



# Indian Association of Surgical Oncology

## Newsletter March 2021

### Executive Committee 2019-2021

<b>President</b>	Arnab Gupta		
	drarnabgupta1@gmail.com	9831013063	
<b>President Elect</b>	Rajendra Toprani		
	rajendratoprani@hotmail.com	9898213214	
<b>Vice President</b>	PK Das	pk_das1@yahoo.com	9438332211
<b>Secretary</b>	Sharad Desai	drsharaddesai@gmail.com	9372111007
<b>Treasurer</b>	Chandramohan K		
	drchandramohan@gmail.com	9895774393	
<b>Editorial Secretary</b>	Ashutosh Chauhan		
	bolubonkey@rediffmail.com	8954948047	
<b>Digital Secretary</b>	Shubham Jain		
	<a href="mailto:dr.shubham.jain@gmail.com">dr.shubham.jain@gmail.com</a>	9868369579	
<b>Imm Past President</b>	Dhairyasheel Savant	dhairyu@gmail.com	9820026377

### Executive Committee Members

#### **North Zone:**

Sandeep Agarwal	sandeepcancer@rediffmail.com	9927086266
Naveen Sanchety	naveensanchety@gmail.com	9871807087

#### **East Zone:**

Caleb Harris	calebhar@gmail.com	9969375606
Shaikat Gupta	drshaikatgupta.sg@gmail.com	9831175819

#### **South Zone:**

Sandeep Nayak	<u>nayak.dr@gmail.com</u>	9480002204
Ramakrishna	<u>ram a s@yahoo.com</u>	9840085569

#### **West Zone**

Sanjay Desai	drsanjaydesaioncologist@gmail.com	9425082732
Atul Samaiya	atulsamaiya11@gmail.com	9821365411

Annual EC Minutes - 13 Nov, 2020 Virtual Zoom Meeting

1 Meeting called to order by Dr Sharad Desai, Hony Secy, IASO: there were 18 participants to start with

2. Welcome Address by Dr Arnab Gupta, President IASO:

Dr Arnab welcomed all participants. He made note of the fact that this virtual EC meet was being organized in lieu of the actual one which would have been held in Delhi during NATCON 2020.

3. Minutes of EC meeting of Sept, 2020 was read out by Dr Sharad Desai

(i) Confusion regarding eligibility criteria in NEET SS 2020 was discussed. IASO had communicated with Prof Pawanindra Lal, Executive Director of NBE, but no amendments were possible for the current year. We have to communicate well in advance for the next year.

(ii) **Calendar for Webinars** planned by IASO will be displayed on IASO website. The EC members were requested by the Hony Secy & the President to be actively involved in organizing Webinars every alternate month, rotating through different Zones. In between there will be Joint Webinars with CEN (USA). It should be planned in such a way that there is no repetition of the Topics and the faculties.

iii) The President also proposed that the Past Presidents should be involved as Chairpersons during the Webinars, according to their Seniority and their areas of interest. This proposal was accepted by all.

(iv) Dr Praful Das informed that the IASO Byelaws has been recently successfully registered with the Society. This will allow further changes to be made independently without involving ASI.

(iv) Dr Arnab Gupta had been approached by Dr Pramesh so that IASO could be a member of National Cancer Grid. The previous proposal of IASO EC of having the Leadership be given the authority of taking joint decisions with NCG was turned down by NCG as it is not possible with any Society. However, all the decisions would be taken after consultation with all the Societies during the NCG meets. The EC agreed to this and it was unanimously decided to go ahead.

(v) SSO scholarship winners in NATCON 2019 have not been able to go to USA physically as it became a virtual conference. The ICDSE scholarship was also not possible. During the Virtual meet with the Leaderships of all the partner societies, it was mentioned that they will try and arrange for the same when the conference becomes physical in future. They had mentioned that the highest representation in the e- Posters was from IASO, the total number being 9. No decision was made regarding the payment to the Poster presenters.

