

August 2018

From the President's Desk



Dear Colleague,

The scorching Indian summer is over and the monsoon season has arrived. Now that the heat and dust has settled, it is time we reflect on the various activities of ASSI. The second Issue of Indian Spine journal is shaping well and will be reaching you shortly. The Spine Outreach programmes have been an outstanding success and so are the monograms of ASSI. The case discussion forum is getting its final touches and will be fully functional very shortly. The ASSI website which is being constantly upgraded and reviewed looks wonderful.

It was my desire that ASSI prepares consent forms which are comprehensive and available in all major Indian Languages. Dr ketan Kujrekar, with inputs from legal experts have prepared these consents, which will be vetted by the advocacy committee and by legal advisors of ASSI. Once ready, they can be downloaded from our website to be used by our members.

After a fantastic Annual conference in Chennai, ICS is round the corner and what better venue than Amritsar the holy city. Dr Shankar Acharya and Dr Rupinder Chahal and their ever enthusiastic team have prepared an excellent scientific program and sight seeing activities. Do come with your families and enjoy.

The core executive of ASSI, Dr Basu, Dr Chhabra, Dr Ajoy and all the members of the task forces created to look after various activities of ASSI are doing a wonderful job : a big thank you to all of you.

It would be my pleasure to hear from you. Do drop a mail with your suggestions!

sincerely,
Dr Raghava Dutt Mulukutla
President - ASSI

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August 2018

From the Secretary's Desk



It is a proud privilege for me to write to you from the Secretary's desk of ASSI. 1½ years have passed since I took over, and with the constitutional amendment in place, I am into my last six months. It was quite a daunting task to organize the increasing activities of ASSI into a structured committee approach and this is successfully running smoothly. The Program Committee looks into giving our members an academically useful program for ASSICON, ICS and other conferences in which ASSI has co-branded with. The Education Committee is responsible for running the prestigious ASSI 2-year Spine Fellowship program which is now considered at par with FNB. We are now in the process of introducing a short-term observer program for various sub-specialties in spine. The Research Committee is instrumental in screening and evaluation of all research proposals and awards along with formulation / evaluation of thesis projects for ASSI spine fellows. The Social Work Committee is now actively organizing various spine camps and it is gradually spreading across various regions of the country. The Spine Registry Committee is responsible for the smooth running and continuous improvement of the ASSI Spine Registry and has been revamped completely in the last few months to make data uploading and retrieval more user-friendly. The Website Committee is responsible for maintaining and upgrading the ASSI website and you will be happy to note that it is now more user-friendly with a proper membership directory and online payment portal in place. The Advocacy Committee is responsible for medico-legal concerns and interacting with various regulatory bodies. It is currently involved in formulating a consent form for spine surgery and I am sure you will find quite useful in the near future. The Nomination & Constitution Committee is responsible for all constitutional matters and nomination of various ASSI office bearers.

In the same context, I am extremely privileged to let you know the ratified decision of the last GBM in Chennai, in which the tenure of the Secretary, Jt. Secretary and the Executive Committee members have been reduced to 2 years, so that more and more young members can contribute fruitfully to the growth of ASSI. Similarly, the tenure of the President Elect and the President has been reduced from 2 years to 1 year along with the creation of the post of immediate Past President for 1 year. This ensures that the Presidential Line remains functional for 3 years and the Secretarial Line for 4 years and also enables a mechanism of lateral entry to the Presidential Line every alternate year. This will develop an extremely transparent structure of the ASSI Office bearers.

Other than the committees, 5 task forces have been created. The Task Force on the Prevention of Spinal Cord Injury is actively involved in spreading health awareness regarding SCI including a representation to MCI on unethical use of stem cell transplantation. It is currently trying to develop a nationwide database of spinal injury patients. The Task Force on ASSI Monograph has successfully compiled 5 ASSI monographs, published by Thieme Medical Publishers and 5 more are in the pipeline. The Task Force on Indian Spine Journal has been created with the view to coming out with a peer-reviewed and indexed journal of spine surgery and the target of a bi-annual publication has been achieved with the January and June 2018 issues already published on time. The Task Force on Case Discussion Forum has been newly commissioned and an online portal of case discussion has been segregated out in the ASSI website with a mobile app based forum on the cards.

With the multiplication of various activities of ASSI and with the unstinted support of all members, I am sure ASSI will match global standards and would soon reach an enviable position of power and glory in the scientific community.

Long live ASSI !
Jai Hind!

Regards,
Dr Saumyajit Basu
Secretary - ASSI

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August 2018

Minutes of the Annual General Body Meeting (A.G.B.M.) of Association of Spine Surgeons of India (ASSI)

Held on: Saturday, 20th January 2018 at 18:30 hrs
Venue: ITC Grand Chola, Chennai

President's Welcome

President welcomed all the members to the AGBM. He mentioned that ASSI had been making a good progress and requested all members to contribute actively to the activities of the Society.

Condolences & Leaves of Absence if any

There were no condolences.

Ratification of the Minutes of the last A.G.B.M. – Hyderabad and E.G.B.M.- Kovalum

The Minutes of AGBM – Hyderabad and EGBM - Kovalum were resolved unanimously.

Secretarial Report

Dr Saumyajit Basu briefed the members about the activities of ASSI since 14th August 2017.

The details are as under:

Ratification of New Members

The members were informed that there were 116 applications for membership of ASSI since January 2017. The members unanimously approved the list of 116 applicants for ASSI membership. It was informed that with the addition of these members, the total membership of ASSI would increase to 1593.

Committees of ASSI

Dr Saumyajit Basu briefed the members that the various Committees of ASSI had been involved in the activities of ASSI pertaining to the committee. The reports of the activities of the various committees are as under:

Report of The Program Committee

Dr GR Vijay Kumar briefed the members that The ITC Grand Chola, Chennai is a fabulous venue with plenty of well appointed space for all the academic activities. The preconference workshops are all day on Thursday, starting 8.30 am with live surgical demonstration. In the afternoon from 2 pm onwards is a cadaver workshop, running parallel with industry devices and techniques workshops. The conference starts on Friday with a breakfast session on trauma in special situations at 0830 hrs. This is followed by sessions on AIS & Endoscopic spine surgery. There are industry lunch symposia/workshops on Friday & Saturday. Free paper sessions are distributed in 30 min slots throughout the day, there being five such sessions on Friday, one each on Saturday & Sunday for a total 7 sessions. Post lunch, there are concurrent sessions on Neurofibromatosis and Lumbar Degenerative listhesis. The next session for the day is CVJ, followed by the last on safety in spine surgery and complication avoidance. The Inaugural function and dinner is at the end of the day on Friday. Saturday begins with concurrent breakfast sessions on Osteoporosis and on spinal metastases. This is followed by Early onset scoliosis. Post the mid morning tea break will be the prestigious VTI Gold medal papers followed by the ASSI Research award papers. 12 noon-1 pm is the Presidential Oration by Mahatria Ra, which will certainly be one of the highlights of the conference! After the lunch industry workshops, there is a session on adult deformity, the free paper session and the exciting Plenary lecture session by the international faculty. A concurrent session follows to close the day of academics. The ASSI GBM is scheduled for 5.30 pm preceding the Gala dinner. Sunday starts with a breakfast session on controversies in spine surgery followed by the last free paper session. A session on central cord syndrome precedes the Valedictory, with the final session on spinal TB bringing the curtain down on ASSICON 2018!

ASSI Outreach Programs

This is the first time ASSI had organized an outreach program to reach out to the tier-2 cities of the country. The first outreach program was held at Guwahati and subsequently 2 such in Patna and Trichy was competed. Basic level topics like Lumbar disc prolapse, Cervical myelopathy and Tuberculosis in spine were discussed. Nearly 50 participants turned up for these meetings and ASSI remains thankful to Medtronic for their whole-hearted support. The next one is planned in Udaipur.

ICS 2017

The ICS in Kovalam (11-13 Aug 2017) had woven together a beautiful program which is basically a case based discussion module. We are thankful to the Korean Spine Society (KSS) for sponsoring 3 faculty for the meeting. Each case discussed was dissected threadbare, so that current evidence on a particular issue along with the experience of well-known faculty was mixed together to form an efficient strategy for treatment. The organizing secretary of ICS Kovalam, Dr Ranjith Unnikrishnan had done a great job of making an exciting academic and social meeting.

APSS Meeting

In October, we had the joint meeting of the APSS and APPOS (the Asia Pacific Spine Society and Asia Pacific Pediatric Orthopedic Society) and it was a grand exposure to the doyens of both specialists in a single forum. ASSI was a participating society and excellent co-branding was achieved. Dr Arvind Jayaswal, the Organizing Chairman and Dr Abhishek Srivastav, Organizing Secretary did a fantastic job in coming out with an excellent academic program.

CSRS AP 2018

Come March and our destination is New Delhi. This is the first time that ASSI is cobranding with Cervical Spine Research Society – Asia Pacific. The conference is being organized by none other than Dr Rajasekharan, who along with Dr Ajoy Setty, Dr H. S. Chhabra and Dr Rishi Kanna, would surely come out with a brilliant meeting with star faculty in an academic ambience. Dr Rajasekaran would add another feather in his cap by taking over as the President of this fantastic society. We take this opportunity to congratulate him whole heartedly for this.

Report of the ASSI Education Committee

Dr Samir Dalvie briefed the members about the progress of Education Committee.

ASSI Fellowship

Entrance Test

- The interviews for the selection of ASSI fellows was conducted at ICS 2017 – the selection was based upon choice of the candidate on the available seats by order of merit.
- They were selected after an online Entrance Test conducted by a professional online examination agency which was hired by ASSI
- A question bank of 250 MCQs were prepared by the Education Committee and other members and a very fair online examination was held with video monitoring

Exit Examination

- The exit examination for 'ASSI Spine Fellowship' for the batch 2015-2017 was held on 16th September 2017 at Park Clinic, Kolkata.
- The exam included a theory paper (100 marks), long case (50 marks), short case (50 marks), Oral Table 1 (50 marks) and Oral Table 2 (50 marks).
- The examiners for the Exit Examination were Dr Shankar Acharya, Dr GR Vijay Kumar, Dr Rohit Amirtanand and Dr S Basu. There were four candidates. One was absent. All four candidates were declared passed.
- All fellowships are presently going on without any problem. The thesis report is awaited for all centres

Re-accreditation of ASSI Reference Centers

- It should be done every 5 years, and the check list should include the confidential report of the Fellows trained at the centre, the Mentors report and objective criteria as previously decided to look for any variation of initial information provided during the approval

Short term senior fellowships

- It should be instituted, and applications invited from centers willing to host the same. These would be an observership of 2-6 weeks.

