

The Governing Body (Executive Committee, EC) meeting of the Indian Society of nephrology was held on 19 Aug, 2012 at Hotel Marigold, Hyderabad.

The following were present:

Jai Prakash (President)

Amit Gupta

Anup K Barman

Budithi Subbarao

Dilip Pahari

JP Tiwari

K Sampathkumar

Manisha Sahay

Sanjay D'Cruz

T Ravi Raju

Vinay Sakhuja

Vivekanand Jha

The president welcomed all members of the Governing Body.

The secretary updated the members about the Scientific Program of the forthcoming Annual Conference of the Society to be held at Ahmedabad. The members were informed about the communication received from the global outreach program chair Dr. William Couser about the plans of the International Society of Nephrology to hold the Global Outreach Workshop during our annual meeting. This information was conveyed to the ISN Secretariat quite late by which time most of the Scientific Program had already been finalized. This created some difficulties in accommodating the workshop. The secretary informed Dr Couser of these problems. This issue was discussed with the ISN Scientific Committee. After several rounds of discussion, it was decided that the workshop should be accommodated since it will benefit the members. Also since ISN is an affiliated society of the International Society of Nephrology, it is improper to completely reject the initiative of the International Society. The EC members agreed with this decision but asked the secretary to communicate to the International Society of Nephrology that in future the ISN EC should be kept in the loop while making such decisions.

The Secretary also informed that the President of the International Society of Nephrology as well as the GO Program Chair would like to meet with the EC of our society. In this meeting, issues of mutual interest could be discussed one of which is the possibility of getting a collective membership of the International Society for members of the ISN. The Secretary was asked to request for a "deal" for ISN members. The issue of how to raise money for this was discussed but deferred until the financial implications became clear during this joint meeting.

It was pointed out that it has been quite a while since the membership fees have been revised. It was decided that the fee should be increased to Rs.5000, after approval of the General Body (GB).

The issue of including non-nephrology professionals who are involved in the care of patients with kidney disease in the ISN was also discussed. It was decided that these members would be included as Associate Members, after approval of GB. The categories that could be included are dietitians, social workers, nurses and senior technicians.

Dr. Sampathkumar had submitted a proposal to create an Intervention Nephrology Subcommittee of the ISN. The EC endorsed this proposal but suggested that this be called the Intervention Nephrology Advisory Group. Other members suggested were Sishir Gang, Dilip Pahari, Anup Burman, Balasuramanian and B Subbarao.

It was decided that the ISN should create other Advisory Groups to discuss issues related to different areas of nephrology. The EC will elect a chair, the chair could then suggest for 4-5 names, which would be finally endorsed by the EC. It was decided that the CKD Registry Group would also be converted into an Advisory Group.

Editorship of the Indian Journal of Nephrology: it was pointed out that the current editor is going to complete two terms as the editor. The EC unanimously expressed its high appreciation of the improvement in the quality of Journal and thanked the current editor. It was pointed out that the Journal frequency has increased from once every 3 months to once every 2 months in 2012. It was decided that as per the Constitution, the Credentials Committee would select the new editor.

Some members pointed out that the Indian Clinical Practice Handbook that is published by Wiley is probably not being delivered to all the members and the secretary promised to look into that

Awards: the chair of the Credentials Committee informed the executive committee of the various awards for the year 2012. The committee had decided to confer the lifetime achievement award on Drs RN Srivastava and Kumud Mehta for their pioneering work in the field of pediatric nephrology. The Shastry Memorial oration was awarded to Dr. Chakko Jacob. The Committee also considered Dr. V Sakhuja equally worthy recommended his name for the award in 2013. The awards process was also discussed. The EC unanimously approved the awards.

There was a discussion about how candidates were selected for the Lifetime Achievement and a letter that was received from the Southern Chapter of the ISN about this. The Chair of the Credentials Committee explained the rigor and the wide consultations that were carried out before selecting the Awardees. The Secretary informed the members that the process of the selection was explained to the President and Secretary of the Chapter who were satisfied with the response. The EC members appreciated the efforts of the Credentials Committee.

The EC suggested that the Credentials Committee should request the entire membership for suggesting names for various awards.

The Secretary informed about receipt of bids for 2014 ISNCON. The centers that have bid are Lucknow, Chandigarh, New Delhi, Aurangabad, Indore and Kolkata. The EC decided that the bids be evaluated by a Committee consisting of the President, Drs Kher, T Ravi Raju and MM Rajapurkar.

The Secretary informed the EC about the progress of the Hemodialysis guidelines work group. It was pointed out that the guidelines had gone through a process of public review and were now in the final stages of being compiled. The members appreciated this initiative and suggested that these guidelines should be continuously updated. They also suggested that the government should be apprised of these guidelines and lobbied to adopt this as the standard, which will be used to evaluate dialysis units. The members, suggested formation of a committee for liaising with the government. The following names were suggested: V Kher, SK Agarwal, and T Ravi Raju.

Some members were of the view that one year is too short a term for a President to shape the Society. It was decided that this could be extended to 2 years. However this will require amendment of the Constitution from the GB.

It was pointed out that the ISN is now conducting a number of additional events such as Regional Workshops and its Annual Conferences are also getting bigger. This requires development of some degree of self-management and partnership with an event management firm that would be able to handle this in ongoing fashion. There is also need for a certain consistency and maintenance of quality in the various ISN activities. The EC authorized the Secretary to explore this possibility.

The issue of the recent guidelines by the Medical Council of India and its potential impact on attendance in the ISN meetings was discussed. It was decided that the society should support all efforts that will encourage ethical medical practice. The society should raise funds to make sure that the travel and stay costs of speakers; chairpersons and EC members can be covered. This may not be possible immediately, however. It was also decided that the rules should be pointed out to the members and the general body meeting.

The secretary informed the members that in view of the Income Tax rules, the Society would try to seek recognition under section 35 which will allow tax deduction for contributions to the society.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.