Minutes of the Annual General Body meeting held on 6th November 2017, 6 PM,
TRANSMEDCON 2017, Lucknow

The 6th Annual General Meeting of Indian Society of Transfusion Medicine was held on the occasion of the 6th National Conference of Indian Society of Transfusion Medicine, TRANSMEDCON 2017 venue (Hotel Vivanta by Taj), Lucknow on 6th Nov, 2017 at 5.30 PM. Following executive Committee members were present in the meeting.

President : Dr. R N Makroo
Vice president : Dr. Tulika Chandra
Secretary : Dr Manisha Shrivastava
Joint Secretary : Dr. Aseem Tiwari
Treasurer : Dr. Prashant Agarwal

1. The President of the society called the meeting to order.
2. Two minutes silence was observed for paying respect to Prof. V. L. Ray who left for her heavenly abode.
3. Secretary, Dr Manisha Shrivastava requested the treasurer Dr. Prashant Agarwal to present the statement of accounts.
4. Dr. Agarwal presented the audit report & account statement, both the income and expenditure. The house was informed about the balance money.
5. Dr. Debashish Gupta requested the executive committee to circulate the audited report and account statement to all members before the OBM. It should preferably be printed in the ISTM newsletter, as well.
6. The president announced that all members will get the AJTS Journal, however, members must update their present address and emails. This ‘updating’ should be done by writing e-mail to the secretary/EC.
7. Dr. M. Gajar suggested that names of awardees should be communicated to the members, before-hand. Any award to non-members has to be approved by executive committee (EC). Dr. Gajar suggested that details of applications should be put on the ISTM website. Dr. Sneh Lata Gupte related Dr. Gajar’s request and said, to maintain the secrecy and sanctity of the awards, the names should be made public only after awardees are decided and this was agreed upon.
8. The discussion on the reduced amount of Life membership from Rs 5000 to Rs 3000, for postgraduate students was held and it was concluded that this has resulted in increase in membership evident from good response from students who have become life members of the society.

9. Dr. Makroo said that all conferences organizers should deposit minimum Rs 100000 to the ISTM account. A total of 30000 deposit is pending from the Kolkata Conference. The deposit from Bhopal conference is also pending. The organizers of Kolkata conference told that pending money will be deposited within 3 months.

10. Dr Manisha Shrivastava said that the amount of money generated for the conference was uncertain and while paying for accommodation and travel and other facilities provided to faculty, the money could get exhausted burdening the organizers. The standard of the conference cannot be brought down as the logistics have to be worked out. Thus it was announced that no air travel & accommodation will be paid to faculty except for the orator & awardees for the future conferences.

11. It was decided that remuneration for the award to be instituted in memory of Prof. V.L. Ray will be transferred to ISTM account and a Fixed Deposit will be created. The interest that will be generated will be used for giving award in memory of Prof. V.L. Ray.

12. Secretary conveyed her opinion that the society being the leading academic society of Transfusion medicine should start its own scientific journal. A vote was casted and Majority in the house (44/86) was in favour of starting a new journal. Hence it was decided that the Secretary and the President shall follow-up the same.

13. Dr. Dheerej, the editor suggested that instead of starting a proper journal, a booklet /journal like can be started that will contains transfusion guidelines and related write-up that will help all in the day to day blood banking and transfusion practices. However, it has been decided to initiate the new journal based on the sentiments and voting-results of the members. The process may be gradual; beginning with electronic newsletter with greater scientific contents gradually changing to new journal. It was also suggested that the new journal may include TRANSPLANTATION IMMUNOLOGY, COAGULATION, etc. besides Transfusion.

14. The venue for the TRANSMEDCON 2018 to be organized by South Zone was announced as Cochin. Dr. Veena Shenoy shall be the Organizing Secretary. The dates will be decided in
near future. A presentation in this regard was made by the organizing team of the proposed upcoming conference.

15. It was discussed that as initially proposed special interest groups (SIG) from the sub-sections of Transfusion Medicine like immunohematology, apheresis, TTI, Blood donation, Blood Component, Clinical Practices, Cellular therapy etc. should be made. Each section shall have a convener. However proper guidelines / criteria should be in place for making these SIG and the persons associated with the respective sections. Dr. Aseem K Tiwari was given the task of formulating the guidelines. These guidelines, once finalized by the EC shall be circulated amongst the members for their feedback.

16. Cellular therapy being an integral part of Transfusion Medicine should be inducted in the curriculum of postgraduate programs to whatever extent it is possible. ISTM shall push this with all teaching institutions.

17. The task of uniformity in nomenclature shall be pursued by the President and Secretary at all levels.

18. ISTM shall also work towards creating a separate CADRE of Transfusion Medicine specialists in all teaching hospitals. It was also agreed that MD (Transfusion Medicine) shall be accorded priority over MD (Pathology) during recruitments in teaching hospitals.

19. TRANSMEDCON 2019 will be in the West Zone and applications were invited as per the format.

President : Dr. R N Makroo
Vice president : Dr. Tulika Chandra
Secretary : Dr. Manisha Shrivastava
Joint Secretary : Dr. Aseem Tiwari
Treasurer : Dr. Prashant Agarwal