

Minutes of the General Body meeting of SIHAM 2012

The General Body meeting of the Society for Indian Human and Animal Mycologists (SIHAM) was held on 11.02.2012 during the 9th National Conference at the Hotel Royal Sarovar Premier, Siliguri West Bengal. Prof. Arunaloke Chakrabarti, President SIHAM chaired the session. The meeting started with observing a two minutes silence to pay homage to the departed soul of our honorable member Dr (Ms) Jaishree Naidu, Assistant Professor of the Department of Zoology and Biotechnology at the Government Model Science College, Jabalpur.

1. Minutes of the last General Body meeting - Minutes of the last General Body meeting (SIHAM 2010) held on 05.03.2010 at AIIMS were approved. The minutes were circulated to all members through the news letter and no objection was raised by any member in the house. Dr B M Hemashettar proposed and Dr Sangeetha seconded the proposal.

2. Secretary's report - Dr Niranjan Nayak General Secretary had presented his report at the inaugural session of the 9th National Conference. The report highlighted the major activities of the society over the past two years. It was observed that 48 new life members joined the society over the last two years and the majority of them belonged to either clinical departments or other para-clinical departments. The report was approved by the General Body.

3. Treasurer's report - Dr M R Shivaprakash, treasurer presented the audited statement of the report for the period from March 2010 through January 2012. Dr Shivaprakash also informed that the copies of the statement were already circulated to all members. The audited statement was approved by the General Body after it was proposed by Dr Malini Capoor and seconded by Dr B L Sherwal.

4. SIHAM news letter - The General Body appreciated the efforts taken by Dr Arunaloke Chakrabarti and his team for publishing the wonderful news letter since inception. As Dr Chakrabarti wanted to hand over the responsibility to some other member, Dr Savitri Sharma volunteered to take the responsibility of publishing the newsletter. The proposal was wholeheartedly accepted by the general body, being proposed and seconded by Dr Ranganathan Iyer and Dr Bishan Radotra respectively. As the last issue of the newsletter had no sponsor, Dr Radotra suggested that the financial support for publication of that issue of the newsletter might be borne by the society. The proposal was approved by the members in the house. However Dr Chakrabarti assured the house that he would find sponsors for subsequent issues.

5. SIHAM representing APSMM - The subject of SIHAM representing the body of Asia Pacific Society of Medical Mycology was discussed. Dr Hemashettar, the representative of SIHAM in APSMM informed that there was no activity in the preceding three years. Members felt that, as there was no activity and our society was not getting

any advantage out of the representation, the society might not represent further in APSMM.

6. SIHAM network development - Dr Chakrabarti expressed satisfaction over the recent progress made by various networking groups, though, he expressed concerns over few sponsors for some of the networks. Dr Chakrabarti also reiterated that some of the responsibilities of networking could be shared by other centers over and above those who are handling presently. Dr Uma Tendolkar who was requested if she could take up the SIHAM zygomycosis network, declined to take over the existing network. Dr Uma Bala asked if they could continue to collect the culture and data for zygomycosis, and Dr Chakrabarti answered to her queries with a positive note. Dr Radotra advised for strict adherence to the protocol while sending the details of the cases.

7. SIHAM website - Dr M R Shivaprakash and Dr B L Sherwal had taken joint responsibility for the construction of the web site. Dr Shivaprakash appreciated the efforts put on by Dr Sherwal and Dr. Gaurav Dhaka towards the successful development of the web site within a short time. Dr Chakrabarti inaugurated the web site during the General Body meeting. Members were happy with the web site presentation.

8. Changing the name of the Society - Dr Chakrabarti said that the present name of the society is grammatically incorrect. Many members felt the same. Dr Nayak told that he had consulted the office of the Registrar of the Societies registration Act of 1860 in the office of the Registrar of Societies, Government of Delhi and the name could be changed if General Body desired. Members reiterated the earlier decision to change the name of the society. Out of many suggestions on the changed name, consensus was focused on, either of the following two names i.e. 'Indian Society of Medical Mycologists' or 'Indian Society for Medical Mycology'. Finally "**Indian Society for Medical Mycology**" was accepted unanimously

9. External Quality Assurance Scheme (EQAS) - Dr Chakrabarti informed, currently 29 centers are participating in the EQAS. It was suggested by him to decide whether we could include "aid of histopathology in the diagnosis of fungal infections" in our future quality control program. Members after due deliberation suggested Dr Chakrabarti to add other aspects of diagnosis when need arises

10. Sponsorship to attend international conferences - As there was no young scientist and doctor who applied for the sponsorship, council decided to sponsor the attendance of Dr Shivaprakash for the workshop on "Software for the Analysis of Molecular Typing". However, members felt that the Life Care sponsorship for young scientists and doctors should be given more publicity so that young people and students apply for the same.

11. Life time achievement award - The matter was discussed in detail. The rules and regulations framed earlier by our executive members were read by Dr Chakrabarti and the same rules were also circulated to all members. The award with the framed rules was approved. Dr Rungmei S K Marak suggested providing the return air fare to the awardees. The members felt that it might not be possible to pay the return air fare out of

the interest generated from the deposited amount. It was, therefore, decided that the awardees shall be honored with a gold medal, a certificate and free registration.

12. ISHAM 2015 - Dr Chakrabarti informed the house regarding the effort that he had already taken to win the bid to hold the 2015 congress in Delhi. India has sent the bid and the voting is still going on. He requested that more people should become members of ISHAM and the members should attend the Berlin congress in June in large numbers. He also put forth that Dr Sherwal being stationed in Delhi might help in the matter of "VISA" processing for the foreign delegates if India wins the bid.

13. Venue of next conference 2014 - Dr Manikandan proposed to hold the 10th National Conference at Coimbatore in 2014. The proposal was accepted by all. Their team including Dr M Jayahar Bharathi, Dr Lalitha Prajna, Dr Manikandan and others would decide the dates and the program in consultation with the new executive council.

14. New executive body of SIHAM - The following members were elected as the new SIHAM council members for the years 2012-2014:

President, Dr Savitri Sharma, Bhubaneswar; Vice - President, Dr D K Mendiratta, Wardha; General Secretary, Dr Niranjana Nayak, New Delhi; Joint Secretary, Dr B L Sherwal, New Delhi; Treasurer, Dr M R Shivaprakash, Chandigarh; Executive members, Dr Rungmei S K Marak, Lucknow (North zone); Dr Nibedita Halder, Siliguri (East zone); Dr M Jayahar Bharathi, Coimbatore (South zone); Dr Atul Patel, Ahmedabad (West zone); Dr C Sundaram, Hyderabad (Central zone)

Prof Arunaloche Chakrabarti will be the ex-officio member of the executive council.

15. Any other agenda with the permission of the chair - The new President Dr Savitri Sharma addressed the gathering and emphasized on increasing the member strength of the society. She suggested approaching people of different societies or associations related to medical mycology to become members.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the chair

Dr. Niranjana Nayak
General Secretary, SIHAM