Fellowship (PGT) teaching program

- A comprehensive curriculum based program, can be appended to ASSICON and ICS, as well as major regional meetings.

ASSI Awards and Fellowships

The various awards of ASSI for 2017 were publicized through email. The deadline for applications for various awards of ASSI was 10th October 2017. The response was quite enthusiastic as is evident from the number of applicants for each category as mentioned below:

■ ASSI Clinical Research Award	- 15
■ ASSI Basic Sciences Award	- 11
■ ASSI Young Investigators Award	- 19
■ ASSI Publication Award	- 09
■ ASSI Travelling Fellowship	- 28

The under-mentioned from the Executive and co-opted members were involved for evaluation of the applications:

- ASSI Clinical Research Award – Dr S K Srivastava, Dr Ajoy Shetty, Dr S S Kale, Dr Munish Gupta
- ASSI Basic Sciences Award – Dr S Rajasekaran, Dr Bharat Dave, Dr K Venkatesh, Dr D K Sengupta
- ASSI Young Investigators Award – Dr G R Vijaykumar, Dr Bhavuk Garg , Dr Abhay Nene , Dr Mike Grevitt
- ASSI Publication Award – Dr Sandip Chatterjee, Dr Shankar Acharya, Dr Rajiv Sethi, Dr C.C. Wong
- ASSI Travelling Fellowship – Dr Sajan Hegde, Dr Ram Chaddha, Dr Samir Dalvie, Dr Ajoy Sethi

The applications for various ASSI awards for 2017 were reviewed using the approved guidelines.

The compiled scores were put up to the President for approval. The process of review and selection was also finished well in time (10th December 2017).

Executive decided to have blinded assessment of applications; This should be mentioned in the call for applications so that the applicants don't mention about their name and institution within the application. Organising Secretary to ensure applications are blinded before sending to reviewers; ASSI secretariat to also screen manuscript in this regard. Details of results or names of judges would not be revealed to applicants

Report of ASSI Social Work Committee

Dr Shekhar Bhojraj briefed the members that the SOCIAL WING of ASSI and The Spine Foundation, under the guidance of Dr Shekhar Y Bhojraj is working for the poor and the under served cases with spine ailments from the state of Maharashtra and other states with the Govt and Non Govt organizations. The Spine foundation has started a multi centric comprehensive Spine care program for the poor and needy patients with spine ailments in Rural Maharashtra along with the Govt of Maharashtra as well as other Non Government Organizations. It has started to do this by empowering the orthopedic departments of the various government medical colleges in rural areas. It has selected 4 such centers as a pilot project. These include the orthopedic departments at the

following Government Medical colleges...

- GMC Akola
- GMC Ambajogai
- GMC Aurangabad and
- GMC Dhule

The plan was to do this by setting up new spine units (spine operation theatres..spine clinic...spine wards). This will be done by skill development and empowerment of the existing orthopaedic departments by hands on training and series of lecture courses and workshops. A referral practice chain from interiors to these RSCC (Rural spine care centre) via health workers and PHC doctors is being designed. Once these systems are in place and once these RSCC become independent units, The SPINE FOUNDATION can move on to adopt 4 more new such centres. The details about the staffing....residents...faculty members....equipment...space allocation... clinic and surgery schedules....secretarial support....nursing needs....physiotherapy and occupational therapists ...etc has been worked out. Spine Foundation works with the Govt of Maharashtra as well a other Non Government Organizations. In pursuit of this dream, The Spine foundation with the support of Govt of Maharashtra has started these projects and herewith are the initial report and statistics of the same ... (with Gov of Maharashtra) and others.

SEARCH, Gadchiroli

This is one of Spine foundations most cherished and prized project

A surgical and OPD camp is held every 4 months

We have reached more then 150 spine surgical cases here

In the last 2 camps in February 2017 and July 2017 we have conducted 11 and 19 spine surgeries respectively, also seeing 480 and 375 pts in OPD.

This is a work done in the tribal areas where there is no access to any medical facilities

ASSI has given a grant of ₹2,50,000/- (Rupees two Lakh fifty thousand only) to Spine Foundation for using for these noble cause.

The utilization of this funds have to be of utmost importance for it to go to the proper needy patients, for that there is a criteria being made for utilization of these fund and it will be shared with everyone in ASSI.

Many poor patients are being supported

Report of ASSI Advocacy Committee

Dr Ram Chaddha briefed the members that the Advocacy Committee has taken stock of medicolegal concerns faced by members including one from Hyderabad. Discrepancies, unfortunately still remains among neurosurgeons and orthopedic surgeons in performing spine surgeries and it is high time that our society gets adequately educated regarding various wrong perceptions which exists. Already, with the efforts of Dr H. S. Chhabra, Govt of India gazette notification regarding the equality of these two categories of surgeons is on the way. The committee is on the process of interacting with regulatory bodies including the MCI with regards to a number of issues. This includes institution of a curriculum of spine surgery to be incorporated in various fellowships and setting up of a post-graduate teaching program on spine so that the candidates can face the exit exams a lot better. The Advocacy committee is on the process of creating Health Awareness programs for the lay people to understand the benefits of safe spine surgery. A significant step forwards is the forthcoming workshop on Prevention of Falls, which is going to have a multi-societal representation. It is going to be held at ISIC, New Delhi. A joint representation regarding this issue would be given to the Government of India to incorporate necessary changes in the system.

Report of ASSI Research Committee

AOSAP Regional Research project: Effectiveness of various diagnostic and management tools for the treatment/management of people with Potts spine in India and its neighboring countries- A prospective, observational Multicentric cohort study. Total 13 participating centers were proposed. However Dr Bhavuk Garg from AIIMS, Delhi not got Ethics Committee approval. So at present 12 centers are participating in the project.

- Some changes have been made in the Multicenter Potts spine online portal/proforma so that the uploaded data becomes more suitable for future analysis and research. Some sections have been made mandatory
- We are also working on the “Save for now” option for follow-up data, where the user can save their data and later submit it with all the details.
- The revised proforma has been uploaded into the online portal. A new Potts spine server link has been created and the user details sent to all centers for further data upload. At present there is data from 548 patients. We are working on improving the quality of the data.

Allocation of research (thesis) topics to ASSI fellows at different centers as their projects: A committee reviewed the data available in the spine registry which could be reviewed and analyzed by ASSI fellows as part of their thesis project. Dr Bhavuk Garg has completed a “Thesis guidelines for ASSI fellows” The guidelines has been reviewed and approved by members of the Research Committee. This has been circulated to the fellows and guides for implementation

Report of ASSI Spine Registry

Dr Ankur Nanda briefed the members that the revamped the Spine Registry portal. The Key Sections have been made mandatory to be able to successfully submit a case like :

- Patient ID
- Age/Sex
- Date of Surgery/Admission
- Diagnosis
- Procedure
- Duration of surgery/ Blood loss
- Implants
- Complications
- Images (Xray / Ct / MRI section)
- Score

Without filing all the above sections in the portal, the user will not be able to check his case in “My Patient list”. It will reflect in “Unconfirmed list.” The file size of the images has been restricted to 2MB. The portal has now become much more smooth, responsive and quicker. Many new sections have been added like tabs for junctional area problems like thoracolumbar, cervicodorsal etc. New sections to include and to be able to differentiate cases of Ankylosing, RA, Osteoporosis have been added. Further refining the portal by adding a comprehensive sequence of key words so that both the diagnosis and surgical procedures can be fed with accuracy, making it much simpler to retrieve data for future ASSI research Projects.

Separate login for fellows for their thesis work would be ready soon. With the improvements in the portal, thesis and research work should be getting more streamlined. To encourage new centers to

participate in submitting their data towards spine registry and to motivate the existing centers to improve submission especially the follow up data. To employ dedicated staff for data entry. The ultimate plan is to make the portal world class at par with other registries of the world like TANGO – European Spine Registry

Report of ASSI Website Committee

Dr Ajoy Shetty briefed that members that the main activities of the Website committee in the year 2017 were :

- Revamping of the ASSI website.
- Redesigning and to start a new registry site www.assispineregistry.com
- Modifications and changes in the Potts spine database.
- Starting a case based discussion module.

The revamping and upgrading of the official ASSI website (www.assi.in) was one of the main mandates of the newly formed website committee. The modifications included a modernised software platform, a more contemporary and appealing design of the front page, updating of membership data and starting a payment gateway. Though most of the modifications have been performed, some are still work in progress. Dr Rohit Amritanand took the overall responsibility and along with the Webmaster was able to carry out the desired changes.

The other activities of the website included updating of the Upcoming events, travelling fellowships, awards and other key activities of the Society. The other major areas included redesigning of the ASSI Registry and modification of the existing Spinal Tuberculosis database.

Another Presidential initiative has been the establishment of an Online Case based discussion forum. This academic endeavour is to be spearheaded by Prof. S.K.Srivastava. This would allow members to post any case of interest & get feedback from senior members regarding management.

The website committee met during the ICS at Kovalam in August 2017 and brainstormed possible modifications and upgradation to be performed in the near future. We invite our members to access the Website regularly and provide us with your feedback so that our Website maybe at par with the world's elite Spine societies.

The online payment portal has been started and it is now possible to pay by credit and debit cards – this took a long time in completing the paper work but it was made possible thanks to the untiring efforts of Mr. Gupta of ISIC

Report of ASSI Nomination & Constitution Committee

Dr HS Chhabra briefed the members that the ASSI has been working on the amendment of the Constitution under the able guidance of our founder President, Dr VT Ingalhalikar. He had recently expressed that it is difficult for him to continue with this responsibility. Of late, there have been the following developments:

Eligibility criteria for various posts of ASSI

ASSI Constitutional Amendment

- Tenure of Office Bearers of ASSI
- It was also decided to take an experts opinion on the constitution in order to update it as per

present requirements.

- Hence we have taken the opinion of Dr PK Kohli. After suitable discussions with him, a draft constitution has been compiled.
- This draft has the approval of President, Secretary and Jt Secretary and other EC members --- then circulated to all members of ASSI for further comments/suggestions.

Tenure of Office Bearers of ASSI

- There was an opinion that we should reduce the tenure of the officials, especially President and Secretary.
- It was felt that ASSI is now growing quite well and there are quite a large number of members who are interested in contributing actively to the Society. With the present tenure, it would take a long time for them to get an opportunity to hold a position in the Executive.
- It was felt that this long wait could act as a disincentive for many of the aspiring members. Reducing the tenure would help more members to get actively involved and contribute to ASSI.
- An opinion was taken from Past Presidents and subsequently the Executive. There is more or less a consensus in this regard and everybody looked forward to this change.
- FINAL CONSENSUS: EC members would be for 2 years as would be the Joint Secretary and Secretary. The EC members shall preferably be picked up from the pool of co-opted members and the Joint Secretary shall always be picked up from the EC. The Secretary would usually be a natural transition from the Joint Secretary though there will be in rare situations, a mechanism of lateral entry also. The Secretary and the Joint Secretary would be for 2 years. The President Elect would be a natural transition from the Secretary every alternate year and the other year would be a lateral entry. The President Elect would become the President after one year and the President would become the Immediate Past President after one year. There would be no system of lateral entry for the President and Immediate Past President. It might be noted that the tenure of the President Elect, President and Immediate Past President would be for one year.

