



Indian Society for Medical Statistics

Minutes of the General Body Meeting - 2024

The General Body (GB) meeting was held at Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi on November 21, 2024 at 5:30 PM with the following agenda.

1. Welcome by President
2. Silent prayer in respect of demised Prof. Arvind Pandey & Prof. K.R. Sundaram
3. Approval of minutes of the 2023 GC & GB meetings
4. Report of General Secretary
5. Report of Treasurer
6. Report of Bulletin Editor
7. Report of Web coordinator
8. Award Committee report
9. Nomination committee report
10. Search committee report
11. FSMS committee report
12. Arrangement for the ISMSSCON-2024
13. Venue for the ISMSSCON-2025
14. Proposal for initiation of a new award: Prof. C.M Pandey Award
15. Prof. Indrayan's request to contribute ₹ 2 lac more for his existing award
16. Report of the Constitution Amendment Committee -2024
17. Increasing the seed money for the Annual Conferences
18. Waiving off the registration fee & provide accommodation for senior members who receive ISMS Lifetime Achievement Award and Prof. S.K Bhattacharya Oration Award
19. Renewal of Registration of the society
20. NAMS-ICMR National Biostatistics Helpline: Updates from President.
21. Thanking the retiring GC members
22. Any other point with the permission of the chair
23. Vote of thanks by General Secretary



President-ISMS, Prof. S.N. Dwivedi welcomed all members who were attending the meeting.

The GB meeting started with a silent condolence prayer concerning the demised members, Prof. K.R Sundaram and Prof. Arvind Pandey. Later, the President requested the General Secretary of the Society to take up agenda items, one by one.

As approved by the GC, the GB unanimously ratified the 2023 Governing Council and General Body meeting minutes.

The General Secretary presented the report of the activities held during 2024, summarised below.

ISMS secretariat made time-to-time communications about various announcements, notifications of the society, and various news items like Minutes of the meeting, ISMS bulletins and its notifications, conferences, workshops, and vacancies, etc., which were relevant for the members.

The secretariat closely worked with the Web coordinator, Dr. Prasanna Samuel, to update the ISMS website. Contents on several ISMS web pages have been updated, including past conference draft minutes of the GC and GB, audit reports, recent ISMS bulletins, copies of general communication for members, membership directory, etc., and have been duly uploaded.

Secretariat has taken initiative to create a database for various prestigious awards constituted by the society and will be duly updated and uploaded on website at the earliest.

The secretariat appreciated the effort of Prof. S.N Dwivedi, President-ISMS, to carry himself and handover Lifetime Achievement Award for 2023 to Prof. K. R Sundaram well before his last breath in Mumbai. Invitations have been sent to all ISMS awardees, including those applicable as per Search Committee's



recommendations for the year 2024, to be present and receive their awards during the inaugural session of the ISMSSCON-2024. All awardees have been kind enough to accept and make their presence today, except one due to unavoidable circumstances.

Until now, 35 new life members have been enrolled for the year 2024. Membership certificates to all new members have been sent by the treasurer, Dr. Ponnuraja, after thorough scrutiny of the applications and once membership fee payment got duly credited. Moreover, the membership directory of the ISMS is updated and uploaded on the website.

The Secretariat has made efforts to update e-mail IDs in the Google group. Currently, we have 856 e-mail IDs in the Google Group against nearly 1140 life members of the society. However, many of our senior members' e-mail IDs need to be updated in the existing directory. ISMS secretariat requests all esteemed members to update the contact details of other known members and get involved in this mission.

The ISMS secretariat closely worked with the conference secretariat in day to day planning for organizing the 2024 annual conference including finalizing scientific programs, organising inaugural function, other society activities and meetings during the conference.

The conference started with two pre-conference workshops organised yesterday. As usual, many ISMS awards were awarded in person during the conference inauguration. The conference secretariat planned a keynote address by Prof. Abhaya Indrayan during the inaugural session. Immediately after the inauguration, we had Prof. S.K. Bhattacharya Oration by Prof. L Jeyaseelan, Past President of the ISMS and Former Professor of Biostatistics, CMC, Vellore; followed by Prof. P.P. Talwar's Lecture for the year 2024 by Prof. Madhulekha Bhattacharya, NIHFWS, New Delhi. Moreover, special scientific/ plenary sessions were arranged today (on Day 1) as a tribute and



honour to our society's past presidents, (Late) Prof. K.R Sundaram and (Late) Prof. Arvind Pandey.