(vi) NATCON 2020 and the Election of EC members had been postponed after earlier discussion in the extra ordinary EC meeting and circulation through E-Newsletter to all the IASO members for opinion. Dr Rudra to inform EC about further plans regarding rescheduling it in 2021. The MIDCON 2021 has been rescheduled to 2022 by Dr Caleb Harris as per the advice of the EC.

(vii) IASO website is being modified as per suggestions of last EC.

#### 4. ANNUAL REPORT 2019-20

(i) Dr Praful Das, elected VP in 2019, retained as VP in 2020 -21 as no elections held this year. Similarly, the four Zonal representatives retained for 2020-21. The EC constituted in NATCON 2019 continues for one more year. This decision has been circulated in e-newsletter and EC has received no objections for it from any member. Hence, it stands ratified

(ii) IASO attended the ASICON 2020 at Bhubhaneshwar as invitees only in the Oncology session, and not as a Section.

(iii) IASO Executive Committee places on record gratitude to Dr Narendra Hulikol for conducting a very successful MIDCON 2020 at Tirupati

(iv) IASO promulgated guidelines about how to tackle surgery in background of Corona pandemic which were circulated to all the IASO members during the initial period. This was published in IJSO and put on our Website.

(v) IASO donated Rs 5 lacs to PM CARES fund to support the war against the Pandemic.

(vi) IASO has conducted regular academic activities in form of Webinars on ZOOM platform. Dr Rudra, Dr Sandeep Nayak (Robotic surgery), Dr Atul Somaiya (Head and Neck Cancer), Dr Shaikat Gupta (D2 gastrectomy), Dr Chandramohan (Colorectal cancers), Dr Arnab Gupta

(Nutrition). These were highly successful with involvement of many eminent National & International faculties.

(vi) ICanCare and IASO together organized an Anti-Tobacco Awareness program as a part of its commitment to the Society in Cancer prevention.

5. Dr Rudra suggested to EC that IASO starts site- specific Academic modules which can be run in conjunction with respective State chapters, aim being to reach out to general Surgeons. He said he is ready to run a Colorectal module in January as an example. EC deliberated upon it. Dr Rajendra Toprani, President Elect, suggested that we should wait for academic council to finalize and operationalize their program. IASO can share the link with other Societies to enable them to access these webinars. EC agrees that the current activities are enough.

6. Dr Dhairyasheel Savant, Imm Past President, suggested Chairman, Academic Council to be made part of EC. Suggestion agreed to by EC.

7. Elections for IJSO board to be postponed by one year. Proposed by Dr Rudra and seconded by Dr Ramakrishna. This was accepted by EC

8. Report on MIDCON 2020 at Tirupati presented by Dr Narendra

9. Report on NATCON 2019 at Kolkata presented by Dr Arnab Gupta

10. Update by Dr Rudra about NATCON 2021: Dr Rudra, the Organizing Secretary, said activities pertaining to NATCON 2021 will restart in Dec 2020. New website will be designed and previous registrations will carry on to this new website. Venue will remain same. Effort to raise finances will start afresh. Dates were not fixed yet- but will probably be in third week of September. Provision has to be made for a Hybrid conference.

11. Update by Dr Dhairyasheel Savant, Org Secy of ICC 2021: it will be rescheduled for 2022 considering the current pandemic. Activities to restart. More informations will be provided during the next EC meet

12. Treasurer Report by Dr Chandramohan: No income apart from interest of FD. He has prepared a budget for next year wherein expenses are kept intact. Funds are expected from NATCON 2019.

Dr Dhairyasheel Savant suggested that we should strive to raise funds from the webinars. Dr Chandramohan and Dr Narendra seconded this suggestion. Dr Rudra pointed out that current webinars are not getting in money. Hence, we should strive to organize more webinars which can get more sponsorship. Dr Arnab clarified that each of the IASO Webinars had fetched in 20-20K sponsorship money.