ASSI Task forces

Dr Saumyajit Basu briefed the members about the progress with regard to various ASSI Task forces as under:

Update of ASSI Indian Spine Journal

A new journal named "Indian Spine Journal (ISJ)" is being started from this year. The Indian Spine Journal (ISJ) is an official peer-reviewed, open access publication of Association of Spine Surgeons of India and is published on bi-annually basis by Wolters Kluwer India Pvt. Ltd, Mumbai, one of the largest open access publishers worldwide. The Submissions undergo the review process as for any peer review journal.

In the first issues of ISJ, we are launching a symposium on "Iatrogenic Spinal Infections" along with a special section "The spine clinics" in addition to original articles and case reports. The Symposium has the following topics with corresponding authors as mentioned.

EDITOR IN CHIEF

- Dr Anil Jain - Director Professor & Head, Deptt. Orthopaedics, UCMS & GTB Hospital, Delhi

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- Dr Arvind Jayaswal - Orthopaedic Surgeon and Head of the Department of Spine Surgery, Primus Super Speciality Hospital, New Delhi
- Dr Harvinder S Chhabra – Chief of Spine Service & Medical Director, Indian Spinal Injuries Centre, New Delhi
- Dr Raghava D Mulukutla - Director and Chief of Spine Surgery, Udai Omni & Apollo Health City, Hyderabad, India
- Dr Rajasekharan Shanmuganathan - Chairman, Dept of Orthopaedic & Spine Surgery, Ganga Hospital, Coimbatore
- Dr Ram Chaddha - Spine Surgeon, Apollo hospitals Navimumbai, Mumbai
- Dr Sajan Hegde - Consultant Spine Surgeon & Head of Department of Orthopaedics, Apollo Hospitals, Chennai
- Dr Saumyajit Basu - Head, Spine Surgery Unit, Program Director of Spine Fellowships, Neurosciences Division, Park Clinic, Kolkata
- Dr Vinod T Ingalhaliker – Orthopedist, Jupiter Hospital, Thane West

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- Dr Prabhat Agrawal
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- Dr Sagar Sharma

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- Dr Thanos Tsirikos - Royal hospital for sick children, Edinburgh, UK

Update of ASSI Monogram

Dr Raghavdutt M, the ASSI President announced his plan to come out with a series of 5 monographs on various topics in Spine Surgery in the year 2017- 2018, to be launched during the ASSICON in Chennai, 2018.

The topics selected were:

1. Ankylosing Spondylitis
Editor - Dr Gautam Zaveri
Sub- editors - Dr HS Chhabra; Dr K Chaudhary
2. Lumbar Spine Stenosis
Editor - Dr Amit Jhala
Sub- editors - Dr Rishi Kanna; Dr Hitesh Mody
3. Early onset scoliosis
Editor - Dr Raghavdutt M
Sub- editors - Dr Ajoy Shetty; Dr Gautam Zaveri
4. Complications in Spine Surgery- Volume1
Editor - Dr Amol Rege
Sub- editors - Dr Rohit Amritanand; Dr Naresh Babu
5. Craniovertebral junction
Editor - Dr R Satish

Series Editors - Dr Gautam Zaveri; Dr Raghavdutt M

- Publishers finalized : Thieme
- We are progressing well and hope to release at least 4 of the 5 monographs by ASSICON 2018.
- Intas has promised to buy 1500 books on Lumbar Spine Stenosis.
- ASSICON 2018 ORGANIZING COMMITTEE has offered to buy 600 copies of the monograph on Early onset scoliosis for delegates attending the meeting in Chennai.

- ASSI will be buying 100 copies of each monograph for distribution amongst the authors of the various monographs, and for distribution for review by various journals and also as gifts to Presidents and secretaries of key spine, orthopaedic and neurosurgical associations.
- In the calendar year 2018- 2019, ASSI plans to come up with 5 more monographs and also launch the unfinished one on Craniovertebral junction

The topics for the 5 future monographs include:

1. Osteoporosis and the Spine
Editor - Dr HS Chhabra
Co- editors - Dr Bharat Dave
 2. Lumbar disc prolapse
Editor - Dr Arvind Kulkarni
Co- editors - Dr G Vijaykumar
 3. Tuberculosis of the Spine
Editor - Dr Ajoy Shetty
Co- editors - Dr Abhay Nene
 4. Adolescent Idiopathic Scoliosis
Editor - Dr KV Menon
Co- editors - Dr Saumyajit Basu
 5. Complications in spine surgery. Volume 2
Editor - Dr Amit Jhala
Co- editors - Dr Rishi Kanna
- Series Editors - Dr Gautam Zaveri; Dr Raghavdutt M

The preliminary work for these monographs has already started.

Update of ASSI Outreach Program

The spine outreach is one of the Presidential initiatives of the ASSI taken by Dr Raghava Dutt Mulukutla, starting from the year 2017. The idea of the spine outreach is for the national ASSI faculty to go through two tier cities in India and to impart knowledge on the basics of spine surgery. The course involves lectures, along with hands on workshops on models and cover topics which are important in day to day practise.

Four ASSI Spine Outreach program were planned for this year and so far two have been successfully conducted at Guwahati and Patna.

First ASSI Spine Outreach Program - 4th June 2017, Guwahati

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| ■ Course Chairman | - Dr Saumyajit Basu and Dr Ajoy Shetty |
| ■ Organising Secretaries | - Dr Bipil Borthakur and Dr Nitu Borgohain |
| ■ ASSI Faculty | - Dr Saumyajit Basu and Dr Ajoy Shetty |
| ■ Regional Faculty | - Prof S. Lahkar, Prof T. Bhattacharya,
Dr Jaydeep Ghosh and Dr Rajdeep Roy |

The first spine outreach program was successfully held Guwahati with 46 young ortho spine surgeons attending the academic program.

Second ASSI Spine Outreach Program - 17th September 2017, Patna

- Course Chairman – Dr Samir Dalvie
- Organising Secretaries – Dr Gautam Prasad
- ASSI Faculty – Dr Bharat Dave and Dr Kalidutta Das
- Regional Faculty – Dr John Mukhopadhaya, Dr Sudeep Kumar, Dr V.K.Sinha and Dr Shyam Sunder

The meeting was hugely successful and about 70 ortho spine surgeons attended the sessions and expressed their satisfaction

Third ASSI Spine Outreach Program - 17th December 2017, Trichy

- Course Chairman – Dr Ajoy Shetty
- Organising Secretaries – Dr Jaikish and Dr Mukesh Mohan
- ASSI Faculty – Dr R Sivakumar and Dr B.N.Upendra
- Regional Faculty – Dr Ramakrishna Eswaran, Dr S.Balasubramanian, Dr D.Backia Raj, Dr Ajith Kumar and Dr Bharatkumar

Fourth ASSI Spine Outreach Program - 25th February, 2018, Udaipur

- Course Chairman – Dr Samir Dalvie
- Organising Secretaries – Dr Chirayu Pamecha
- ASSI Faculty – Dr S.K.Srivastava and Dr Rushuma Tandon
- Regional Faculty – Dr Lalit Sharma

We would like to thank Dr Raghava Dutt, President-ASSI, Dr H.S. Chhabra, Vice President-ASSI, and Dr Saumyajit Basu, Secretary, ASSI for giving us the responsibility and opportunity to conduct the ASSI spine outreach program. We would also like to thank Medtronic India and Medtronics RTG team, for having supported us in this venture. Our sincere thanks also, to the entire ASSI faculty, organising secretaries, regional faculties and the delegates for the successful organisation of the events.

Update of ASSI Prevention of Spinal Cord Injuries

SCI Day activities: a brief report

International Spinal Cord Society (ISCoS) had decided to observe 5th September as SCI Day, with a view to launch an international campaign to create awareness about spinal cord injury and its prevention. This year the Day was celebrated with the theme 'Yes We Can'. The theme has been chosen to highlight the ability amongst disabilities of persons with SCI.

ASSI joined hands with Indian Spinal Injuries Centre and other Societies of India including Spinal Cord Society, Indian Association of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (IAPMR), Indian Orthopaedic Association (IOA), Indian Association of Neurology (IAN) to commemorate SCI Day celebrations. Two major events were organized along with several smaller events in New Delhi.

Inclusive Cultural program : 5th September 2017

An inclusive cultural program was organized at Talkatora Stadium on 5th September 2017. The audience was enthralled by breathtaking performances by artists on wheelchair from AAMAD dance group.

An SCI Anthem was produced by Spine Society of West Bengal (SSWB) and it was officially released at the ISSICON New Delhi. The noted singer, Mrs Usha Uthup has put in her voice and the music video has been directed by the noted director Sumit Ray of Red Curtain, a theatre group motivated by doing theatre for a cause.

Wheelchair Rally: 10th September

A wheelchair rally was organized at Rajpath, New Delhi on 10th September 2017. The rally was flagged off by Shri. Mahesh Sharma, Union Minister of State for Culture, Government of India. About 950 able bodied individuals walked along with around 100 wheelchair users to propagate the importance of prevention and highlighting inclusiveness within the society. The theme “Yes We Can” for this year SCI Day was amply demonstrated by 100 wheelchair users covering the entire stretch of 1.5 kms on Rajpath. Nukkad natak performance reinforced the message of prevention of spinal cord injuries. This event too got wide press publicity.

Injury Prevention Program Proposal to the Government of India

Program Proposal

ASSI has joined hands with other societies to conceptualize a proposal in which experts from various national & international Societies as well as organizations, including WHO, could be invited to brainstorm a 3 Days workshop on ‘Preventing injuries due to Injuries’: Mid May 2018

The program would involve identification, designing, implementation and analyses as well as monitoring. It is felt that the prevention program should be identified and designed by a subgroup of experts through discussions before the workshop. Similarly Implementation and Analyses/ Monitoring strategies will be worked upon by other expert subgroups.

Updating database of ASSI members

Dr Saumyajit Basu briefed the members that the updated membership list, ASSI now has 1579 members as against 806 when the endeavor was started. This also includes 103 new members who have joined since 1st February 2017. Email addresses of 1407 members. 1188 members have updated their contact details (including postal address etc.) with the Secretariat.

