

## ***Minutes of the GBM of the annual conference of ASU 2023(SZUSICON 2023) held at 5.00 PM at Kovalam, Trivandrum***

The meeting was called to the order by the President Dr Avudiappan. The agenda of the meeting was presented to the members.

Hon. Secretary informed the members that the association lost 5 members since the last annual conference. Prof P Venugopal passed away on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2023. He was the past president of ASU and USI. Dr Mans Babu, Dr T Thiagarajan, Dr Saktivel and Dr Hari babu also left us for heavenly abode. One minute of silence was observed in the memory of the deceased members.

Dr Krishnasamy Kannan said that the association should send a condolence message to the bereaved family members signed by President and secretary.

The President Dr Avudiappan in his opening remarks said that he had the good cooperation of the executive council members during his tenure and the association could do many academic activities in this year.

The minutes of previous year's meeting (2022) were presented and passed by the house. (The minutes were circulated to all the members by e-mail.) Proposed by Dr Arun Chawla.

The Hon. secretary Dr Surya Prakash presented the ***secretary's annual report***.

1.33<sup>rd</sup> SZUSICON 2022 was held at Ramaiah medical college, Bangalore. It was a physical meeting after a gap of 2 years. The meeting was well attended by our members.

2. A brief report about the state annual conferences was presented .

3. 10<sup>th</sup> ASU- Prof H S Bhat midterm workshop on the theme “**Bleeding in Urology**” was held on 20<sup>th</sup> November at KAPV Government medical college, Tiruchirappalli, under the aegis of Tiruchirappalli city chapter of USI.

#### 4. Council member activities:

Council member activity of Karnataka: Dr Nischit D Souza, council member from Karnataka conducted a live operative workshop cum CME on “Newer Surgical robots” on 17<sup>th</sup> December at Yenepoa medical college, Mangalore.

Council member activity of SOGUS: It was held on 16<sup>th</sup> April at ESI medical college and hospital, Hyderabad. The meeting was organized by Dr Jagdeeshwar T, council member from AP and TS. The theme of the program was “Renal Transplantation and Vascular access”.

5. The USI-ISU mock exam from south zone was held in Hyderabad on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> April at Kamineni medical college, L B Nagar, Hyderabad.

6. The redesigned website of ASU was presented. The website szusi.com is updated. The new membership process is now totally online. The applicant has to fill the form online and can pay the fees online through the QR code. The duly filled in application will be received by the secretary who will provisionally approve, pending final approval by the GB. The abstract submission is also made online through the website. The submission of nominations for the election is also through the website. Each member is given a login access for the website. All the academic activities of this year are updated on the website. Dr Nischit D Souza extended constant support in developing the website.

13. The verification of documents and renewal of registration of ASU by the Registrar of Societies, Chennai is completed. This has been pending for many years. On May 22<sup>nd</sup>, President, Secretary and Treasurer of ASU attended the Chennai registrar's office for the inspection. We submitted all the documents- 10yrs AGM minutes, updated members list, voucher books, bank statements, auditor reports, IT returns to the Registrar. The Registrar was satisfied with all the submissions. She gave in writing that all the documents of ASU are in proper place and the Association is in good standing.

14. Voting for elections: The executive council asked for permission from the registrar for e-voting. Registrar said that as per the rules of Registrar of societies Chennai, e-voting is not allowed for the election of Office bearers. Hence our elections have to be conducted in physical mode.

15. Donations: Members thanked the Organizing team of SZUSICON 2022 – Dr D Ramesh, Org.chairman, Dr Girish Nelivigi, Org, secretary and Dr Kumar Prabhu, Treasurer for their generous contribution of **Rs 30 lakhs** from the savings of the conference towards the Association of Southern urologists. This is the biggest contribution from any organizing team so far.

The General body also thanked Dr Sanjay Bhat for the generous contribution of **Rs 2 lakhs** for the corpus of the ASU- Prof H S Bhat midterm workshop.