Dr Toprani enquired how many new members were inducted in the recent times to which Dr Sharad informed that the number was 70 this year. Dr Chandramohan concurred that Rs 7 lacs came in as membership fee. Dr Toprani suggested that as senior IASO faculties are teachers in P G masterclasses, they can motivate and get in more members. We should try to get at least 250 new members annually which can fetch IASO Rs 25 lacs.

13. EC discussed various modalities to increase membership. Dr Narendra suggested that anybody desirous of presenting paper in IASO should be a member. Dr Ramakrishna suggested all those desirous of attending PG masterclass should be made a member while Dr Caleb suggested only those desirous of presenting case should be made a member so that it does not affect the attendance of the Masterclasses.

Dr Dhairyasheel and Dr Kothari seconded that anybody desirous of presenting paper in NATCON and MIDCON should be a member

**Resolution of EC:** The presenting author of the paper/poster should be a member of IASO. The author must furnish membership number when sending in the abstract and the selection committee has to ensure that only those papers will be allowed to be presented whose presenting authors have furnished the membership number. Dr Kiran Kothari, Past President, presented a counter view that it is a norm in International conferences that the presenters should be a member; that it is NMC requirement now that students have a paper presentation in a conference and that the student is getting a certificate from the IASO which can be added to his CV, hence he ought to be a member to enjoy these benefits.

14. Update by Dr Shubham Jain about Website. Intimation and flyers about upcoming webinars / academic activities to be submitted well in advance for display on the Website. Payment gateway has been upgraded.

15. Dr Atul Somaiya presented a dissent note citing that forcing people for a membership for presenting papers attracts only passive members. Instead we should stress on PG Masterclass to encourage to become members voluntarily. Dr Atul suggested holding video workshops and getting them sponsored by equipment manufacturers.

16. Dr Chandramohan pointed out that the IASO website has a few glaring omissions

- (a) Photos of members of EC missing
- (b) History of IASO is very sparse
- (c) Links to some past conferences still visible

Dr Arnab suggested that other EC members should pitch in to help upgradation of website and it is not possible for Dr Shubham to do them on his own.

17. Dr Shaikat Gupta, EC Zone, proposed an Eastern India Cancer Conclave virtually in last week of Dec, 2020- theme being Upper GI Cancers to which everyone agreed.

18. Dr Arnab Gupta, Org Secy NATCON 2019, declared that the Organizing committee of NATCON 2019 will contribute 11 lacs plus to IASO kitty and the forthcoming Eastern Indian Cancer Conclave will be expected to contribute as well at least in a small way.

19. Dr Chandramohan points out that IASO activities need to attract international audience like those organized by certain individuals and societies. Dr Sharad interjected that rather one needs to explore the quality of webinars can be improved.

20. Dr Sharad requested that all those who are conducting webinars should submit a write up/ conference summary of webinar to him for records. Dr Manomoy Ganguly, Past President, seconded this and also suggested that the write ups should be put on website.

**EC resolution:** Organizers of Webinars to submit a Conference write up to Secretary, IASO

21.. Dr Sharad enquired if we need to purchase a Zoom platform. EC agreed

**EC resolution:** Purchase a platform for Rs 1000/- per month for upto 100 members

22. Dr Rudra suggested that organizers of future webinars charge at least Rs 50000/- for sponsorship. out of which 25K can be given to event manager and 25 K to IASO. Dr Arnab suggested that instead of paying the Event Managers the Organizers should try to get their own sponsorship which can all go to the IASO account.

23. Meeting closed

### **IASO Annual report 2019-2020**

#### *New EC membership*

Dr PK Das was elected as Vice President unanimously.

Zonal members selected were

Dr Sandeep Nayak from Bangalore (South Zone)

Dr Shaikat Gupta from Kolkata (East Zone)

Dr Caleb Harris from Shilling (East Zone)

Dr Sanjay Desai from Indore (West Zone)

Dr Sandeep Aggarwal from Agra (North Zone)

#### *Bhubaneswar – ASI conference.*

IASO participated and conducted a session in the conference at the request of ASI as special invitees and not as a section as was done previously. We thank the ASI for the invitation.