Accounts & Income Tax Status

Dr Saumyajit Basu briefed the members that books and accounts have been audited up to F/Y 2016-17 and subsequently we have submitted Income tax Return before the due date. The excess of income over expenditure was Rs. 66 Lacs has been recorded in the Books of Accounts for F/Y 2016-17. Since the society is registered under section 12AA of the Income Tax Act 1961, therefore whatever profit generated is totally exempted if the corpus fund is utilized within the next five years. GST registration has been done after a HUGE personal effort and Guptaji requires a special mention of his untiring efforts!

A.S.S.I. Presidential Guest Speaker – ASSICON2019

Dr Saumyajit Basu briefed the members that in the last GBM, it was decided that in future, It was decided in the last GBM that every alternate year there should be a “Presidential Address” and a “Presidential Guest Speaker”, each of 20 min duration with 5 min for introduction. The Presidential Guest Speaker for the ASSICON 2018 is Mahatria Ria. Hence in ASSICON 2019, there would be the

“Presidential Address” by Dr Ragav Dutt Mulukutla

ICS 2018: Amritsar - Update

Dr Rupinder Chahal briefed the members that ICS 2018 Amritsar will be held from 9th to 11th August 2018. The venue of the conference is Radisson Blue hotel. The theme of the ICS is “Tumors and Minimally Invasive Spine Surgery. The website is functional.

ASSICON 2019 : Ahmedabad - Update

Dr Subir Jhaveri briefed the members that the conference ASSICON 2019 will be held from 17th to 19th January 2019. The venue for the conference is YMCA International Centre. The theme of the conference is “Controversies to Complications in Spine Surgery”. There should be live surgical workshop, Workshops on Technological Innovations, Lunch Workshops, Free Papers, Debates on Controversies, Plenary Sessions, Surgical Video sessions, Spine Quiz and E- Posters. Till now three international faculty has confirmed as under:

- Dr Stephen Lewis, Professor of Orthopaedics, Toronto Western Hospital, Toronto, CA
- Dr Jean-Charles Lehuac, Professor, University Victor Segalen, Bordeaux, France
- Dr Jin-Sung Luke Kim, Professor, Dept of Neurosurgery, St. Mary's Hospital, Korea

Call for Proposal for ICS 2019

Dr Saumyajit Basy briefed the members that Dr Janardhana Aithala, has put up a bid to organize ICS 2019 at Mangalore. This was ratified by the General Body and the executive that ICS 2019 will be held at Mangalore. It was also decided in the General Body that Dr Janardhana Aithala should submit a formal letter in their proper letter head.

Call for Proposal for ASSICON 2020 (to be held in December 2019 because of SpineWeek at Melbourne)

The members were informed that SpineWeek is organized every four years and gathers all major global spine societies in one world congress. As a result SpineWeek attracts 3000 to 3500 congress participants (orthopaedic surgeons, neurosurgeons, physiatrists etc.) and 200 to 250 exhibiting companies bringing in an additional 2000 sales reps in the exhibition. It is a major World Congress on Spine Surgery. SpineWeek 2020 is scheduled in Melbourne. ASSI would be participating in Spine Week 2020 as a partner. It is hoped that this will give a good visibility to ASSI.

SpineWeek Committee has been informed that if ASSI participating in this conference as partner then he has to forgo its event in this particular year. It was decided that ASSI should forgo its event in 2020.

Update of ASSI participation in CSRS AP, New Delhi and Global Spine Congress (GSC) 2018 in Singapore

Dr Saumyajit Basu briefed the members that CSRS AP, New Delhi has been extremely well organized by Dr Rajasekaran and his team. All faculty lectures have been distributed. > 200 abstracts submitted

and podium/poster presentations have been allotted.

GSC 2018 Singapore is being well represented by ASSI. The title of the ASSI symposium -- NEGLECTED AND SEVERE SPINAL DEFORMITIES. Members representing ASSI are Dr R. D. Mulukutla, Dr H S Chhabra, Dr Saumyajit Basu and Dr Ajoy Shetty.

Re-visiting guidelines for ASSICON – start from Friday morning to Sunday afternoon

Dr Saumyajit Basu briefed the members that there has been a proposal to start ASSICON on Thursday and to finish off by Saturday, so that Sunday is free. This means that the preconference course starts from Wednesday. This also means that we have to finish off by Saturday afternoon so that delegates can leave early. The hotel packages needs to be worked out accordingly. The house unanimously approved it.

ASSI Operative Course

Dr Saumyajit Basu briefed the members that every 2 years we have been having the Ganga Operative Spine Course (GOSC) for the last decade approximately – the last one was organized successfully in 2017. We had a very successful similar course at ISIC New Delhi in 2016. There has been a proposal to hold this course as ASSI Operative Course by Dr Chhabra every alternate year so that ASSI members get to participate in this course every year - either in Ganga or in ISIC

Election of two Executive Committee Members

Dr Saumyajit Basu informed the members that Dr Subir Jhaveri and Dr GR Vijay Kumar were finishing their tenure as Executive Committee Members. The General Body appreciated their contribution towards the activities of the ASSI.

Dr Bhavuk Garg, Dr Vikas Tandon, Dr Ketan Khurjekar, Dr Rishi Kanna, Dr Charanjit Singh Dhillion, Dr Ranjith Unnikrishnan, Dr Ujjwal Debnath, Dr Janardhana Aithala and Dr Appaji Krishnan showed their interest for the post of executive committee member. As there were two seats in Executive post, voting was conducted by a ballot of papers. Dr Appaji and Dr Ketan won by 75 and 51 votes.

The updated list of Office Bearers of the Association of Spine Surgeons of India for 2018-2019 would be as under:

Past Presidents:

1. Dr K.V. Chaubal
2. Dr P K Dave
3. Dr V T Ingalthalikar
4. Dr S M Hardikar
5. Dr Shekhar Y Bhojraj
6. Dr Arvind Jayaswal
7. Dr S. Rajasekaran
8. Dr Sajan Hegde

9. Dr Ram Chaddha

Executive Committee:

1. President: Dr Raghava Dutt Mulukutla (2017-19)
2. President Elect: Dr H. S. Chhabra (2017-19)
3. Secretary & Treasurer: Dr Saumyajit Basu (2017-20)
4. Joint Secretary: Dr Ajoy Shetty (2017-20)

Executive Members:

1. Dr Ankur Nanda (2017-20)
2. Dr Gururaj Sangondimath (2017-20)
3. Dr J Naresh Babu (2017-20)
4. Dr Rohit Amritanand (2017-20)
5. Dr Appaji Krishnan (2018-21)
6. Dr Ketan Khurjekar (2018-21)

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks from the Secretary, Dr Saumyajit Basu.

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ASSI Program Committee Report

This year the Program Committee has been extremely busy in formulating the ASSI academic events like ASSICON 2018, Chennai; ICS 2018; Amritsar, ASSI Outreach Program, in Udaipur and Srinagar. It has also been involved in the finalization of programs for CSRS- AP (Cervical Spine Research Society – Asia Pacific) meeting 2018, Delhi. Forthcoming meetings, which ASSI has co-branded with include NASS (North American Spine Society) meeting at Los Angeles and the APCSS (Asia Pacific Cervical Spine Society) meeting at Delhi.



Dr Saumyajit Basu [Chair]

ASSICON 2018

ASSICON 2018 was a huge success with Dr Appaji Krishnan, Organizing Secretary and Dr Sajan Hegde, Organizing Chairman, bringing together a galaxy of international faculty, ably supported by national stalwarts. The program was extremely interactive with plenary sessions along with simultaneously running non-conflicting sessions in two halls with a lot of focus on free papers.



Dr GR Vijay Kumar



Dr Appaji Krishnan

ICS 2018

ICS 2018 promises to live up to the expectations of ASSI members with Dr Shankar Acharya and Dr Rupinder Chahal working very hard on it. The Program Committee has had a chance to look at the program early enough and had put in its recommendations.



Dr Shankar Acharya



Dr Subir Jhaveri

ASSICON 2019

On a similar note, Dr Subir Jhaveri is working over-time for ASSICON 2019, Ahmedabad and has already put up a structure of the scientific program. The Scoliosis Research Society World-Wide Conference (SRS-WWC) is going to be held as a pre-conference event and 5 SRS faculty are due to join with Dr. Rajeev Sethi being the Chairman of the course.

NASS 2018

NASS has offered 3 lectures to ASSI faculty in the Global Spine Forum at the Annual NASS Meeting to be held in Los Angeles, California from 26th to 29th September 2018. Similarly, APCSS has offered a full 1½ hour ASSI session in its forthcoming meeting at Delhi from 15th to 17th November 2018.



Dr Rupinder Chahal

The Program Committee pledges to quench the academic thirst of ASSI members in future.

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August 2018

ASSI Education Committee Report

The various activities of the Education Committee were conducted as planned.

The ASSI fellowship Entrance exam was conducted on 10th July. It was online MCQ based evaluation. Questions were selected from huge question bank contributed from various EC members of ASSI. We received 78 applications and about 60 appeared for examination. The 20 top scorers will be called for counselling in Amritsar during ICS 2018 for allocation of seats.

With the vision of enhancing the basic learning of spine fellows ASSI successfully conducted the first ever one day spine fellow teaching program at Indian Spinal Injuries Centre. A detailed report and pictures are given in a subsequent section of the Newsletter and we have planned to make it a yearly event in conjunction with the Live Surgical Course so that the wealth of clinical material can be a good teaching platform for the students who are due to appear for the exit examination.

The ASSI 2 year fellowships are running smoothly. For the first time, a thesis has been allocated to each fellows and they will have to be submitted a month prior to the exit examination. This will go a long way in encouraging publications from the fellows and there will be a separate oral table for the assessment of the thesis and log-book in the exit examination. This time the ASSI Fellowship Exit Examination would be conducted by Dr Ajoy Shetty at Ganga Hospital in Coimbatore. The date of the examination has been finalized to be 15th September 2018.

Re-accreditation of the existing centres has been discussed extensively at the last EC meeting and guidelines for the same are being formulated. The time frame of inspection, the panel of inspecting officers of ASSI and the feedback of the fellows who have been trained in that institute are points on which the final guideline would be drafted soon.

ASSI Short Term Observership program for a period of 3 to 6 weeks are on the process of being created to suit the requirements of spine surgeons who are reasonably well established in full time spine practice and who would be benefitted by visiting institutes of excellence on one particular



Dr Samir Dalvie [Chair]

Dr Gururaj
Sangondimath

Dr Vishal Kundnani



Dr Thomas Kishen



Dr Arvind Kulkarni

sub-specialty like MIS, Cervical Spine, Spinal Deformities and Endoscopic Spine Surgery. Expression of interest has been invited from centers willing to host the same and we hope to formalize the process within the next few months.