#### 16. Academics:

We conducted regular academics for the benefit of our members this year. We started with fortnightly webinars on Andrology and Infertility from 13<sup>th</sup> January 2023. Dr K V Vinod, Dr Raghavender Kosigi, Dr Rahul reddy, Dr Arun Karthik, Dr V S Karthikeyan, Dr Pramod Krishnappa and Dr Praveen Joshi were the speakers in this fortnightly online talks. We also had a talk by international speaker Dr Ashley Cox from Canada who spoke on 'Sacral Neuromodulation'. All the online sessions were well attended by Postgraduates and other members of ASU. All these webinars are recorded and are available on YouTube on ASU Channel.

**Research methodology and biostatistics online course** is being conducted by ASU. The course Director is Dr Denis Xavier. The topics are divided into 3 sessions with 18 topics in total. This is a paid course with a one-time registration fee of Rs 1000/-This online zoom meeting is held every Sunday from 5.30 to 7.00 PM. The course conveners coordinated the entire 3 months program. All the participants are divided into 4 group. 4 Journal clubs from 4 groups were well conducted.

17. The 11<sup>th</sup> ASU- Prof H S Bhat midterm workshop will be held at Rajagiri hospital, Kochi. The theme for this year meeting is "Adolescent Urology." Dr Balagopal and his team are conducting this meeting. 2024 Prof H S Bhat midterm meeting will go to Karnataka.

18. Prof H S Bhat Oration 2024- Dr Arun Chawla was the solo applicant for this oration. The General body approved his application.

19. Prof P B Sivaraman endowment guest lecture 2024: The council has decided to invite Dr Manoharan from Miami USA for this Oration and the members approved

20. Council member activities for the year 2024: Dr Frederick Paul from Kerala and Dr Dorairajan from Tamil Nadu will organize the meetings in their respective states.

21. Consultant Travel Fellowship:

2022-2023 ASU Consultant travel Fellowship was awarded to Dr Sanman K V from KMC Mangalore. He completed the Travel Fellowship at lakeshore Hospital, Kochi under Dr George P Abraham. He had a wide exposure to laparoscopy during the visit.

2023-2024: ASU Consultant Travel Fellowship is awarded to Dr Zeeshan Hameed from Father Muller medical college, Mangalore.

22. 2023 ASU PG meritorious award is given to Dr Anshuman from Manipal.

23. ASU PG Travell Fellowship:

For the year 2022-2023- Dr Chittibabu Thiagarajan, Dr Ershad Hussain, Dr Imran and Dr Midhun Mohan completed the Fellowship from AINU, Hyderabad. ASU congratulates them on completing their Travel Fellowship.

Secretary's report was passed by the house. It is proposed by Dr Keshavmurthy and seconded by Dr Bobby Viswaroop.

There was discussion on postgraduates from other zones presenting papers as associate members of ASU. Dr Keshav murthy said that any associate member from other zone can present paper, but the PG awards should be reserved for the postgraduates studying in colleges in our zone. The prize awards in best paper, best video and best poster sessions should be reserved to postgraduates of our zone.

Dr Dorairajan said that the scientific sessions awards should be open to all the members whereas the PG meritorious award should be restricted to our zone postgraduates. Dr Laxman said that the association must clarify well in

advance that members of the other zones can present papers but are not eligible for the awards. Dr Philipraj , Dr Keshav and Dr Ginil said that the during abstract submission it should be clearly mentioned that the prize papers are for ASU members only (associate or full). Other zone PGs can submit for free paper sessions. Majority of the house agreed with the decision. The resolution is passed in this regard, proposed by Dr D Ramesh and seconded by Dr Mallikarjun reddy.

Dr Nischit said that if a full member of one zone shifts to other zone and becomes a full member there, he has the voting rights of both the zones. There should be some mechanism to stop a member to become full member of more than one zone. Dr Laxman said that ASU secretariat cannot track the whereabouts of the members. It is the prerogative of the member to inform the ASU office if he is leaving the south zone and becoming full member of the other zone. Then his membership status of south zone will be changed to Affiliate membership.

ASU PG Travel Fellowship 2023-2024: Dr Akshay Fadnis from KUA, Dr Vikram, from UAK, Dr K Keerthana, from SOGUS AP & T and Dr Bharath Chinnaswamy from TAPASU were selected for ASU Travel Fellowship for the year 2023-2024. ASU congratulates all the candidates.