IASO participated in regional meetings

1. East Zone Oncology Symposium organized by Dr Arnab Gupta, in January 2020 at Saroj Gupta Cancer Centre & Research Institute, Thakurpukur, Kolkata.

2. Master class in Soft tissue sarcomas organized by Dr Prashant Penamadu in Puducherry in Feb 2020.

### **Midterm conference at Tirupati**

The Midterm conference was held in Tirupati on the Feb 29<sup>th</sup>/March1st 2020. The conference was organized by Dr Narendra Hulikal and the hosts were SVIIMS, Tirupati. The conference was a great success and it boosted the efforts of IASO to penetrate into the small towns and encourage growth of Oncology in the periphery.

### **IASO-SSO Annual meeting**

Society of Surgical Oncology was supposed to hold their meeting in Late March 2020. The IASO was ready to participate with full force. Unfortunately, the Conference had to be cancelled just days before the meeting cut to COVID spread. Thus the physical participation in SSO was not possible and the conference was then postponed to the summer of August 2020. Unfortunately, even this conference was not possible and a meeting was conducted on a web based platform. Our Participation was limited to Meeting with the SSO Leadership along with leaderships of all the Partner Societies and also poster presentations by our surgical youngsters. The ICDE scholarship was also suspended and the SSO has promised to give us an additional ICDE scholarship when the pandemic subsides and air travel returns to normal.

### **COVID PANDEMIC Impact**

The Corona virus infection spread like wildfire all over the world. Oncologists all over the world were faced with the dilemmas of management of more mortal Cancer diseases during the highly contagious pandemic. The IASO EC swung into action and we published our guidelines and recommendations for Oncosurgeons in tune with the Govt health policies to ride over the pandemic. Subsequently we published another version as more information was available and health care systems begun to acclimatize to the new normal. These guidelines were among the first in our nation and reinforced our commitment to fight the pandemic in difficult times. The guidelines were published in the IJSO and were very popular amongst the surgical community.

The EC decided to donate a sum of ₹ 500,000/- to the *PM Cares fund* which was set up to help our nation fight back COVID pandemic.

### **IASO Webinars**

The IASO was immediately reorganized to keep academics intact. We were among the first few societies to begin conducting Webinars for our members.

The following webinars were conducted by our EC members for the IASO

1. `Concept & Technique of Mesocolic Resection` by Dr Sandeep Nayak on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2020
2. `Robotic Neck dissection and Thyroidectomy` by Dr Rudra Acharya on 24 April 2020

3. `Head and Neck Cancer` by Dr Atul Samaiya on May 16<sup>th</sup> 2020
4. `D2 Dissection in Gastric Cancers` by Dr Shaikat Gupta on 29 May 2020
5. `Rectal Cancers` by Dr K Chandramohan on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2020
6. `Parental Nutrition in Oncosurgery` by Dr Arnab Gupta on 30 July 2020
7. `Palliative care for Surgical Oncologist` by Dr Ramakrishna on 16 October 2020
8. `Fertility Preservation in Surgical Oncology` by Dr Caleb Harris on 30 October 2020

### **Joint Online Meets**

We also conducted joint online meetings with

1. 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Review in Head and Neck Cancer by Kokilaben Ambani Hospital, in June 2020
2. Gastric Cancer update with Chennai City Branch ASI on 27 September 2020
3. Eastern India Cancer Conclave with Oncology Society of Bengal on 26<sup>th</sup> Dec, 2020 & 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan, 2021. Theme: `Controversies and Consensus in Upper GI malignancies`.

**IASO-CEN Partnership.** We have also launched a joint partnership with Cancer Expert Now in USA (CEN), a web based Tumor board platform. The CEN Network helps oncologists ask their questions and issues to a panel of experts who respond in a short time and is particularly beneficial for Oncologists working in solitude or with clinical problems which are not amenable to set practice guidelines.

