

# MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SIOP ASIA CONTINENTAL DIVISION, HELD AT PORTO, PORTUGAL ON 20<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2002

The meeting was attended by the following:

Y Tsuchida, Japan, Jiangpei Fang, China, Chi-Kowl Li, Hongkong, Indu Katara, India, BR Agarwal, India, Jaya Vyas, India, Osman Gani Mansur, Bangladesh, Sumadiono, Indonesia, Ira Solistyo, Indonesia, Pudjo Hangung Widjaranto, Indonesia, S. Ramanujam, India, Anita Chandra, India, P. Kusumkumary, India, Mei-Yoke Chan, Singapore, Purna Kurkure, India, Julian Cutland, South Africa, Sadie Cutland, South Africa, Neelu Tuli, India, Santosh Bhan, India, Li Chakho, Gauri Kapoor, India, Al-Harbi Ghazi, Saudi Arabia, Godrey Chan, Hongkong, Vasanthi Rajalingam, Singapore, Asha Kapadia, India, Chellam Kirubakaran, India, Julius Scott, India, Sutaryo, Indonesia, T. Raja, India, Zakia Al-Lamki, Oman, Nagwa El Banna, Oman, L.S. Arya, India, Salma Choudhary, Bangladesh, RK Marwaha, India

Apologies were received from Dr. Rashmi Dalvi – secretary of SIOP-Asia for leave of absence due to foot injury and from Prof. M.A. Mannan from Bangladesh.

Dr Agarwal – President of SIOP Asia, welcomed all the members of SIOP – Asia, and gave a brief report to the members regarding activities of SIOP-Asia in the past one year since the members met at Brisbane. These will be elaborated with the agenda items. The agenda was previously circulated to all members by email and surface mail. In addition, two letters: one from Prof. Mannan, Bangladesh and another from Prof. YAO-Ping WANG from China, were circulated to the members present. The minutes of the meeting held at Brisbane were also circulated with the launch issue of **SIOP NEWS** - the first issue of SIOP-Asia Newsletter.

## Agenda :

1) Confirmation of minutes of meeting held at Brisbane : The minutes of the meeting held at Brisbane were read and confirmed. Dr.B. Agarwal highlighted two issues raised from the minutes regarding associate membership of SIOP-Asia and finances for SIOP-Asia.

**a) Associate Membership :** A special category of associate membership for SIOP Asia was proposed in statutes of SIOP-Asia by Prof. Tsuchida in the last meeting, which was not accepted by the SIOP Board then. Dr. Agarwal informed the house that this year the reaction of SIOP Board to this idea was favourable and hence this category of membership could be accepted. He proposed that any person working in the field of pediatric oncology and who has attended at least one meeting of SIOP Asia could become an associate member. The associate member will not have voting rights and will not be able to contest for the executive committee of SIOP Asia, since he / she will not be necessarily a full member of SIOP. Associate membership fees will be applicable as decided by the executive committee of SIOP Asia from time to time. This proposal was extensively debated by the members and finally accepted unanimously.

**b) Finances for SIOP-Asia :** Dr. Agarwal informed the house that the SIOP Board has accepted the proposal of SIOP-Asia to raise funds from the SIOP-Asia conferences. As decided earlier, 10% of the registration fees received by the organizers of future SIOP-Asia conferences will be contributed to the SIOP Asia treasury for its activities.

**2) SIOP-Asia Conference 2002 at New Delhi :** Dr. L.S. Arya – organizing secretary of this conference apprised the members of developments regarding this meeting. An overview of

the arrangements at New Delhi was provided. The scientific programme, faculty and the registration fees were also described by him. Members requested an extension of the deadline for pre-registration at reduced rates, which was accepted by Dr. Arya. Hence the old tariff for registration is still applicable. He also invited parents organizations and parents of children with cancer to attend the parallel programme arranged for them.

### **3) Future SIOP-Asia Conferences :**

Dr. Agarwal mentioned that he had during the last year two proposals for the SIOP Asia conference for 2004 from Korea and Malasiya. He also had 3 proposals for SIOP Asia conference 2006 from Bangaldesh, China and Thailand. Since Korea and Malasiya have both withdrawn their bids due to local circumstances, the proposal from Bangladesh has been advanced for 2004. Prof. Mannan though was unable to be present personally had sent a letter for this bid with a slide presentation, which was projected for the members by Dr. Anupam Sachdev. Two colleagues from Bangladesh presented the meeting from the parent groups also endorsed the proposal. The membership after due deliberation proved that SIOP Asia Conference 2004 to be held at Dhaka, Bangladesh. This was proposed by Dr. Anita Chandra and seconded by Dr. Arya. Regarding the SIOP Asia conference 2006, China and Thailand would be requested to make presentations at the meeting at New Delhi and the venue would be decided at that time.

**4) Timing of the conference :** When Dr. Arya mentioned the poor registration for the meeting of SIOP-Asia at New Delhi, a number of suggestions and ideas were provided by the members to increase registrations for SIOP Asia Meetings for the future. Dr. Chellam and other members said that the SIOP Asia meeting should be preferably held away from

the main SIOP meeting. Sadie Cutland suggested that the SIOP Asia meeting should be held in alternate years with the SIOP Africa meeting to facilitate a better faculty participation. Dr. Zakia Al-Lamki pointed out that the SIOP Asia meeting should avoid the month of Ramadan when it is fasting period for one month. Following considerable deliberations it was unanimously proposed by the members that future conferences should be held between the months of March, April or May only as per the convenience of the local organizers.

**5) SIOP-Asia Newsletter :** The launch issue of SIOP Asia News was circulated to all members. Dr. Tsuchida and Dr. Marwaha appreciated the effort but questioned about the funds for sustaining this activity. Dr. Anupam Sachdev - Associate editor, replied that this would not pose a problem for about two issues in a year and that it was necessary to publish this newsletter as a lifeline of communication amongst members. Dr. Tsuchida also suggested that the list of SIOP Asia members be published in the next issue. Articles from pediatric hematology-oncology national organizations and other institutions about themselves and their activities should be included in the newsletter.

**6) SAARC Initiative :** Dr. Purna Kurkure the coordinator for SAARC initiative gave an idea of this project to the members by providing details of SAARC, its activities and her proposals for the future. She invited members from SAARC countries to come forward and strengthen this initiative. She also proposed to have the first meeting / symposium of SAARC countries at the forthcoming SIOP Asia conference at New Delhi.

The meeting concluded with Dr Agarwal thanking all members for their participation and suggestions.