



ASSI ASSOCIATION OF
SPINE SURGEONS
OF INDIA



ASSOCIATION OF SPINE SURGEONS OF INDIA

Bi-Annual Newsletter | January 2017

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



Dear Colleagues,

I feel most humbled writing to you probably for the last time in my capacity as the "President" of the "Association of Spine Surgeons of India".

I feel very proud of all that we have achieved as a group of like-minded intellectuals and professionals. The comradery and mutual respect amongst the ASSI members remains unparalleled.

I look back at the last two decades and find the transformation of the caterpillar to the butterfly despite the challenges and struggles of breaking out of the cocoon from within. The hallmark of the ASSI is the quality of all of you – the members, your faith in the elected council and the commitment of the council to deliver. The contribution of all, be it the youngest member to the senior most living Past-President, has been truthful and transparent creating trust in the Association.

I solicit your participation with the same unbiased faith in the ASSI, leveraging it to become not just the best Association of medical professionals in India, but the best and largest "Spine Society" in the world.

I am sure the ASSI moves into safe hands with Dr Raghava Dutt Mulukutla taking over the reins to lead us from "good" to "great".

I would like to put on record the encouragement I have received over the years from my predecessors, Dr Ingalthalikar, Dr Hardikar, Dr Bhojraj, Dr Jayaswal, Dr Rajasekaran & Dr Hegde. These were my guiding lights and have inspired me to do what I have over the years for the ASSI.

I am sure the legacy would be carried forward by Dr Mulukutla, Dr Chhabra & Dr Basu who have miles to go before they sleep.

My three trump cards who have always exceeded my expectations shall remain most special to me forever - Dr Samir Dalvie, Dr Gautam Zaveri & Dr Abhay Nene are probably the strongest team of frontline spine surgeons & organisers bundled into one that any association or event could dream of. I salute these three friends who have never let me down. God Bless them and their families.

Mr. VikramPatwardhan & VAMA events who streamlined the ASSI activities and shouldered the organization of all the ASSICONS & ICS that were actively organized by the Mumbaikars during my tenure in the executive council of the ASSI.

I thank you dearest colleagues for having reposed your faith in me.

As an evidence based clinician I always said – Only when I see do I believe what I see.

Today I say – Only when I believe do I see what I believe.

I am grateful to all of you for having believed in me.

Please continue practicing "Truth & Transparency developing Trust in Treatment".

Best regards,

Dr. Ram Chaddha
President – ASSI

FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK



Dear Colleagues,

It has been my privilege and honor to be the Secretary of one of the largest, still rapidly growing and more importantly conscientious global spine association. As I step down from the post, it is a sense of satisfaction to see the Society living up to its true meaning and objectives not only with regard to the scientific, research and networking commitments but advocacy as well. One could say that ASSI has grown up today to a fully mature organization.

This has been possible largely due to wholehearted and collective contribution of its enthusiastic & aspiring members. Of course, a string of most able and dynamic leaders have been largely responsible for the transformation of the society such that it is today amongst the strongest spine groups to reckon with. Also we now have a structured organization with an office and an able hardworking secretary and research co-ordinator.

It is also a great satisfaction to see a succession line which is ready to catapult the society to far greater heights. More importantly, from a handful of active contributors, we are today a large group who want to actively contribute to the activities of the society.

I am grateful to all of you for giving me the opportunity to be actively involved with this dynamic association. I am sure that together, we will continue to reach greater heights and contribute actively to the community.

Look forward to meeting you in Hyderabad.

With regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Harvindee Singh'.

Dr. H.S. Chhabra,
Secretary – ASSI



CONTENTS

02	Minutes of the Extra- General Body Meeting of the Association of Spine Surgeons of India held at Singapore on 17th May 2016
03	Reports of various ASSI Committees 13 ASSI Scientific Committee 14 ASSI Education Committee 16 ASSI Research Committee 18 ASSI Social Work Committee 19 ASSI Spine-Registry Committee 19 ASSI Advocacy Committee 24 ASSI Prevention Committee 31 ASSI Website Committee
33	Report on SpineWeek 2016
34	ASSI Spine Surgery Course
35	ASSI Participation in Global Spine Forum during North American Spine Society (NASS) 2016 Annual Meeting
35	ASSI Fellowship Exit Examination - 2016 report
37	ASSI Spine Fellowship Completion Reports for the year 2014-2016
43	Report of ASSI Travelling Fellowship 2016
43	Winners of various ASSI Awards
44	Non-academic article
45	Awards / Achievements / Prestigious Positions of ASSI Members
47	ICS 2017
47	ASSICON 2018
49	Notice of the Annual General Body Meeting of the A.S.S.I.
50	Spine Conferences in 2016: Save the Dates

Minutes of the Extra-ordinary General Body Meeting (E.G.B.M.) of Association of Spine Surgeons of India (ASSI) held on Tuesday, 17th May 2016 at 17.40 hrs Venue: Marina Bay Sands Hotel, Singapore

1. President's Welcome

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

2. Secretarial Report

Dr HS Chhabra briefed the members about the activities of ASSI since 1st December 2015. The details are as under:

a. Updating data-base of ASSI members

Dr. HS Chhabra briefed the members that as per the updated membership list, ASSI now has 1422 members as against 806 when the endeavour was started. This also includes 72 new members who have joined since 1st December 2015. Email addresses of 1231 members are now available as against the 318 which were available before the exercise was started. 1007 members have updated their contact details (including postal address etc.) with the Secretariat.

b. ASSI Awards and Fellowships

Dr. HS Chhabra briefed the members that the various awards of ASSI for 2016 were publicized through email. The deadline for applications for various awards of ASSI was 25th December 2015. The response was quite enthusiastic as is evident from the number of applicants for each category as mentioned below:

ASSI Clinical Research Award	– 14
ASSI Basic Sciences Award	– 09
ASSI Young Investigators Award	– 07
ASSI Publication Award	– 06
ASSI Travelling Fellowship	– 20

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

ASSI Clinical Research Award – Dr. Siva Kumar, Dr. Amol Rege, Dr. Suresh Pillai
ASSI Basic Sciences Award – Dr. Surya Prakash Rao, Dr. Vishal Akundhani, Dr. Arvind Kulkarni
ASSI Young Investigators Award – Dr. Abhay Nene, Dr. Gautam Zaveri, Dr. Raghav Dutt, Dr. Amit Jhala.
ASSI Publication Award – Dr. Saumyajit Basu, Dr. Gautam Zaveri, Dr. Siva Kumar, Dr. Bhavuk Garg
ASSI Travelling Fellowship – Dr. Ram Chaddha, Dr. Ajoy Shetty, Dr. Samir Dalvie

The applications for various ASSI awards for 2016 were reviewed using the approved guidelines.

The compiled scores were put up to the President for approval. The process of review and selection were also be finished well in time (10th January 2016). The compiled mark sheets for various ASSI Awards for 2016 are enclosed at Annexure A.

It was decided that if there is a tie, or a close score, both could be given the opportunity to present their work.

c. ASSI live Spine Surgery Course

Dr. HS Chhabra briefed the members that the "ASSI live Spine Surgery Course" would be held from 29th to 31st July 2016. A first information flyer along with the residential and non-residential rates is enclosed at Annexure B. It was also informed that the pickup and drop to the airport would be extra but the charges should be nominal.

The same event would also be used to conduct the ASSI fellowship Exit Examination (28th July) as well as

the interviews for the vacancies in ASSI Spine Fellowship Program (31st July).

d. Committees of ASSI

Dr. HS Chhabra 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:

1. Education Committee Report

a. ASSI Spine Fellowship.

There are 8 seats available for ASSI Spine Fellowship this year, two at Apollo Hospital Chennai and one each at B.J. Medical College & Civil Hospital Ahmedabad, Bombay Hospital & P D Hinduja National Hospital - Bombay, Indian Spinal Injuries Centre-Delhi, Park Clinic-Kolkatta and Sancheti Spine Centre & Hospital - Pune. The fellowships were advertised in Indian Journal of Orthopedics and Neurology India. The deadline for application for the Fellowship program is by 15th June.

b. An online examination will be held with the support of Krithi Technologies, the software company which also manages the ASSI website and ASSI spine registry. The selected candidates will be called for an interview on 31st July at ISIC, the last day of ASSI Live Spine Surgery Course.

c. The education committee met informally on the sidelines of ICS Goa. The committee also had a discussion about non contribution of Dr.Anupreet Bassi and Dr.Sashidhar Bk and were not participating in the matters of the committee. It was felt that since they were otherwise engaged it is better to nominate two other members of ASSI for smooth running of the committee. The chairman has suggested the names which will be discussed in the next executive meet and ratified in the GBM.

d. Dr. Hrushikesh Mehata topped the ASSI Fellowship Exit Examination is eligible for the IASA fellowship. The committee requested ASSI office to officially inform IASA.

e. It was also decided that the Education committee will once again meet during Spineweek

2. Scientific Committee Report

The scientific committee of ASSI has been instrumental in the following activities in this year

ASSICON, GOA

Thanks to the organizers of the Goa meeting, we all enjoyed an excellent program at Goa. The highlight of the same was the beautiful coordination which could be brought about in such a short notice. Special thanks to Dr Gautam Zaveri for putting in a lot of hard work into this. The preconference workshops were well attended and very relevant. The main conference was full of panel discussions on very important topics and a separate session on medico-legal aspects stole the show! The panellists put in their best and the guest faculty was very responsive to the needs of the audience.

SPINEWEEK, SINGAPORE

The main focus of the scientific committee in this year was the ASSI meeting at SpineWeek, Singapore. All efforts had been made to make the flavour of the program innovative, interactive and international.

The most notable aspect remained the enthusiasm and quality of the abstract submitted for consideration. There were about 130 abstract submissions, all of which were blinded and went out to about 4 reviewers and the final scores were sorted out according to merit – the selection process was completely unbiased, 40 were selected for podium presentations and 40 more got selected for poster presentations. 6 papers out of about 20 submissions were selected for VTI gold medal session. The quality of the papers would be predictable of a steady improvement in the quality of scientific material being presented. This time, as in the previous years, there has been a tremendous response for ASSI award submissions and the judges had a tough time to select the best. All abstracts selected for podium presentations and VTI gold medal along with the ASSI award winning abstracts would be published in the Asian Spine Journal – the official journal of ASSI, as decided in the last GB meeting.

The didactic part of the program had been made quite high-end with more than a dozen international speakers from various parts of the world joining us for various lectures. There were a galaxy of national

dozens covering a wide range of topics from lumbar degenerative to tumours to deformity. The lecture topics have been made relevant and thought provoking. The guest lecturers had been allotted 12 minutes time to accommodate the large number of speakers and to have adequate discussion time to make the program interactive. There were 3 case discussion sessions and all presenters had been asked to submit the case with full work-ups and follow-ups prior to the conference for a proper screening of the same. There were 3 debates and a separate video session to spice up the program and to make it interesting for the audience.

The scientific committee guaranteed a good academic program of high quality in the SpineWeek and hoped to carry forward this effort to future conferences to be held under the auspices of ASSI.

3. Social Work Committee Report

The Social Wing of ASSI under the guidance of Dr S Y Bhojraj had been involved in the following activities:

MCGM's VN Desai municipal hospital, Santacruz - conducting twice weekly surgeries and OPD on an ongoing basis with Spine foundation and BMC having a public private partnership wherein spine foundation has spent about the 4,00,000/- (Rupees four lakhs only) for anesthesia fees, physician fees, physiotherapy and implants.

December 2015: Conducted a Spine Surgery camp at SEARCH, Gadchiroli - 6 surgeries + 2 spinal blocks given. 400 pts seen in OPD - Rs. 1,20,000/- (Rupees one lakh twenty thousand was spent on Surgical cost and implants)

February 2016: Conducted a Spine Surgery camp at Nirmal Ashram and Parmarth Ashram in Rishikesh, Uttarakhand - 1 Anterior + posterior scoliosis correction + 2 Lumbar decompression surgeries done at Nirmal ashram hospital and an OPD camp was conducted at Parmarth Ashram hospital where 120 pts were seen - Rs. 2,00,000/- (Rupees two lakhs were spent on Surgical cost, images and anaesthesia fees)

Upcoming Spine surgery camp: April 2016- SEARCH, Gadchiroli.

4. Advocacy Committee report

a. Emphasis on spinal ailments in PG curriculum

Medical Council of India (MCI) had approved in principle ASSI's suggestion to give more exposure on "Management of spinal ailments in the PG curriculum for the specialty of orthopaedics". ASSI had also represented to the National Board of Examinations for a similar consideration in the curriculum for DNB Orthopaedics. We have been informed by concerned officials of National Board of Examinations that action is at hand in this regard.

b. Gazette Notification by MCI about eligibility of orthopaedic surgeons to perform spine surgeries

Follow-up with MCI was being regularly done in this regard and it was hoped that the notification would be issued in the near future.

c. Creating awareness about Spinal ailments

ASSI has come out with position statements on "Stem Cell and Other Cellular Interventions after SCI", "Spine Surgery is Safe" and "Prevention of SCI" and used the services of Communicators India to disseminate information about it through the media. ASSI has now entered into a fresh agreement with the same agency to create awareness about position statements on "osteoporosis" and "back pain".

5. Prevention Committee report

The plan of action of the Prevention Committee had been approved by the GBM. The following action has been taken as per the plan:

a. Poster competition on "Community awareness on Prevention of SCI"

ASSI had organized a poster competition on "Community awareness on Prevention of SCI". Guidelines for compiling posters and for assessing them had been framed. Mailers were sent to all members inviting them to participate in the competition. There was a very enthusiastic response to the poster competition with 17 submissions. Since all the posters looked good, all of them were displayed during 29th ASSICON. The 3 best posters chosen by the panel for awards were by Dr. Ajay Krishnan, Research Team ISIC and Dr.

Varun Kumar Agarwal respectively. These 3 best posters have also been posted on the ASSI website and would be used for creating awareness.

b. Liasing with SICOT and WOC for SCI Prevention Activities

An effort is being made to collaborate with World Orthopaedic Concern (WOC) through its secretary general Dr D K Taneja, SICOT (through Dr Rajasekaran its President Elect), International Spinal Cord Society and Asian Spinal Cord Network (through Dr H S Chhabra, Chair of Prevention Committee of ISCoS and Executive Member of ASCON) for some prevention programme for third world.

c. SCI Day: 5th September

A day to commemorate 'Spinal Cord Injuries' has been declared by International Spinal Cord Society (ISCoS) with the intention of increasing awareness amongst general public. It is presumed that the awareness would facilitate an inclusive life for persons with disability and ensure success of prevention programs. The prevention committee of ASSI will be collaborating with ISCoS and other related societies to observe 5th September as the SCI day and carry out various activities as under:

- ♦ A press release would be issued at least 2 weeks before the SCI day. A press conference would be held on or before 5th September (preferably one week before the day).
- ♦ Announcement of SCI Day would be displayed prominently on the website of ASSI.
- ♦ The Prevention Audiovisuals and radio jingles already prepared by the ISCoS Prevention Committee would be made available on the website of ASSI so that they could be downloaded and used by anyone for creating awareness. A hindi version is also available through Spinal Cord Society. Options would be explore to have them screened in the national and/ or regional electronic media.
- ♦ The possibility of selecting a National Brand Ambassador to propagate the message on SCI prevention and management would be explored.