We have signed an MOA with CEN wherein our selected Indian Faculties from different Oncological disciplines will be able to be in the Expert Panel. The 1<sup>st</sup> 3 responders will be able to be compensated with an honorarium which at present is to \$ 400. As decided in the EC meeting, priorities will be given to the EC members to be in this Expert panel along with Radiation and Medical Oncologists forming Organ based subgroups. Also, all the experts have been requested to pass on their remunerations to IASO for the interest of Academics.

We have been conducting webinars in association with CEN where we share our experts with their members for a particular topic.

We have conducted IASO-CEN webinars till date

1. Breast Cancer on 8 May 2020
2. Colorectal Cancer 22 May 2020
3. Head and Neck Cancer 19 June 2020
4. Thyroid Cancer 28 August 2020
5. Pancreatic Cancer on 18<sup>th</sup> December, 2020
6. Colorectal Liver Metastases on 26<sup>th</sup> March, 2021.

### **Anti- Tobacco Campaign:**

We also conducted an Anti-tobacco symposium with the help of an anti-tobacco crusader named "Icancare" and Rotary On the 8 November 2020.



## **Byelaws –**

Our byelaws presented and accepted by the GBM in NATCON Kolkata have been accepted and re registered with the Registrar of Society of Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. These byelaws will supersede all previous byelaws. Further changes to the byelaws will be effected in the future General body meetings.

National Cancer Grid is keen on taking IASO as a member in their activities. We have submitted an application to NCG Coordinator Dr Pramesh, and we are awaiting for an acceptance from their side.

## **IASO Academic Council**

The Academic Council was formed by the Leadership to conduct Post Graduates Masterclasses in the interest of students. Dr Subramanyeshwar Rao was chosen to be the convener and 4 Past Presidents as Advisers, by the IASO Leadership in consultation with some Senior IASO Members and Past Presidents.

The Advisers being:

1. Dr Lalatendu Sarangi (East Zone)
2. Dr Rajaraman (South Zone)
3. Dr Kiran Kothari (West Zone)
4. Dr Arun Chaturvedi (North Zone)

The chosen Academic council members will remain in the Office atleast till the next GB meeting. The Inauguration of the PG Masterclasses was done formally by Prof Pawanindra Lal, Executive Director of National Board of Examination, on 29<sup>th</sup> October, 2020.

This Council will conduct mock clinical examinations for the benefit of students and expose them to various teachers from the rest of the country. It was decided by the EC that the Presenter should be a member of IASO. Presently we have been doing the online case presentations on a fortnightly basis. The sessions have great attendance and are very popular among students.

All academic activities of IASO are available on the website and YouTube for viewing them later.

## **IASO Election Announcement 2021**

### **Invitation for Nominations for Election of IASO EC Office Bearers**

Elections for the post of

1. Vice President
2. Hon Secretary
3. Hon Treasurer

4. One Executive Committee Member each from North/South/West zones
5. Editorial Secretary
6. Web Secretary

Elections will be held in the Annual Conference of IASO during forthcoming NATCON 2021 scheduled at New Delhi. Nominations for the same are invited. Attention is drawn to following important points: -

n. Eligibility for elections–

1. Vice President – A full member of IASO who has completed 10 years as full life member (up to 31st March of the year of applying) and has served at least one term as an elected/nominated Executive member is eligible to contest for the post of Vice President.
2. Hon Secretary – A Full life member of IASO who has completed 7 years (up to 31st March of the year of applying) as full life member and has served at least one term as an elected/nominated Executive member is eligible to contest for the post of Secretary.
3. Treasurer – A Full life member of IASO who has completed 7 years (up to 31st March of the year of applying) as full life member and has served at least one term as an elected/nominated Executive member is eligible to contest for the post of Treasurer
4. Editorial Secretary/Web Secretary – A Full life member of IASO who has completed 7 years (up to 31st March of the year of applying) as full life member and has served at least one term as an elected/nominated Executive member is eligible to contest for the post of Editorial Secretary.
5. Executive Committee Member – Candidates who have put in a minimum 5 years' full life membership of IASO till 31st March of the year of applying for the executive committee are eligible to election to Executive Committee.