On day 2, Prof. R.N. Srivastava's award competition is scheduled in the forenoon. This year, we have received three applications for this competition. The scientific program and other details were circulated to all registered members, and uploaded to the conference website by the conference secretariat.

The Secretariat has received one proposal from Dr. M. Rajeswari, Department of Biostatistics, AIIMS, Mangalagiri, Andhra Pradesh, to host the 2025 annual conference. She is a GC member and the secretariat requested Dr. Rajeswari, to attend the GC and GB Meetings -2024 and make a presentation.

ISMS Secretariat received a proposal to start a new endowment in the name of the Late Prof. C.M Pandey, Former President of the ISMS. This proposal was submitted by Prof. Pandey's son, Mr. Apoorv Chetan, along with a cheque worth Rs. 5,00,000/- (Five lakhs rupees). As per society's rule, this proposal has been reviewed by the President, President (Elect), General Secretary and Treasurer. Later, the President of the ISMS, Prof. S.N Dwivedi, constituted a sub-committee to frame the rules for the new award proposal. This committee was led by Prof. B.L Verma as Chair, Prof. N Sreekumaran Nair, Prof. L Jeyaseelan, and Dr. B. Binukumar, as the committee members to examine this matter. This committee's draft recommendation was submitted to the GC.

Finally, the General Secretary's report concluded with a thanking message to all members including all ISMS committees, Chairs and its members, Nominations committee, Search committee, Awards committee, conference organizing secretariat, etc. for their kind cooperation and support for various ISMS activities.



Regarding General Secretary's report presented to the GC, Prof. B. L Verma opined that the reports should reach the members well in advance to the members and also requested the GC to initiate some membership campaign drive to increase it. Moreover, he requested the secretariat to identify a few senior members from different regions who could help in updating the members' emails and other contact details missing from the directory. Prof. Sreekumaran Nair said that the society made several attempts to update the directory with the help of the web sub-committee. Dr. Harichandrakumar opined that the society should initiate some training programmes at regular intervals. Some partial amounts accrued from bank interest on general fixed deposits may be utilized for capacity-building training programs. As approved by the GC, the GB ratified the General Secretary's report after including these suggestions.

After the general secretary's report, Dr C. Ponnuraja presented the Treasurer's report. He briefed the members about the current financial status of the society and circulated the audited statements for FY 2023-'24.

The Treasurer, Dr Ponnuraja, informed about the request by the GC to use the appropriate headings against the expenditures in the audited statement and to maintain a hardcopy register of individual award-wise and other FD-wise accounting for future use. Further, he suggested issuing a hardcopy certificate/ a printed PVC card towards the ISMS life-membership for the new members as many new members request the certificate in hard copy. GC debated this issue, asked treasurer to explore the feasibility and cost incurred, and to present it in the next GC meeting. As approved by GC, the Treasurer's report was ratified by the GB.

The bulletin editor, Dr. Binu V.S., presented his report. He mentioned that two issues of bulletin have been prepared and circulated to the members before the conference. Dr Binu raised a major concern regarding the lack of submission



of required technical and news items by the members for bulletin. He requested support from all members to bring out the Bulletin regularly. He also informed about suggestions made by Prof. B. L Verma in the GC meeting to identify a few key members and contacting them from the bulletin desk for submission of their work. As approved by the GC, the bulletin editor's report was ratified by the GB.

Dr. Prasanna Samuel presented the Web coordinator's report. He narrated the activities involved in coordination with the secretariat. GC approved the Web Coordinator's report.

Award committee Chair, Prof. R.M. Pandey, could not attend the meeting. However, Prof. Pandey communicated the following recommendations of the award committee to the secretariat, and the general secretary presented the recommendations.