In addition members could organise any of the following activities commemorating the day in their respective regions:

- ♦ Symposiums on regional specific topics, eg,
 - Prevention of SCI
 - Accessibility in public life
 - Wheelchair and Assistive Technology workshops
 - Sexuality and Fertility in SCI
 - Vocational Rehabilitation in SCI
 - Advances in SCI management
 - Family support and Support of family in SCI
- ♦ Articles/panel discussion/advertisements in print and TV media
- ♦ Awareness and education programs in the community and especially in schools and colleges. The awareness programs could be simultaneously used for propagating prevention programs for spinal cord injuries. The programs in educational institutes can include the following:
 - Screening of Prevention AVs
 - AV on successful SCI patients
 - AV on skill training
 - Poster competition
 - Lectures/Symposiums
 - Training of trainers (Mentor development) on effective evacuation of accident victims, which then could be percolated down to other trainers and children
- ♦ Awareness campaigns through social media including facebook, twitter and whatsapp
- ♦ Poster competition amongst different sections of societies
- ♦ Screening of audiovisuals/ films pertaining to SCI via different medias
- ♦ Wheelchair day, to include, eg,
 - Rally/marathon
 - Race
 - Skill training
 - Fashion show
 - Dance

- Workshop
- Distribution of wheelchairs amongst deserving persons of the society
- Sports competitions
 - Basketball
 - Cricket
 - Rugby
 - Lawn tennis
- ♦ Pre-recorded messages through mobile phones
- ♦ Creation and broadcasting of radio jingles on SCI
- ♦ Vocational training and employment carnival
- ♦ Involving policy makers of the region for propagating information pertaining to SCI, through the following initiatives:
 - Observation of "Spinal Cord Injury Day" in their region
 - Legislation and enforcement of prevailing related laws
 - Training program for first aid and evacuation from the accident site
- ♦ Liaising with NGOs for various initiatives as under:
 - Promoting use and availability of safety harness while working on construction sites, - trees, heights etc.
 - Innovative local techniques like fruit picking while standing on ground using an assistive device, manufacturing of safety harness with locally available material. .
 - Promoting proper lifting techniques with gadgets instead of carrying load on head.

For deeper reach to the society and the desired impact there is a need to involve the government (both at central and state levels), government organizations, corporate sector, media, NGOs, hospitals, schools, colleges and the world of entertainment, to name a few, and of course, the public at large.

6. Research Committee report

a. ASSI Pott's Spine Study Report

The ASSI Pott's Spine Study on 'Trends in treatment of spinal TB amongst ASSI members' was conceptualized with the objective as under:

- to assess the role of Biopsy in the treatment of tuberculosis of spine
- to assess the efficacy of chemotherapy regime 2HRZE + 7HR along with other regime
- to evaluate the appropriate decisive factor (clinical and radiological) for discontinuation of ATT.

The protocol was finalized before the last GBM and the online portal for data submission was commissioned on November 21, 2015. 7 centers are uploading data and there is data from 119 cases so far.

b. ASSI Research Awards

ASSI supports two research projects by its members with an award of Rs. 1,50,000/- per project. A call for proposals by members in this regard has been advertised in Indian Journal of Orthopaedics (IJO) and Neurology India (NI) in the month of May 2015. Repeated mailers are being sent to all members.

c. ASSI Research Award Projects reports

Multi-Modal Analysis of Early Lumbar Disc Degenerative Disease – A Clinical, Radiological and Genetic Evaluation of Young Patients with Back Pain and Disc Degeneration

Principal Investigator: Dr S. Rajasekaran

PROJECT REPORT

Degeneration of human intervertebral discs is inevitable as it is part of aging. However it also affects young people resulting in low back pain and neural sequelae. Previous studies on the etiology of disc degeneration have studied patients of all age groups. A study on young patients with early disc degeneration focused on genetic associations will be a better model.

The study population was recruited based on any sex, age between 18 to 70 years, no other spinal pathology, no previous lumbar spine surgery and no significant spinal injury. The present analysis included details of patients less than 35 years of age only. Apart from clinical assessment, detailed MRI

evaluation for the presence or absence of the following six phenotypes in all the five lumbar discs (Disc Bulge/ herniation, Annular tears/ Hyperintense zones, Pfirrmann score, Schmorl's node, Modic changes and Total End plate damage score) was done. Genotyping of 71 SNPs belonging to 41 candidate genes was performed using the Sequenome® platform.

543 individuals of age less than 35 years were classified as case and control based on the presence or absence of one of the six phenotypes. The rs1940044 (marker of MMP7); rs7575934 (marker of IL1F5); rs3787049 (markers of COMP) and rs8179183 (marker of LEPR) were significantly associated with DISC BULGE; the rs696990 (marker for COL9A1), rs2249350 (marker for ADAMTS5), rs162509 (marker for ADAMTS5) and rs11247361 (marker for IGF1R) were significantly associated with Annular tears, SNPs of MMP1, MMP20, VDR, SKT and AGC1 were associated with Modic changes, rs1996352 of MMP7 with Schmorl's nodes and the SNPs of CALM1, FN1 MMP7 and COMP were significantly associated with Pfirrmann's score.

This is the first association study of genetic polymorphisms with degenerative disc disease of the lumbar spine in young adults conducted in India. Among 71 SNPs of 41 candidate genes, the specific genes associated with early disc degeneration in the young population was identified. These candidate genes need further evaluation in large scale studies and in other ethnicities so that preventive strategies guided at curbing early disc degeneration could be the focus in future. Future studies through proteomic evaluation of disc components will help us in identifying deranged proteins of the disc and complementary genetic association studies could pave the way for better understanding of the etiopathogenesis of disc degeneration.

Report on "MicroRNA Profiling of Peripheral Blood Mononuclear Cells in Spinal Cord Injury: An attempt to understand the molecular signature of the acute phase of injury"

Principal Investigator: Dr Harvinder Singh Chhabra

Co-Investigator: Dr Kanchan Sarda

Study Objectives:

1. To isolate peripheral blood mononuclear cells from healthy individuals (control group) as well as those suffering from spinal cord injury (experimental group).
2. To isolate miRNA from the above collected samples and conduct a comparative microarray analysis.
3. To analyze the microarray data for unique expression profile in experimental group.

The proposal was a preliminary study designed to explore the possibility that genetic analysis of PBMCs may lead to revealing a molecular signature which is unique to SCI. To this end we proposed to undertake miRNA microarray analyses on PBMCs obtained from two acute complete SCI subjects and compare that to the profile from 2 healthy individuals.

To achieve the study objectives peripheral blood mononuclear cells from 2 healthy individuals and 2 individuals with acute spinal cord injury was collected. MicroRNA isolation from the collected samples has been undertaken and quality been carried out. The quality and quantity of the isolated miRNA meets the required standard for conducting microarray experiments. The isolated RNA has been sent to Genotypic Technology for undertaking the microarray analysis. The expression data, once collected by the microarray analysis conducted by Genotypic Technology, will be then analyzed by us to see if a unique expression miRNA profile can be identified for acute SCI.

7. Spine Registry Committee report

PREVIOUS ISSUES

As has been discussed threadbare in the last 2 GB meetings, the top 15 contributing centres have been retained in the data submission system. The rest have been temporarily disabled. Kirthi technologies, the company which services the database, has been made to develop an administrative zone of the database which allows direct data export from the registry. This admin zone is password protected.

ONGOING PROCESSES

Ms Meenakshi, the ASSI research manager has been entrusted with the job of exporting the monthly data out of the ASSI Spine Registry and an email is sent to all the 15 contributing centres attaching the data uploaded from that centre during the previous month. This email is religiously sent out on the morning of the 1st of every month. This is thoroughly supervised and a reminder note is sent to those centres which

have not contributed throughout the previous month. Those centres which have a running ASSI fellowship program are sent a note that their mentors should persuade the ASSI fellows to upload the data because this is a mandatory part of the fellowship program.

FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS

We are soon going to hit the proposed 20,000 target which had been set up when the Registry was set up with a research grant from Synthes. Once this is achieved, we intend to start looking at the accumulated data in a better way. We would try to invite research proposals, looking in to the data and a separate research grant could be given out by the ASSI for this. We could allocate thesis topics to the ASSI fellows, based on the database, which can become a part of their evaluation during their exit examinations.

It was decided that Ms Meenakshi, the ASSI research coordinator should inform all ASSI spine fellows that uploading all the cases to Spine Registry and Pott's Spine portal would be a mandatory precondition and would be strictly enforced.

8. Website Committee report

S.No	Assigning Date	Description
1	1/2/2015	Add a hospital and create login for that hospital in spine registry
2	1/19/2015	Image upload checking
3	1/20/2015	Spine registry image upload
4	1/20/2015	Export report for spine registry from 01 oct 2014 to 20 jan 2015
5	1/20/2015	Export report for spine registry from 01 oct 2014 to 20 jan 2015
6	1/28/2015	Export member email id and send it to mail attachment
7	1/29/2015	Export members details and send it to the mail attachment
8	1/30/2015	Add Newsletter - January 2015
9	1/30/2015	Add Final Results ASSI Awards 2015
10	2/11/2015	Add new members in online DB
11	2/18/2015	Export full report of spine registry.
12	3/7/2015	Add President Message
13	3/24/2015	Add Dr. Sajan Hedge name in past president page
14	4/7/2015	Export year wise report for spine registry patient list
15	4/8/2015	Check the doctors login in online
16	5/5/2015	ASSI Spine Fellowship
17	6/4/2015	Upload - re-constituted list of various Committees of ASSI
18	8/18/2015	upload - result of "ASSI Spine Fellowship" for the batch 2015-2017
19	9/17/2015	Result of ASSI Spine Fellowship Exit Examination" for the batch 2013-2015
20	11/12/2015	corrections - Potts spine proforma
21	11/17/2015	corrections - Potts spine proforma
22	11/21/2015	File Upload - Potts spine proforma
23	11/23/2015	updates in assi spine registry
24	11/23/2015	center list for multicenter Potts spine study
25	11/23/2015	Multicenter Potts study portal
26	11/24/2015	Dr Basu - Corrections
27	12/1/2015	list of cases - ASSI spine registry
28	12/2/2015	CALL FOR VARIOUS ASSI AWARDS FOR SpineWeek 2016
29	12/9/2015	ASSI spine registry - report
30	12/17/2015	request for issue username and password for 49 new members
31	12/17/2015	request for issue username and password for 26 new members
32	12/17/2015	request for issue username and password for 84 new members
33	12/22/2015	ASSI - Corrections
34	1/6/2016	Kindly upload below mentioned under "SpineWeek 2016"
35	1/6/2016	ASSI spine registry - report
36	1/6/2016	Spine week package link
37	2/3/2016	ASSI-Spine registry - password corrections
38	2/13/2016	please provide list of cases
39	2/13/2016	Potts spine online portal
40	2/29/2016	ASSI spine registry corrections
41	3/3/2016	Data Uploaded in ASSI Spine Registry -- Feb 2016

3. Accounts & Income Tax Status

Dr. HS Chhabra briefed the members that the Balance Sheet for the Assessment Year 2013-14 & 2014-15 had been finalized and filed (**enclosed at Annexure C**).

The compilation of balance sheet for Financial year 2015-2016 is under process. The due date of filing the Income tax Return is 30.09.2016 .

ASSI is exempted from Income Tax as per Section 12A of the Income tax act, 1961. As per Audited Balance sheet dated 31.03.2015, a total fund of Rs.1.25 Crore is available. This has been kept in a schedule bank as per section 11 (5) of the Income tax Act with the total FDRs of Rs.82 lacs. The rest of the amount is kept in Saving account. The current liability of the ASSI is only Rs.3.80 Lacs.

4. ASSI Presidential Guest Speakers - ASSICON 2017

Dr. HS Chhabra briefed the members that in the last GBM, it was decided that in future, the President would invite a suitable expert for Presidential Guest lecture in the first year of his/her tenure. In the year that he/she is exiting, he/she would deliver the Presidential Address.

As per this decision, Dr. Ram Chaddha would deliver the Presidential address at ASSICON 2017.

5. Update on ASSICON - 2017 – Hyderabad

Dr. HS Chhabra briefed the members that ASSICON 2017 would be held from 26th to 29th January 2017 at Hyderabad. A local committee including the executive members of Twin Cities Spine Association and other members had been formed. Cadaveric workshops, seminars, symposia, video demonstrations, booth lectures, meet the masters and many more interesting scientific sessions were being planned. The conference venue of the conference would be HICC, which is a world class state of the art facility in the midst of IT hub. Another highlight of the conference would be the pre conference scientific session to be conducted by Scoliosis Research Society (SRS worldwide). Needless to say the best of international and national faculty were being invited for this event.

It was decided that Dr. Raghav Dutt would finalise the dates of SRS session in consultation with SRS and the Executive. It was also suggested that the conference would start on Friday 8 am and finish by Sunday evening. On 26th morning, the session would start with Flag hosting and national anthem.

It was also decided that an endeavour should be made not to hold the conference on public holidays.

6. Announcement of vacancies for ASSI Executive Committee Members

Dr. HS Chhabra briefed the members that in the last General Body Meeting, the members had decided to extend the tenure of all Executive members who were finishing their term last year till ASSICON 2017. As a result there would be 04 vacancies for Executive members against the under-mentioned in January 2017:

- Dr. Ajoy Prasad Shetty (2014-17)
- Dr. Suresh Pillai (2014-17)
- Dr. Arvind Kulkarni (2013-16)
- Dr. S. Karunakaran (2013-16)

There would be the following other vacancies in the Executive:

1. President – Elect
2. Secretary
3. Jt. Secretary

It was decided that all nominations would be through Nomination Committee. Nomination form would be available on the website by the next week. Interested members could send their nomination to Dr VT Ingahalikar, Chair of Nomination Committee by 1st September 2016.

2 of the 4 vacancies for Executive members would be for 3 years and the other 2 for 2 years. This could be decided on the basis of the number of votes polled by the members.

It was also resolved that there should be provision for post of Secretary Elect instead of Joint Secretary. This amendment would be proposed in the ASSI constitution.

7. New Co-opted members of ASSI; revised list of various committees of ASSI

Dr. HS Chhabra briefed the members that in the GBM at Pune, it was decided that the list of co-opted members needs to be proposed and ratified each year. Dr. Raghavendra, Dr. R. Sivakumar and Dr. Amol Rege have ceased to be members since they were co-opted members when they organized the respective conferences. Dr. Surya Prakash Rao and Dr. Ranjith Unnikrishnan are being inducted since they would be hosting the next ASSICON and ICS respectively. The names of Dr. Shankar Acharya, Dr. Ketan Khurjekar, Dr. Mohinder Kaushal, Dr. Neeraj Gupta, Dr. Rushama Tandon, Dr. S.S. Kale, Dr. Rupinder Chahal, Dr. Gautam Zaveri, Dr. Bharat Dave, Dr. Prashant Kekre, Dr. K. Venkatesh, Dr. Sanjog Mathur and Dr. Appaji was proposed and approved as co-opted members. The new list of co-opted members with these changes is enclosed at **Annexure D**.

8. Spinal Cord Injury Day – 5th September

Dr. HS Chhabra briefed the members that International Spinal Cord Society (ISCoS) has decided to observe 5th September as Spinal Cord Injury Day, with a view to launch an International campaign with the aim of creating awareness about spinal cord injury. It is presumed that the awareness would facilitate an inclusive life for persons with disability and ensure greater chances of success of prevention programs. For the implementation of this initiative in India, collaboration of all related societies including Association of Spine Surgeons of India (ASSI), Indian Orthopaedic Association (IOA), Indian Association of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (IAPMR), Spinal Cord Society (SCS), Asian Spinal Cord Network (ASCoN), Indian Spinal Injuries Centre (ISIC) and The Spinal Foundation (TSF) is being worked out to organize awareness programs across India.