Dr N D Jeyasekharan award:

Hon. Secretary informed the house that Dr Devprasath, sponsor for this award has written to the council to change the category of the award. He felt that there are no good quality submissions for this category and there were no submissions in the last year. The matter was discussed by the council. Dr Laxman said that the award should be continued, and all the members should be encouraged to submit their ideas and innovations to this session. In the future we may get good submissions and hence it is in the interest of the association, that the award is to be continued. Dr Mallikarjun reddy also said that the award has been there since his postgraduate days with many good presentations under this category. Dr Kannan said that there is a big sentiment attached to this award. Dr Jeyasekaran award is the first one under the Ideas and innovations category in the whole country. He suggested continuing the award. Dr Vasudevan said that the scope of the award should be expanded to get more submissions. Dr Keshavmurthy said

that if Dr Devprasath is not willing to continue the award in the same category, then the corpus of the award will go to the general corpus. The house agreed to write a letter to Dr Devprasath to continue the award in the same category.

The house discussed about the registration to the conference for presenting paper in the conference. It was decided that registration is to be made mandatory for presenting scientific paper in the conference: This is ensure that all the presenters whose paper/poster is accepted for presentation are registered delegates of the conference. The council discussed the issue at length and came up with the following proposal.

The last date to submit the abstract should be at least 3 months before the conference dates. After the deadline, 3 weeks' time is taken for reviewing the abstracts. The authors of the selected abstracts are informed about the decision and are advised to register for the conference in the next two weeks failing which their paper will be withdrawn from the scientific program. Once all the presenters are registered for the conference, final scientific program will be made ready in the next 2 weeks. The final scientific program will be circulated to all the members one month before the conference. The members of general body agreed with the proposal.

### **Treasurer's report:**

Treasurer Dr Neeli said that the auditor statement is circulated to all the members.

Dr Neeli said that website szusi.com redesigning and maintenance was given to a new vendor. The cost of new website was Rs 75000/- as the website was totally revamped. All the corpuses have been increased by 5 lakhs for the next 7 years. Dr Sanjay Bhat contribution of 2 lakhs is added to Dr H S Bhat midterm workshop corpus which now is Rs 27 lakhs.

The association now has net banking access, and all the transactions can be done online. We have a dedicated mobile phone no. for the Treasurer ASU. The new membership fees can be paid online through the QR code.

This year the association received Rs 30,30,000 donation from the Bangalore Urology Society from the proceedings of the SZUSICON 2022. This being a general donation, the auditor said that the association has to pay 30% tax if the money is not spent this year. The association can get a

tax benefit on this donation, if we come up with a roadmap for the expenditure of this money in the next 5 yrs. The council has discussed the issue in detail. The council has decided to start a journal for the association with this money. By doing this the money will be properly utilized, tax can be saved and importantly, the donation by the Bangalore Urology society will be remembered forever. With the increasing number of postgraduates and new members joining the association, the council felt that it is high time that the association should have journal to showcase the research work done by our members. Dr Neeli presented the projected expenditure for the journal for the next 5 years.

### ***Discussion on Treasurer report***

Dr Keshavmurthy said that the association will not be able to sustain the journal cost in the future. He said that IJU is paying 28 lakhs per year and hence ASU journal will not be a viable project. Hon. Secretary intervened and presented the approved quotation from publishers Wolter Kluwers India Ltd for the journal of ASU.

- The initial setup cost of the journal (includes website creation and manuscript submission process software system) is a one-time fee of Rs 250000/-. Later every year an annual maintenance fees of Rs 28000/- has to be paid to the publisher. The journal is only online. The cost per PDF page is Rs 1750/-. So, to bring a 50 page issue, it costs around Rs 90000/- For two issues per year the cost is 1,80,000/-.

Dr Keshav murthy said that the council has not done enough homework before starting the journal. He said that the association income is only 10lakhs per year (interest accrued on the corpuses) and it will be difficult to accommodate the running cost of the journal. Treasurer Dr Neeli said that the council has properly planned the finances for the journal. The interest on the Rs 30 lakh corpus will be around 2 lakh rupees at the rate of 7% interest. The money has already been put in Fixed Deposit. The running cost of the journal will be 2 lakh rupees per year at the present cost. Hence it will be feasible to run the journal without disturbing the 30-lakh rupees corpus. Dr Ginil, president elect, said though he was skeptical in the beginning, after thorough analysis, he felt that we can run the journal with the interest accrued from the corpus.

