

*Approved
by President* *Secy* *RB*

**25th Annual National Conference of ISMS held at Manipal University, Manipal
during 30 Nov-2nd Dec 2007**

**Minutes of the combined meeting of ISMS Executive Committee and Council, held on 29th November 2007
(7.00 to 8.30 pm followed by a quick post dinner session)**

Members Present

1. Prof. Ajit Sahai	President
2. Prof. Arvind Pandey	President-Elect
3. Dr. P. Venkatesan	General-Secretary
4. Dr. V.S. Yadav	Treasurer
5. Prof. B.L Verma	Member
6. Prof C.M. Pandey	Member
7. Prof. D.K. Subbakrishna	Member
8. Dr. B. Antonyamy	Member
9. Dr. Anil kumar	Member
10. Prof. V.G. Kaliaperumal	Special Invitee - Chairman-Nomination Committee
11. Dr. N. Sreekumaran Nair	Special Invitee - Organizing-Secretary

(Prof. R M Pandey, Editor; and members, Dr. Uttam Singh and Dr. L Satyanarayana have not been able to attend)

1. The President, Prof. Sahai, chaired the meeting and conducted the proceedings. While welcoming the members and special invites he pointed out that this may be treated as a combined annual meeting of the Council and the Committee. At the outset he has drawn the attention of the members to remind them that we should have had already planned and have done something special for the Silver Jubilee conference as well for the coming Silver Jubilee year of the Society. He further stressed that despite his repeated requests in the past two years' EC meetings adequate attention was not paid to this very important issue along with organisational and academic strengthening. In view of the urgency of these issues, if agreed, he may prefer to start discussions first on strengthening of ISMS activities as that get lost with overloaded schedule of routine agenda items and the members start losing their patient as well interest just after an hour or so. However, members insisted that first of all the last year EC minutes should be approved, then General Secretary's report as well Treasurer's report should be discussed before venturing into any other issue of interest.
2. The EC discussed elaborately and approved the minutes of the 24th General Body Meeting, held at PSG Medical College, Coimbatore, on 30th November, 2006.
3. The General-Secretary's report was presented by Dr. P. Venkatesan and the same was accepted. The President informed that after sudden withdrawal of the Editor-cum-Web Coordinator, Dr. R M Pandey, Dr. Venkatesan has already started making attempts to initiate a fresh Website for ISMS in total absence of any effort to revive the earlier one. As approved last year, he has made arrangements to hand over FSMS mementos to all earlier Fellowship awardees at par with the initiative taken by him last year for Fellowship awards -2006. There was hardly any improvement in registration of new life members as well in receiving additional amount of Rs. 500/- from the old members as per the decisions taken last year to match with the enhanced membership fee of Rs. 1000/-, applicable w.e.f. 2007.
4. The Treasurer's report was presented by Dr. V.S. Yadav. Since the discrepancies in the accounts for 2004-2005 and 2005-2006 were not yet settled, the Committee asked Dr. C.M.Pandey, the past General Secretary to resolve it along with Dr. V.S. Yadav and Dr. Uttam Singh, the past treasurer. The EC noted lot of gaps in the accounts and realised that the Auditor cannot prepare the reports without the back-up of receipts for the periods. It was also agreed that in cases of missing receipts, Dr. C M Pandey and Dr. Uttam Singh may like to submit the utilisation certificates on appropriate formats duly signed with to facilitate the auditing process for the periods - 2004-05 & 2005-06, financial years-wise, for which the accounts settlements have long been pending to be audited for acceptance by EC and GB.

The audited report for the financial year 2006-2007 was accepted with a provision for suspense due to be carried forward from the previous year. The income-expenses during 1st April- 30th November 2007 were also approved with a casual review without much auditing by the members.

The President, Prof. Sahai, observed that any backlog in ISMS Accounts should be viewed very seriously even if that was passed on from one office to other and advised Dr. Yadav to make his best efforts in coming out from the above crisis in coordination with SGPGIMS, Lucknow, and if possible, should achieve the same by 30th December 2007, to make it convenient to submit to the new Office bearers a clearly well settled-for-ever and formally audited accounts for each financial year in question. Dr. Arvind Pandey very strongly supported the idea and promised "best possible help" to motivate Dr. C M Pandey and Dr. V S Yadav to do the needful on priority to close that long pending issue latest by 10th December, 2007. The members appreciated that special gesture from the President-elect in resolving the issue.