A proposal for SCI Day is enclosed at **Annexure E**.

9. ICS 2017-Kovalam; Date & Venue

Dr. HS Chhabra briefed the members that ICS 2017 Kovalam would be held from 11th to 13th August 2017. The venue of the conference would be The Leela, Kovalam, a 7 star facility with private beach and 170 rooms, conference hall, dinner hall and space for exhibition. Distance from Trivandrum International airport is 12 Kms. The tentative theme of the ICS 2017 would be "Long Terms Outcomes of Interventions for Spinal disorders". A minimum 5 Year follow up of any procedure or intervention in any spinal pathology, including non surgical modalities would be welcome. The organizers were planning to release primary brochure in August 2016. ICS 2017 website would be active from August 2016 onwards.

The organizing Committee of ICS 2017 would be as under:

- Organising Secretary: Dr. Ranjith Unnikrishnan.
- Jt Organising Secretaries : Dr. Ashok Ramakrishnan, Dr. Ashok Thomas, Dr. Shiju Majeed , Dr. Sabari Gireesh. (All from Kerala Spine Society)

The highlights of ICS 2017 would be as under:

- Start of Online Registration : From MISSICON Delhi in October 2016.
- Early Bird Registration Upto 30th January 2017 (ASSICON 2017 Venue Registration)
- Late Registration : Upto July 15th 2017.
- On the Spot: after July 15th 2017.
- Event Manager : Not Yet finalized
- ICS2017 App from Android and iPhone would be available from March 2017.

The organizers were planning to encourage web based upload of all presentations by the delegates, including faculty, well ahead of the meeting to avoid last minute confusion.

Dr. Ranjith Unnikrishnan requested the General body that if allowed, the organizers would be open to prepone the ICS 2017 to July. It was decided that this could be decided upon subsequently.

10. ASSICON 2018 Chennai: Date & Venue

Dr. HS Chhabra briefed the members that ASSICON 2018 would be held at Chennai. The organising team would include Dr. Parthasarathy, Dr. Karunakaran, Dr. Nalli Yuvaraj, Dr. Prashant Kekre and Dr. Appaji Krishnan. The organizing Chairman of the conference would be Dr. Sajan K Hegde. The tentative dates would be 26-28th January 2018. The venue would be ITC Grand Chola, a five star hotel near the airport (5 mins drive). The Metro would be active by mid 2017 from the airport to the hotel.

11. ASSI Constitution Amendment

Dr. HS Chhabra briefed the members that Dr. VT Ingalthalikar had circulated a revised version of ASSI constitution earlier (copy enclosed at Annexure F).

The Executive had recommended constitutional amendment to provision for Executive members to be dropped if they do not attend two successive meetings without permission. It was decided that ASSI constitutional amendment be listed on agenda of next ASSICON and sufficient notice be given.

12. Any other matter with the permission of the Chair

a. Agreement with Society Hosting ASSI Events

A draft MOU would be circulated soon. It would be implemented for ASSICON 2017

b. Sharing Data base of ASSI members

Dr. HS Chhabra briefed the members that there numerous requests were being received from other societies as well as from companies to share the database of ASSI members. It was decided that the data would not be shared. Any mailer or SMS of other societies could be sent through Secretariat. Commercial mailers would not be encouraged.

c. Co-branding of events including APSS - APPOS in 2017

Dr. HS Chhabra briefed the members that Dr. Arvind Jayaswal had received a request from Dr Ashok Johari, Co-chairman of APSS- APPOS Congress 2017 being organized at the Grand Hyatt, Goa from September 21-23, 2017, to have the Congress under the aegis of the Association of Spine Surgeons of India. The APSS and the APPOS are the Spine and Paediatric sub specialty chapters of the APOA - Asia Pacific Orthopaedic Association.

The General Body resolved that ASSI could co-brand with APSS-APPOS, 2017.

d. Co-branding of Events with other societies

Dr. HS Chhabra briefed the members that many other societies had approached ASSI with regard to co-branding. It was decided that even though co-branding is important, only academic co-branding should be pursued. Co-branding would be considered with International societies only.

The members were informed that ASSI had received an invitation for co-branding with Brazilian Society for BRICS meeting in Rio, Brazil from April 19-22, 2017 and that the Executive had recommended accepting the invitation. The members resolved to co-brand for the event.

The members were also informed about the proposal to have CSRS – AP meeting in Delhi in 2018 under the aegis of ASSI. The members approved the proposal.

e. Dr. S. Rajasekaran as President elect CSRS-AP

Dr. HS Chhabra briefed the members that Dr. S. Rajasekaran had been unanimously nominated for the post of President elect CSRS-AP. He would become President in 2018.

f. Spine Journal of ASSI

Dr. HS Chhabra briefed the members that in the last General Body Meeting, ASSI had approved & accepted the offer to have Asian Spine journal as the official journal of ASSI for a duration of 3 years. However Dr. Ragahv Dutt had also suggested to start with an ASSI Journal. He had given a few suggestions regarding the members of the Editorial Board as under:

♦ Editor in Chief – AK Jain

♦ Editorial Board

- ArvindJayaswal
- S. Rajasekran
- Raghav Dutt
- Ram Chaddha
- Sameer Dalvie
- Gautam Zaveri
- HS Chhabra

- Saumyajit Basu
- S.K. Srivastava
- Ajoy shetty
- Shekhar Bhojraj
- Shankar Acharya'
- Venu Goyal
- S. Kale
- G. Vujay Kumar
- Naresh
- Bharat Dave

♦ **Observers:**

- Rajiv Seth
- Dilip Sengupta
- Wong Hee Kit
- Munish Gupta

Dr. Raghav Dutt had also proposed some names for the journal. After detailed deliberations, the General body approved the name "Indian Spine Journal". Dr. Raghav suggested that there would be an endeavour to launch it by January during ASSICON 2017. Initially there would be 3 to 4 issues in a year till such time it would be in a position to become an indexed journal. The General body unanimously resolved to go ahead with the plan to launch the ASSI Journal.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

Report of ASSI Scientific Committee

1. Dr Saumyajit Basu (Chair)

2. Dr. Vijay Kumar
3. Dr. Bhavuk Garg (co-opted)
4. Dr. Amit Jhala (co-opted)
5. Dr. BN Upendra (co-opted)
6. Dr. Gautam Zaveri (co-opted)
7. Dr. Ketan Khurjekar (co-opted)
8. Dr. K. Appaji Krishnan (co-opted)
9. Dr Rupinder Chahal (co-opted)

The Scientific Committee had the daunting task of setting up the scientific content of 3 major events this year – SpineWeek, Singapore and ASSICON, Hyderabad. A brief wrap-up of each is given below:

SpineWeek, Singapore

1. This is the first time that ASSI was a participating society in SpineWeek, which happens to be a mega academic event, held every 4 years and is unique in the fact that most of the major societies in the world come together to discuss all aspects of spine. This two and half day program in May, 2016 was extremely well attended and the ASSI hall was practically the most crowded one. It started off on Monday morning and finished off on Wednesday afternoon. The program on Wednesday was a joint session with the Asia Pacific Spine Society (APSS) and the topic of the same was “Infections of the Spine”

2. Monday morning started off with a session on Trauma followed by Lumbar and Cervical Degenerative Disorders along with a session on Tumour and Research on Spine. Each session had about 4 important lectures by internationally renowned faculty and a lot of free papers were accommodated.

3. Tuesday morning started off with the prestigious ASSI session with all the research awards being presented followed by the VTI gold medal session. This was followed by a session on Adult and Paediatric Deformity and a video session on “How I do It” – this day also a lot of free papers were presented.

4. About 100 abstracts were submitted and each abstract was reviewed by 3 to 4 reviewers and half of them were finally selected. A total of about 50 free papers and 20 guest lectures were delivered with 12 international faculty representing all parts of the world. **All selected abstracts were published in a special supplement issue of Asian Spine Journal (ASJ).** The high quality of academic deliberation was appreciated by all in the context of relevance and scientific content.

ASSI Live Spine Surgery Course, ISIC, New Delhi

This was the first of its kind under the aegis of ASSI and Dr H. S. Chhabra, our Secretary, did a fantastic job of organizing a live surgery seminar in the last weekend of July. This 3-day live spine surgical workshop covered about 20 surgeries on a wide range of pathologies -- from deformities to tumours to C1/C2 fixations -- and most of the renowned national faculty demonstrated their surgical skills.

It was preceded by the ASSI fellowship exit examinations, which was conducted very smoothly. There were 8 candidates and 4 examiners and the variety of cases which was put up for examination purpose was praise-worthy. Dr Sumit Sural, Dr Shankar Acharya, Dr Sarat Chandra and Dr Saumyajit Basu were the examiners along with the Chief of Spine Service of ISIC, Dr H.S. Chhabra.

This course also utilized for interviewing the new batch of ASSI fellows in various centres of the country. Prior to this a written examination was held and those who qualified was called in for the interview which was taken by the mentors of all the existing ASSI centres who were running this program. The executive of the ASSI was also there and the selected candidates were notified on the same day, along with their allocated centres.

ASSICON, Hyderabad

1. The flagship event of our association is ASSICON and this time also a promising show is on the cards. The scientific committee was actively involved in the planning of the scientific content. The event starts on 26th January 2017, Thursday afternoon and gets over with lunch on Sunday 29th January 2017.

2. Scoliosis Research Society (SRS) has kindly consented to have a premeeting seminar on Thursday afternoon and Friday morning as a World-Wide Course (WWC). This time, the theme is "Complications and Risk Avoidance in Spinal Deformity Surgery" and 6 internationally renowned SRS faculty will be delivering their lectures and interacting threadbare on various topics of interest. There would also be a host of Indian faculty and the doyens of this field of spine surgery would be showcasing their best.

3. The rest of ASSICON would also be equally attractive with a wide variety of topics covered along with lunch symposiums on current topics of interest and a preconference workshop with the possibility of live surgical demonstration on the cards. Dr Surya Prakash Rao Voletti, the organizing secretary and Dr Raghav Dutt Mulukutla, the organizing chairman are working very hard to make this event a grand success.

Report of ASSI Education Committee

1. Dr. Raghav Dutt (Chair)

2. Dr. Arvind Kulkarni
3. Dr Vishal Kundnani (co-opted)
4. Dr. Samir Dalvie (co-opted)
5. Dr. S.S. Kale (co-opted)
6. Dr. Mohinder Kaushal (co-opted)
7. Dr Ranjith Unnikrishnan (co-opted)
8. Dr. Shankar Acharya (co-opted)
9. Dr. Neeraj Gupta (co-opted)

1. ASSI Spine Fellowships

The ASSI Spine Fellowship program is being further streamlined. The curriculum had been developed and implemented. 8 seats were available for ASSI Spine Fellowship this year, one each at Apollo Hospital Chennai, Indian Spinal Injuries Centre, Bombay Hospital, B.J.Medical College and Civil Hospital, P D Hinduja National Hospital, Sancheti Spine Centre & Hospital and Park Clinic. The fellowships were advertised in Indian Journal of Orthopedics and Neurology India. 43 applications had been received by 15th July, the deadline for application for the Fellowship program. An online screening examination was planned with the support of Krithi Technologies, the software company which also manages the ASSI website and ASSI spine registry. Mock examinations were held on 9th July. The main online examination was held on Sunday, 10th July 2016 from 1100 hrs to 1200 hrs. 40 candidates appeared for the examination. 17 candidates had been shortlisted for the interview. Since there was no other ASSI event in 2016 apart from SpineWeek the interviews were clubbed along with the Exit Exam of 2016 during "ASSI Live Spine Surgery Course" held at Indian Spinal Injuries Centre from 29th to 31st July 2016. The interviews were held on Saturday, 30th July 2016. Following candidates were selected:

S.No.	Name of successful Candidates	Centre Allocated	Mentor
1.	Dr. Abhinandan Reddy. M	Indian Spinal Injuries Centre, New Delhi	Dr. H.S. Chhabra
2.	Dr. Anil Solanki	Park Clinic, Kolkatta	Dr. Saumyajit Basu
3.	Dr. Jimmy Chokshi	B.J.Medical College and Civil Hospital, Ahmedabad	Dr. G. D. Tharadara / Dr. M.M. Prabhakar
4.	Dr. Ankit Patel	Bombay Hospital, Mumbai	Dr CE Deopujari, Dr. Arvind G. Kulkarni and Dr Vishal Kundnani
5.	Dr. Mohit Jindal	Apollo Hospitals, Chennai	Dr. Sajan Hedge
6.	Dr. Subramaniam M.H	Apollo Hospitals, Chennai	Dr. Samir Dalvie

S.No.	Name of successful Candidates	Centre Allocated	Mentor
7.	Dr. Siddharth S. Shah	P D Hinduja National Hospital, Bombay	Dr. Samir Dalvie
8.	Dr. Ashish Yadav	Sancheti Spine Centre & Hospital, Pune	Dr. Ketan Khurkekar, Dr. Shailesh Hadgaonkar

The Exit examination of 8 candidates (Dr. N. Ajit Kumar, Dr. Pramod KS, Dr. Kedar D. Phadke, Dr. Sunny P. Shethna, Dr. Shumayou Dutta, Dr. Shardul Madhav Soman and Dr. Aditya Prasad Panda) was held on Thursday, 28th July 2016 at Indian Spinal Injuries Centre (ISIC). Dr. Saumyajit Basu, Dr. Shankar Acharya, Dr. P. Sarat Chandra, Dr. Sumil Saral and Dr. HS Chhabra were the examiners.

2. Indian Spine Journal

Dr. Ragahv Dutt has been instrumental in planning for an ASSI Journal. The General body had approved the name as "Indian Spine Journal" of ASSI. The plan is to release it by ICS 2017. Initially there would 2 issues in a year till such we that the Journal is in a position to become an indexed journal. Wolters Kluwer would be the publisher.

Editor -in-chief: Anil Jain

Deputy Editors

1. Raghava D Mulukutla
2. Rajasekharan Shanmuganathan
3. Ram Chadda
4. Sajan Hegde
5. Vinod T Ingalthaliker
6. Soumyajit Basu
7. Harvinder S Chhabra

Editorial Board

1. Abhay Nene
2. Ajoy Shetty
3. Samir Dalvie
4. SKS Srivastava
5. Naresh Babu
6. Upendra
7. Vijay Kumar Gopatam
8. Gautam Zaveri
9. Mihir Bapat
10. Shankar Acharya
11. VSP Rao
12. Arvind Kulkarni

Overseas Editorial Board

1. Alok Saran (USA)
2. Dilip Sen Gupta (USA)
3. Sanjog Mathur(USA)
4. Hee –Kit Wong (Hongkong)
5. Suken Shah (USA)
6. Rajiv Sethi (USA)

3. It was noticed that spine fellows who were selected after written examination and the interview were not joining the centre accepted by them earlier. This is causing tremendous confusion. It has been decided that not more than 4 weeks time should be given to candidates after the completion of the selection process. If no candidate is willing to join a particular centre, then that centre will not have a spine fellow for one year.

4. Dr. Raghava Mulukutla, the President Elect, has requested the ASSI to remove him as Chair of the Education committee as he is burdened with various other activities of ASSI and felt that a suitable candidate who can devote time should be selected.