ISMS Awards for 2024	Recommended Name
Prof. P.V. Sukhatme Award	Dr. Shashank Tripathi
Prof. B.G. Prasad Award	Dr. Gajendra Vishwakarma
Smt. Suraj Kali Jain Award	Dr. Adhin Bhaskar
Prof. K.R. Sundaram Young Researcher Award	Ms. Rajeswari A

As approved by the GC, recommendations of the award committee were ratified by the GB.

Nomination committee Chair, Prof. P. Venkatesan, attended the meeting. The following are the nominations received for vacant positions.



President-Elect	
Prof. R.K Soni	200801/LM
Prof. K. Thennarasu	950005/LM
Prof. Anil C Mathew	900033/LM
GC members	
Dr. Prabhakar Mishra	201504/LM
Dr Satish Kakade	930033/LM
Dr. K.T Harichandrakumar	200457/LM
Mr. Hariom Pachori	200907/LM

Prof. Venkatesan reported that since no consensus could arrive from Committee members regarding the recommendations, they were not in a position to recommend names to the GC and informed GC to decide on this matter. As decided by the GC on this issue, GB also recommended to conduct the election, and asked the Nomination committee to complete the election process at their earliest convenience.

Search committee Chair, Prof. B. L. Verma presented his report and made the following recommendations.

Name of the Award	ISMS life Member Recommended for the Award (Awardee)	Award to be Presented in
Lifetime	Prof. Ajit Sahai, Lucknow	Year 2025



Achievement Award	E-mail: ajit.sahai@gmail.com , ajitsahai@gmail.com	
Prof. S K Bhattacharya Oration	Prof. B Antonisamy, Vellore E-mail: b.antonisamy@gmail.com	Year 2025
Smt. Ramrati Lalima Sahai Award	Prof. L. Jeyaseelan, Vellore E-mail: prof.ljey@gmail.com	Year 2025
Prof. P. P. Talwar Lecture	Prof. (Mrs.) M. Bhattacharya, New Delhi E-mail: drmbhattacharya25@gmail.com	Year 2024
Prof. A Indrayan Travel Grant	Prof. K. K Jose, Kottayam E-mail: kkjstc@gmail.com	Year 2024

As approved by the GC, GB ratified the recommendations of the search committee.

Chair of the FSMS committee, Prof. S.N Dwivedi, President of ISMS, presented the report. For 2024, the committee recommended FSMS to Prof. Uttam Singh, Department of Biostatistics and Health Informatics., SGPGIMS, Lucknow, and Dr. Satish Kakade, KIMS, Karad. As approved by the GC, the GB ratified FSMS committee's recommendations.

On the lines of GC, the GB appreciated the conference preparations and arrangements made by the Organizing Secretary of ISMSCON-2024, Prof. Brijesh P. Singh, Department of Statistics, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi. However, the GB emphasized the need of encouraging participation of the students further through free/ subsidised accommodation and reduced registration fee.

The General Secretary informed that the Secretariat received only one proposal for hosting the 43rd Annual Conference of the Indian Society for Medical Statistics (ISMSCON-2025) from Dr. M. Rajeswari, Department of Biostatistics, AIIMS, Mangalagiri, Andhra Pradesh. GC debated this proposal



and approved AIIMS. Mangalagiri's proposal to host the ISMSCON-2025 & requested to finalise the conference dates in discussion with the Secretariat before 31st December 2024. Later, as desired, Dr. M. Rajeswari, presented in detail the institute's facilities, support from the administration, and capacity to host the 2025 conference. The GB ratified the GC's approval in this regard.

The Secretary informed that GC debated the proposal to initiate a new award, "Prof. C.M Pandey Award", in the name of late Prof. C. M. Pandey. This award will be given once a year to a young scientist (including an early career researcher) who is the first author of the best-published paper. Prof. B L Verma briefed about the finalised award rules. This Award will carry a cash prize of ₹ 25,000/- (Rupees twenty-five thousand only), a Certificate of Honour, and a Memento. The GB ratified the approval by GC in this regard.

He further informed about Prof. Abhaya Indrayan's request to contribute an additional amount of ₹ 2,00,000/- (Rupees two lakhs only) for his existing travel grant for retired members. The GB ratified the GCs appreciation for his proposed contribution and its approval.