5. The Editor's Report could not be presented due to the absence of Dr. R M Pandey. The President placed before the Committee an e-mail received recently from the Editor, Dr. R.M. Pandey, expressing his inability to contribute any more as the Editor of the Society, mainly due to his new challenging assignments, therefore, requesting for the acceptance of his resignation from the post of EDITOR. That was approved by the members while placing on record the services rendered by him during his tenure, for bringing out an online issue of the Bulletin during 2006. Subsequently, it was decided to request the Chairman, nomination Committee, Prof. V G Kaliaperumal, to make a quick exploration and suggest the names for the vacant post of EDITOR. Prof. Kaliaperumal indicated that he in anticipation, has already undertaken that exploration exercise in consultation with some of the members including the President-elect in resolving the issue.

With his consent obtained, the name of Prof N. Sreekumaran Nair, Head, Department of Biostatistics, Manipal University, Manipal, and the Organising Secretary of the Conference, was pronounced by the Chairman, Prof. Kaliaperumal, which in turn was seconded and unanimously recommended by all the members. Dr. Sreekumaran Nair accepted the offer made by the EC to serve as the Editor of the Bulletin of the Society for a term of Five (5) years – ie – 2008 - 2012. The members while congratulating him for his new challenging assignment assured him of their full cooperation in bringing the success to this prestigious task of the Society. It was decided to release an amount of Rs. 5000/- to the office of the Editor and the Treasurer was requested to take care of that.

6. ISMS Awards:

FSMS Awards: The President being the Convener of the FSMS Committee presented the evaluation results valued by Eight (8) out of the Ten (10) members sitting in the Committee. He observed that both Prof. PSS Sundar Rao and Prof. J. Richard, were recently contacted by him to remind them for the evaluation report. Prof. PSS Sunder Rao complained for non-receipt of the courier mailed by Dr. Venkatesan, (*which he was requested by the President to send to all the Committee members, and was duly received by all sooner or later*, was once again requested to send a fresh set to Prof. Rao's Bangalore address); however, their evaluation reports could not reach us. There were Six (6) valid nominations as per the initial screening and clearance by the General-Secretary, namely- Prof. N.K. Tyagi, Dr. R.J. Yadav, Prof. B. Antonysamy, Prof. L. Jayaseelan, Dr. B B Yeole and Dr. B N Murthy. Based on the average scores of marks obtained by the candidates as per the evaluation report by the eight (8) FSMS Committee members, the names of top two scorers, Prof. L. Jayaseelan - CMC, Vellore and Dr. R.J. Yadav - NIMS, New Delhi, were recommended and approved by the EC members. The President clarified that the above evaluation by the FSMS Committee members was based on 2006 - "New Fellowship Criteria". In fact during the last GM meeting at Coimbatore, it was recommended to constitute a Sub-Committee to further streamline and fine-tune/refine the Criteria; therefore, Prof. B L Verma's name was unanimously approved by the EC members to be the Chairman of the Sub-Committee. He was advised to induct a maximum four members, excluding the Chair of the Committee, if desired, in consultations with the members and the office bearers, so as to be placed before the GB meeting for its approval.

Academic Awards: The EC approved the recommendations of the Awards Committee presented by its Chairman, Dr. D.K. Subbakrishna.

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| (i) | Prof. B.G. Prasad Award | - Dr. Vanamail, VCRC, Pondicherry. |
| (ii) | Prof. P.V. Sukhame Award | - Grace Maria Antony, NIN, Hyderabad. |
| (iii) | Smt Surajkali Jain Award | - Dr. Saurah Ghosh, ISI, Kolkata. |

(For other two awards of the Society either valid nomination were not available or they have not fulfilled the eligibility criteria)

7. The EC approved the recommendations of the Nomination Committee presented by its Chairman, Prof. VG Kaliaperumal.

(i)	General Secretary:	Dr. P. Venkatesan (2008-2010)
(ii)	Treasurer:	Dr. V. Selvaraj (2008-2010)
(ii)	EC Member	Dr. K.G. Selvaraj (2008-2010)

Further, in the ex-officio past secretary vacancy created by the election of Dr. P. Venkatesan to one more term was discussed and resolved to co-opt Dr. C.M. Pandey in the ex-officio vacancy.

