

## **Association of Physiologists of India (ASSOPI)**

### **Minutes of the 9<sup>th</sup> General Body Meeting of ASSOPI**

(held on 28<sup>th</sup> October, 2023, during the 9<sup>th</sup> ASSOPICON held at KGMU, Lucknow)

The 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of General Body (GB) of Association of Physiologists of India was conducted on 28<sup>th</sup> October, 2023, at 5.30 PM, organized at King George Medical University (KGMU), Lucknow

Forty-two life members of ASSOPI participated in the meeting and the following agenda items were discussed.

#### **1. Obituary and Apologies**

At the commencement the meeting, Dr. G. K. Pal, General Secretary asked for the report of obituary of any life member if any. Prof. Sandip Sardessai informed that Dr. Edelweiss Rodrigues, Lecturer in Physiology at Goa Medical College, an alumna of Goa Medical College with MD Physiology (2012) died at a young age. She has made significant contributions to the field of medicine, and also was a life member of ASSOPI. Two-minutes silent prayer was held as a mark of respect to the departed soul.

#### **2. Approval of the minutes of the 8<sup>th</sup> GB meeting held on 15/10/2022**

Dr. G. K. Pal, General Secretary, informed that the minutes of the 8<sup>th</sup> General Body Meeting (GBM), which was conducted on October 15, 2022, during 8<sup>th</sup> ASSOPICON held at AIIMS Nagpur, was circulated to all the members and was published in ASSOPI News Bulletin. The same has also been displayed in the ASSOPI website. Till date, neither observations nor comments have been received. The General Body gave its approval for the minutes of 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of GB

### 3. Presentation of annual report by General Secretary

Dr.G. K. Pal, the General Secretary, presented the annual report for ASSOPI covering the period from September 2022 to September 2023. The key highlights of the report are outlined below.

#### Report of General Secretary, ASSOPI 2022-2023

1. Newly enrolled life members: **118** (Total life members as on 21.10.2023 are **792**)

2. Nomination/Application and finalization of various ASSOPI Awards:

- Total nominations received: 39 award applications including 1 for Fellowship title.

Name of the Award	Number of Applications Received	Award Winner
<b>ASSOPI Annual Oration of an Outstanding Physiologist</b>	1 Applicant	<b>Dr. G. K. Pal</b> , Executive Director & CEO, AIIMS Patna, Bihar.
<b>Prof. A. S. Paintal Oration Award</b> (Best research work in Physiology)	2 Applicants	<b>Dr.T. N. Sathyaprabha</b> , Professor, Dept. of Physiology, NIMHANS, Bengaluru.
<b>Dr. Artatran Nanda Memorial Award</b> (Best research work in Respiratory Physiology)	4 Applicants	<b>Dr. Surya Kant</b> , Professor & Head, Dept. of Respiratory Medicine, KGMU, Lucknow.
<b>Prof. S. B. Deshpande Award</b> (Best research work in Neurophysiology)	7 Applicants	<b>Dr. Priyadarshini Mishra</b> , Additional Professor, Dept. of Physiology, AIIMS Bhubaneswar
<b>Prof. G. K. Pal Award</b> (Best research work in Cardiovascular Physiology)	5 Applicants	<b>Dr. Kaviraja Udupa</b> , Professor, Dept. of Neurophysiology, NIMHANS, Bengaluru.
<b>JIPMER Golden ASSOPICON Award</b> (Best research work by a postgraduate student in Physiology)	3 Applicants	<b>Dr. Prashanth Arumugam</b> , Junior Resident, Dept. of Physiology, Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences, Wardha.
<b>Shri S. N. Chaudary Memorial Award</b> (Best research work in Environmental Physiology)	2 Applicants	<b>Mr. Sutirtha Ghosh</b> , PhD Scholar, Dept. of Physiology, AIIMS, New Delhi.

