



Minutes of the SAASL Executive Committee Business Meeting Held on 6 September 2014 at Hotel Shangri la, New Delhi

The business meeting of the Executive Committee of SAASL was held in the evening [4.30 – 7.00 PM] on the 6th of September, 2014, under the Chairmanship of Prof. Salimur Rahman.

1. **The Minutes** of the Last EC Meeting held at Dhaka on 18th May, 2013, were approved.
2. The members conveyed their gratitude to Dr Anil Arora and his team for holding the **2nd SAASL Conference** and praised the Organising Committee for the hospitality and the scientific program with allround participation from almost all South Asian countries.
3. **Journal of SAASL.** The matter of communicating with the Eurasian Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology for making it the official journal of SAASL was deliberated. It was decided to send the proposal to the Executive Editor and Managing Editor of the Journal seeking more information about the Journal and asking for their terms and conditions for making it the SAASL Journal. It was also decided to constitute a 2-member committee [Prof Vivek Saraswat and Prof Saeed Hamid], which would negotiate the nitty-gritty of the relationship between SAASL and EJGH.
4. **The venues of the 2015 & 2016 Annual SAASL Conferences were decided** as follows:
2015: Karachi, Pakistan [Proposed by Prof SS Hamid]
2016: Kathmandu, Nepal [Proposed by Dr Ananta Shreshtha]
2017: Colombo, Srilanka [Proposed by Dr Anuradha Dassanayake]
5. The members were informed by Prof SP Singh that a firm was already commissioned for launching a **Website of SAASL**. It was also decided to send periodic fliers to SAASL Members, and if possible sending members appropriately timed “SAASL Newsletters”
6. It was decided to take steps for expeditious drafting and adoption of a **SAASL Constitution**. It was resolved that Prof SP Singh should

immediately forward the Draft prepared by Dr Mamun-al-Mahtab to all the members present. The members would send their views to the SAASL secretariat by 15 October. The Committee consisting of Prof SP Singh [convenor], Prof VA Saraswat and Prof Saeed S Hamid would take into consideration all inputs and prepare a Draft constitution to be circulated to all members by 31 December 2014.

7. **It was decided to constitute the following SAASL Working Committees** on Major Hepatology priority problems in South Asia:
- **HCV infection:** [Chair: Prof VA Saraswat; Co-Chair Prof Zaigham Abbas]
 - **HBV Infection:** [Chair: Rakesh Aggarwal; Co-Chair: Dr Md Fazle Akbar]
 - **NAFLD – NASH:** [Chair: SP Singh; Co-Chair: Anuradha Dassanayake]
 - **Alcoholic Liver Disease:** [Chair: Anil Arora; Co-Chair: Ananta Shrestha]
 - **Hepatitis E:** [Chair: Rakesh Aggarwal; Co-Chair: Prof Saeed Hamid].
 - **Hepatology Education in South Asia:** [Chair: SK Acharya; Co-Chair Prof Mamun-al-Mahtab]

All Committee Chairs and Co-Chairs were requested to suggest names of 3-4 other members for these committees and to submit proposals for their activities. All committees would report to the Honorary Secretary General and the Executive Council and obtain approval for proposed activities.

8. It was unanimously decided to take steps for **Registration of SAASL** in New Delhi. It was decided to modify the SAASL Logo as suggested by some members with special reference to removal of the demarcated boundaries for the South Asian countries.
9. **SAASL School of Hepatology:** Prof SK Acharya agreed to conduct the SAASL School of Hepatology at AIIMS. He would be sending the details of this program to the SAASL office at the earliest. There were verbal proposals from various members, especially Dr. Anil Arora and Dr. Ananta Shrestha, suggesting various activities for the School. It was decided that all proposals related to SAASL School of Hepatology would be sent to Prof Acharya who would take appropriate steps in consultation with the SAASL Executive.
10. Dr Anil Arora and Dr Saeed Hamid were requested to take steps to have representation from **Afghanistan** which would strengthen the SAASL movement.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the President and all other members of SAASL Executive Committee present.

The following members were present during the Meeting:

1. Prof. S.P. Singh [India]
Secretary General, SAASL
2. Prof. S Rahman [Bangladesh]
President, SAASL
3. Prof. Saeed Hamid [Pakistan]
President Elect, SAASL

Executive Committee Members

4. Prof. V A Saraswat [India]
5. Prof. PN Rao [India]
6. Prof. Zaigham Abbas [Pakistan]
7. Dr. Anuradha Dassanayak [Sri Lanka]
8. Dr. Mamun-al-Mahtab [Bangladesh]
9. Dr. Anantha Shreshtha [Nepal]
10. Dr. GP Dhakal [Bhutan]

Special Invitees

11. Prof Subrat Kumar Acharya [India]
12. Prof Rakesh Aggarwal [India]
13. Dr. Anil Arora [India]



Prof. S.P. Singh

Secretary General, SAASL.