



# Indian Association of Surgical Oncology

Newsletter

May2020

## Executive Committee 2018-2019

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### Executive Committee Members

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## From the Desk of the President, IASO



Hope you and your family are safe in this unprecedented Covid 19 Pandemic. The whole world has been caught unaware and Social, economic, psychological aspects have been severely affected even in the most developed countries apart from the physical morbidities and mortalities. As of now, this is something we have to learn to live with and accept this as `New Normal Life`. We have to be safe ourselves with adequate precautions and protections and deliver our healthcare services to the best of our abilities to the suffering humanity.

Cancer is an ailment which, although is not an acute emergency, can be a killer itself unless early treatment is initiated. Oncological surgery, in most cases, has to be weighed against the risks during this pandemic. For most emergencies like Obstruction, bleeding, perforation, sepsis etc surgery has to be done immediately. Other cases should be discussed in the Multidisciplinary Tumour Board meeting and all options of cancer treatment have to be taken into account with a slightly changed perspective. Non Surgical treatment should be considered wherever is feasible in the form of Neo-adjuvant Chemotherapy (preferably Oral), Targeted therapy, Radiotherapy, Hormonal therapy etc. Where Surgery is the only option, it has to be done safely, viz. Cancers of Gallbladder, Endometrium, Early Bladder tumour, Kidney etc. However, when the Neo-adjuvant treatment has already been completed, or where the surgery can be done under Spinal or Regional anaesthesia with minimal morbidity, operation has to be done. With the relaxed guidelines of ICMR, Covid 19 testing should be done before all Non-emergency surgeries to avoid the risks to the Operative staff and also the patients themselves. IASO, in consultation with its senior members have come up with guidelines which had been circulated amongst all its members and also put on our website.

Although IASO has been very keen in promoting academics and Skills development through Annual National Conferences like NATCON and Midterm, Zonal CMEs, Fellowships (both National & International)- in the presence of the Pandemic where Social distancing is the key factor, we have resorted to regular Webinars. We have been doing this almost every week either ourselves or in partnership with CEN (Cancer Expert Now, USA). CEN is an academic body which promotes knowledge dissipation through Webinars with its partner organization. After discussion in the Extra-ordinary EC meeting, their proposal of partnering with IASO was approved and some joint Webinars have already taken place with many more in the pipeline. CEN also provides an opportunity of getting expert opinion on different patients through their 250+ eminent Panellists all over the world. This is Free to the members of the partner societies and hence to the IASO members.

Regarding NATCON, MIDCON, ICC 2021- a brainstorming Extra-ordinary EC meeting was done recently along with the Organizers of each of these conferences. The consensus was to defer

NATCON & ICC by 1 yr along with GB meeting and Election. The minutes of the meetings are included in this e-Newsletter for your perusal. Your opinions are sought on these issues by 15th June, 2020.

We urge all of you to involve your PG trainees in these Webinars from their workplace, and also to promote memberships amongst all the Surgeons who are involved in Oncology (including Ortho, Gynae, ENT, Urology) so that the strength of IASO increases.

At the end, I would like to thank our Hon Secy Dr Sharad Desai and all the EC members including the Senior Past Presidents and also all our Members for the unstinted support in all our activities.

Long Live IASO.

Wishing you and your family safety and good health,

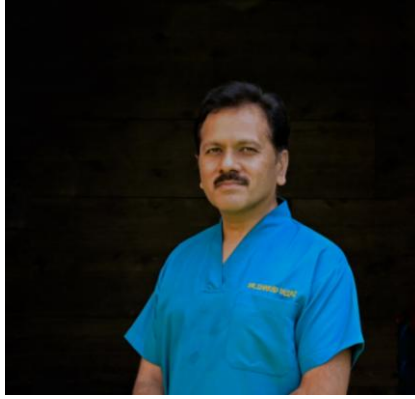
Prof (Dr) Arnab Gupta

President, IASO.

Medical Director,

Saroj Gupta Cancer Centre & Research Institute,

Thakurpukur, Kolkata



### **Secretary's Message**

Hello everyone,

Lightning strikes. Nobody knows how, where and when.