<b>Shri Ram Murti Smarak Award</b> (Best research work in Yoga and Naturopathy)	4 Applicants	<b>Dr. Ruchi Singh,</b> Additional Professor, Dept. of Physiology, AIIMS Bhopal.
<b>Prof. S. K. Singh Award</b> (Best research work conducted by an undergraduate medical student in Physiology)	6 Applicants	<b>Mr. Prashanth Chandrasekaran,</b> UG Medical Student, JIPMER, Puducherry
<b>Ramesh Bijlani Lifetime Achievement Award</b> in Medical Sciences	1 Applicant	<b>Dr. Latika Mohan,</b> Professor & Head of Physiology, AIIMS Rishikesh.
<b>Shri B. M. Patil Memorial Award</b> (Best research work in Physiology by a Physiologist below the age of 45 years)	1 Applicant	<b>Ms. M. Renugasundari,</b> Tutor, Dept. of Physiology, AIIMS Patna, Bihar.
<b>Prof. Narsingh Verma Award</b> (Best research work conducted in Chronobiology)	2 Applicants	<b>Dr. Ruchi Singh,</b> Additional Professor, Dept. of Physiology, AIIMS Bhopal.
<b>Fellowship Title of ASSOPI (FAPI)</b>	1 Applicant	<b>Dr. Sucharita Sambashivaiah,</b> Professor & Head, Dept. of Physiology, St. John's Medical College, Bengaluru.

3. Affiliation to other societies:

- i) **Inclusion of ASSOPI in IUPS:** In continuation of the mail that ASSOPI has been approved by the IUPS general assembly as a new member of the IUPS family, we received a mail on 25<sup>th</sup> May, 2023 for the invoice of our 2023 IUPS membership dues of USD 294.00. The PDF copy of the communication from IUPS displayed for information of all. The payment of the fees was done on 7<sup>th</sup> July, 2023.
- ii) **Inclusion of ASSOPI in FIPS:** After tough discussions in the last two FIPS EC meeting, ASSOPI has been admitted to Federation of Indian Physiological Society (FIPS) as a regular constituent member in GB meeting of FIPS during 9<sup>th</sup> FIPS Congress organized at NIPER, Hyderabad. Dr. G. K. Pal informed that he has received the request from FIPS President to organize FIPS Congress at AIIMS Patna. The proposal of General Secretary to conduct the next FIPS Congress in 2024 at AIIMS Patna was discussed. The PDF copy of the communication from FIPS displayed for information of all.

- iii) Application has been submitted to SAAP for inclusion of ASSOPI as a regular member of SAAP.

#### 4. ASSOPI Representation to NMC

Dr. G. K. Pal informed that he has received requests from members that Neurophysiology and Respiratory Physiology investigations done by Physiology Department in various medical colleges should be included in the list of Central Clinical Lab Services of the hospital, and it should be notified by NMC for this inclusion. After a thorough discussion, it was decided that a representation can be made from ASSOPI to NMC for this purpose.

#### 5. Zonal activities:

1. On the occasion of starting DM course in “Clinical and Interventional Physiology”, a virtual CME was conducted on “Physiology in Clinical Practice: Strategies, Scopes and Challenges” by the Department of Physiology, AIIMS Patna on 1<sup>st</sup> August, 2023.
2. Association of Physiologists of India (ASSOPI) Chapter of Bihar was inaugurated on 2<sup>nd</sup> August, 2023 in the Department of Physiology, AIIMS Patna. Dr. Latika Mohan, President, ASSOPI was the Chief Guest of inauguration of ASSOPI Bihar Chapter.
3. An Orientation Workshop for the DM course in Clinical and Interventional Physiology was organized by Department of Physiology, AIIMS Patna on 19<sup>th</sup> August, 2023.
4. ASSOPI – U.P. Chapter is regularly publishing newsletter cum research bulletin “Physiology Insight”. During last year (October, 2022 to September, 2023) 1 issue of Physiology Insight was published. The total number of write-ups published in the issue are as follows:

Editorials	Scientific articles	Short Communications	Extracurriculars	Total
2	3	1	2	8

