

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting through online mode

The Executive Committee Meeting of The Indian Society for Parasitology was held on 15.12.2021 through online mode. The following members were present:

1. Prof. Veena Tandon
2. Prof. Sandeep Malhotra
3. Dr. A.M Khan
4. Prof. U. Shameem
5. Dr. D.V. Desai
6. Dr. Neena Goyal
7. Dr. Mrigank Srivastava
8. Ms. A. Mary
9. Prof. Sukhbir Kaur – In Chair

Dr. J K Saxena (General Secretary), Dr. Renu Tripathi (Joint Secretary) and Dr. Anil K Dwivedi (Treasurer) could not join for the meeting for unavoidable reasons.

At the very outset, the President informed the members about the sad demise of the world-renowned Parasitologist Prof. R.C. Mahajan, Emeritus Professor, Dept. of Parasitology, PGIMER, Chandigarh and Former President of ISP, and requested everyone to maintain silence for 2 minutes.

The agenda items were then taken up as detailed below.

1. The President informed about activities of the Society during the pandemic.

i) Though a national conference could not be held due to restrictions of COVID19 Pandemic, a 3-day international webinar on “**Water, Health and Parasites**” was organized (through online mode) under the banner of ISP by Dr. Fayaz Ahmed at the University of Kashmir.

ii) The Editorial board meeting of the JOPD was also held on 9th November 2021 and various issues related to the journal were discussed.

2. The President informed the EC members that the present committees of ISP are continuing to function beyond their extended tenure of 4 years due to the current COVID-19 pandemic. She requested that the committees’ functioning be formally extended till such time that the new committees can be formed and approved in the GBM as and when the next National Conference will be held in the year 2022. All the members gave their consent for the proposal.

3. The President then requested the EIC, JOPD, Professor Veena Tandon to give a brief about the progress of the Society’s journal and problems being faced by her. She also asked the EC members to give their inputs regarding the expansion of editorial board of JOPD as per the

discussion held during the Editorial Board Meeting with publishing officials of Springer-Nature India. Prof. Tandon informed that the new contract has been signed which will be effective from January 2022. She stressed that the EB should be enhanced, expanded and widened, for which foreign participants should be roped in as EB members of JOPD. It was also highlighted that the submission of papers is largely from the Middle East and the global scenario is missing, which is coming in the way of further improving the scores of the journal and applying for Impact Factor to Scopus/ Science Direct. She asked all the members of EC to suggest few names of parasitologists to be included as Associate editors as per their subject specialization/ expertise in the fields covered by JOPD. She also suggested that ISP members be encouraged to submit good quality papers for JOPD. In view of the fact that she has been working as EIC since May 2016, Prof. Tandon requested that a new EIC should be appointed before the new contract of JOPD comes into effect. However, all the EC members requested her to continue with this assignment for some more time as she has been instrumental in bringing a significant improvement in the JOPD since her taking over as an EIC.

4.Venue for next National Conference in 2022 – The EC members discussed that the national conference can be held in the physical/hybrid mode/online mode in 2022, for which 2-3 places were suggested- Dr. A. M. Khan suggested Agra University or at his ICMR Institute in Agra, Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune by Dr D.V. Desai , VCRC, Puducherry by Ms. Mary.

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