



Indian Society of Transfusion Medicine

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Minutes of Meeting

1. The Annual General Meeting was called on 10/January/2020 at 18:30 hours at the venue of Transmedcon, Mumbai. The meeting was presided by Dr. R N Makroo, Dr. Tulika Chandra (Vice-President), Dr. Aseem K Tiwari (Joint-Secretary) and Dr. Pashant Agarwal (Treasurer) were present on the dais. Dr. Tulika Informed the President that Dr. Manisha had to leave at short notice because of certain personal reason and was therefore not present. Dr. Makroo called the meeting to order, and asked Dr. Aseem K Tiwari to start the proceedings of the meeting. Dr. Aseem K Tiwari displayed the agenda-points and began the proceedings agenda-wise.
2. Agenda point 1: MOM (Minutes of Meeting) of Transmedcon 2015, Kochi - The MOM of Kochi were displayed on screen and read-out by Dr. Aseem K Tiwari. Dr. Gajendra Gupta clarified that in context of 'new journal' what he said at Kochi was not truly represented in the MOM. He added that his hospital has been funding the journal (Global Journal of Transfusion Medicine) for five years and it is 'quite possible' to begin another new journal on same lines. Either ISTM should start its own new journal or obtain 'rights' to Asian Journal of Transfusion Science (AJTS). He said this is important because there are several young Transfusion Medicine Specialists (TMS) who need such an avenue. This point was accepted and appreciated by the executive committee. The minutes of Kochi meeting were accepted by the house with this caveat. Dr. Gajendra Gupta also raised a point about "accountability" of the executive committee. He said members expected the executive committee to share/present what the Executive committee did for the ISTM?
3. Prof Neelam Marwaha said that the handover from the older executive committee to newer executive happens during annual

general body meeting (AGM) at Transmedcon held during the election year. Dr. Makroo agreed and added that the election process should have been initiated earlier. Dr. Marwaha added that the President is the only person who does not have conflict of interest since she/he can never contest again for any executive committee. Prof Marwaha added that Dr. Debashish has been elected unopposed as the President of the new executive committee. The older executive committee cannot take any policy decision. The executive concurred and was willing to hand-over the charge; Dr. Debashish, however, wanted the formal announcement of new executive body before taking over the charge.

4. Dr. Makroo brought up the issue of disqualification of Dr. Aseem K Tiwari and Dr. Ravi C Dara and said that they have written a mail to him (President. ISTM) asking as to why they have been disqualified? Dr. Makroo said that he referred the Constitution and spoke to the ex-President Prof Marwaha to confirm if there is any such provision? Since he could not find any such provision of disqualification in the Constitution, he would like to know from the house whether Dr. Aseem and Dr. Ravi should be allowed to contest? The house passed the resolution (through Voice-vote) in favour of Dr. Aseem and Dr. Ravi contesting for the post of Vice-President and north-zone representative, respectively. Dr. Makroo said that he would convey the decision of the house to the returning officer.
5. Dr. Vimarsh Raina said that he was a member of ISTM, and feels that the 'rights' and 'responsibilities' of being a member go hand-in-hand. He added that when he applied for membership, he filled a form and the form was validated by two existing ISTM members and therefore any member has the right to contest for any elected post. Dr. Raina said that possibly the Returning officer disqualified the nominations of Dr. Aseem and Dr. Ravi, mistakenly. Prof. Marwaha agreed that there are only two requirements for contesting; the Assent form and deposit of Rs. 5000/ with ISTM treasurer. She added that if a mistake has been made, it can be now rectified. Dr. Marwaha and Dr. Debshish emphasized that the Constitution has to be abided. Prof Marwaha said that there is no mandate of submitting CV and Vision document by the contestant in the constitution and if the members wish to incorporate these (CV and Vision Document) as part of the election process then it has to be taken up afresh in another AGM.