When everything seemed to be going as a routine, a virus rattled the world killing more humans and sending Homo sapiens into hiding. Though India is relatively doing well, it is no time to acknowledge success or pat our own back. Cases in India have been steadily rising and we are still far from flattening the curve.

The IASO was sailing smoothly and we were all set to attend our partner association's conference in Boston in late March(SSO). After lots of deliberations, meeting was finally called off at the last moment. India went into a lockdown which been scaled down to date to great extent. More conferences and smaller meets in India and abroad were cancelled or postponed. After an initial delay in Surgeries, we have had to pick our tools once again with different enthusiasm depending on the severity of the pandemic in different localities. Presently, we are unable to predict the future and IASO members must be prepared to prepare for the worst scenario. However, the pandemic may pass off with minimal damage and we must continue to do our duties to our patients. We hope to maintain few other diseases under control. We must not add to already stressed health care systems and ensure that our frontline workers are focused on Corona only.

We had to take some emergency calls in the better interest of the IASO and we hope to come out unaffected by the devastation of the pandemic.

The whole calendar of IASO has been disturbed. We however are in good spirits and not demoralised by the virus. The whole year has been skipped and our plans pushed forward by a year.

I hope to receive your support in these decisions and cooperation to build the Association stronger.

I wish you all safety and health. Kindly adhere and help others adhere to the new life and protocols.

Thank you.

Dr Sharad Desai

Hon Secretary

Indian Association of Surgical Oncology

Director, Mahatma Gandhi Cancer Hospital,

Miraj - 416410

Dt Sangli Maharashtra

## ***Midterm IASO 2020, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh***

Org Secretary – Dr Narendra Hullikal

### Secretary's Report

The Midterm National conference of Indian Association of Surgical Oncology was held at Hotel Fortune Grand Ridge, Tirupati on 29th February and 1st March 2020 with a preconference video workshop held at Sri Padmavati Auditorium of Sri Venkateswara Institute of Medical Sciences, Tirupati.

The one and half day conference was well attended by more than 250 delegates across India. Many of the senior consultants across the breadth of India from major Institutes and Hospitals attended as faculty and deliberated on several interesting and common clinical conditions faced in the day to day clinical practice. The conference had a record of more than 100 scientific abstracts which were divided into oral, video and poster presentations. A total of 11 awards were given to the presenters, 3 each in Video and Oral and 5 for poster category.

The conference was inaugurated by the Chief Guest Dr Syama Prasad Pigilam, Honourable Vice Chancellor, Dr NTR University of Health Sciences, Vijayawada and the Guest of Honour Dr D Nageshwar Reddy, Chief of Gastroenterology & Chairman, Asian Institute of Gastroenterology, Hyderabad. The IASO President Dr Arnab Gupta, Secretary Dr Sharad Desai, local Organizing committee Chairman, Dr B Vengamma, Director cum VC, SVIMS, Organizing Secretary Dr Narendra H and Co-Secretary Dr Suryasen graced the occasion.

On the Preconference video workshop day which was attended by nearly 200 delegates, Dr Simhadri Chadrashekar Rao, Senior Surgical Oncologist and Managing Director, Soumya Hospitals, Hyderabad delivered 4th SVIMS Surgical Oncology Chair Oration on "Changing trends in the Management of Carcinoma Breast over a Span of Three Decades-A Surgical Oncologist's Perspective". There were high quality video presentations by many senior Surgical Oncologists across India covering many standard and emerging surgical procedures, which benefited the delegates including postgraduate residents.





# MINUTES OF EC MEET

## 29.02.20 @ MIDCON2020 , Tirupati

Meeting called to order by Dr Sharad Desai

Members welcomed by Dr Arnab Gupta

### 1. IASO MIDCON 2021

Presentation made by Dr Caleb Harris.

IASO MIDCON 2021 to be held at North Eastern Indira Gandhi Research Institute of Health and Mental Sciences from March 5-7 2021 and the organising team has been constituted

Dr Rudra had suggestion that all members of the organising team should be a member already or should be made one. And that there should be a separate PAN card

Dr Toprani suggested that the conference should be organised by a body such as NE Association of Surgical Onco with its own PAN number. Dr Caleb informed there is no such formal body as such to which Dr Chandramohan suggested that an Association of Persons can be formed which can have its own PAN card as has been done in the last few Conferences.