Dr Abhay Nene

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ASSI Research Committee Report

The main activities of the Research committee in the year 2018 were :

AOSAP Regional Research Project

Effectiveness of various diagnostic and management tools for the treatment/management of people with Potts spine in India and its neighboring countries- A prospective, observational Multicentric cohort study. Total 12 centers are participating in the project.

1. Revised the proforma.
2. Made sections mandatory.
3. Remove the "Edit" option for Users. Only Admin has the right to edit.
4. Create a separate section of "Follow-up" data.
5. Worked on the improvisation of the quality of data.
6. At present, 769 patient's data have collected and uploaded into the portal.
7. Ganga Hospital has completed the target of recruiting 100 patients.
8. As per the study milestone (pated below), recruitment period is over.

Period Milestone

- 1 year Data collection (recruitment + data filling) from Oct 2016 to Oct 2017 (+6 months extension = April 2018).
- 1 year Follow up
- 6 months Compilation of data from all participating centers + analysis + report writing



Dr H. S. Chhabra [Chair]



Dr J. Naresh Babu



Dr Bhavuk Garg



Dr Vijay Kamath



Dr Tarun Suri



S.No	Hospital Name	Name of Doctor	Counts
1	Ganga Ram Hospital	Dr Shankar Acharya	63
2	Sattvik Spine Foundation, Bangalore	Dr Yogesh Pithawa	17
3	Apollo Hospital	Dr Sajan Hedge	10
4	Ganga Hospital	Dr Ajoy Prasad Shetty	248
5	MediCiti Hospital, AP	Dr Naresh Babu	74
6	Udai Clinic, Hyderabad	Dr Raghav Dutt	77
7	Sundaram Medical Foundation, Chennai	Dr Prashant Kekre	13
8	Park Clinic	Dr Saumyjit Basu	59
9	Indian Spinal Injuries Center	Dr H.S Chhabra	80
10	National Institute of Trauma ology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation (NITOR), Bangladesh	Dr Provash Chandra Saha	48
11	National Institute of Trauma ology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation (NITOR), Bangladesh	Md. Shah Alam	40
12	Kathmandu Hospital Pvt. Ltd., Nepal, (Tribhuvan university teaching hospital, Kathmandu medical college and teaching hospital)	Dr Rabindra Lal Pradhan	40
13	Grande International Hospital, Nepal	Dr Byapak Paudel	0
Total			769

An e-mail had been sent to all centers for to starting filing follow-up data (in the online portal) in a comprehensive manner, filing each field mandatorily.

Dr. Byapak Paudel (from Grande International Hospital, Nepal) has not contributed any case to the project. Final reminder email has been sent to Dr. Byapak Paudel to contribute 40 cases in the project database within a week otherwise we have no option but to remove his center's name from the AO spine multicenter project.

Thesis for ASSI Fellows

1. Thesis guidelines for ASSI fellows: Reviewed and approved by members of the Research Committee / Core Executive and circulated to the fellows and guides for implementation.

2. All fellows (7 in number) are in process of submitting the Thesis final Report (both hard and soft copy) with approval of their mentors. The same will be evaluated during their exit exams.
3. The various topics allocated to the fellows (2017-2019 batch) are as under:

S. No	Name of the successful Candidates	Centre Allocated	Mentor	Thesis topic
1	Dr Rajdeep Singh Bagga	Ganga Hospital, Coimbatore	Dr S. Rajasekaran	Thoracic Myelopathy due to ossified Ligamentum Flavum: Analysis of perioperative adverse events and functional outcomes
2	Dr Anuj Gupta	Indian Spinal Injuries Centre, New Delhi	Dr H.S. Chhabra	Comparison of outcomes between lumbar interbody fusion surgery and discectomy in massive lumbar disc herniation: retrospective analysis.
3	Dr Rohan Bharat Gala	Park Clinic, Kolkatta	Dr Saumyajit Basu	Recurrent Disc Lumbar Disc Prolapse – Revision Discectomy versus Fusion
4	Dr Naveen Aggarwal	Park Clinic, Kolkatta	Dr Saumyajit Basu	Anderson Lesion in Ankylosing Spondylitis – Posterior only versus Posterior + Anterior fusion.
5	Dr Ashwin Kumar Vasant Khandge	Bombay Hospital, Mumbai	Dr CE Deopujari, Dr Arvind G. Kulkarni and Dr Vishal Kundnani	Not allotted yet
6	Dr Vigneshwara	Apollo Hospitals, Chennai	Dr Sajan Hedge	Not allotted yet
7	Dr Harshil Patel	BJ Medical College and Civil Hospital, Ahmedabad	Dr Jayprakash Modi, Dr M.M. Prabhakar	Not allotted yet

Bombay Hospital, Mumbai, Apollo Hospitals, Chennai & BJ Medical College and Civil Hospital, Ahmedabad are still to allocate thesis topics to the fellows.

A reminder has been sent to all for the needful.

Report on past winners of ASSI Research Award 2017

Winner of ASSI Research award 2017 - Dr. Naresh Babu:

FACTORS INFLUENCING POST OPERATIVE PROGRESSION OF OPLL - Role of Post-operative segmental instability on progression of OPLL.

It was discussed in a previous GBM that the winner of the “ASSI Best Publication & Research award” should present their work in an ASSI meeting (ICS or ASSICON).

ASSI Research Award 2018

This year we have received 9 applications:

1. Dr GPV Subbaiah: Head, Department of Spine Surgery, STAR Hospitals, Road No 10, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad-32, Telangana, India.
2. Dr Bhavuk Garg: Associate Professor, Department of Orthopaedics, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi.
3. Dr Arun Kumar Viswanadha: Consultant Spine Surgeon, Mallika Spine Centre, Guntur
4. Dr. Gagan Deep: Junior Resident, Department of Orthopaedics, AIIMS Rishikesh
5. Dr. Janardhana Aithala: Professor Unit Head, Department of Orthopedics, Yenepoya Medical College, Yenepoya (Deemed to be University), Deralakatte, Mangalore-575018, India.
6. Dr. Naresh Babu: Chief Spine Surgeon, Mallika Spine Centre, Guntur.
7. Dr. Shyamasunder Bhat N: Professor, Dept of Orthopaedics, Kasturba Medical College, Manipal, Manipal Academy of Higher Education.
8. Dr. Sakti Goel: MS Junior Consultant, Department of Spine Surgery and Basic Research, Indian Spinal Injuries Centre, New Delhi.
9. Dr. GPV Subbaiah: Head, Department of Spine Surgery, STAR Hospitals, Road No 10, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad-32, Telangana, India.

All the above applications have been sent to a list of judges for their perusal and evaluation.

List of Judges:

- Dr Yogesh K Pithwa
- Dr Rishi Kanna
- Dr Karthik Kailash
- Dr Dilip Sengupta
- Dr Jwalant Mehta

Proposal for ASSI involvement in the research project of ISCoS on Spinal Cord Injury database

Introduction: ISCoS Database Project (IDaP)

Spinal cord injury (SCI) is a medically complex condition associated historically with very high mortality rates. As per IPSCI (International Perspectives on Spinal Cord Injury, a joint WHO and ISCoS report), data on the magnitude and costs of SCI are limited. Only a handful of high income countries are able to provide national statistics. Other data sources are so few and so methodologically varied that it is not possible to calculate reliable point estimates for global prevalence or incidence. There is an urgent need to improve the quantity and quality of data collection on SCI. Recognizing this need the Executive, Council and General Body of ISCoS decided to develop some tool/resource to collect data on Spinal Cord Injuries.

IDAPP (ISCoS Database: ASCon Pilot Project) was proposed as the first step of a long-term International SCI database that would gradually incorporate more centres across countries where no such endeavor has been undertaken so far. IDAPP was hence conceived as a useful tool/resource for clinicians and researchers seeking to understand SCI better.

IDAPP project was of 1 year duration. 09 centres from India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam participated in the project. Total number of patients enrolled in the IDAPP study was 975.

IDAPP has provided a low cost solution to creation of a data repository in LMIC. The study provides demographic and safety data of SCI patients from 9 centres in the South East Asia region. High falls is the most common cause of SCI and a higher percentage of SCI are paraplegics and complete (AIS-A) in the region in contrast to other High Income Countries (HICs). There were no major anomalies reported. The appropriateness of the study and quality and ease of use of web platform has been confirmed. Thus, a larger global database is feasible, economical and practical.

The Advisory Committee of IDAPP subsequently approved continuation and further expansion of the IDAPP involving centres from across the globe especially in regions where information on spinal cord injury is limited. Centres from across the globe especially in regions where information on spinal cord injury is limited were invited to participate.

An ISCoS Database Project (IDaP) was thus envisaged where the IDAPP was expanded with participation from centres from across the globe. Even though the database at present is for demographic and preventive variables, clinical database variables will be gradually included. Any other centres in their individual capacity which is interested in the endeavor and fulfills the criteria are invited to participate.

At present 12 centres are contributing to the database.

[Proposal for ASSI](#)

ASSI could contribute to this research initiative by encouraging relevant members with interest in SCI to get their centres to participate in the database project. A proforma which could be filled by interested members is enclosed.

The Research Committee has approved ASSI participation in the project. It will be put up to the Executive and GBM for a decision.

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ASSI Social Work Committee Report

The SOCIAL WING of ASSI and The Spine Foundation, under the guidance of DrShekhar Y Bhojraj is working for the poor and the under served cases with spine ailments from the state of Maharashtra and other states with the Govt and Non Govt organizations. A multi centric comprehensive Spine care programme for the poor and needy patients with spine ailments has been started in rural Maharashtra along with the Govt of Maharashtra.

It has started to do this by empowering the orthopaedic departments of the various government medical colleges in rural areas. It has selected 4 such centres as a pilot project. These include the orthopaedic departments at the following Government Medical colleges:

GMC Akola
GMC Ambajogai
GMC Aurangabad and
GMC Dhule.

The plan was to do this by setting up new spine units (spine operation theatres..spine clinic...spine wards). This will be done by skill development and empowerment of the existing orthopaedic departments by hands on training and series of lecture courses and workshops.

A referral practice chain from interiors to these RSCC (Rural spine care centre) via health workers and PHC doctors is being designed. Once these systems are in place and once these RSCC become independent units, we can move on to adopt 4 more new such centres.