Report of ASSI Research Committee

1. Dr. HS Chhabra (Chair)
2. Dr. S. Karunkaran
3. Dr. Abhay Nene (co-opted)
4. Dr. K. Venkatesh (co-opted)
5. Dr. Surya Prakash Rao (co-opted)
6. Dr. Ajoy Shetty (co-opted)
7. Dr. J. Naresh Babu (co-opted)

1. ASSI Multicentric Research Study:

Effectiveness of various diagnostic and management tools for the treatment/management of people with Pott's spine in India- A prospective, observational multicentric cohort study.

Spinal tuberculosis has existed in human beings since the ascent of man on earth. The standard of treatment of Potts spine is chemotherapy (antituberculosis drugs, ATT). No standard guidelines are available for drug management for TB Spine. Some doctors prescribe ATI for 6 to 9 months whereas other advise individuals to take medication for as long as 12 to 18 months. There are very few studies which support a common treatment regimen of spinal TB. To overcome the lack of evidence, ASSI is conducting a study on prospective consecutive patients to assess the effectiveness of various diagnostic and management tools for the treatment/management of people with Pott's Spine. The study will assess the role of Biopsy in the treatment of tuberculosis of spine, efficacy of chemotherapy regime 2HRZE + 7HR along with other regime and evaluate the appropriate decisive factor (clinical and radiological) for discontinuation of ATT.

The study is initiated in 2015, 18 Centres are participating in the study. The current status of the study is that 358 cases have been recruited across all centers. Details as under:

S.No.	Name of the Experts (Co-Investigators)	Center/hospital	Cases from 2015 to till date
1.	Dr. Shankar Acharya	Ganga Ram Hospital	32
2.	Dr. Yogesh Pithawa	Sattvik Spine Foundation, Bangalore	12
3.	Dr. Venketash	CMC Vellore	0
4.	Dr. H.S Chhabra	Indian Spinal Injuries Center	33
5.	Dr. Bhavuk Garg	AIIMS	162
6.	Dr. Abhay Nene	Wockhardt Hospital	0
7.	Dr. Sajan Hedge	Apollo Hospital	10
8.	Dr. Subir Jhaveri	Shaurya Hospital, Ahmedabad	0
9.	Dr. Ajoy Prasad Shetty	Ganga Hospital	39
10.	Dr. Naresh Babu	MediCiti Hospital, AP	38
11.	Dr. Suresh Pillai	Lakeshore Hospital and Centre Ltd, Kochi	0
12.	Dr. Vinod Ingalthalikar	Ashwini Diat Institute, Thane	0
13.	Dr. Rushma Tandon	Northern Railway	0

S.No.	Name of the Experts (Co-Investigators)	Center/hospital	Cases from 2015 to till date
14	Dr. Raghav Dutt	Udai Clinic, Hyderabad	12
15	Dr. Prashant Kekre	Sundaram Medical Foundation, Chennai	5
16	Ketan Khurjekar	Sancheti Hospital for Surgery, Pune	0
17	Dr. Anupreet Bassi	Christian Medical College and Hospital, CMC Ludhiana	0
18	Dr. Saumyjit Basu	Park clinic	15
		Total	358

We are expecting more number of cases to be enrolled in the study with in next 6 months. Various protocols being followed for diagnosis and management of tuberculosis in various research centers will be analysed and standardized guidelines for management of tubercular spine will be drawn.

2016 AOSAP Regional Research Award

Effectiveness of various diagnostic and management tools for the treatment/management of people with Pott's spine in India and neighboring countries - A prospective, observational Multicentric cohort study.

The same study as above has been extended to centers in neighboring countries of Nepal and Bangladesh. It is now a multinational, multicenter (n=13), observational, cohort study of 2.5 years duration. The study has been funded by AO spine regional research grant. A total of 100 subjects (in each regime) as per defined criteria will be recruited from the centers and will be prospectively analyzed. Subjects will be followed up for one year. All data will be stored electronically into the online portal of Potts spine study. Last 6 months will be for compilation, analysis and report writing. The participating centers are a under:

S.No.	Institution	Country
1	Ganga Ram Hospital	India
2	Sattvik Spine Foundation, Bangalore	India
3	Indian Spinal Injuries Center	India
4	AIIMS	India
5	Apollo Hospital	India
6	Ganga Hospital	India
7	Mallika Spine Centre, Guntur, AP	India
8	Udai Clinic, Hyderabad	India
9	Vijaya Institute Of Trauma And Orthopaedics	India
10	Park clinic	India
11	National Institute of Trauma ology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation (NITOR), Bangladesh	Bangladesh
12	Kathmandu Hospital Pvt. Ltd., Nepal, (Tribhuvan university teaching hospital, Kathmandu medical college and teaching hospital).	Nepal
13	Grande International Hospital, Nepal	Nepal

Report of ASSI Social Work Committee

1. Dr Shekhar Bhojraj (Chair)

2. Dr Subir Zaveri
3. Dr. Premik Nagad (co-opted)
4. Dr. Abhilash N. Dhruv (co-opted)
5. Dr. Rushama Tandon (co-opted)

MCGM's VN Desai municipal hospital, Santacruz - conducting surgeries and OPD twice a week on an ongoing basis with Spine foundation and BMC having a public private partnership wherein spine foundation has spent about Rs 13,00,000/- (Rupees Thirteen lakhs) in the year 2016.

Spent on implants for economically backward patients who could not afford spinal implants at various places.

Conducted several camps at

- Rishikesh (Parmarth Ashram / Nirmal Ashram) - conducted 2 camps - Feb / Nov 2016 - seen 120 pts in each OPD, conducted 4 spine surgeries,
- Chitrakoot (Jankikund Chikitsalaya) - Sept 2016 - seen 224 pts in OPD,
- Search-Gadchiroli - conducted 2 camps - April / August 2016 - where 350 pt seen in each camp in OPD and conducted 20 surgeries in these 2 camps,
- Dhule - Maharashtra - seen around 250 pts in the camp.

The pts were evaluated and treated and any pt requiring surgery were either operated at the local centre where surgery were subsidized / free or to V N Desai municipal Hosp in mumbai for further management.

Future plan - to coordinate with various govt medical college hospitals and start a spine clinic there for the non affordable pts and making available the latest spinal care to all. Here also we plan to train local surgeons for spine surgery and make all centres self sufficient over a period of time.

A collaboration is being initiated with district civil hospital in Ratnagiri district in western ghats of Konkan.

A project is also being initiated with the Hmalayan Institute of Dehradun to serve the spine cases in the pahadi underserved areas of Uttaranchal.

Report of ASSI Spine-Registry Committee

1. Dr Rajasekaran (Chair)

2. Dr. Saumyajit Basu
3. Dr. Ajoy Shetty
4. Dr. Bharat Dave

The committee has been actively functioning throughout the year and the following is a gist of its activities in the last year.

1. The number of participating centres could be pruned from 40 to 15 as the rest were not uploading their cases -- this was done after the EC and subsequently the GB ratified this decision.

2. Monthly mailers were circulated to all the chiefs of the centres regarding the number of cases uploaded in the last month with an active request to upload ALL the cases operated upon at that centre.

3. The total number of cases uploaded in the ASSI spine registry has **ACHIEVED ITS INITIAL TARGET OF 20,000 CASES** and we have the data of about 21 thousand surgeries over a period of about 4 years.

4. We have a dedicated research manager, Meenakshi, who is looking into the data collection and collaborating with the website manager of ASSI registry regarding necessary technical glitches. Following are the action points to be considered in the coming year:

1. Out of the 15 centres, only 10 are uploading their cases regularly – we could consider a proposal to have the other 5 to be taken out of the Registry.

2. The chief of these 10 functioning institutes could form the ASSI registry committee

3. The time has now come to look up on this data and invite research proposals utilizing this data – the best way to do this would possibly be to assign thesis topics to all the ASSI fellowship candidates which would be mandatory part of their exit examinations, The allotment of these topics could be by the mentor, in consultation with the research committee – in fact many of the participating centres have a ASSI fellowship program already in place.

4. We can invite research proposals from the participating centres and if approved through the ASSI, funding could be considered.

ASSI Advocacy Committee

1. Dr. Ram Chaddha(Chair)

2. Dr. Arvind Jayaswal
3. Dr. Rajasekaran
4. Dr. Raghav Dutt
5. Dr. Suresh Pillai
6. Dr. HS Chhabra

1. Discrepancy in tariff rates of Spine surgeries for Orthopaedic surgeons as compared to Neurosurgeons

Dr. Ashish Tomar had written to ASSI with regard to discrepancy in tariff rates of spine surgeries for orthopaedic surgeons as compared to neuro surgeons for the same procedures. Since the CGHS scheme is applicable in various states, ASSI decided to represent to the CGHS on this issue. Medico-legal advice was taken in this regard so that we could represent appropriately. The letter in the next page had been sent to Director, CGHS and we are following it up with them.

EXECUTIVE Committee 2015-2016

18th November 2016

President

Dr. Ram Chaddha (2015-17)
spineram@yahoo.com

President Elect

Dr. Raghava Dutt Mulukutla (2015-17)
rdmuluk@gmail.com

Secretary & Treasurer

Dr. H. S. Chhabra (2013-16)
drhshchhabra@isiconline.org

Joint Secretary

Dr. Saumyajit Basu (2013-16)
saumyajitbasu@hotmail.com

Executive Members

Dr. Ajoy Prasad Shetty (2014-17)
ajoyshetty@gmail.com
Dr. Suresh Pillai (2014-17)
sureshorth@googlemail.com
Dr. Subir Jhaveri (2015-17)
subirjhaveri@yahoo.com
Dr. GR Vijay Kumar (2015-17)
grvkumar@hotmail.com
Dr. Arvind Kulkarni (2013-16)
drarvindspines@gmail.com
Dr. S. Karunakaran (2013-16)
drkarunaspine@gmail.com

Co-opted members (2015-16)

Dr. J. Naresh Babu
nareshspine@yahoo.com
Dr. Raghavendra
doctor.raghu@gmail.com
Dr. R. Sivakumar
drsivakumarspine@yahoo.co.in
Dr. Rushama Tandon
rushtan@rediffmail.com
Dr. Amol Rege
regeamol@hotmail.com
Dr. Vishal Kundanani
kundnanivishal@yahoo.co.in
Dr. Abhay Nene
abhaynene@yahoo.com
Dr. Samir Dalvie
sdalvie@hotmail.com
Dr. Bhavuk Garg
drbhavukgarg@gmail.com
Dr. Amit Jhala
acjhala@gmail.com
Dr. B N Upendra
upibn75@gmail.com
Dr. Shashidhar BK
drshashidharbk@gmail.com
Dr. Anupreet Bassi
anupreetbassi@gmail.com
Dr. Premik Nagad
drpremik@yahoo.com
Dr. Abhilash N. Dhruv
drabhilashdhruv@gmail.com

Sub. : Discrepancy in the CGHS rate list for Spine surgeries as applicable for Orthopaedic surgeons vis-à-vis Neurosurgeons

Dear Sir,

Spine surgery is an emerging speciality. A few decades ago, Orthopedics and Neurosurgical fields were a part of general surgery and the same surgeon would perform abdominal, neurosurgical and orthopedic operations. However, with advancements in these fields, these specialities got separated and became independent subspecialties of medicine. Spine being a combination of bones, cartilage & ligaments with membranous & neurological tissue in the middle, continued to be treated by Orthopedic surgeons as well as Neurosurgeons, with due competence.

The curriculum for training in Orthopaedic and Neurosurgery incorporates medical & surgical management of all spinal ailments including rehabilitation. Recently, some courses in Spine surgery (like FNB fellowship in spine surgery, ASSI fellowship in Spine surgery and MGR university spine fellowship have been started in our country. However, since dedicated Spine Surgery courses are still not prevalent in our country, spine diseases continue to be effectively treated by Orthopaedic surgeons as well as Neurosurgeons. Between these two specialties, however, by no yardstick can one be stated to be better than the other.

We are a registered association of super specialists in spine surgery in India. Our members are Orthopedic Surgeons as well as Neurosurgeons, with specific training & experience in Spine surgery. This being a dedicated association of spine surgeons, ensures high degree of updating of knowledge, experience, training & skills. To dispel any confusion in the minds of the patients, doctors and the regulatory authorities, a clarification was sought by the association from the Medical Council of India in 2013, on the "eligibility of orthopaedic surgeons vis-à-vis neurosurgeons to perform spine surgery". The 25th Meeting of the Board of Governors of the MCI was held on 6th & 7th August, 2013, at 11.00 A.M. in the Council office at Sector-8, Pocket-14, Dwarka, New Delhi-110077. The relevant part of the minutes of that meeting (copy attached) are reproduced below :

EXECUTIVE Committee 2015-2016

2.19 Dr. H.S. Chhabra, Secretary, Association of Spine Surgeons of India's letter dated 2.8.2013 regarding Orthopaedicians providing spinal care including surgery to patient : After discussion in detail, the Board of Governors decided that the Orthopaedicians may also provide for spinal care including surgery to the patients.

Our members, across the country are happy to be treating CGHS patients, even though these rates are much less than the prevailing market rates. I am sure you would be revising these rates in due course to match the market standards. However, two gross discrepancies have prompted us to submit the present representation.

1. The rate list of the CGHS has included certain spine procedures only under the head Neurosurgery and not under the head Orthopedic surgery. Some of the examples are :

1. Skull Traction Application
2. Anterior Cervical Dissectomy
3. Anterior Cervical Spine Surgery with fusion
4. Anterior Lateral Decompression of spine
5. Combined Trans-oral Surgery & CV Junction Fusion
6. C.V. Junction Fusion procedures
7. Cervical disc arthroplasty
8. Lumbar disc arthroplasty
9. Cervical laminoplasty
10. Lateral mass C1-C2 screw fixation
11. Baclofen pump implantation
12. Dorsal column stimulation for backache in failed back syndrome
13. Surgery for recurrent disc prolapse/epidural fibrosis
14. Kyphoplasty
15. Balloon Kyphoplasty

2. Some of the procedures in the CGHS rate list are included under Neurosurgery as well as Orthopedic surgery but show an unwarranted discrimination in the rates. Some examples are :

President

Dr. Ram Chaddha (2015-17)
spineram@yahoo.com

President Elect

Dr. Raghava Dutt Mulukutla (2015-17)
rdmuluk@gmail.com

Secretary & Treasurer

Dr. H. S. Chhabra (2013-16)
drhshchhabra@isiconline.org

Joint Secretary

Dr. Saumyajit Basu (2013-16)
saumyajitbasu@hotmail.com

Executive Members

Dr. Ajoy Prasad Shetty (2014-17)
ajoyshetty@gmail.com
Dr. Suresh Pillai (2014-17)
sureshorth@googlemail.com
Dr. Subir Jhaveri (2015-17)
subirjhaveri@yahoo.com
Dr. GR Vijay Kumar (2015-17)
grvkumar@hotmail.com
Dr. Arvind Kulkarni (2013-16)
drarvindspines@gmail.com
Dr. S. Karunakaran (2013-16)
drkarunaspine@gmail.com

Co-opted members (2015-16)

Dr. J. Naresh Babu
nareshspine@yahoo.com
Dr. Raghavendra
doctor.raghu@gmail.com
Dr R. Sivakumar
drsivakumarspine@yahoo.co.in
Dr Rushama Tandon
rushatan@rediffmail.com
Dr Amol Rege
regeamol@hotmail.com
Dr. Vishal Kundanani
kundnanivishal@yahoo.co.in
Dr. Abhay Nene
abhaynene@yahoo.com
Dr. Samir Dalvie
sdalvie@hotmail.com
Dr. Bhavuk Garg
drbhavukgarg@gmail.com
Dr. Amit Jhala
acjhala@gmail.com
Dr. B N Upendra
upibn75@gmail.com
Dr. Shashidhar BK
drshashidharbk@gmail.com
Dr. Anupreet Bassi
anupreetbassi@gmail.com
Dr. Premik Nagad
drpremik@yahoo.com
Dr. Abhilash N. Dhruv
drabhilashdhruv@gmail.com

EXECUTIVE Committee 2015-2016

Procedure	Rates in Neuro surgery	Rates in Orthopedics
a. Cervical or Dorsal or Lumbar Laminectomy	26450	5343
a. Lumbar Discectomy	31740	14375
a. Spinal Fusion Procedure	34500	25300

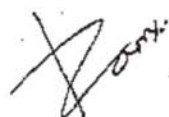
These discrepancies are causing an erroneous & unwarranted confusion in the minds of the surgeons, patients as well as third party payers who frame their schedule of charges based on the CGHS rate list. The Orthopedic surgeons are unfairly discriminated against. There is no valid basis for such a differential treatment against the Orthopedic spine surgeons.