The last date for nominations 30 August 2021. The nomination can be sent by email or by normal mail only and to reach the Secretary at or before 1700 hrs on the said date.

Nominations rendered by WhatsApp/Facebook or any other means apart from the ones specified will be rejected.

No member will contest for more than one post at the same time.

Every eligible member shall be proposed and seconded by two full members of IASO. One member can propose or second only one candidate.

All candidates must submit

1 A signed no objection certificate

2 consent from the candidate with the nomination.

3 He should send a brief summary of his/her achievements (a brief background about his achievements and contributions – publications, conference organized, scientific contribution etc.) all this not exceeding 250 words.

4 Contribution to the IASO.

This should be signed and dated by the candidate. This information will be put forward to the members before the voting.

Invalid Nomination – If the nomination is found invalid the candidate will be informed about the same and the reason for invalidity mentioned.

Withdrawal of Nomination – The candidates can withdraw their nominations till the executive meeting or 5.00PM on first day of NATCON IASO.

The nominations that are received in time will be scrutinized by President elect. The President elect will be the returning officer.

Voting – The voting will be by a secret ballot during the NATCON IASO in a special session 'Elections IASO' before the Annual General Body Meeting.

i. Each member will have to sign the register before voting and receiving the ballot paper. If /when membership cards are available, it should be presented for inspection before voting.

ii. The President IASO, President Elect and Vice President, Secretary will guide the election process and the counting will be done under their supervision. Election officer to be the President or President elect.

lii A nominee of the candidate / candidate himself or herself will be present during the counting of ballots.

iv. Results will be declared during the GBM.

l. If there is no contest the President shall declare the member elected for the post in GBM.

m. If no nomination is received, it is on the President and President elect to nominate one person for that post. Nominated candidates will have the same rights and powers as elected candidates. The term for nominated members is for one year only.

### **IJSO 2021 Selection:**

NOMINATIONS for the post of Associate Editor are called for.

Candidates who have put in a minimum 10 years' full life membership of IASO till 31st March of the year of applying for the editorial board member are eligible to election to Associate editor.

No member will contest for more than one post at the same time including the post of executive committee of IASO.

Every eligible member shall be proposed and seconded by two full members of IASO. One member can propose or second only one candidate.

One executive should complete his term before taking over another assignment

Candidate is required to submit

1 A signed no objection certificate

2 consent from the candidate with the nomination.

3 He should send a brief summary of his/her achievements (a brief background about his achievements and contributions – publications, conference organized, scientific contribution etc.) all this not exceeding 250 words.

4 Contribution to the IASO.

Invalid Nomination – If the nomination is found invalid the candidate will be informed about the same and the reason for invalidity mentioned

Withdrawal of Nomination – The candidates can withdraw their nominations till the executive meeting or 5.00PM on first day of NATCON IASO

The nominations that are received in time will be scrutinized by President elect. The President elect will be the returning officer

There will be no Election to the IJSO and the candidates will be selected by the IASO Editorial council (2014)

If no nomination is received, it is on the President and President elect to either nominate one person for that post in consultation with the Editor-in-Chief or let him continue for another year.

#### I. Eligibility

Associate Editor: A full member of IASO who has completed 7 years as full life member (up to 31st March of the year of applying) and has served at least one term as an elected Executive member and has at least 10 indexed publications to his credit is eligible to contest for the post of Editor-in-Chief. National and International funding of ad-hoc projects is desirable.

#### **Call for Organization of NATCON 2023, Mid Term Conference 2023.**

Applications are invited to host NATCON 2023 and Mid tem Conference 2023.

Interested Applicants should apply with

- 1 A signed no objection certificate.
- 2 Consent from the candidate with the brief details of Venue, and organizing team.
- 3 He should send a brief summary of his/her contribution to the IASO.

Dr Arnab Gupta

President,

Dr Sharad Desai

Hon Secretary,