Discussion proceeded to access to which Dr Caleb laid out possible ways the venue could be reached

The options of venue were discussed. Dr Caleb explained there were two options. Either the hospital itself or State Convention center. The hospital is 8 km away and has a few halls to hold a convention, while the state convention center has a large auditorium of capacity 350 and 18-25 rooms. The EC agreed that State Convention Center is a good venue

The proposed theme of conference was "Skill Sets in Surgical Oncology"

Proposed program: Preconference Video Workshop on Friday; Main conference for 1 ½ days with Inaugural Ceremony, Cultural program and banquet on Saturday. Added attraction: pre- and post- conference organised tours

### 2. IASO NATCON 2020

Presentation made by Dr Rudra

Preconference workshop on 17<sup>th</sup> Sept (Thursday):

- Live workshop from three venues: Max, AIIMS and RGCI
- Cadaver dissection course

Proposal for the four orations: Dr S Warier (USA), Dr Ignace De Hingh (Netherlands), Dr Jeffery Myers (USA), SSO president (USA).

Detailed discussion happened on the program for main days of conference. Dr SVS Deo and Dr Rudra noted down the suggestions by various EC members.

Discussion concluded by statement that a detailed Program will be finalised and put up to EC by May 2020

### 3 Membership Drive

Dr Toprani proposed that the President, IASO reach out to all teaching hospitals and make their residents Associate members which can be converted to Full membership later on. EC agreed to this suggestion.

Dr Gopinath proposed that IJSO be made compulsory for Institutions. Dr Savant proposed the Institutions can be offered ONE year subscription to IJSO as complimentary. EC agreed to the suggestion

4. **ESSO Scholarship.** Dr Sharad informed the house that ESSO has agreed to offer scholarship to ONE candidate which entails 15 days' attachment to a Hospital and 500 euros.

5. **Bylaws:** Dr Sharad informed the EC that change in Byelaws as approved have been updated on Website

6. **Dissociation from ASI:** Dr Arnab Gupta, President enquired about the progress of separation from ASI. Dr Sharad Desai informed the body that a Legal opinion has been taken in writing. 1. IASO derives no benefits from ASI; 2. there is no common working; 3. IASO is a separate legal entity with its own PAN card and pays its own taxes. There is no hitch in separation. IASO assets are protected. The Society Registrar has been approached for the needful.

7. **Detroit Fellowship:** EC was informed that though Dr Donald Weaver had promised to regularise the fellowship, he has gone slow again. However, for sake of students we should continue the fellowship.

8. **IASO Budget:** Dr Toprani proposed the IASO now starts to maintain an Annual Budget which should lay out the expenditure anticipated and the target collection for coming year. EC agreed to this proposal and deputed incumbent president, incoming president and the secretary to form a budget committee.

9. **Revenue generated from conferences:** Dr Dhairyasheel suggested that the Local body should retain some funds before turning over profit to IASO. Dr Sharad suggested that audited accounts too to be submitted at same time

10. **Faculty dropout** at Conference

EC has decided the faculty who is dropping out after initial confirmation should be made note of by the Organisers and the list of same be passed on to next Organising secretary

11. **ICC2021:**

Dr Dhairyasheel informed the EC that the broad scientific program has been decided upon and there is a broad consensus with other societies. There should not be REPEAT topics and the timing needs to be coordinated.

12. **SSO Scholarship:**

Secretary informed the EC that SSO has reduced its support to the scholarship. Now, it is grant of 3000 dollars; ONE complementary registration; No local hospitality; 2 weeks' attachment to ICDE enrolled Institution

13. **Posters at SSO:** Secretary informed EC that top 10 posters are eligible to present posters at SSO and currently IASO disburses 1000 dollars each. But last time 03 people dropped out at last moment. EC discussed this point in detail and the consensus was

(i). Winners to confirm the willingness to attend SSO by Nov 30. Deadline for registration to SSO set for Nov 30.