You are requested to kindly look into the matter objectively so that this inadvertent anomaly is rectified in the interests of all stake holders. It is suggested that all procedures related to spine ailments be grouped under a separate head of Spine procedures in the CGHS schedule of charges, with the rates applicable to both Neurosurgeons or Orthopaedic Surgeons.

If required, we will be happy to personally meet you to discuss the matter.

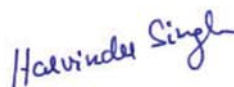
Thanking you,

With Regards,



Dr. Ram Chaddha
President

To
Director CGHS
Nirman Bhawan,
Maulana Azad Road,
New Delhi



Dr H S Chhabra
Secretary ASSI

President
Dr. Ram Chaddha (2015-17)
spineram@yahoo.com

President Elect
Dr. Raghava Dutt Mulukutla (2015-17)
rdmuluk@gmail.com

Secretary & Treasurer
Dr. H. S. Chhabra (2013-16)
drhshchhabra@isiconline.org

Joint Secretary
Dr. Saumyajit Basu (2013-16)
saumyajitbasu@hotmail.com

Executive Members
Dr. Ajoy Prasad Shetty (2014-17)
ajoyshetty@gmail.com
Dr. Suresh Pillai (2014-17)
sureshorth@googlemail.com
Dr. Subir Jhaveri (2015-17)
subirjhaveri@yahoo.com
Dr. GR Vijay Kumar (2015-17)
grvkumar@hotmail.com
Dr. Arvind Kulkarni (2013-16)
drarvindspines@gmail.com
Dr. S. Karunakaran (2013-16)
drkarunaspine@gmail.com

Co-opted members (2015-16)
Dr. J. Nareesh Babu
nareeshspine@yahoo.com
Dr. Raghavendra
doctor.raghu@gmail.com
Dr R. Sivakumar
drsivakumarspine@yahoo.co.in
Dr Rushama Tandon
rushtan@rediffmail.com
Dr Amol Rege
regeamol@hotmail.com
Dr. Vishal Kundanani
kundnanivishal@yahoo.co.in
Dr. Abhay Nene
abhaynene@yahoo.com
Dr. Samir Dalvie
sdalvie@hotmail.com
Dr. Bhavuk Garg
drbhavukgarg@gmail.com
Dr. Amit Jhala
acjhala@gmail.com
Dr. B N Upendra
upibn75@gmail.com
Dr. Shashidhar BK
drshashidharbk@gmail.com
Dr. Anupreet Bassi
anupreetbassi@gmail.com
Dr. Premik Nagad
drpremik@yahoo.com
Dr. Abhilash N. Dhruv
drabhilashdhruv@gmail.com

2. Andhra Pradesh Medical Council Ruling

There were a lot of reports in the media highlighting that an orthopaedic surgeon had been suspended by Andhra Pradesh Medical Council for alleged complications in spine surgery and for un-ethical act as imposter intentionally impersonated and treated the patient by cheating the Aarogya Sri Scheme in addition to which there is negligence on his part in treating the patient. The media report suggests that the action was taken since orthopaedic surgeons are in eligible to perform spine surgery. Various members had suggested that ASSI should take up the issue. The matter was discussed and it was decided that ASSI should have a further look into the matter With the help of Dr. Naresh Babu and Dr. Raghav Dutt it came out that the reason for suspension was not ineligibility of orthopedic surgeons to perform spine surgery. However it was decided that ASSI should support the doctor and come out with a press release in order to negate the impact of the press reports projecting the action having been taken due to ineligibility of orthopaedic surgeons to perform spine surgery. It was also decided that the doctor would be asked as to how ASSI could support him.

After interaction with the concerned doctor and on his request it was also decided to constitute a committee comprising of Dr. Ram Chaddha, Dr. Raghav Dutt, Dr. Surya Prakash Rao and Dr. Naresh Babu to look into the matter and put up a report by 29th January 2017. The press release issued is enclosed below.

Press Release

Orthopaedic Surgeons are qualified and permitted to carry out Spine Surgery, Underlines the Association of Spine Surgeons of India (ASSI)

Clarification comes in backdrop of media reports on an Andhra Pradesh Medical Council order suspending an orthopedic surgeon for alleged complications in a spine surgery

New Delhi, Nov 2016: The Association of Spine Surgeons of India today underlined that adequately trained Orthopedic Surgeons or Neurosurgeons are fully qualified as well as permitted to perform spine surgery by the Medical Council of India.

The clarification by the umbrella body of spine surgeons of India came in a bid to correct confusion regarding this issue and misrepresentation in some sections of the media following the Andhra Pradesh Medical Council's (APMC's) action to suspend an Orthopedic Surgeon following alleged complications in a case of spine surgery conducted by him.

ASSI President Dr. Ram Chaddha said the reports in some media publications following the APMC order tend to send out a wrong message that Orthopedic Surgeons are not qualified to perform spine surgery. This picture misrepresents or miscommunicates the medical guidelines regarding Orthopedic surgeons' ability to treat spine surgery cases.

"We, as a leading body of spine surgeons in India would like to clarify that spine surgery can be carried out by Orthopaedic Surgeons or Neurosurgeons who are adequately trained in the same. Thus Orthopaedic surgeons are fully qualified to carry out Spine Surgery, and this matter was clarified by the Medical Council of India itself in a statement dated 29th November 2013. It would hence be incorrect to imply that an Orthopaedic surgeon is not qualified or permitted to carry out Spine Surgery, as incorrectly implied in some reports," says **Dr. Ram Chaddha**.

The ASSI requests the press to clarify this matter, as these reports have created unwarranted confusion in the minds of patients about the ability and legality of Orthopaedic Surgeons for performing Spine Surgery.

The media reports pertain to a case involving an Orthopedic Surgeon who had been served an order to delist his name from the APMC for a period of one year on the charges of "impersonation and medical negligence". The Orthopedic Surgeon has since filed a writ petition in the AP High court and has been granted an interim stay.

"Till a few decades ago, Orthopedics and Neurosurgical fields were a part of general surgery and the same

surgeon would perform abdominal, neurosurgical and orthopedic operations. However, at present the curriculum for training in Orthopaedic and Neurosurgery incorporates medical and surgical management of all spinal ailments and thus spine diseases continue to be effectively treated by Orthopaedic surgeons as well as Neurosurgeons.

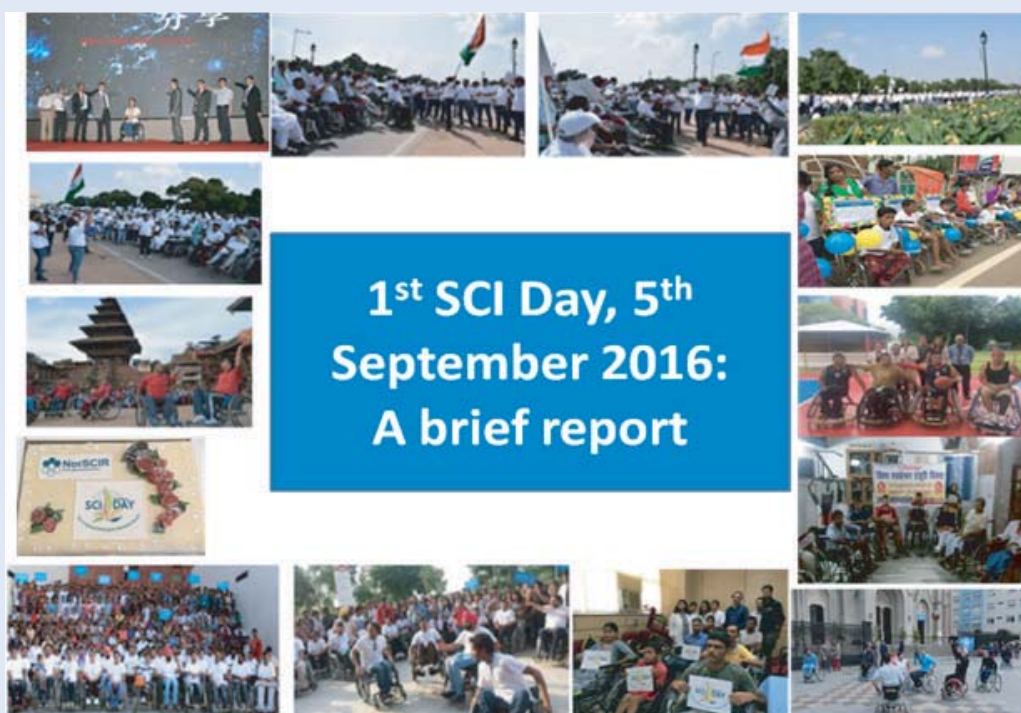
“We request the media to correct its representation of the case so that there s no misconception among patients and other regulatory bodies regarding Orthopedic experts ability to treat the spine and perform spine injuries,” adds **Dr Chhabra, Secretary ASSI**.

ASSI is a registered association of super specialists in spine surgery in India. Its members are Orthopedic Surgeons as well as Neurosurgeons, with specific training & experience in Spine surgery. This being a dedicated association of spine surgeons, ensures high degree of updating of knowledge, experience, training and skills. To dispel any confusion in the minds of the patients, doctors and the regulatory authorities, a clarification was sought by the association from the Medical Council of India in 2013, on the “eligibility of orthopaedic surgeons vis-à-vis neurosurgeons to perform spine surgery”. The 25th Meeting of the Board of Governors of the MCI held on 6th & 7th August, 2013 held detailed discussions on the issue and decided that Orthopedicians may also provide for spinal care including surgery to the patients (copy of MCI letter in this regard enclosed).

Report of Prevention Committee

1. **Dr. Prashant Kekre**
2. Dr. Ram Chaddha
3. Dr. Rajasekaran
4. Dr. Raghav Dutt Mulukutla
5. Dr. Saumyajit Basu
6. Dr H.S. Chhabra
7. Dr. GR Vijay Kumar (co-opted)
8. Dr. B.N.Upendra (co-opted)
9. Dr. Amol Rege (co-opted)
10. Dr. M.M. Prabhakar (co-opted)
11. Dr. K. Venkatesh
12. Dr. Karthik Kailash (co-opted)

1. ASSI Participation in World SCI Day on 5th September 2016



Spinal cord injury (SCI) and the resultant paralysis has devastating physical, mental, social, sexual and vocational consequences for the injured. In addition the injury increases the economic burden on the person who sustains SCI and potentially his or her entire support network including family and friends. SCI can cost an injured individual \$334,000 to 1 million in the first year after injury. Costs in each subsequent year ranges from \$41,000 to 178,000 depending on the severity of injury.

The goal of management is to get the spinal injured to lead an inclusive life. Because of the permanence of disability in complete injuries, prevention assumes special significance. It is not always bad luck that causes spinal cord injuries. In many cases, it is carelessness, recklessness, ignorance or simply bad decisions. The common saying is, 'Prevention is better than cure'. But in fact, where a spinal cord injury is concerned, 'Prevention is Cure'.

"International Days" are celebrated to mark important aspects of human life and history. International Spinal Cord Society (ISCoS), an international society of professionals involved in management and research activities related to spinal cord injury, had decided to observe Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) Day on 5th September with the intention of increasing awareness amongst general public. It is anticipated that the awareness would facilitate an inclusive life for persons with disability and ensure greater chances of success of prevention programs. The ISCoS along with its associated societies are organizing various events in their respective countries. Details of events are available on www.worldsciday.org.

In India, Association of Spine Surgeons of India (ASSI) along with Spinal Cord Society (SCS), Indian Orthopaedic Association (IOA), Indian Association of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (IAPMR), Indian Academy of Neurology (IAN), Asian Spinal Cord Network (ASCoN), Indian Spinal Injuries Centre (ISIC) and The Spinal Foundation (TSF) would carry out various activities across India. The events include wheelchair rallies, road shows, symposiums and awareness campaigns in schools and colleges in various cities including, Delhi, Chennai, Chandigarh, Bhuvneshwar, Jalandhar, Hyderabad, Vizag, Manali, Ranchi, Mumbai, Bangalore, Amritsar, Nagpur, Cochin, etc. Details of events conducted are mentioned below.

a. New Delhi

Wheelchair rally was held in New Delhi on 4th September 2016, right in the heart of capital of India next to the Parliament and India Gate, on Rajpath, where the Republic Day Parade takes place every year. 150 wheelchair users and 700 able bodied participated.

An inclusive program was organized at Indian Spinal Injuries Centre (ISIC) on 5th September 2016 with performances by wheelchair users and able bodied.

As part of the first World Spinal Cord Injury day the Department of PMR at AIIMS New Delhi under the aegis of IAPMR, conducted an awareness session for the spinal cord injury patients, their care givers and the general public. Eminent staffs from the department enlightened the audience regarding the prevention of spinal cord injury, its primary, secondary and tertiary complications and their management, and also the routine care and rehabilitation aspects of SCI care with the help of audio visuals.



b. Hyderabad

Events were held in association with the Spinal Foundation of India at two main centres in Hyderabad i.e. KBR park Jubile Hills and peoples Plaza Necklace road. A press meet was held and there was wide print as well as electronic media coverage. It was resolved to start the Twin Cities Spinal Cord Injury Association with a website to educate, rehabilitate victims of SCI. 50 wheelchair users, school childrens, Spine surgeons and Rehabilitation expert participated in the event. There were two Wheel chair races at both the events. Speeches were made by the participants.



c. Kolkata

Mastermoshai: A play in English to commemorate the Spinal Cord Injury Day was conducted at Taj Gateway Ballroom. The play is based on real life stories of patients highlighting various aspects of SCI including the difficulties of integrating with society. It has been put together by Red Curtain, the oldest English theatre group in Bengal. Dr. Saumyajit Basu and Dr. GR Vijay Kumar were the main organisers of the event.



d. Coimbatore

Ganga spine injury foundation organized a wheelchair rally for spinal cord injured on September 5th. Many wheelchair users with spine injury participated in the event. The wheelchair rally was flagged off by R.V. Ramya bharathi Coimbatore district superintendent of police. Dr. Jayantha Sri Balakrishnan delivered a motivational speech after the rally in the Ganga spine Injury foundation.



e. Himachal Pradesh (Manali)

At Lady Willingdon Hospital & Day Star School Society, Manali, Himachal Pradesh, India. Our society in association with the Spinal Foundation of India organized a walk in the community on September 5th to bring out more awareness about Spinal cord Injuries.

f. Bangalore

The following events were planned in Bangalore:

- 5th Sep: Radio Campaign through SCI role models
- 13th Sep: Radio Campaign
- 14th Sep: Awareness program in paramedical colleges
- 15th Sep: Awareness program in MSW colleges
- 16th Sep: Awareness program to KEB/BESCOM and construction workers
- 17th Sep: 1 km rally

g. Jalandhar

Rally at Lovely University on 5th Sep at 2:00 pm for persons with SCI followed by Press Conference

h. Nagpur

Workshop on 5th September at CIIMS on Awareness and Prevention of SCI

i. Chandigarh

Rally at Sector 17 market or Sukhnalake at 5:30 pm on 5th September

j. Vizag

- Inauguration of Spine Rehab Centre at Visakhapatnam on 5th September by Minister of Health followed by workshop on SCI rehabilitation
- Rally at R K Beach from Kali Temple on 4th September

k. Kerala

- An SCI prevention session for college students at KMEA Engg College, Cochin
- Session on SCI prevention on 4th September as part of World Physio Day at Thavanoor, Malappuram

l. Haryana (Rohtak)

A public awareness program in PGIMS, Rohtak was conducted in the form of poster and video presentation. Students and staff of our Orthopaedic Department and College of Physiotherapy actively participated in this endeavour. This was followed by guest lectures by eminent spine surgeons Prof. Rajbhadur & Prof. SS Sangwan.

m. Chennai

A rally was conducted on the 4th Sept along with a spinal injuries camp and awareness programme at Sri Ramachandra hospital.