#### **4. Approval of ASSOPI Awards, 2023**

Dr. G. K. Pal, General Secretary informed the GB that a total of 38 nominations for various awards of ASSOPI and 1 nomination for Fellowship Title of ASSOPI were received, and a committee consisting of two subject experts for each award was constituted for evaluating the nominations. The report of the committee was approved by the President of ASSOPI. GB endorsed the approved list of recipients of ASSOPI Awards, 2023 during the meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> October, 2023 and the awardees received awards on 27<sup>th</sup> October, 2023 in the inaugural ceremony of ASSOPICON-2023

#### **5. Presentation of audited statement of account by Finance Secretary**

General Secretary informed that the Finance Secretary Dr Velkumary has communicated her inability to attend the GB Meeting to present the audited report and she has nominated Dr Parvati Pal, Vice President of South zone, to present the audited report on her behalf. Dr Parvati Pal presented the detailed audit statement of account for the year 2022-23. After a thorough discussion, the audited report was accepted and approved by GB, which was proposed by Dr. Hasmukh Shah and seconded by Dr. Kaviraj Udupa.

#### **6. Status of ASSOPI Journal**

Dr. G. K. Pal informed that the ASSOPI Journal has not started yet due to nonavailability of quality papers, in spite of sincere efforts to get the papers. He informed that as already discussed in the last GB Meeting, efforts may be made to adopt IJCEP as official journal of ASSOPI. After a thorough discussion, Dr. G. K. Pal was requested to get it done as early as possible. Dr. Pal informed that a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has to be signed for the purpose. The assembly approved the decision to sign an MoU between ASSOPI and IJCEP Journal proprietor. Dr. Pal informed that he has already initiated the procedure and as per e-mail communication from the journal owner, they need the amount of about Rs. 12 lakhs to be paid by ASSOPI as he has spent those amounts in establishing the journal. Otherwise, as per his suggestion we can mention in IJCEP Web pages of the

journal that IJCEP is endorsed by ASSOPI. Though members agreed for payment of Rs. 12 lakhs, Dr. Pal said he will talk to them for further price negotiation, or IJCEP endorsed by ASSOPI can be the arrangement for the time being. The issue was discussed in the EB meeting at length that ASSOPI can pay the money to own the journal for the association and Dr. Pal was authorised to negotiate for the payment to make IJCEP as official journal of ASSOPI.

## **7. Organizational matters**

### **i. Recruitment of new members**

Presented by General Secretary in his report as stated above.

### **ii. Interim activities of ASSOPI**

Presented by General Secretary in his report as stated above.

### **iii. Affiliation to other bodies like SAAP**

Discussed above in the Annual Report presented by General Secretary.

### **iv. Inviting Suggestions and inputs at social platform like WhatsApp**

### **v. ASSOPI journal to be made bimonthly**

vi. Power of attorney (finance) to Rajasthan chapter as they do not have their Society Registered Permanent Account Number (PAN): Dr. G. K. Pal informed that the Power of Attorney will not be given, but authorization will be given to open the Account in their local branch of the bank using ASSOPI PAN Card.

## **8. Finalization of venue for next annual conference of ASSOPI and proposal for subsequent conferences:**

The request for conducting next annual conference of ASSOPI in 2024 was proposed by Dr. G. K. Pal at AIIMS Patna along with FIPS Congress. The proposal of FIPS Congress and 10th ASSOPICON, 2024, to be organized by Department of Physiology under the leadership of Dr. G. K. Pal as Chief Patron and Dr. Tribhuvan Kumar, Head of Physiology, AIIMS, Patna as the Organizing Chairman, was approved.

Proposals were received for conducting annual conference of ASSOPI subsequently for next two years.

11th ASSOPICON 2025 at Geetanjali Medical College, Udaipur.

12th ASSOPICON 2026 at AIIMS, Mangalagiri.

13th ASSOPICON 2027 at AIIMS, Rishikesh

14th ASSOPICON 2028 at NIMHANS, Bengaluru

Dr. G. K. Pal emphasized the importance of enhancing the conference's accessibility to both students and scientists. To achieve this, he proposed that the Association's scientific committee should take an active role in providing guidance to the future Organizing Chairman. This guidance would primarily focus on the essential directives for the conference, particularly concerning its scientific aspects.

