conditions such as head injury, stroke, epilepsy and brain tumour.
- 2009/May/EC/12** *Address by President Elect during Inauguration* of NSI conference: letter from Dr. V.S.Mehta
 It was decided that the President Elect will address the Inaugural session briefly to present his/her vision and plan for the upcoming year on the first day of the annual conference. In view of this the protocol for seating on the dais during the inauguration function will have to be altered. The Secretary was asked to implement this arrangement from this year's conference. An amendment to the Byelaws is required and the notice for this will be published in the next Newsletter.
- 2009/May/EC/13** *Arbitration Committee* to interpret rules and regulations of the society: proposed by Dr. V.S.Mehta.
 The Arbitration Committee will consist of
 1. Two senior past Presidents who have completed their term at least 5 years before the formation of the Committee. The senior of the two Presidents will serve as the Chairman of the Committee. The Presidents should be regular in attending the NSI annual conferences (3 of the last 5 conferences), be in good health, have good administrative experience and stay in India.
 2. One legal person. A retired Judge (District/Sessions/High Court) or an Advocate appointed by the Society.
 3. The term of the Committee shall be 5 years.
 4. The Committee will be appointed by the Executive Committee.
 This committee on receiving any representation from any member of the society will meet personally or electronically and shall give its verdict at the earliest unanimously or by majority and the interpretation of the rules by the committee shall be final. Before reaching a decision the committee shall question/seek clarifications from the member if any and then from the Secretary/President NSI before giving its verdict.

The above information will be discussed in the General Body in December 2009.

Dr. Apoorva Pauranik's letter consisting of many proposals related to advocacy was discussed and appreciated. It was agreed in principle that most of the objectives are laudable but there is a need to prioritize and start gradually one by one. Dr.S.P.Agarwal, Neurosurgeon, Former Director General of Health Services will be requested to head an advocacy committee, comprising of Dr. S. Prabhakar, Dr.V.S.Mehta and Dr. Apoorva Pauranik to undertake the following activities -

- a) Drafting a white paper about community burden of neurological diseases.
- b) Lobbying with bureaucrats, politicians, NGOs, opinion makers and media to enhance the image of neurology/neurosurgery and explore possibility of action at Lok Sabha and State legislative assemblies.
- c) Lobbying with MCI and State governments for neurology/neurosurgery departments in government medical colleges.
- d) Sensitizing the members of NSI about the concepts of advocacy so as to be better poised to achieve such goals initially through a breakfast session in the annual conference and later by full day training course.

It was also agreed in principle that two more committees may later be constituted by inviting applications from NSI members to oversee the following activities.

- a) Public health education and patient education and family education along with patient support groups or self help groups dedicated to different neurological and neurosurgical diseases.
- b) Neurology education at MBBS and MD levels and for general practitioners and family physicians. There is need for a well-structured syllabus at these levels.

The EC felt that many objectives of NSI and Indian Academy of Neurology are common and so are many senior members. Many activities in realm of advocacy, public education and neuroscience medical education can be carried out better if the talent and resources are pooled together. An initial letter has been sent on behalf of NSI to IAN. The suggestion to hold joint annual conference once in 3 years is also under consideration.

A letter was received from the President of the Italian Society of Neurosurgery to hold a joint meeting with NSI in Milan in October 2010. More information is needed and exact dates have to be finalised.

The Italian Society requested the NSI to propose two topics of interest to us to be included in the scientific program of the joint meeting. The EC suggested the following topics:

CNS Infections and Cerebral Aneurysms

Dr. B.K.Misra will communicate with the Italian Society to finalise the details of the meeting.

- 2009/May/EC/16** **Constitutional Amendment:** proposed by Dr. V. Rajshekhar
- Dr. Rajshekhar pointed out that the existing Constitution of the Society does not include Life Member as a category of Membership. Although it is understood that Full Members who have paid their life time subscription are considered as Life Members this should be spelt out. This will be proposed as a Constitutional Amendment.
- 2009/May/EC/17** **Guidelines regarding Chief Guests:** letter from Dr.M.A.Aleem
- Dr. Aleem suggested that political and social sensibilities should be kept in mind while inviting Chief Guests for the Inaugural function of the NSI annual conferences. It was decided that the EC will ensure that this principle is followed.
- 2009/May/EC/18** **Endorsement of medicinal or non-medicinal commercial products:** letter from Dr.Dharam Prakash, Hony. Secretary General, Indian Medical Association
- The Secretary will inform the IMA that NSI does not endorse any product.
- 2009/May/EC/19** **Electronic voting and newsletter:** letter from Dr. Krish Ganesh was discussed.
- Electronic voting is not feasible at present as the email ids of only 40% of members are available. Till such time as all the members' email ids are available electronic voting will not be possible.
- Electronic Newsletter. Dr. Rajshekhar felt that this was an excellent idea as it would save costs and paper (environment) and suggested that in the June 2009 Newsletter a notice will be published requesting all members who would like to receive the paper Newsletter should contact the Secretary and request the same. Others will receive the electronic Newsletter and it will also be published on the NSI website.
- The meeting was concluded with thanks to the Chairman and to Dr. Rajkumar for making excellent arrangements for the meeting.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

The General Body of the Society, which met in Pune in December 2008, passed the following Constitutional Amendment.

9.1 Eligibility for election as Executive Committee member

	Existing	Amended
9.1.4	None	<i>A member to be eligible for election as an EC member should have attended at least two of the last five annual conferences of the Society. This clause will be effective from the elections held in 2014</i>