8. The three years' term (2005-2007) of Nomination Committee as well for the Awards Committee was getting over by December, 2007. The President observed that the other three (3) committees were already scrapped during Belgaum conference in January, 2006. In view of that the constitution of the new 'Nomination Committee' and 'Awards Committee' was discussed. The EC members once again unanimously recommended the names of Prof. V.G. Kaliaperumal as Chairman of the Nomination Committee and Prof. D.K. Subbakrishna as Chairman of the Awards Committee for another term of three years (2008-10). Both the Chairmen of those two important Committees were advised to expand the size of the Committees, as per the need, to a maximum of five (5) members, including the Chair. Also, they were given a free-hand and the liberty to nominate the desired number of members at their own discretion, if needed, in consultations with the office bearers. However, it was further recommended that the final structure and shaping of the committees must be in order to be placed before the GB meeting for its approval.
9. As advised by EC members the President, Prof. Sahai, after completing the essential rituals of the annual meeting had once again raised the issues related to ISMS organisational strengthening and the essentiality of adding on the academic components especially during 25th year of the Society. He expressed serious concerns over lack of enthusiasm in the Society's setup to meet the expectations of the younger members. Prof. Sahai, further observed that enrolments of new life members has been moving very slowly. He stressed the need and urgency of widening and broadening the base of organisational setup, apart from upgrading the activities of the Society to make it visible and available at national scene on the academic front. He suggested a system of establishing the offices of Regional Coordinators and Regional Secretaries for each of the well established region of the country. In response to certain queries from the members about the constitutional validity of such establishments, the President clarified that very clear guidelines and provisions do exist in our ISMS constitution, well visualised at the very inception of the Society. The major task of these regional groups would be organisational and academic strengthening in their respective regions. The EC members have appreciated that innovative proposal and have given full freedom to the President to go ahead with the process.

On the front of academic strengthening, as well for a critical review of organisational structure, the President was keen on setting up a few committees. He also reminded the need for bringing up a consolidated document covering the history and listing all important events, achievements, personalities and awards etc which have taken place during the past 25 years of existence of ISMS. That document may be called as ISMS Silver Jubilee Bulletin.

Prof. Sahai recalled that during the last EC and GB meetings at Coimbatore, decisions were taken to authorise him as President-elect to act by giving him a free hand to proceed further to shape the committees and implement that but the modified wordings added in the Minutes – "with EC approval" - has in turn had delayed the entire beginning of the process by one full calendar year, as EC meets only once in a year. **The EC members agreed and resolved that in future all such clearances and approvals may be obtained through e-mails giving some margin of time to the members to react and put forward their suggestions & recommendations.**

10. New "Smt. Ramrati Lalima Sahai Award": Prof. Sahai announced that he has brought a DD of Rs. 75,000/- with him which would formally be handed over to the General-Secretary and the Treasurer of the Society during the Silver Jubilee session being organised soon after the inaugural session of the conference. He requested the members to please accept Rs. 50,000/- (which is the minimum mandatory amount fixed by EC/ GB a few years back for instituting any new award of the Society) for starting a Gold Medal and a Certificate wef 2008 itself in fond memory of his late mother "Smt Ramrati Lalima Sahai". This award would be open and applicable only for dedicated and meritorious key office bearers who have served their full terms and also to organising secretaries of the conferences of the Society. The Committee appreciated that initiative particularly in the Silver Jubilee year of the Society and accepted with thanks Rs. 50,000/- towards instituting that ISMS award, as desired by the donor Prof. Sahai. The Committee further requested Prof. Ajit Sahai to soon come forward with the detailed eligibility and evaluation criteria of the award to be circulated to EC members and others for their suggestions and the approval. Prof Sahai mentioned that the remaining amount of contribution of Rs.25,000/- would mainly be preserved and devoted, as per the need, for improving the academic activities and documentation etc, for which he will provide the detailed guidelines at a later stage.
11. The President pointed out that continuously for the past four years ISMS annual conferences were held repeatedly in Southern part of the country, ie Pondicherry, Belguam, Coimbatore and Manipal, therefore, it may be desirable to ensure that the next conference is held somewhere in some other region of India, including North-eastern region. The Committee explored various options especially in view of the fact that not even a single proposal was available in the hands of the General Secretary. Some member informed that Prof. Sundaram has sent the message through a Prof. from Kochi that next conference will be most welcomed at AIMS, Cochin. It was decided to explore that possibility on priority, failing which, New Delhi or Lucknow, should be considered and even Vellore and Chennai should remain in the list of options.
12. The EC discussed the following important matters.
 - a. Prof. Bhattacharya Oration for 2008: Resolved to nominate Prof. K. Ramachandran for 2008. In case of non availability, the next choice should be Dr. K. Visveswara Rao.
 - b. Website of ISMS: It was unanimously resolved to create & update the ISMS website immediately and for the purpose General Secretary was authorized to take all necessary steps.
 - The General Secretary will act as the Web-Coordinator and Mr Ponnuraja from TRC, Chennai, will assist him as Web-Master.
 - It was further resolved to authorize the General Secretary to meet the expenses from the ISMS funds in a judicious way as per the requirements.
 - c. Financial position: It was resolved to enhance the financial status by requesting all the members to campaign actively to enrol new members and requesting the existing members to voluntarily donate at least Rs. 500/ to the Society.

The President as Chairman expressed his gratitude to all the members for their active participation in the meeting and especially for attending a very brief but useful post-dinner session without which the proceedings were incomplete.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair.

(P. VENKATESAN)
GENERAL-SECRETARY

(AJIT SAHAI)
PRESIDENT