Other than India, SCI Day was commemorated with events conducted in the following countries:

Greece and Cyprus
Argentina
Bangladesh
China

Cambodia
Costa Rica
Finland
Honduras
New Zealand
Norway
Spain
United Kingdom
Romania

Dr. HS Chhabra
Chair - SCI DAY Committee

2. Prevention of Fall Program

Background and Introduction:

Spinal cord injury (SCI) and the resultant paralysis has devastating physical, mental, social, sexual and vocational consequences for the injured. In addition, the injury increases the economic burden on the person who sustains an SCI and potentially his or her entire support network. And it isn't always bad luck that causes spinal cord injuries. In many cases, it is carelessness, recklessness, ignorance or bad decisions.

The goal of management is to get the spinal injured to lead an inclusive life. Because of the permanence of disability in complete injuries, prevention assumes special significance. The common saying is, 'Prevention is better than cure'. But in fact, where a spinal cord injury is concerned, 'Prevention is Cure'.

There are no proper epidemiological studies on spinal injuries in India; however, conservative estimates suggest that the prevalence of SCI in India to be approximately 10 lakh with around 15000 fresh cases added every year, often as a result of falls, road traffic accidents, diving injuries, etc. As per the Interim IDAPP report (1st mar 2016), fall accounted for maximum number of SCI cases i.e more than 50% (n=214 out of 426). 69% (n=142) of the patients had a fall from a height of 1 meter or more while sustaining spinal cord injury and majority of the patients sustained spinal cord injury at home, i.e. 58% (n=115), whereas, 26% (n=51) sustained injury at work. IDAPP was conducted in 10 centres across 6 countries in South East Asia region. Hence it is imperative that prevention of fall should be the point of focus for any prevention strategy for spinal cord injury.

Participating organizations:

Association of Spine Surgeons of India (ASSI) could tie up with International Spinal Cord Society (ISCoS), International Society of Orthopaedic Surgery and Traumatology (SICOT), World Orthopaedic Concern (WOC) and Asian Spinal Cord Network (ASCoN) for the project.

Program:

The program for prevention of fall shall be a two pronged strategy:

- A. Prevention of fall in rural India
 - a. Prevention of fall from trees in rural India
 - b. Prevention of fall from unprotected roof tops
 - c. Prevention of SCI due to diving accidents
- B. Prevention of fall in urban India
 - a. Prevention of fall from electric poles
 - b. Prevention of fall at construction sites
 - c. Prevention of fall at home

A. Prevention of fall in rural India

a. Publicity and Training material

Publicity material related to prevention of fall from trees, unprotected roof tops and diving accidents in ponds and rivers shall be prepared at the Program Secretariat in consultation with the opinion leaders and other educationists working in the field of spinal cord injury. Publicity material shall be in the form of posters, pamphlets, videos, etc. Training will be imparted to the identified individuals including

volunteers, local students, Anganwadi workers, who then shall disseminate the information related to prevention strategies to the masses.

b. Engagement of Anganwadi workers/local students/Sarpanch/Panchayat leaders

Ministry of Women and Child Developed shall be approached through Ministry of health and Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to train and engage Anganwadi workers for prevention strategies for fall in villages. Similarly Sarpanch and elected Panchayat leaders shall be approached to identify local students and teachers who shall be trained and then shall disseminate the information related to prevention strategies to the masses.

B. Prevention of fall in urban India

a. Training and Publicity Material

Publicity material related to prevention of fall from electric poles, construction sites and fall at home shall be prepared at the Program Secretariat in consultation with the opinion leaders and other educationists working in the field of spinal cord injury. Publicity material shall be in the form of posters, pamphlets, videos, etc.

be prepared at the Program Secretariat in consultation with the opinion leaders and other educationists working in the field of spinal cord injury. Publicity material shall be in the form of posters, pamphlets, videos, etc.

b. Dissemination of information to masse

1. Engagements with Educational Institutes, NGOs and other professional bodies

Students are the best learners in any community. All educational institutes including schools, colleges, and professional universities shall be approached and educated with the publicity material regarding prevention strategies for fall.

NGOs and other professional bodies use interpersonal methods of communication, and study the right entry points whereby they gain the trust of the community they seek to benefit. We propose to liaise with them in implementing program on prevention of falls:

- ♦ Promoting use and availability of safety harness while working on construction sites, climbing trees, etc.
- ♦ Innovative local techniques shall be preferred. For example, fruit picking while standing on ground using a assistive devise, manufacturing of safety harness with locally available material. Involvement of local mountaineering teams for training may also be considered.
- ♦ Promoting proper lifting techniques with availability of equipments instead of carrying load on head in warehouses, showrooms, malls, etc.

2. Use of Social Media

Corporations targeting young adults have been using social media to connect with consumers since the advent of new media platforms in the mid-2000. However, fall prevention programs targeting youth have yet to utilize this medium on a broad scale.

We propose to initiate "prevention of fall" program using social media as a tool to disseminate information about ways to prevent spinal cord injuries due to fall. The tool can also be extended to highlight deficiencies in our regulatory systems, with a view to identify areas of legislations, law, policies and enforcements, to help prevent fall as a motto of all sections of society.

A Facebook page on 'Preventing Fall' shall be created and all strata of society especially young individuals shall be contacted and engaged through this facebook page. The following shall be the highlights of the program:

- ♦ Facebook page shall have AVs on prevention of spinal cord injuries due to fall, testimonials from survivors and a regular discussion page.
- ♦ The facebook page to be managed for content and assessment on a daily basis
- ♦ Information on prevention of spinal cord injuries due to fall shall be disseminated using AVs through the following channels:
 - Cellular companies

- Whatsapp
- Creation of App for evacuation and prevention strategies
- Gmail, yahoomail, rediffmail, etc

3. Use of Electronic and Print Media

We live in a media-saturated world and rely on a variety of old and new media for information, entertainment, and connection. As we progressed with time, mass communication evolved from a mechanical process to electronic transmission, which paved the way for the digitized world of today. Mass media are tools for the transfer of information, concepts, and ideas to both general and specific audiences. We propose to use print, visual and digital media to propagate our message of prevention of fall. The following tools shall be utilized:

- ◆ Print media houses, including newspapers, Journals, Magazines
- ◆ Advertisements
- ◆ Articles
- ◆ Cinema halls during the film intervals
- ◆ FM radio stations
- ◆ Cable and satellite televisions

Project Organization:

Steering Committee

A Steering Committee (SC) comprising of one representative from each society would be constituted. The SC would be the main body coordinating the activities of the program.

Project Team

The program on "Prevention of SCI" will be conducted under the strategic direction and management of Project Team (comprising of Project Head and Project Coordinator) based at New Delhi and supported through the Steering Committee.

Project Head

Project head shall be responsible for devising, executing and coordinating all activities related to the prevention program. This would also include interacting with local teams (if planned any). He/she shall report to the Steering Committee.

Project Coordinator

Project coordinator shall be responsible for executing and coordinating all activities related to the prevention program. This would also include interacting with local teams (if planned any). He/she shall report to the Project Head.

Program Secretariat:

A program secretariat shall be formed, based at ISIC, New Delhi, to formulate, coordinate and implement prevention of fall strategies in different regions of India.

Financials:

Each participating society could contribute INR 1,00,000 (Rupees One Lakh) towards creating a corpus for the activities. Funds could then be generated by the project team on project basics.

ASSI Website Committee

Date	Process
6-Jan	SpineWeek 2016
7-Jan	Spineweek Travel Packages
25-Apr	Community awareness on Prevention of SCI
26-Apr	ASSI Two Year Fellowship and ASSI Research Award
27-Apr	ASSI program during SpineWeek - upload on ASSI
2-May	upload - result of "ASSI Spine Fellowship" for the batch 2015-2017
10-May	ASSI E-Newsletter, May 2016 issue
11-May	upload on ASSI website - ASSI Live Spine Surgery Course
14-Jun	cadaveric spine course
17-Jun	e-brochure of the course on the ASSI Website.
12-Jul	ASSI Spine Fellowship - online examination
19-Jul	Kindly upload the below information on our ASSI website - 2nd International Conference on Sacroiliac Joint Surgery, 16th -17th September 2016, Hamburg, Germany
2-Aug	upload - result of "ASSI Spine Fellowship Exit Examination" for the batch 2016-2018
9-Aug	upload - result of "ASSI Spine Fellowship Exit Examination" for the batch 2014-2016
8-Aug	links to assicon 2017 from website
27-Aug	upload on the ASSI - SCI Day
8-Nov	kindly upload the result of "ASSI Spine Fellowship Exit Examination" for the batch 2014-2016.
26-Sep	SPINE MICROSURGERY COURSE - DECEMBER 21ST TO 24TH 2016 - ADD - IN WEBSITE
14-Oct	Reference ASSI various awards for the year 2017
06.01.2016	spine registry portal for the month of December to till date.
28.01.2016	Potts spine multicenter study
03.02.2016	password reset - ASSI-Spine registry
13.02.2016	please provide list of cases - Potts
13.02.2016	Potts spine online portal - Hospital id issue
29.02.2016	ASSI spine registry - admin
03.03.2016	Data Uploaded in ASSI Spine Registry -- Feb 2016
11.03.2016	regarding ASSI registry - Manipal Hospital
18.03.2016	multicenter Potts Spine Study - login details
31.03.2016	report - Potts spine online portal
02.07.2016	total no. of cases uploaded in the ASSI registry till date

Date	Process
04.07.2016	year wise report
05.07.2016	ASSI spine Registry half yearly report
03.08.2016	user name and password - ASSI spine registry-Dr. Shekhar Bhojraj
01.09.2016	ASSI spine registry
21.09.2016	ASSI spine Registry July and August data
03.11.2016	total number of cases in the registry.
14.12.2016	please send us the excel sheet of all the cases entered so far into the portal
	and a separate excel sheet of our center to review all follows-ups.
20.12.2016	ASSI Spine Registry - PD Hinduja hospital

Report on SpineWeek 2016

ASSI participated for the first time as a collaborative partner in SpineWeek 2016. The Meeting took place at the iconic Marina Bay Sands Convention Centre in Singapore from May 16-20, 2016 with ASSI sessions on 16th, 17th & 18th May 2015. The ASSI contingent of 150 members was the second largest.

A core group comprising of Dr. Arvind Jayaswal, Dr. S. Rajasekaran, Dr. Ram Chaddha, Dr. Raghav Dutt, Dr. Saumyajit Basu, Dr. Samir Dalvie and Dr. H S Chhabra had been constituted to look into subsidizing the registration of members, appointment of event manager cum travel agent and other matters pertaining to SpineWeek 2016. The committee had worked out a process for subsidizing the registration of members. It had also negotiated with companies in order to select a suitable one offering the most competitive rates.

Cirrus Travels Pvt. Ltd, represented by Ms. Sapna Rateria, Director had been selected to coordinate registration and help arrange air travel as well as accommodation.

There were 130 abstract submissions. 40 were selected for podium presentations and 40 more got selected for poster presentations. 6 papers out of about 20 submissions were selected for VTI gold medal session. There was a tremendous response for ASSI award submissions and the judges had a tough time to select the best. All abstracts selected for podium presentations and VTI gold medal along with the ASSI award winning abstracts were published in the Asian Spine Journal -- the official journal of ASSI.

The didactic part of the program was high-end with more than a dozen international speakers from various parts of the world including Dr. L Vialle, Dr. H Defino, Dr. R Bains, Dr. CC Wong, Dr. Y Kawaguchi, Dr. K Abumi, Dr. C Lamartina, Dr. P Berjano, Dr. HK Wong, Dr. K Luk, Dr. K Cheung, Dr. B Dahl, Dr. Joel Ignacio and Dr. Md S Alam taking various lectures. There were a galaxy of national doyens covering a wide range of topics from lumbar degenerative to tumours to deformity. There were 3 debates and a separate video session to spice up the program and to make it interesting for the audience.

ASSI hopes to carry forward this effort to future spine week & other international conferences.



ASSI Live Spine Surgery Course, ISIC, New Delhi

This was the first of its kind under the aegis of ASSI. This 3-day live spine surgical workshop covered about 20 surgeries on a wide range of pathologies -- from deformities to tumours to C1/C2 fixations -- and most of the renowned national faculty demonstrated their surgical skills.

It was preceded by the ASSI fellowship exit examinations. There were 8 candidates and 4 examiners and the variety of cases which was put up for examination purpose was praise-worthy. Dr Sumit Sural, Dr Shankar Acharya, Dr Sarat Chandra and Dr Saumyajit Basu were the examiners along with the Chief of Spine Service of ISIC, Dr H.S. Chhabra.

This course also utilized for interviewing the new batch of ASSI fellows in various centres of the country. Prior to this a written examination was held and those who qualified was called in for the interview which was taken by the mentors of all the existing ASSI centres who were running this program. The Executive of the ASSI was also there and the selected candidates were notified on the same day, along with their allocated centres.



ASSI Participation in Global Spine Forum during North American Spine Society (NASS) 2016 Annual Meeting

North American Spine Society (NASS) had invited ASSI to participate in the Global Spine Forum during the NASS Annual Meeting held from 26-29 October 2016 in Boston. The session was held on Friday i.e. 28th October. Dr. Raghav Dutt represented ASSI as a faculty for the session and delivered a talk on "Spine Surgical achievements despite challenges in India".

ASSI was also given a complimentary booth in the Exhibition. Ms. Nazie Dana, Program Director-IASA, was kind enough to accept our request to manage the booth. ICS and ASSICON pamphlets, Newsletters, standees on position statements and ASSI Textbook were displayed.



ASSI Fellowship Exit Examination -2016 report

The exit examination for 'ASSI Spine Fellowship' for the batch 2014-2016 was held on 28th July 2016 at Indian Spinal Injuries Centre, New Delhi during ASSI Spine Surgery Course..

The expert panel of scientific and academic committee of ASSI approved the format for the examination which included a theory paper (100 marks), one long case (50 marks), one short case (25 marks) as well as one ward round case (25 marks) and table viva on various aspects of sub specialty including implants, instruments, radiology, orthotics, surgical approaches, and bone models (100 marks). This was informed to candidates well in advance.