Prof. B. L Verma briefed about the Report of the Constitution Amendment Committee -2024. There are some recommendations related to eligibility criteria for life membership, renaming of Prof. P.P Talwar's lecture award as Prof. P.P Talwar Oration, etc. Prof. Verma pointed out that these recommendations would be uploaded to the society's website and circulated to the members through the Google group. Later, taking into account obtained suggestions (if any), it can be finalised in the subsequent GC. The GB ratified the approval of GC in this regard.

The GB was informed by the Secretary about approval by GC regarding the increase in seed money usually given to the conference organisers of the Annual Conferences as ₹ 25,000/- (Rupees twenty-five thousand only) instead of ₹ 10,000/- (Rupees ten thousand only) presently. The GB ratified the same.



The GB was informed by the Secretary about approval of GC regarding possible waiving of the registration fee & providing free accommodation by the organising secretary for senior members invited to receive ISMS awards, especially *the Lifetime Achievement Award and Prof. S.K Bhattacharya Oration*. The GB ratified it and advised the secretariat to talk to the organising secretaries of the ensuing conferences well in advance regarding the necessary arrangements.

Regarding the concerns about the renewal of society's registration, Dr. C.B Tripathi, Chair of the related sub-committee & a GC Member, briefed GB on the undertaken steps. He approached different zonal offices with an advocate. Through some known contacts, he consulted a person involved in such activities and an RTI has been filed to know the present status of the society. Dr Tripathi informed the GB that it may take two-three months, and the agent has demanded a sum of ₹ 20, 000/-. He further informed that the secretariat would be updated about related progress. As approved by the GC, GB ratified it.

As briefed to the GC, Prof. S.N Dwivedi updated the GB regarding the NAMS-ICMR National Biostatistics Helpline for MD/ MS/ DNB/ DM/ MCh/ DrNB/ PhD students. Prof. Dwivedi informed GB that he received repeated invitations from Prof. Umesh Kapil, Secretary, National Academy of Medical Sciences (NAMS), New Delhi, to provide consent to join this helpline and extend statistical help to the medical students in the country virtually. In spite of this, he regretted in this regard. Also, he wrote to Dr Kapil that if authorities want to ensure quality teaching and quality research through quality training, there has to be a separate department of biostatistics with sufficient faculty/scientists on the lines of AIIMS, New Delhi, in every medical college and related research institutes of the country. He emphasized that there is no shortcut for quality research leading to quality evidence for public health/



clinical practice. However, Prof. Dwivedi informed to the GC that the ICMR-NAMS National Biostatistics Helpline was launched in September 2024 where many of the ISMS members participated.

Other items with the permission of Chair:

- Prof. Jeyaseelan raised a serious concern about reduced conference attendance, especially from the younger generation. He emphasized that the secretariat should be involved in fixing the scientific sessions for its further strengthening. Moreover, he opined that there should be an opportunity especially to the youngsters to talk to invited speakers in special lectures through Q & A sessions, which would attract participation. He also pointed out that the secretariat should intervene for quality special lectures. The main focus should be to exchange science and benefit from science.
- Prof. Jeyaseelan further raised his concern about international delegates or speakers at the conference. He insisted that the secretariat may invite a few national/ international intellectuals to the conference, and he has agreed to support such activities. GB appreciated his viewpoints.
- The General Secretary reported GC's recommendation that a member can be nominated to an ISMS committee for a maximum of two terms. GB ratified it.
- The General Secretary informed the GB that cheques received for the new endowment regarding Prof. C.M Pandey Award, and FSMS nominations are handed over to the treasurer for further action based on GB's approval.



GB appreciated and thanked all retiring members including, President, Prof. S.N Dwivedi, and GC members, Prof. L. Jeyaseelan, Dr. C.B Tripathi and Dr.K.T. Harichandrakumar for their services rendered to the ISMS.

The GB meeting was concluded with a vote of thanks by General Secretary.

Dr. B. Binukumar
General Secretary-ISMS

Prof. S.N. Dwivedi
President-ISMS