(ii) Five participants to be offered this opportunity. Next five are kept standby.

(iii) IASO contribution to be disbursed only on proof of registration, visa and air tickets.

(iv) Above points to be announced in GBM 2020 and effectively immediately

#### 14. **Zonal meets**

Dr Shaikat has proposed an East Zone meet in June. It will be a 1 ½ day meet focussing on upper GI cancers.

EC adopted the proposal that elected zonal members must give tentative date of compulsory meet being organised by them within 03 month of election.

#### 15. **Other points discussed**

1. Midterm conferences to be organised in first quarter of calendar year

Henceforth there would be no NATCON, in the year of ICC. MIDCON should be at least 6 months prior to the proposed ICC dates. All the Zonal CMEs of IASO should not be held within 6 months prior to ICC.

2. The last date for Filing of nomination for elected posts for EC will be 31 August. Mode: Routine mail and email

3. Grant of US \$ 1500 dollars each approved for President and Secretary to attend SSO.

(vi) Radha Devi Oration: (Existing) will be delivered by the outgoing President at the annual meeting of IASO. Rs 5000/- have been donated for the oration by the family of Dr S.P. Jain. The orator will get a plaque, certificate and a medal. The local hospitality to the orator will be provided by the Organizing secretary of NATCON. (approved GBM NATCON 2011, Lucknow).

***Proposal: To add another Name to Radha Devi to increase the Seed money to Rs 10 lakhs, which will be valid for 10 yrs.***

***Henceforth, all new Orations will be Time bound for 10 yrs with a seed money of Rs 10 lakhs. It can be extended/ replaced by another Citation with the deposit of similar amount.***

(vii) To remove the name Dr Maudar from the selection committee for Detroit Fellowship. Similarly, for Baroda- GCRI fellowship to replace Dr RI Dave by Dr T Subramenshyar Rao.

(viii) For orations, modifications required. Name to be removed? Added? Time duration?? Funding?? No consensus and further discussions deferred for later date

(ix) New logo for IASO (without the mention of ASI): Multiple suggestions were received for the same. The EC thought that the best one was the one designed by Dr Narendra. However, modification of the design of logo on the IASO tie was proposed by Dr Toprani which the EC approved. This was to be presented to the GB in the next NATCON for final approval.

(x) Contribution from NATCON, MIDCON: ***Proposal: 50% of the surplus should go to IASO.***

(xi) It has been proposed that on request, a seed money of Rs 50,000/- may be given to the organizing secretary of MIDCON (like that of NATCON) to start preparation, repayable within 6 months of the conference.

(xii) Use of IASO banner in CME programs, Workshops & Conferences – It was decided that in CME where delegation fee was charged, a token amount of Rs. 5000 or Rs. 50 per delegate for one-day event and Rs 75 for two days event which ever was more must be deposited to use IASO banner. (Use of IASO Banner for

academic activities of private institutes: Same to be done on a payment of Rs Two and one Lakhs, by institutes in metros and non-metros, respectively, with three local IASO members to be made members of the Organizing Committee-

***Proposal: to have same clause of contribution to IASO for Private & Non- Private Institutes.***

(xii) .There will be no Election to the IJSO and the candidates will be selected by the IASO Editorial council (2014). ***Proposal: All 4 Zones to be represented***

# Corona Diary

## ***Extra Ordinary EC online meeting I :(2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2020)***

Zoom platform

The meeting was called to discuss the academic plans for IASO in the presence of Covid 19 Pandemic.

This was a Zoom meeting held at 6 PM.

Members present:

1. Arnab Gupta- President
2. Sharad Desai- Hony Secy
3. Rajendra Toprani- President Elect
4. Praful Das- Vice President
5. Dhairyasheel Savant- Imm Past President
6. Chandramohan N- Treasurer
7. Shaikat Gupta- EC member
8. Sanjay Desai- EC member
9. Caleb Harris- EC member
10. Sandeep Nayak- EC member
11. Narendra Hullikol- EC member
12. Asutosh Chauhan- Editorial Secy

Hony Secy called the meeting to order.

President welcomed all the EC members and explained the need to discuss academic program of IASO in the presence of Pandemic.