Dr Shekhar Y Bhojraj [Chair]



Dr Ketan Khurjekar



Dr Neeraj Gupta



Dr Amit Jhala



Dr Premik Nagad

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August 2018

ASSI Spine-Registry Committee Report

The prestigious ASSI spine registry is thoroughly updated. We now have 10 centres which are regularly uploading data and more than 30,000 entries have been recorded. Our sincere thanks to the uploading centres which have made this possible.

However there remains concerns of proper data retrieval and making this data useful for multicentric research. To achieve this purpose, we have added a list of new key words like degenerative/ tumor / metabolic/ trauma, etc. Henceforth, all data has to be uploaded with these keywords in place so that keyword-wise data retrieval becomes easier.

The additional mandatory field which has been created is the digital data. Every patient data is uploaded along with the relevant X-ray/CT/MRI and to make it less time consuming, 2mb is the limit of the file-size. We are in the process of automatic downsizing of images uploaded so that data transfer becomes more user-friendly.

Sincere concerns regarding the follow-up data of patients still remain. This is a major challenge and efforts are on to solve this issue. We are trying to develop a mobile app so that initial uploading of data as well as the completing the follow-up becomes more feasible.



Dr S Rajasekaran
[Chair]



Dr Bharat Dave
[Chair]



Dr Ankur Nanda



Dr Amitava Biswas



Dr Rishi Kanna

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August 2018

ASSI Advocacy Committee Report

The Advocacy Committee has been very active in the last few months and has been able to address some important issues.

Firstly, there has been a major representation to the Medical Council of India (MCI) related to the un-approved & unproven Stem Cell Therapy being practiced by some entities and formulation of an appropriate regulation, in public interest has been sought. In doing this, a detailed document has been submitted which explains the status of stem cell therapy in our country and how this as yet unproved technology is being mis-utilized. The position statements of current professional bodies including the ASSI has been mentioned. Steps that should be taken to curb this and how to create public awareness has been suggested. A public interest litigation (PIL) will be filed soon by our association with the help of Dr P. K. Kohli, Medico-legal Consultant and Advisor Medical Education, Gurgaon. We take this opportunity to congratulate Dr H. S. Chhabra for his dedicated work on this.

Secondly a Workshop on Injury Prevention Program is shaping up quite well. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India is organizing this program from 23rd to 25th August, 2018 at AIIMS, New Delhi. The workshop is being organized in association with various National and International Societies including The International Spinal Cord Society (ISCoS), Spinal Cord Society (SCS), Indian Spinal Injuries Centre (ISIC), Association of Spine Surgeons of India (ASSI), Indian Association of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (IAPMR), Indian Orthopaedic Association (IOA), International Society of Orthopaedic Surgery and Traumatology (SICOT), World Orthopaedic Concern (WOC), Indian Academy of Neurology (IAN) and Asian Spinal Cord Network (ASCoN). The program would involve identification, designing, implementation and analyses as well as monitoring the injury prevention strategy/strategies. The prevention program would be identified and designed by a subgroup of experts through discussions before the workshop. Similarly, Implementation and Analyses/ Monitoring strategies will be worked upon by subgroups. The workshop will help finalize the injury prevention program which the Government of India could consider for implementation. All credit again goes to Dr Chhabra for organizing this and spreading the message to all ASSI members.



Dr Ram Chaddha [Chair]

Dr Surya Prakash Rao
Voletti

Dr Rushama Tandon



Dr Prashant Kekre



Dr Vikas Tandon

Finally, though a Presidential initiative, ASSI has been instrumental in formulating a proposed consent form which can be used by the members prior to surgery. Dr Ketan Khujrekar has created a preliminary version and it is being circulated to the Executive Committee and after necessary additions and alterations, a final version would come out soon. This would be uploaded to the ASSI website for easy download. 6 consent forms for 6 different pathologies are in consideration at present, including Trauma, Degenerative, Cervical Spine, Tumours and Infection along with a separate one which is for General purposes only.

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ASSI Nomination & Constitution Committee Report

Nominations for ASSI Vacancies

The following ASSI officials will be finishing their tenure during the GBM at Ahmadabad:

1. Dr Raghava Dutt Mulukutla *as President*
2. Dr H. S. Chhabra *as President Elect*
3. Dr Saumyajit Basu *as Secretary & Treasurer*
4. Dr Ajoy Shetty *as Joint Secretary*
5. Dr Ankur Nanda *as Executive Member*
6. Dr Gururaj Sangondimath *as Executive Member*
7. Dr J Naresh Babu *as Executive Member*
8. Dr Rohit Amritanand *as Executive Member*



Dr H. S. Chhabra [Chair]



Dr S Rajasekaran



Dr Arvind Jayaswal

Vacancies

The members will be informed about the vacancies of the concerned posts through mailers after ICS 2018. The President Elect will take over as President and hence this vacancy will not need to be announced.

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Post: President elect | Vacancy: 01 |
| 2. Post: Secretary | Vacancy: 01 |
| 3. Post: Jt. Secretary | Vacancy: 01 |
| 4. Post: Executive Members | Vacancy: 04 |



Dr Sajan Hegde



Dr Ram Chaddha

The last date for submission of application will be 31st October 2018.

Further action as per amended constitution approved by GBM during ASSICON 2018 at Chennai

- The eligibility criteria for various ASSI posts has been laid down and uploaded on the ASSI website.
- The no. of EC members will be increased to 8 which means that there would be 6 vacancies during the GBM at Ahmadabad (4 replacements and 2 additional).

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ASSI Website Committee Report

The website committee was reconstituted in April this year. The members of the newly reconstituted committee are :

- Dr Ajoy Shetty(Chair)
- Dr Rohit Amritanand (EC Member)
- Dr B.N.Upendra (Ex EC)
- Dr Renjith Unnikrishnan(Co-opted)
- Dr Charanjit Singh Dhillon(Co-opted)

We would like to thank Dr Rupinder Chahal and Dr Venkatesh for their contribution.

The revamping and upgrading of the ASSI website is one of the ongoing activity of the website committee. The new major activities includes on case based discussion on spear headed by Prof. S.K.Srivastava. This would allow members to post any case of interest and get back feedback from senior members and management. The other activities of the website committee includes updating of the upcoming events, travelling fellowships, awards, and other key activities of the society. We have sent a mail to all the members to login and update their membership profile. We invite our members to access the website regularly and to provide us the feedback.



Dr Ajoy Prasad Shetty [Chair]



Dr B Upendra



Dr Rohit Amritanand



Dr Renjith
Unnikrishnan



Dr Charanjit Singh
Dhillon

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August 2018

Task Force on ASSI Monographs Report

Since the launch of this project in 2017, we have been able to compile 3 monographs and could distribute them in ASSICON 2018, Chennai. Very good feedbacks and reviews by members have really made the tumultuous effort worth it. These monographs were on:

1. Lumbar Spine Stenosis
Editor: Dr Amit Jhala
2. Ankylosing Spondylitis
Editor: Dr Gautam Zaveri
3. Complications in Spine Surgery
Editor: Dr Amol Rege

Sincere thanks to all the authors who have contributed chapters to these monographs.

Two more such monographs have been completed and will be released in ICS 2018, Amritsar. They are:

1. Early onset scoliosis
Editor: Dr Raghavdutt Mulukutla
2. Lumbar Disc Herniation
Editors: Dr Arvind Kulkarni & Dr G.R. Vijay Kumar

Both these have come out well and we expect a good response from the members.

Five future monographs in the pipeline include:

1. Osteoporosis and the Spine
Editor: Dr H.S. Chhabra
2. Lumbar Disc Prolapse
Editor: Dr Arvind Kulkarni
3. Tuberculosis of the Spine
Editor: Dr Ajoy Shetty
4. Adolescent Idiopathic Scoliosis
Editor: K.V. Menon



Dr Gautam Zaveri [Chair]

Dr Raghava Dutt
Mulukutla

Dr Satish Rudrappa



Dr Amol Rege



Dr Amit Jhala

5. Complications in Spine Surgery - Volume 2
Editor: Dr Amit Jhala

The publisher of these monographs, Theime Medical Publishers, have done a good job and we remain thankful to them for their efforts. However promotion and marketing remains a challenge. Intas Pharmaceuticles have bought 1500 copies of the monograph "Lumbar Spinal Stenosis" and it was distributed to orthopaedic and neuro-surgeons across the country. The organizing committee of ASSICON 2018, Chennai had bought 700 copies of the monograph "Ankylosing Spondylitis" and distributed it to the delegates who attended the conference. Another pharmaceuticle company has shown interest in buying 700 copies of the monograph "Complication in Spine Surgery" and negotiations are in process. Bombay Spine Society distributed 300 copies of the monograph "Complication in Spine Surgery" during Bombay Operative Spine Course and all credit goes to Dr. Vishal Kundnani for this.

Future plans include website links to promote these monographs and provision is to be made so that ASSI members can buy it at a concessional price. ICS 2018 organizers will be distributing 200 copies of the monograph "Early Onset Scoliosis" to all delegates who would be attending the same and sincere thanks to Dr Shankar Acharya and Dr Rupinder Chahal for this.

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August 2018

Task Force for Prevention of Spinal Cord Injury Report

Proposal for workshop on Injury Prevention

Injury and Trauma are steadily increasing in the third world becoming a major public health problem. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), about 424 000 fall-related deaths occurred globally in 2004 and about one fifth of them (95 000 deaths) took place in India. According to the recent WHO report, by 2020 Trauma will be the third largest killer in the developing world. Studies had estimate the cost of injuries as between 0.29% and 0.69% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of India. WHO in one of its guidance document has estimated that RTCs costs between 1 to 1.5% of gross national product in LMICs.

Primary prevention efforts can offer significant cost benefits, and efforts to change behavior and improve safety can and should be emphasized. Hence it is imperative that prevention of falls and RTCs should be an important point of focus for any prevention strategy for any injury. Simple actions and taking safety precautions can prevent many serious injuries from occurring.

An effort is being made to get together various societies working in this field like International Spinal Cord Society (ISCoS), Asian Spinal Cord Network (ASCoN), Spinal Cord Society (SCS), International Society of Orthopaedic Surgery and Traumatology (SICOT), World Orthopaedic Concern (WOC), Association of Spine Surgeons of India (ASSI), Indian Orthopaedic Association (IOA), Indian Academy of Neurology (IAN) and Indian Association of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (IAPMR) to initiate activities with a focus on injury prevention in India. The participating societies would devise the prevention program and prepare the guidelines which shall be implemented through governmental agencies.

A three-day workshop on 'Injury Prevention Program' is being planned at AIIMS, New Delhi from 23rd-25th Aug 2018, under the aegis of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW), to draft the framework on the program. The participants would include experts from medical fraternity, occupational specialist from different industries, agricultural experts, epidemiologists, administrators, consumers, etc. The workshop is expected to guide us frame prevention strategies against fall and road traffic crashes (RTCs), with a hope to reduce mortality and morbidity in India.