The examiners for the Exit Examination were Dr. Shankar Acharya, Dr. P. Sarat Chandra (AIIMS), Dr. Saumyajiti Basu, Dr. Sumit Saral (MAMC) and the undersigned. There were eight candidates for the exit examination. The examination started as scheduled at 8:00 a.m. with the theory examination (8.00 am - 10.00 am). It ended at around 7:00 p.m. when the examiners got together to compile the results. Seven

candidates were declared successful but one candidate was declared as failed.

The exam was successfully held due to the whole hearted contribution of the examiners. The smooth conduct of the exam would not have been possible without proactive efforts of Dr. Ankur Nanda and Dr. Gururaj who co-ordinated the endeavour and was very ably supported by Dr. Sahil, Dr. Karthik, Dr. Saurabh, Dr. Pramod, Dr. Ansari, Dr. Ashok and Dr. Saransh. The entire team of spine consultants at ISIC and Ms. Neema Bisht provided the necessary support for the smooth conduct of the examination.

Dr. HS Chhabra
Secretary – ASSI



ASSI Spine Fellowship Completion Reports for the year 2014-2016

Subspecialty practice in Orthopedics is going to be the key in the future, especially in the major cities. I identified my keen interest in spine surgery during my postgraduation days and was lucky enough to get selected for the ASSI fellowship, soon after MS while working as a registrar in Bangalore.

Spine surgery is problem-focused and appropriate decision making, correct principles and technique can provide extraordinary outcomes. We have been exposed to the widest range of spinal conditions and learnt tips and tricks from the master himself during this 2-year period. Each patient and scenario brings a unique challenge to what may seem like a repetitive surgery. This fellowship has provided me the platform to visualize these intricacies and manage patients appropriately.

I was discouraged by many seniors for my decision to take the fellowship at Apollo hospital. According to me, Dr Sajan is the most misjudged personality in the Spine fraternity based on his appearance and tone of his voice. One needs to closely observe him for a little period of time to see the passion he puts for every single case he operates even today after 30 years of experience. Hardwork and dedication has brought him to the excellence he has achieved and is indeed a great lesson for us.

Dr Vamsi, associate consultant in our team taught us the basics in spine and we learnt the nuances of spinal exposure and techniques. As Dr Sajan himself puts it, Vamsi sir has taken the OT discipline to a much higher level, a primary reason for the least number of postop infections we see. I would also like to thank my co-fellows Aditya and Hardik, junior consultant Dr Akhil, our team of anesthetists led by Dr Vasantharoopan and the highly abled operation theatre scrub and technical staff. Have got to learn important stuff from every one of them.

Academics found a major place in our fellowship. We would present some common seminar topics and case discussions on 'no surgery' days. Sajan sir gives the liberty to work on the extensive data well maintained over years. No other mentor would give his own expensive laptop to the fellow to work on the papers. I was able to work on and present 6 papers and 7 posters at 4 international conferences including SRS-IMAST and AOSpine global congress. I was also awarded "The Charles Ray award" for best clinical paper at ISASS 2016, Las Vegas, for the paper on Long Term Experience with Reduction Technique in High Grade Spondylolisthesis in the Young. I got an opportunity to send many papers for publications and also work with sir to publish chapters in international and national textbooks, primarily on the use of robotics in spine surgery.

Overall, it has been a great experience to complete this fellowship. The irony of the fellowship though were the exams, we were asked about management and techniques in our entrance exam while drilled on anatomy - physiology in the exit exam. We however know that the real exam starts now when we practice and thanks to sir, there is enough confidence to face the future. Thanks to Dr Chhabra and the ASSI secretariat for the excellent support throughout the fellowship. Proud to be part of ASSI!

Dr. Pramod KS, Apollo hospital, Chennai



The Charles D Ray award for the best clinical paper: at the ISASS 2016 awards ceremony, Las Vegas



Team picture with OT staff and anesthetist

ASSI Fellowship Report 2014-2016

Dr. Kedar Phadke

DNB (Apollo Hospitals, Chennai)

Dip. Orthopaedics, Dip. SICOT (Belgium)

Fellowship in Spine Surgery (ASSI 2 year fellowship at ISIC, New Delhi)

Fellowship in Spine Surgery (Aarhus, Denmark)

Fellowship in Endoscopic Spine Surgery (South Korea)



Indian Spinal Injuries Centre, New Delhi

The ending: I have rehearsed many times through the 2 years of my fellowship, the last day at work; the farewell talk, the good byes, going home after a grueling 2 years of learning spine and the sense of accomplishment among many other things. But when the moment has arrived, I don't feel like doing any of these. 2 years and ISIC is family now, to be honest much more than a family. To bid adieu is disheartening.

The selection: ICS 2014 at Udaipur was a memorable event in my life. I arrived with the hope of getting selected to the prestigious ASSI spine fellowship. Dr. Sajan Hegde my first guru and my inspiration has been instrumental in having drawn me into spine. If I have to answer anyone this question, "Why spine surgery?" he is my answer. Having completed my DNB training and worked under Dr. Hegde for a brief period of time, spine was what I decided would be my forte. I had made up my mind to enroll in a dedicated 2 year fellowship to learn the skills required to make a good surgeon. After making the cut through the MCQ's, I was interviewed for the fellowship programme. I really don't recollect everything that happened that day in the interview hall, but I was overwhelmed when I met and interacted with the best spine surgeons of our country. ISIC came as a surprise selection. I was chuffed to bits. I must thank my stars for that day. Everything was perfect.

Family: Leaving family is always a tough part. My wife and I were expecting our first child then, and hence she couldn't come over to Delhi. That was the biggest challenge in terms of personal life. I had made my choice, and the rest I hoped would fall into place. I dedicate this fellowship to my wife Dr. Sandhya and my daughter Aadya. I owe them a lot. At the same time, Dr. Chhabra helped me settle down at my own pace. I visited home every alternate weekend initially. Sir was kind enough to give me permission for half day or sometimes even a couple of days leave when I would end up requesting out of the blue. Words will not justify his kindness.

Indian Spinal Injuries Centre: I have no doubts in my mind; this is 'the place' you have to be in when it comes to spine fellowship. I certainly recommend every young orthopaedic surgeon to visit ISIC albeit for a short period of time, if you are not fortunate enough to bag the 2 year fellowship. This is the Mecca of spine surgery. With a huge number of spine patients, it is literally a library of spine in itself. With 140 beds and expanding, the hospital caters to a large population and all aspects of spine ailment. I was fortunate to have spent 2 years here. ISIC, in its very concept, is unlike other hospitals. We are a family here, not employees. Everyone is treated with great love and respect. This flows through all the staff or should I say family members. That's how medical care as an institute must be. It is phenomenal to say the least.

OPD: Every fellow's initial nightmare here is the OPD. It seems never ending, long, monotonous and arduous. Of course as days pass by, things change. One begins to enjoy it. Nothing beats experience, and experience requires numbers. If you can get both in a matter of 2 years, it sure is here. Most of the OPD days have over or around 100 patients of spine. One gets to see examine everything from trauma, degenerative, infections, osteoporosis, tumors, congenital to deformities; all under one roof. More importantly, one gets to follow up all cases for 2 years. Is the treatment working? Do you need to treat surgically? Is the presentation different? Does the patient need more investigations? Do you need to stop ATT? Does the patient need psychological evaluation? You shall find all answers here. I enjoyed presenting cases and the variety of discussions with Dr. Chhabra. His energy in seeing so many patients for every alternate day all through the year inspires one to put in more effort. Many of my concepts and skills improved over a period of this fellowship.

OT: The best days of the fellowship were in the operation theatre. The days were long & nights sometimes longer but nonetheless thoroughly enjoyable. I started scrubbing from the very first day. The first couple of months were spent getting the hang of spine surgery. Gradually I began advancing into introducing pedicle screws. I remember my first pedicle screw vividly. I was assisting Dr. Ankur Nanda in an osteoporotic fracture fixation. I thank Dr. Ankur for my first pedicle screw. It will always be a special moment in my life. By the end of 6 months of fellowship, I was doing fracture fixations in ASIA –A neurology patients independently. Over the next 6 months I graduated to exposing the anterior cervical spine and decompressing lumbar spine. I also learnt transforaminal nerve root blocks. Into the second year I had assisted a good number of cases and was ready for the next step. I got to do independent ACDF under Dr. Chhabra in a neurological intact patient. That progressed to doing anterior corpectomy of cervical spine in an intact patient under Dr. Mohapatra. Dr. Das provided me the chance to do my first independent TLIF as well as my first kyphoplasty. All these cases have been benchmarks in my short spine career. I thank all the consultants for their faith & confidence. By the end of my fellowship, I got to do variety of cases independently including discectomies, ACDF,ACCF, occipitocervical fusions, lateral mass fixations and posterior cervical decompressions, thoracic myelopathy, TLIF, ilio-sacral fixations, osteoporotic fracture fixations & kyphoplasty to name a few. I also had the opportunity in assisting cases of deformity corrections. The most challenging cases were revisions and I feared doing them. But under the able guidance of Dr. Chhabra, I learnt 'the tricks of the trade' and I continue to learn through every case I operate upon. The best part of ISIC is with 10 consultants to learn from; it's a combined experience of over 100 years of spine surgery. And you take more than you can imagine.

Dr. Chhabra: Words will never justify Dr. Chhabra. He is an institution in himself. He is one who drives inspiration by example. When you have a great leader, even the mediocre improves tremendously. He has mentored over 50 fellows at ISIC and I must say I have been really lucky to be one of them. He has been a wonderful teacher, mentor, friend, father, party pal, well wisher, administrator, researcher and many more on different occasions. The best part is the way he lives every role to perfection. He is 'the person' I would always look upon for everything from seeking guidance for a difficult case, to discussing personal problems, to looking for research projects, to handling difficult patients in wards and most importantly to learn spine surgery. He has always been there when needed. I wish to thank him whole heartedly for everything. I hope to carry on his legacy and improve everyday as I begin my career as a spine surgeon. I salute you sir.

Conferences, Research and Textbook: ISIC allows you to participate actively in conferences and I have been privileged to be involved in organizing a few of them too. During the course of 2 years, I attended ASSICON in Pune and Goa. I also participated in the Spine week at Singapore. I was an organizing member of ISSICON 2015 as well as ASSI live surgery course in 2016. I also attended the SICOT 2016 conference at Rome, the ISCoS 2016 conference at Vienna and ISSICON 2016 at Nepal. I presented papers in almost all the conferences. Organizing conferences built a strong team spirit and I learned a lot about event management. I was also part of 2 FNB and an ASSI exam conducted at ISIC. I was part of project in collaboration with ISIC, ISCoS and SCS where in we formulated a position statement on stem cell therapy in spinal cord injuries. As a thesis I worked on the topic of "Appropriateness of outcome measure scores and the scope of improvement in spinal cord injured patients". Both these projects are being submitted for publications. ISIC also observed the SCI day on Sept 5 2016, wherein I participated in a wheel chair rally at India gate, New Delhi. It was a truly enriching experience. I also had a great opportunity to be in the editorial committee of Dr. Chhabra's Textbook on 'Comprehensive management of Spinal Cord Injuries'. I thank sir for having me as one of his team members. In addition to these, we reviewed articles and discussed various journals as a part of the daily morning meet. Learning the fine aspects of how to read and review a journal helped me grow as a researcher. This has helped me in becoming an independent reviewer of 4 international journals now, including the 'Spine' and 'European Spine Journal'. I also got an opportunity to learn endoscopic surgery in South Korea where in I spent 15 days at Nanoori University Hospital. I thank sir for this fantastic opportunity.

Acknowledgements: In everyone's life there are a lot of people who stand by your side and support you as you grow into a better person. I would fail in my duty if I don't mention each one of them. My parents, who have encouraged me every single day of my life and have taught me to lead a life that involves, more of 'giving' than 'taking'. I hope I continue to make them proud. My wife and daughter, who have sacrificed their golden phase of life, so that I can pursue my dream; my in laws, who have been always supportive of

my decisions, my close friends who have seen my failures and frustrations but have stuck by my side, my sister & brother in law for their constant encouragement. I can't thank them all enough. I would like to extend my deepest gratitude and respect to all consultants of ISIC, Dr. Chhabra, Dr. Das, Dr. Mohapatra, Dr. Ankur, Dr. Vikas, Dr. Gururaj, Dr. Bansal, Dr. Nishit, Dr. Rajat, Dr. Vedant, Dr. Abhishek and Dr. Neeraj. I owe them a lot for all that I learnt through these 2 years. I wish to thank my co-fellows Dr. Srinivas, Dr. Saurabh and Dr. Pramod who made life much easier and enjoyable at ISIC. It would not have been the same otherwise. My co-fellows Dr. Raghavendra, Dr. Tarsem, Dr. Sahil, Dr. Areena, Dr. Karthik, Dr. Ashok, Dr. Nisar and Dr. Saransh. It was a pleasure working with all of them. The entire team of ISIC, including the HR department, the OT staff, the OPD staff, the ward boys and the spine nurses. I thank them all. I also wish to thank Dr. Chhabra's secretarial team Ms Shashi, Ms Meenakshi, Mr Honey, Mr Ashwani and Ms Neema who have also become good friends. God has been kind for this once in a life time opportunity and I can only thank Him by helping my patients in the future.

Thank you ASSI and ISIC for this fellowship. I turned into a better human being. I hope to render my services to both in whatever way I can in the near future.



ASSI Fellowship Report 2014-2016

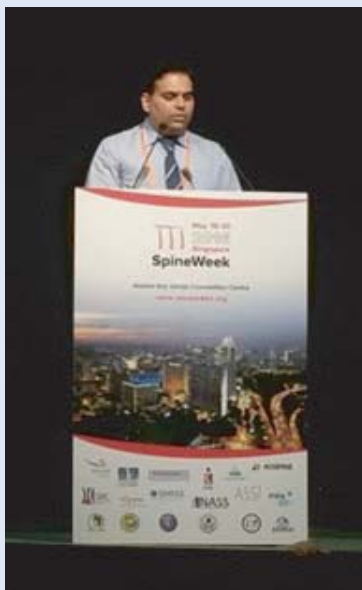
Dr. Shumayou Dutta
MBBS, MS(Orth). FASSI
Bombay Hospital.

That it's already been two years and the time has come to write the fellowship report is hard to imagine. It feels like it was just yesterday that I packed my bags yet again to move to a new city for academic reasons. Moving to Bombay is never easy as the city of dreams comes with its own unique set of challenges.

The Bombay Hospital fellowship program stands out for having a term in Neurosurgery also and I started my fellowship with this. During this period I participated in the management of intraspinal pathologies of varied etiology from tumours/ tethered cords to intradural av malformations. While this may not become a part of my eventual practise, at the least it has allayed my fear of dural tears and familiarised me with repair techniques and working in and around the spinal cord. Directly working with the likes of Dr CE Deopujari was also a very humbling experience. Not only did sir entertain all my queries but also engaged me in academic projects. The orthopaedic rotation of my fellowship was under Dr A.Kulkarni and Dr Vishal Kundnani. This was both an extensive and intensive experience. A typical day would start by 7.30am with the day's surgeries, followed by rounds and opd usually till 10pm. I must admit to feeling very lucky as my mentors not only actively discussed strategies, planning and "tricks of the trade" with me but also walked me through the correct surgical steps in the OR.