Since the proposed Zonal CMEs seemed unlikely in the coming months, virtual Academic meets (Webinars) were proposed. All the Zonal representatives were requested to organize one Webinar on a fortnightly/ monthly basis. The possible platforms, expenses & sponsors were to be explored.

The proposal from CEN (Cancer Expert Now) based in USA to partner with IASO was discussed. This is an Academic body which promotes Webinars with its partner societies and also provides Free Expert opinion on difficult cases of the members of the Societies through its 250+ experts worldwide. The 1<sup>st</sup> proposed Joint Webinar was on 8<sup>th</sup> May, 2020, theme- Breast Cancer. All the members agreed to the proposal. Members were requested to provide Case summaries of 2 Breast cancer patients by 4<sup>th</sup> May which were to be discussed in the meeting.

It was decided to discuss about the NATCON, MIDCON, ICC in another Extra-ordinary EC meeting in next 2- 3 wks.

The meeting ended with a Vote of thanks by the Hony Secy.

## ***Extraordinary Meeting II: (19<sup>th</sup> May, 2020)***

Minutes of Extraordinary (Corona Pandemic) online EC meeting

Attended on Zoom platform by

Dr Arnab Gupta- President

Dr Rajendra Toprani- President Elect

Dr PK Das Vice- President

Dr Dhairyasheel Savant- Immediate Past President

Dr Chandramohan N- Treasurer

Dr Sharad Desai- Secretary

Dr Sanjay Desai- EC Member

Dr Atul Somaiya- EC Member

Dr Sandeep Nayak- EC Member

Dr Ramakrishna- EC Member

Dr Caleb Harris- EC Member

Dr Shaikat Gupta- EC Member

Dr Naveen Sanchety- EC Member

Dr Shubham Jain- Web secretary

Dr Rudra Acharya- Org Secretary NATCON 2020

Dr Harit Chaturvedi- Org Chairman NATCON 2020

1. Meeting called to order by Hon Secretary, Dr Sharad Desai
2. Dr Arnab Gupta, President welcomed the EC members.
3. The issue of conducting conferences was considered for the academic year 2020-2021.

It was unanimously decided by all the EC members to postpone all conference events for one calendar year. A relook at MIDCON 2021 at Shillong will be done after a review in September and the severity of the pandemic.

Dr Rudra Acharya proposed that an online NATCON could be held with various platforms by his Organising committee in September 2020. Dr Harit Chaturvedi, the Organising Chairman (Special Invitee) also expressed his desire regarding organising the Online conference in September 2020. However, after extensive deliberations, both of them accepted the view of the EC to postpone the NATCON 2020 to Sept 2021 due to the logistic issues.

However, the EC accepted the proposal of Dr Rudra Acharya to do a one day online CME in September as part of the ongoing webinar series of IASO.

It was decided to continue doing Webinars fortnightly / monthly till next NATCON in 2021

4. The issue of the 2020 IASO election for all posts was discussed.

It was held that since there is not going to be a NATCON in 2020, the inability to call for a General Body meeting as per the byelaws due to the extraordinary pandemic situation, an election in Sept 2020 was physically not possible & should therefore be deferred.

It was discussed & decided that the present EC should function till the next NATCON in 2021 during which the election would be held & members would be notified in advance for the same.

4. The ICC that was planned to be organized by IASO as a host in 2021 would be organized in 2022 as proposed by Org. Secretary Dr D. Savant & he put forward the reasons for that.

The EC accepted Dr Savant's proposal & guided him to discuss the proposal in NCC with rest of the 3 Organizations & to inform about the decision of NCC to IASO EC.

5. The Secretary thanked all the EC members for their contributions in the discussion & enable the smooth functioning of IASO

***Any comments/ suggestions regarding the EC and Extra Ordinary EC meetings must be directed to the Hony Secy with a copy to President Elect & Vice President by 15<sup>th</sup> June, 2020. It will be assumed that the non-responders have no objection to the proposals and decisions of the EC before further ratification in the GB meeting.***

***Stay safe, stay healthy,***

***Wash hands frequently and Mask all***