Dr H. S. Chhabra [Chair]

Dr Raghava Dutt
Mulukutla

Dr G.D. Tharadara



Dr K. Venkatesh



Dr Karthik Kailash

The workshop would deliberate and finalize on the following:

- Collection of data pertaining to injuries in India.
- Identification of prevention program.
- Designing the prevention program.
- Designing strategies for implementation of the program.
- Analysis & Monitoring of the prevention program.

World SCI Day

International Spinal Cord Society (ISCoS) has decided to observe 5th September as SCI Day, with a view to launch an international campaign to create awareness about spinal cord injury and its prevention.

III World SCI Day 5th September 2018

For the year 2018, we propose the theme 'Prevention is THE cure for SCI'. The theme symbolizes the need for publicizing and practicing prevention strategies amongst general public. People may be able to understand the importance of prevention programs better and thus help publicize the information amongst masses.

II World SCI Day 5th September 2017

This year the Day was celebrated with the theme 'Yes We Can'. The theme had been chosen to highlight the ability amongst disabilities of persons with SCI. Social integration and awareness amongst general public and administrators would help uplift the condition of persons with SCI.

I World SCI Day 5th September 2016

"International Days" are celebrated to mark important aspects of human life and history. Beginning from 2016, International Spinal Cord Society (ISCoS) has decided to observe 'Spinal Cord Injury Day' on 5th September every year with the intention of increasing awareness amongst the general public. Various events were held across the globe in 26 countries to commemorate the day.

Representation to MCI to curb unethical practices in Stem Cell Transplantation

ASSI Executive had approved a representation to MCI to curb the white spread to unethical practice in India offering Stem Cell transplantation as a therapy to the patients and charging them for it. Since it is an experimental procedure as of date, it can be done only as part after clinical trial following proper informed consent and other processes and at no charge to the patients. An endeavour will be made to involve various other related societies like Spinal Cord Society (SCS), Indian Academy of Neurology (IAN), Neurological Society of India (NSI), Indian Orthopaedic Association (IOA), Indian Association of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (IAPMR) and give a joint representation. The Executive had cleared the utilization of the services of Dr P K Kohli, Medicolegal expert in this regard. A draft representation has been framed. We hope to finalise it soon.

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Task Force on Indian Spine Journal Report

The "Indian Spine Journal (ISJ)", has been launched in January 2018. Indian Spine Journal (ISJ) is the official peer-reviewed, open access publication of Association of Spine Surgeons of India and will be published on bi-annual basis by Wolters Kluwer India Pvt. Ltd, Mumbai, one of the largest open access publishers worldwide.

The first issue of the Journal (January 2018) was released by our President Dr Raghav Dutt Mulukutla at ASSICON 2018 at Chennai. The web version was inaugurated and the issue is available online at www.isjonline.com for free access. The first issue had a symposium on Spinal infections and was co-ordinated by symposium editor Dr Upendra B. I hope all of you have received a hard copy of the journal by now.

The second issue will be released as scheduled in the forthcoming ICS to be held at Amritsar in August 2018. It will comprise of a symposium on Thoracolumbar injuries along with free papers. We are happy to inform you that one of the review articles in the symposium had been co-authored by Dr Alex Vaccaro. This issue is being co-ordinated by Dr Abhay Nene from Mumbai.

In the editorial board meeting at Chennai in Jan 2018, it was decided that the third issue of the ISJ will have a symposium on cervical spondylomyelopathy and Dr Ajoy Shetty will be the symposium Editor with Dr Ankur Nanda helping him out. I am pleased to inform you that due to the unrelenting efforts of Dr Ajoy Shetty, Dr Daniel Riew and Dr Yoshiharu Kawaguchi have agreed to contribute review articles in the symposium. I take this opportunity to invite articles from all ASSI members on CSM for the January 2019 issue. These will need to be submitted online and the details are all available at www.isjonline.com.

A lot of effort has been put in by the Editorial team and we hope that this journal will be a platform to showcase the excellent work being done all over our country. The journal is the academic face of ASSI and we urge all of you to contribute to our journal by sending articles for publication.. It is just a matter of time that the journal, with its robust academic contents, will be indexed by the end of 2 years. We take this opportunity to appeal to all ASSI members to contribute to this journal with original articles. The Indian spine journal



Dr Anil Jain [Chair]

Dr Raghava Dutt
Mulukutla

Dr Rohit Amritanand



Dr B Upendra



Dr Ankur Nanda

should automatically be the first choice for publication of scientific work by all ASSI members as it will give the widest readership among the ASSI fraternity.



Dr Manish Chadha

The Editorial board for the Journal:

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Dr Anil Jain

Director Professor & Head, Deptt. Orthopaedics, UCMS & GTB Hospital, Delhi

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Task Force on ASSI Outreach Program Report

The spine outreach program started in 2017 as a presidential initiative has been successful and a very popular event. The idea of the spine outreach is to spread and impart knowledge on the basics, and advances in spine surgery throughout India. The course involves lectures along with hands on workshops on models and cover topics which are important in day to day practice. The first event of the year was held on Rajasthan in Feb 2018 and this will be followed by three more events this year.



Dr Ajoy Shetty [Chair]

Fourth ASSI Spine Outreach Program - 25th February 2017, Udaipur

Course Chairman – Dr Samir Dalvie
Organising Secretaries – Dr Chirayu Pamecha
ASSI Faculty – Prof S.K.Srivastava and Dr Rushuma Tandon
Regional Faculty – Dr Lalith Sharma.

The event was successful with about 55 delegates attending the academic program.



Dr Samir Dalvie



Dr Saumyajit Basu

Dr Raghava Dutt
Mulukutla

Dr Chirayu Pamecha



Fifth ASSI Spine Outreach Program - 23rd June 2018, Srinagar

Course Chairman – Dr Raghav Dutt Mulukutla
 Organising Secretary – Dr Saheel Maajid and Dr Suhail Afzal
 ASSI Faculty – Dr Shankar Acharya and Dr Appaji Krishnan
 Regional Faculty – Dr Altaf Umar Ramzan

The event was successful with delegates attending the academic program.



Forthcoming events

A. Sixth ASSI Spine Outreach Program- 9th September 2018, Aurangabad

Course Chairman – Dr Samir Dalvie
 Organising Secretaries – Dr Uday Phute
 ASSI Faculty – Dr Rajkumar Deshpande and Dr Subir N Jhaveri
 Regional Faculty – *To be decided*

B. Seventh ASSI Spine Outreach Program - *(date to be decided)*, Hubli

Course Chairman – Dr Ajoy Prasad Shetty

Organising Secretary – Dr Vishwanath Patil

The committee would like to thank the president, the secretary, The ASSI Faculty and the regional faculties the delegates and the Medtronic RTG team for supporting the event.

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August 2018

ASSI Task Force for Case Discussion Forum Report

ASSI case discussion forum was launched officially in ASSICON 2018 by ASSI President Dr Raghav Dutt. All ASSI members were informed about this and were encouraged to start loading their cases with their existing login ID and password of ASSI web.

The case discussion forum is working well and is still on path of further improvement. There have been 25 uploads on the forum but only 3 to 4 people have participated.

After realizing the poor participation ASSI secretariat started sending mails to members to encourage participation but may be because of the way of login into the site and doing the loading in a specific way many members might be feeling cumbersome.

Luke-worm response from ASSI members in this regard is similar to no. of members hardly visiting to our web page.

We are at the discussion stage of developing an ASSI case discussion App where ASSI members would be able to load their cases very easily directly from mobile(though not exactly like WA.

Once the final input of cost is submitted (2 days time),will approach to ASSI President and secretary ASSI for the same.

Once the app is permitted to develop and stands perfect we would wish it to be launched by our President in ICS 2018.



Dr S.K.Srivastava [Chair]



Dr Raghava Dutt
Mulukutla



Dr Ajoy Shetty



Dr Ujjwal Debnath



Dr Kshitij Chaudhary



Dr Saheel Maajid

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ASSOCIATION OF
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ASSICON 2018

ASSICON 2018 was held at Chennai this year. The organising team consisted of Dr Sajan K Hegde as chairman, Dr K. Appaji Krishnan as secretary and doctors Nalli R.Uvaraj, Karthik Kailash, Ravi Venkatesan and Parthasarathy S as team members. The conference was held in The Grand Chola from 19th to 21st January with a preconference workshop on the 18th January.

The preconference workshop had three different categories in the form of Live surgical demonstration, Cadaver workshop and Industry session showcasing the latest technology and debate by Indian implant manufacturers on quality control. It was attended by more than 150 delegates and was offered free for those registered for ASSICON 2018.

We had reinvented live surgery workshop this year after almost 14 years (Last one was at Pune in 2004). The live surgical workshop was on the 18th January morning. Surgical procedures demonstrated in the workshop included Osteotomy and Kyphosis correction in Ankylosing Spondylitis, Posterior Vertebral column resection and correction in congenital scoliosis, Adult degenerative scoliosis correction and fusion and Anterior non fusion tether technique in early onset scoliosis.

The fresh frozen cadaver workshop was conducted for teaching young spine surgeons on pedicle screw insertion in thoracic and lumbar spine, TLIF technique and posterior osteotomy techniques. The workshop was held in two centres - Sri Ramachandra Medical College under the guidance of Dr Karthik Kailash and Institute of Anatomy at Madras Medical College under the guidance of Dr Nalli R Uvaraj. It was attended by 70 young budding spine surgeons.

We had the industry specific session in the hotel venue itself in the evening.

This was followed by a welcome reception hosted by IASA.

The main scientific deliberations commenced from 19th January, we had divided the program into smaller modules covering many interesting aspect of spine surgery like early onset scoliosis, Adult degenerative deformity Safety and Value in spine surgical practice, Adolescent Idiopathic scoliosis, Anomalies of Craniovertebral junction, Infection, the aged patient to name a few.

The program was put together by us with guidance from Dr Ajoy Shetty and Dr Suamyajit Basu. The conference was inaugurated by Dr Pratap C. Reddy and Dr Preetha Reddy of Apollo Hospitals.

The conference boasted of very eminent International and Indian faculty. We had Prof Jurgen Harms as the star attraction.

The main aspect of the conference was to showcase the work done by Indian Spine Surgeons. With this in mind we accommodated all the free paper podium presentations in the main hall. We had accepted 50 out of 263 abstracts submitted for free paper and 8 out of 51 full papers submitted for VTI Gold Medal.

A total of 689 registered delegates participated in ASSICON 2018. We had 16 international faculty from Canada, France, Germany, Malaysia, Singapore and USA.