Hon. Secretary said that the council plans to bring two issues per year in the first two years followed by 4 issues per year for the coming years. Dr Krishnasamy Kannan appreciated the work done by the council in bringing out a journal for the association. He said the association needs journal as many of our members are forced to publish in journals like African journal, Turkish journal, Chinese journal etc. He also said the quality of IJU is high and hence the acceptance rate is low. We need a platform for our postgraduates to publish. By conducting research methodology and biostatistics courses the association is helping the postgraduates to do original research and publish the research in our journal.

Dr Laxman expressed his doubts about the sustainability of the journal in the long run. Dr Ganesh Gopala Krishnan sir also expressed the same opinion that the association may not continue after some years due to financial constraints. He suggested to look out for other needs of the association for spending the donation given by Bangalore urology society. He said that to get the journal pubmed indexed is a difficult task. Dr Vinod said that the project is financially feasible as the treasurer has clearly showed the projected expenditure for the journal for the next 5 years. He said that ASU being a charitable association is not supposed to hold corpuses. This can be a problem in future from the Income tax dept. Dr Shivilaingaih also supported the journal project. He said that there must be some start and the time has come for starting the journal. Dr Vasudevan also appreciated the Journal project and said that the quotation from the Wolter Kluwer is acceptable to run a journal. He said that the students are in search of a journal to publish their work and journal of association of southern urologists would be good choice for them to publish.

Dr Ganesh sir said that it is difficult to get manuscripts from the members as 80% of our members are in private practice. Teaching institutes are lagging behind in publications.

Dr Kannan sir said that there are many good presentations in this conference. Many good posters are presented which can be made into case reports for the journal. President Dr Avudiappan concluded the discussion on the journal saying the all the constructive criticisms will be considered and



the council will do further homework to make the journal a viable and a successful project of the association.

Dr Neeli completed the Treasurer's report and it was passed by Dr Chengalvarayan and seconded by Dr Shivlingaiah.

#### *SZUSICON 2024:*

Dr Paul Vincent presented details about the SZUSICON 2024 being held at Madurai. The venue is at Dwaraka palace. The organizing team comprised of - Dr Vijay Sekaran being The patron, Dr Gnanasekaran the Organising chairman, Dr Paul Vincent the organizing secretary and Treasurer is Dr Rajeev Ayeppan. The conference is on July 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> 2024.

#### *SZUSICON 2025:*

Dr Dheeraj organizing secretary of SZUSICON 2025 presented the details of the conference being held at Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh. The venue is provisionally at CK Function Hall. The tariff – is same as Madurai conference tariff.

#### *New membership fees:*

The constitution gives a provision to increase the membership fees every 3 years by 10% after the approval of the General body. The General body approved to increase the membership fees by 1000/- from the existing fees of 5000 to 6000/-.

#### ***Proposals for Constitutional amendments:***

Dr Krishnasamy Kannan proposed an amendment to bring a new clause to section no 18. Of the constitution.

Proposed amendment: No person elected to the office and not taking charge as per schedule shall be eligible to contest for any post in ASU council for a period of 5 years from the date on which they were elected. The reason for the amendment is to ensure that the candidate takes up the office without fail to avoid constitutional crisis due to failure to take up the office. The house discussed the amendment and approved.

Dr Ravikumar proposal for constitutional amendment for a second council post for SOGUS AP and TS was discussed. It was decided that SOGUS AP and TS is one state body and the council post is allotted to state association and not to the state. Hence the proposal was not accepted.

Dr Joseph Philip Raj proposal to amend the proposers and seconders for the submission of nomination for the election was discussed. Dr Vinod said that the proposal is not in proper format and it should not be discussed. President Dr Avudiappan expressed the opinion that there is no need for this amendment.

***Election Result:*** Dr Avudiappan informed the house that Dr Ganesh Kamath, the returning officer could not attend the conference due to personal reasons. Hence Dr Mallikarjun reddy, the immediate past president is requested to do the job. Dr Mallikarjun reddy announced the results of the election for the post of President elect. Dr Chengalvarayan is declared as the President Elect for the year 2023-2024. The house congratulated Dr Chengalvarayan.

As there were no other issues to be discussed, President thanked the house and adjourned the meeting.