Dr. Makroo
Dr. Marwaha
Dr. Debashish
Dr. Vimarsh Raina
Dr. Aseem K Tiwari

6. Dr. Ravi C Dara clarified that he had applied for joint Secretary earlier; then he sent another mail saying that "please cancel the earlier application and that he would like to now apply for post of north-zone representative". He submitted that his mail was acknowledged by the Returning officer. Dr. Aikaj said that both Dr. Aseem and Dr. Ravi would be allowed to contest. Dr. Marwaha also reiterated the same and requested to end this debate and move to the next point in agenda.
7. Agenda point 2: Audited statement of accounts - Dr. Prashant was asked to present the audited statement of accounts. Dr. Prashant said that revenue was generated through membership fee and contributions from annual conferences and only paltry amount has been spent. He added that ISTM expects the Mumbai conference organizers to contribute Rs. 10 Lakhs, too. Dr. Susheela Innah promised to give the due amount from last year's Kochi conference. Few members raised the issue of liabilities and Dr. Prashant promised to check with the concerned CA (Chartered Accountant) and provide details to all members of ISTM, as soon as possible. It was also pointed out by several members that detailed statement of accounts should be shared at least 15 days in advance. The executive committee agreed to this. Dr. Makroo asked Dr. Prashant about the progress in the income tax exemption application as it was already late. Dr. Prashant replied that he has already applied for the same.
8. Dr. Naveen Agnihotri said that he would like to speak on behalf of younger generation of Transfusion Medicine Specialists; he said we would need more of academic discussions than what is there now.
9. Agenda point 3: Taking up issues of Transfusion Medicine to the National Medical Commission - Dr. Makroo informed that he has been following the issue of nomenclature of Transfusion Medicine with Medical Council of India (MCI); since MCI has been dissolved and the issue will have to be taken up with National Medical Commission (NMC). One of the members from Bhuvneshwar suggested that in 400 medical colleges, there should be a mandate to have Transfusion Medicine Specialist (MD/DNB Transfusion Medicine) in each Medical College.
10. Another member spoke about syllabus/curriculum of Transfusion Medicine and need for uniformity across the country. Dr. Tulika

Dr. Aikaj *Dr. Prashant* *Dr. Makroo* *Dr. Tulika*

Chandra emphasized on the need for adequate and uniform infrastructure, and personnel for department of Transfusion Medicine. Dr. Priti Desai said that there is a competence-based curriculum. Dr. Aikaj pointed out that degree of Immunohematology and Blood Transfusion (IHBT) may not be good enough. Dr. Makroo agreed and informed the house that he has been trying and shall continue to do that with NMC, since he is based to New Delhi. Dr. Tulika informed that the Secretary has sent a letter to Mr. Vats and the honourable union health minister, Dr. Harshvardhan. Dr. Debshih said that there is a precedence of change in nomenclature whereby 'Genitourinary' changed to 'Urology'. Dr. Innah added 'Chest Disease' changed to 'Pulmonology'.

11. Agenda point 4: Special Interest Groups of ISTM - Dr. Aseem K Tiwari told the audience that SIG activity has been going on for over 18 months; first the guidelines were formulated, validated by the members, then nominations were called for and thereafter seven SIGs were installed. Several suggestions like nomenclature was changed from Convenor/co-convenor to Chairperson, Convenor and members. The house was informed that additionally even PhD can join as convenors/members. Provided they comply with guidelines and are approved by the respective chair-persons in concurrence with the executive committee. Dr. Latha Jagannathan emphasized that these points should be documented. Dr. Aseem Tiwari agreed to the 'documentation' and sought permission from the President to send the new documents pertaining to SIG (Special Interest Group). The President accorded permission to Dr. Aseem K Tiwari to send mail to all ISTM members on progress made in SIG.
12. Agenda point 5: Announcement of the venue of Transmedcon 2020 - North East Zone - Assam was given the responsibility of hosting the Transmedcon 2020. Dr. Deepa from Guwahati came forward and accepted this responsibility
13. Agenda point 6: Recognition of Transfusion Medicine as a specialty - This was discussed and 'minuted' under point 9 and 10.
14. Agenda Point No. 7: Young Scientific Forum of ISTM - The house "agreed in principle" to form a young scientific forum. The criteria of selection and actual selection of members of this forum was left for the in-coming new executive committee, to decide.

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Makroo
Mant Suddh
Tulika

15. Agenda point 8: Uniform Educational Norms for Transfusion Medicine as a specialty – This was discussed and 'minuted' under point 9 and 10.
16. Agenda point 9: Guidelines for Dr. V L ray Memorial Award – several members voiced their concern about delay in instituting the Dr. V L ray Memorial Award. Dr. Innah pointed out that the guidelines for the award were already in MOM of Kochi. It was already decided and approved by the house that "Rs 20, 000 may be a 'combined award' for the 'guide and the student' duo for the 'best paper' based on thesis of a post-graduate student". The criteria of selection would be shared by the secretary, Dr. Manisha Shrivastava, as soon as possible.

President – Dr. R N Makroo

Vice-President – Dr. Tulika Chandra

Secretary – Dr. Manisha Shrivastava

Treasurer – Dr. Prashant Agarwal

Joint Secretary - Dr. Aseem K Tiwari


The image shows five handwritten signatures in black ink, each corresponding to one of the board members listed to the left. The signatures are written over horizontal lines that serve as a guide for the text alignment.