Nearly 50 prominent Indian faculty were part of the conference. We would like to acknowledge the valuable contribution of all towards the successful conduct of the scientific program.

This year we had Mahatria Ra (TT Rangarajan) as the Presidential Orator, thanks to the efforts of Dr Raghav Dutt Mulukutla, Dr Ajoy Shetty and Dr Bala Venkat.

The industry were forthcoming in their support to the conference with major contributions from Globus Medical, Medtronic, Depuy Synthes, Jayon, GESCO, CURE Surgicals, K2M and SPINE WAY to name a few. We had 39 trade exhibitors in total.

We thank the ASSI executive for all their support.

Overall ASSICON 2018 has had positive feedback from all – Faculty, Delegates and Industry





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ASSOCIATION OF
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ASSICON 2019

Ahmedabad, the first "Heritage City" of India, will be host to the 32nd Annual Conference of the "Association of Spine Surgeons of India". The ASSICON returns to Ahmedabad after 12 years and we whole-heartedly extend a warm welcome to all delegates, to come to Ahmedabad, and share their experiences.

We were compelled to revise the dates following a major change in dates of "Vibrant Gujarat 2019" by the Government of Gujarat. Kindly note the revised dates for the ASSICON 2019.

Dates:

Thursday, January 24, to Sunday January 27, 2019.

Venue:

Hotel Hyatt Regency, Ashram road, Ahmedabad.

Theme:

"Controversies and Complications in Spine Surgery"

Website:

www.assicon2019.in

Registrations Begin:

July 7, 2018

Abstract Submission Begins:

July 15, 2018

International Faculties:

1. Dr. Stephen Lewis, Toronto, Canada
2. Dr. J. C. LeHuec, Bordeaux, France
3. Dr. Yoshihara Kawaguchi, Japan
4. Dr. Jin Sung Luke Kim, South Korea

We are happy to announce that the Scoliosis Research Society (SRS), has agreed to join hands with ASSI, and conduct their popular international course on spinal deformity, the SRS World Wide Conference (SRS-WWC) along with our national conference, ASSICON 2019. The scientific programme is shaping up well and we expect to deliver a scientific feast to the intellectual mind.

Ahmedabad is well connected by air as well as rail, to all major cities of India, and we expect a huge number of delegates to come together and share their experiences.

"Sharing Experiences, Spreading Knowledge" is our motto for the conference.

Dr Bharat R. Dave
Dr Amit C. Jhala
[Organising Chair-Persons](#)

Dr Subir N. Jhaveri
[Organising Secretary](#)

Dr Hitesh Modi
[Treasurer](#)

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August 2018

Report of ASSI Outreach Programs

The ASSI outreach program started in 2017 as a presidential initiative has been successful and a very popular event. The idea of the spine outreach is to spread and impart knowledge on the basics, and advances in spine surgery throughout India. The course involves lectures along with hands on workshops on models and cover topics which are important in day to day practice.

The first event was successfully conducted at Guwahati on 4th June 2017 with 46 young ortho spine surgeons attending the academic program. This was followed by four more events held at Patna (on 17th September 2017 with 70 ortho spine surgeons), Trichy (on 17th December 2017), Udaipur (on 25th February, 2018) and Srinagar (on 24th June 2018). Further programmes are planned in Aurangabad and Hubli.

We would like to thank Dr Raghava Dutt, President-ASSI, Dr H.S.Chhabra, Vice President-ASSI, and Dr Saumyajit Basu, Secretary, ASSI for giving us the responsibility and opportunity to conduct the ASSI spine outreach program.

We would also like to thank the Medtronic India and Medtronic RTG team, for having supported us in this venture. Our sincere thanks also, to the entire ASSI faculty, organising secretaries, regional faculties and the delegates for the successful organisation of the events.

First ASSI Spine Outreach Program - 4th June 2017, Guwahati



Second ASSI Spine Outreach Program - 17th September 2017, Patna



Third ASSI Spine Outreach Program- 17th December 2017, Trichy



Fourth ASSI Spine Outreach Program - 25th February 2017, Udaipur



Fifth ASSI Spine Outreach Program - 23rd June 2018, Srinagar





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Report of ASSI Fellow Teaching Program 2018

With the aim of enhancing the performance at the exit examination, ASSI successfully conducted a one-day spine fellow teaching program at Indian Spinal Injuries Centre, New Delhi on 7th June 2018. This was first ever spine fellow teaching program in India. It had an overwhelming response from spine fellows all over India. We had more than 50 fellows registering and attending with full enthusiasm.

It was conducted in conjunction with ASSI live surgery course, so that there was enough clinical material to be discussed. The course was co-ordinated by Dr Saumyajit Basu, Secretary- ASSI, and was ably supported by Dr Gururaj Sangondimath and Dr Tarun Suri. We had eminent faculty like Dr Sudhir Kapoor, Dr Shashank Kale, Dr H S Chhabra and Dr Ankur Nanda for the course which consisted of didactic lectures, case presentations by fellows, ward rounds and oral examination. Feedback from attending fellows have been very encouraging. ASSI is planning to make it an annual event in its calendar of events with more and more emphasis on examination skills and basic training of spine fellows.

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Report of ASSI Live Surgical Course 2018

ASSI Live Spine Surgery Course, ISIC, New Delhi

Association of Spine Surgeon of India (ASSI) and Spinal Cord Society (SCS) organized ASSI Live Surgery Course at Indian Spinal Injuries Centre (ISIC), New Delhi from 8th to 10th June 2018. The course was attended by 195 leading orthopedic, neuro and spine surgeons from across India and neighboring countries. 20 live surgeries covering the entire spectrum of spine surgery were performed by renowned experts. 75 national faculty contributed to the workshop. Dr. Kota Watanabe and Dr Siddharth Badve were the International faculty. In addition, there were presentations, 6 panel discussions, case discussions, video demonstrations etc.





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Awards and Achievements of Members at National or International level

Awards

Dr H.S. Chhabra

- Felicitation by Shri J.P. Nadda, Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare for immense contribution to the realm of medicine and (or) growth of the institution on 27th April 2018.
- Excellence in Spine & Orthopedics Award organized by India News Healthcare Awards 2018 from The Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda, on 10th April 2018.

Dr Chaitanya Chikhale

- Awarded with European Spine society Fellowship at Copenhagen Denmark from 1-15 April 2018.

Dr Ayush Sharma

- BIOS(British India Orthopaedic society) UK 2018 Junior travelling fellowship award 2018.
- JOCR (Journal of Orthopaedic Case Reports) Best Reviewers for the year 2017.

Dr Nirmal D Patil

- SICOT/Alexandria fellowship in the spine unit of Nariman Hospital under Prof Hesham El Saghir and Prof Raafat Kamal Ragab

Dr Nandish Kumar K.C

- Fellowship in spine surgery and spinal deformity at Hamamatsu Medical University, Sizuoka prefecture, Japan Feb 2018- Apr 2018

Dr Shashidhar.B.K

- Awarded 2018 Scoliosis Research Society (SRS) Educational Scholarship to attend the SRS 53rd Annual Meeting and Course from October 10-13, 2018 in Bologna, Italy.

[Dr Srikanth Reddy Dumpa](#)

- Asian spine Journal Award for Best podium presentation - awarded at ASSICON 2018 Chennai.
- IASA one month fellowship - April 10,2018 to may 10,2018 with Dr Neel Anand, Cedars Senai Medical Centre, Los Angeles ,California,USA.

Achievements

[Dr Sakti Goel](#)

- Selected by Indo-American Spine alliance on a fully sponsored fellowship at university of Colorado, Denver from October-December 2017.
- Three articles got published in Indian Spine Journal (one in January 2018 issue and two in June 2018 issue) and one accepted for publication in Indian Journal of Orthopaedics 2018.
- Selected by AO Spine Asia Pacific As an AO Spine fellow for July-August 2018.

[Dr Abhijeet Kadam](#)

- Podium Paper presentation at AAOS 2018, New Orleans, USA titled : "The role of Minimally Invasive Long Segment Percutaneous Pedicle Screw Fixation for Spinal Metastatic Disease"

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August 2018

Notice of the Extra Ordinary General Body Meeting of the A.S.S.I.

The Extra-ordinary General Body Meeting of the Association of Spine Surgeons of India will be held on Friday, 10th August 2018 at 5:30 p.m. during ICS 2018. All members of the A.S.S.I. are requested to attend.

1. President's welcome
2. Condolences & Leaves of Absence if any
3. Secretarial Report
 - I. Re-constituted list of the various committees of ASSI and assignment of responsibilities to members of Executive and Co-opted members
 - II. Updating data-base of ASSI members
 - III. Committees of ASSI
 - a. Program Committee
 - b. Education Committee
 - i. ASSI Fellowships – entrance & exit exams
 - ii. Short term fellowships
 - iii. Re-accreditation of ASSI Fellowship centers
 - c. Research Committee
 - i. On going research projects
 - ii. ASSI thesis topics
 - iii. Guidelines for thesis
 - d. Social Work Committee
 - e. Spine Registry Committee
 - f. Website Committee
 - g. Advocacy Committee
 - h. Nomination & Constitution Committee
 - i. Task Force for Prevention of SCI
 - j. Task Force on ASSI Monograms
 - k. Task Force on Indian Spine Journal
 - l. Task Force on ASSI Outreach Program
 - m. Task Force on Case Discussion Forum

- IV. Guidelines for short term ASSI one month spine fellowship
 - V. Invitation from NASS to participate in their Global Spine Forum During NASS Annual Meeting on 28th September, 2018 in Los Angeles, California
- 4. Accounts & Income Tax Status
 - 5. ASSICON 2019 : Ahmedabad – update and Change in Dates

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August 2018

Spine Conferences in 2018: Save the Dates

Spine conferences from August to December 2018, Save the Dates

Month	Dates	Conference	Society	City	Website
August	9-11	ICS 2017	Association of Spine Surgeons of India (ASSI)	Amritsar	www.ics2018.in
September	13-15	57 th ISCoS Annual Scientific Meeting	International Spinal Cord Society (ISCoS)	Sydney, Australia	www.iscosmeetings2018.org
	19-21	EUROSPINE 2018	European Spine society	Barcelona, Spain	eurospinemeeting.org/f130000847.html
October	10-13	53 rd Annual Meeting & Course	Scoliosis Research Society (SRS)	Bologna, Italy	www.srs.org/am18
November	26-Dec 01	63 rd Indian Orthopaedic Association Annual Conference (IOACON)	Indian Orthopaedic Association (IOA)	Coimbatore, India	www.ioacon2018.in
December	6-8	Cervical Spine Research Society Annual Meeting	Cervical Spine Research Society	The Phoenician, Scottsdale, Arizona	www.csrs.org

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