I always felt that they had made my personal growth, their own responsibility, for which I am ever grateful. The Bombay Hospital spine unit is also very academic and research inclined. I have personally had 3 publications in internationally peer reviewed journals, contributed a chapter in a textbook, have presented multiple papers nationally and even an award session paper presentation in just 2 years. Besides this we also were the host for a national conference and many spine courses. For anyone who is hungry for knowledge and yearning to learn cutting edge technology, the Bombay Hospital spine fellowship programme should be on your list. As I pack my bags to leave my Bombay Hospital family behind,

I feel comforted in knowing that my mentors will continue watching over me for many years to come and while the chapter is over, the story has just begun!



ASSI Fellowship Report 2014 - 2016

Dr. Shardul Madhav Soman, Civil Hospital Ahmedabad

My journey as an ASSI fellow started after been selected initially in the waiting list at ICS 14. After 15 days I learnt that had the chance to join the ASSI fellowship at B.J. Medical College and Civil Hospital, Ahmedabad. I was given the post of Clinical Assistant at the Government Spine Institute and Paraplegia Hospital and got the opportunity to learn and understand the real problems that the Spinal Cord Injury patients face and the excellent rehabilitation provided free of cost to the patients. This helped me realise that surgery is the least thing that can be done in the SCI patients and the real work starts after that.

Also I was exposed to almost all kind of patients with spine affection in the heavy OPD hours. We had daily discussion regarding the plans of the patients and also on what went wrong in few surgeries with Dr. GD Tharadara and Dr. MM Prabhakar. My thesis topic was "Basilar Invagination" which helped me to get exposed to one of the most complex surgical problems in spine. Also I would like to give special thanks to Dr. J V Modi for helping me during the fellowship. Also thanks to all the consultants for helping me in during the fellowship.

Also got a chance to attend a lot of conferences, workshop and operative course which helped me in developing my knowledge further. Few limitations were off course with this being the first time like transfers of mentor and some other spine consultants to ot

her college for short time which hinders the flow of learning a bit. But overall it was a fantastic learning experience under the mentorship of Dr. MM Prabhakar and to cap it all topping the exit exams of the fellowship. Hoping to continue a long association with the ASSI and continue learning spine.

Report of ASSI Travelling Fellowship 2016

Dr. Chandrashekhar Gaike and Dr. Kunal Shah

At the outset, we would like to thank ASSI for this wonderful opportunity of travelling fellowship in eminent spine Centre's across India. Our fellowship began with ASSI live surgery course, which was conducted for the first time by ASSI at ISIC, New Delhi. It was a great initiative by ASSI and well planned event. We got to see various different kinds of surgeries performed by eminent spine surgeons across India. The interaction with the faculty and organizing team at ISIC was useful. We hope to see many such courses by ASSI in coming years.

After the course, we started our fellowship of three weeks and reached Ganga hospital which was our first Centre. Here we got to see a plethora of cases including trauma, tumor, infection, deformity and degenerative through the week. Dr Rajasekaran arranged a microsurgical cadaveric workshop for one day. Here we practiced on cadaver with microscope, basic surgical procedures like dural repair, anterior cervical discectomy etc. Dr Rajasekaran and Dr Ajoy Shetty discussed all cases preoperatively and intraoperatively with us which was a good learning experience. We saw many cases done with CT guided navigation which improved our knowledge of its spectrum of indications. Rehabilitation centre and proteomic laboratory were the other interesting things we observed. On our last day, Ajoy sir arranged for us to see ISHA foundation, one of the most beautiful recreation centre in the country.

With good memories we moved on to our next centre in Chennai under Dr Sajan hedge. We had a warm welcome and great hospitality. Dr Sajan had arranged scoliosis cases throughout the week which included syndromic scoliosis, AIS and congenital scoliosis. Observing scoliosis all through the week and interaction with Dr Sajan cleared lot of our concepts. Apart from scoliosis we saw multilevel cervical corpectomies' and lumbar fusions done differently. We saw robotic spine system and understood its functioning. Dr Sajan was kind to take us for a ride in his new monster Mercedes AMG S 65, that was a breath taking experience.

The third and final centre of our fellowship was Park clinic in Kolkata under Dr Saumyajit Basu. The outstanding feature of this centre was well planned academics and discussions. We saw some variety of cases done meticulously which as a young surgeons helped us to learn simple steps in routine surgeries. We got the opportunity to interact with Neurosurgeons also. We attended wednesday OPD consisting of only operative follow ups, Dr Basu explained us in details about each followup case which was a great learning experience. We saw some beautiful historic places in Kolkata which added to our fellowship experience.

Overall, this was the best platform for us to see different spine centres and interacting with the bosses academically and personally. We saw variety of cases, different techniques, new armamentarium in spine, made friends in different cities and saw beautiful places. we again thank ASSI for this lifetime experience!!!

Winners of various ASSI Awards 2017

A.S.S.I. PUBLICATION AWARD – 2017	Dr. S. Rajasekaran
A.S.S.I. - CLINICAL RESEARCH AWARD – 2017	Dr. HS Chhabra
A.S.S.I. – BASIC SCIENCES AWARD – 2017	Dr. HS Chhabra
A.S.S.I. – YOUNG INVESTIGATORS AWARD – 2017	Dr. Arun Kumar
A.S.S.I. – TRAVELLING FELLOWSHIP FOR 2017	Dr. Shumayou Dutta Dr.G.Vijayaraghavan

Non-academic article

QUACKS IN INDIA – BANE OR BOON?

It is an established fact that in India 70% of rural population is not covered for health care delivery due to shortage of doctors, nurses and paramedics. There is also huge problem of connectivity, roads & transport. It is estimated that there are about 2.5 million quacks, bonesetters, faithhealer and masseurs. Whether one likes it or not, as of now, these quacks are the ones who serve poor and neglected patients in the remote villages of the country. The budget allocated for health by Union Government and State government is dismal. So inspite of the law which prevents these quacks from prescribing medicines and other forms of the treatment, it goes on, as there is no regulatory effective mechanism to stop them.

Until the nation is in a position to serve the entire population of the country adequately and satisfactorily, we have no option to accept the present scenario of quacks. However these quacks can be trained as 'Health Care Providers' which will be a stop gap arrangement.

Padmashree Dr. S.M. Hardikar

M.B.,F.R.C.S.

Hardikar Hospital Director

Prestigious Positions / Awards / Achievements of ASSI Members

Achievements

International

Dr. S. Rajasejaram

- ♦ Took over as President of SICOT (International Society for Orthopaedics & Trauma Surgery), World's largest body of Orthopaedic surgeons, in Rome on September 10th, 2016.



Dr. Bhavuk garg

- ♦ Member: International education committee, North American Spine Society
- ♦ Fellow of Scoliosis Research Society
- ♦ One of the patent holder of Flexi-OH, selected in top 30 innovations of IIGP program and shortlisted by university of Texas for commercialization.

Dr. Abhijeet Kadam

- ♦ Clinical fellowship in Spine Surgery and Adult Spine Deformity at Pennsylvania Hospital, Philadelphia, USA under the mentorship of Dr. Vincent Arlet.

Dr. HS Chhabra

- ♦ Successfully conceived and co-ordinated events globally on SCI Day, 5th September as SCI Day Chair of International Spinal Cord Society (ISCoS)

Prestigious Positions

National

Dr. HS Chhabra

- ♦ Alternate Chairman, National Apex Committee for Stem Cell Research and Therapy (NAC-SCRT)

Awards

International

Dr. Shumayou Dutta

- ♦ Best Paper Award at SPINE 2016 (Neuro Spinal Surgeons Association 's annual conference) for the paper titled 'Degenerative Spondylolisthesis: Is It Always Unstable? A new scoring system to aid decision making and apply value based Spine Care.'

Dr. Arvind Kulkarni

- ♦ Best Poster Award at APCSS 2016 (Asia Pacific Cervical Spine Society conference 2016 – Seoul) for the poster titled "Clinico-Radiological outcomes of stand-alone trans-articular screw fixation without Gallie supplementation in the management of mobile Atlanto-Axial Instability". Associate author was Dr. Shumayou Dutta

Dr Sarvdeep Singh Dhatt

- ♦ Global Outreach Program Educational scholarship for the year 2016 and also the 2016 Global Medical Fellow award to do an Advanced Spine Fellowship at the University of Copenhagen, Denmark.

Dr. Ravish Patel

- ♦ Best Presentation Award for paper on "Stand-alone lateral recess decompression without discectomy in patients presenting with claudicant radicular pain and MRI evidence of lumbar disc herniation. A prospective study" at ASIA SPINE 2016 Congress held at Seoul, Korea (22nd-24th September, 2016).

Dr Pramod KS

- ♦ "The Charles D Ray award" for BEST CLINICAL PAPER at ISASS 2016, Las Vegas, NV, USA. Paper title - Long Term Experience with Reduction Technique in High Grade Spondylolisthesis in the Young".

Ms. Neema Bisht

- ♦ Poster titled on “Community Awareness Program for Prevention of SCI” selected in top 8 best poster during Posters competition organized by International Spinal Cord Society (ISCoS). There were total 32 posters.

Dr. HS Chhabra

- ♦ AOSpine Asia Pacific (AOSAP) Regional Research Award for study titled “Effectiveness of various diagnostic and management tools for the treatment/management of people with Pott’s spine in India- A prospective, observational multicentric cohort study.”
- ♦ 2nd Best poster award in ISCoS Poster competition on “Community Awareness Program for Prevention of SCI”.
- ♦ ASSI Clinical & Basic Research Awards 2017

National

Dr. Ravish Patel

- ♦ Best paper award MISSICON, New Delhi- Oct 2016 Title: Tubular retractor guided translaminar discectomy for cranially and caudally migrated disc herniations. Authors: Dr.Nandish kumar k.c. Presenting author; Principal Author – Dr Arvind Kulkarni, Bombay Hospital, Mumbai

Dr. HS Chhabra

- ♦ Spinal Cord Society (SCS) Gold Medal Award for best poster

ICS 2017

ICS 2017 Kovalam will be held from 11th to 13th August 2017. The meeting will be hosted by the Trivandrum Spine Society in cooperation with the Kerala Spine Society, Trivandrum Orthopaedic Society and Spine Society of KOA. The venue of the conference is The Leela, Kovalam, 7 star facility with private beach and 150 rooms, conference hall, dinner hall, space for exhibition. Distance from Trivandrum International airport is 12 Kms. The tentative theme of the ICS 2017 is "Spinal Interventions - Long Term Outcomes, the way forward". We are planning a cyclothon with theme : " Time is Spine " emphasizing the importance of early care in spine trauma victims. The website www.icskovalam.com will be up by the month end, with online registration.

The organizing Committee of ICS 2017 is as under:

- ♦ Organizing chairman : Dr K V Menon
- ♦ Organising Secretary: Dr Ranjith Unnikrishnan.
- ♦ Jt Organising Secretaries : Dr Ashok Ramakrishnan, Dr Ashok Thomas, Dr Shiju Majeed , Dr Sabari Gireesh. (All from Kerala Spine Society)

The highlights of ICS 2017 are as under:

- ♦ Start of Online Registration : From MISSICON Delhi October 2016.
- ♦ Early Bird Registration Upto 30 th January 2017 (ASSICON 2017, Venue Registration)
- ♦ Late Registration : Upto July 15th 2017.
- ♦ Spot after July 15th 2017.
- ♦ Event Manager : Not Yet finalized
- ♦ ICS2017 App from Android and iPhone will be available from March 2017 (Proposed)

Web based upload of all presentation by the delegates will be encouraged, including faculty, well ahead of the meeting to avoid last minute confusion.

ASSICON 2018

The conference ASSICON 2018 will be held at ITC Grand Chola Chennai on 19th, 20th and 21st January 2018. The organising chairman is Dr. Sajan K Hegde and Vice Chairman is Dr. Prashant Kekre. I , Dr. Appaji Krishnan will be organising secretary. The organising team will include Dr. Parthasarathy. S, Dr.Ravi. V, Dr. Nalli Yuvaraj, Dr. Karunakaran .S and Dr. Karthik Kailash.

The major impetus of the conference is going to be safety in spine surgery and innovations.

There will be pre-conference workshop / industry session on the 18th January 2018.

A good academic feast and the famed Chennai hospitality would be offered

The registration cost will be ascertained in a weeks time.



Hosted by



30th Annual Conference of Association of Spine Surgeons of India

26th - 29th January 2017, HICC, Hyderabad



www.assicon2017.in

Notice for General Body Meeting of the A.S.S.I.

The Annual General Body Meeting of the Association of Spine Surgeons of India will be held on Saturday, 28th January 2017 at 17.30 hrs in Hall A, HICC Hotel, Hyderabad. All members of the A.S.S.I. are requested to attend.

The following matters are on the agenda:

President's welcome

Condolences & Leaves of Absence if any

Ratification of the Minutes of the last A.G.B.M. – Goa and E.G.B.M.-Singapore

Secretarial Report

Accounts & Income Tax Status including closure of accounts and ASSI contribution of 29th ASSCON at

Goa and SpineWeek 2015

A.S.S.I. Presidential Guest Speaker–ASSCON 2018

Election of Office Bearers

ICS – 2017: Kovalam - Update

ASSCON 2018 : Chennai - update

ASSCON 2019: Venue and Date

BRICS Meeting at Rio from April 19-22, 2017

Tie up with Korean Society of Spine Surgery (KSSS) for ICS for next 2 years starting this year.

Proposal from British Scoliosis Society (BSS)

Proposal from AO Spine for ASSI to hold a symposium at Global Spine Congress (GSC) 2018 in Singapore

ASSI Constitutional Amendment

Awards of ASSI

Ratification of New Members

Any other matter with the permission of the Chair

Official handing over of Presidency and acceptance speech by the incoming President

Spine Conferences from January to December 2017

Save the dates

Month	Dates	Conference	Society	City	Website
Year 2017					
January	26 - 29	ASSICON 2017	Association of Spine Surgeons of India (ASSI)	Hyderabad	http://assicon2017.in/
	18 – 20	ISMISS 2017	International Society of Minimally Invasive Spine Surgery (ISMISS)	Chicago, IL	https://www.spine.org/ISM/ISS
March	4-5	Joint ISIC, IIT Delhi and University of Toledo "International workshop on Clinical Spine Biomechanics"	Spinal Cord Society	New Delhi	http://www.scs-isic.com
May	3 - 6	Global Spine Congress	AO Spine	Milan , Italy	http://gsc2017.org/index.php
July	12 - 15	24th IMAST	Scoliosis Research Society (SRS)	Cape Town, South Africa	www.srs.org
August	11 - 13	ICS 2017	ASSI	The Leela, Kovalam	
September	1-3	ASSICON 2017	Spinal Cord Society	New Delhi	
	6-9	52nd Annual Meeting & Course	Scoliosis Research Society (SRS)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	www.srs.org
	21 – 23	11th Biennial Combined Congress of APSS-APPOS	Asia Pacific Spine Society (APSS)	Grand Hyatt, Panaji, Goa	www.apss-appos2017.org
October	11 - 13	EuroSpine	Europine Spine society	Dublin	http://www.eurospine.org/the-spine-society-of-europe.htm
	24-26	56th ISCoS Annual Meeting	International Spinal Cord Society (ISCoS)	Dublin, Ireland	http://www.iscos.org.uk/2017-annual-scientific-meeting
November	30 - December 2	Cervical Spine Research Society Annual Meeting	Cervical Spine Research Society	Hollywood, Fla.	http://www.csr.org/event/s/annual-meeting/

ASSI Secretariat, Indian Spinal Injuries Centre, Sector-C, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110070.
Tel: +91-11- 42255356; E-mail: assi.secretariat@isiconline.org; assi.secretary@isiconline.org; www.assi.in

Concept, Design and Layout - Miss Ishika Ahluwalia