#### **10. Proposal for new ASSOPI awards**

Dr. G. K. Pal informed that Dr. Indira Chakravarty has proposed a new award in Reproductive Physiology, named the "Prof. (Dr.) Mukta Sen Memorial Award" in honour of her mother, who is a life member of ASSOPI. Dr. Mukta Sen, an alumna of Madras Medical College (MMC) in Chennai, holds the distinction of being not only the first female doctor from Karnataka but also the first Indian woman to complete her MPH degree at Harvard University. Her illustrious career included serving as the Head of the Department of Maternity and Child Welfare at Government Medical College, Kolkata. She also received a prestigious Rockefeller Foundation Fellowship and currently holds the position of Director at the All India Institute of Public Health in Kolkata. Dr. Pal informed that Dr. Indira Chakravarty has agreed to pay the five lakhs of seed money for the award. GB approved the proposal of Dr. Indira Chakravarty for the new award in Reproductive Physiology, named the "Prof. (Dr.) Mukta Sen Memorial Award" to be instituted from 2023.

#### **11. Presentation of a brief report by Organizing Chairman (Special Invitee)**

Dr. G. K. Pal, the General Secretary of ASSOPI, sincerely invited Dr. Narsingh Verma, who played a pivotal role as the Organizing Chairman of ASSOPICON 2023, to provide a comprehensive report and insights on the conference's organization. In response, Dr. Narsingh Verma extended his heartfelt appreciation to Dr. S. B. Deshpande, Dr. Latika Mohan, Dr. G.K. Pal, as well as all the esteemed members of the OB & EB and life members of ASSOPI for their gracious presence at the

conference and their unwavering support and encouragement. He informed that 200 members registered and attended the conference. The 8 workshops along with 4 symposia were successfully conducted during the conference.

He thanked all the ASSOPI members for the opportunity given to organise the conference (ASSOPICON- 2023 ) at KGMU ,Lucknow. He expressed his heartfelt gratitude and thanked Dr. G K Pal profusely for granting him the opportunity to organize ASSOPICON-2023 in his concluding year as the Head of the Department of Physiology at KGMU, Lucknow, in spite of the event being initially designated for a different institute. Dr. Verma also commended his dedicated team for their exceptional efforts in ensuring the resounding success of ASSOPICON 2023.

## **12. Any other matters (with permission of chair)**

- i. Dr. G. K. Pal informed that during the Executive Body meeting, members have proposed for raising the Life Membership fee from 3,000 to 5,000. However, a unanimous decision was reached to maintain the current fee until the organization reaches 1,000 members, as agreed upon in the previous ASSOPI GB meeting
- ii. Dr. Pal also informed that if a member is selected for two awards in the same year they will be required to select and choose one of the awards. This was approved by GB.
- iii. Dr. Narsing Verma proposed that payment by QR code should also be kept as an option life membership registration to facilitate the process.
- iv. Dr. G, K. Pal informed that a request has come from FIPS to Nominate two members from ASSOPI to central FIPS Council, before the next FIPS Annual Meeting. He said after due consultation with the core committee of office bearers of ASSOPI, the names of two members will be nominated.

## **13. Vote of thanks**

The GB Meeting concluded at 8.30 PM, with a vote of thanks offered by Prof. (Dr.) Latika Mohan, President ASSOPI. In her closing remarks, she emphasized that ASSOPI is a dynamic and scientifically ethical organization. Prof. Latika Mohan



expressed her appreciation for the successful organization of the conference at KGMU Lucknow by Dr. Narsingh Verma, the Organizing Chairperson and his team. Also, Prof. Latika Mohan expressed the heartfelt gratitude from the whole physiology community to Dr. G. K. Pal for his unwavering dedication to ASSOPI, despite his demanding role as the Executive Director of AIIMS Patna. She also thanked all office bearers and the members for their collaborative spirit and their commitment to advancing ASSOPI's mission and vision.



Dr. G. K. Pal,  
General Secretary, ASSOPI.