



January 2018

From the President's Desk



Dear Colleague

I wish you and your family a very happy and healthy New year. It is also that time of year when we reflect on what ASSI has done and achieved in the year gone by.

The first thing we did was to change our WEBSITE. The new ASSI website is theme based, user friendly and futuristic.

You must have noticed that this NEWS LETTER is no longer available to you in print format. To contribute to the environment, I have done away with use of paper and introduced our News Letter in digital format.

The year 2017 saw ASSI for the first time reaching out to two tier cities to train and to update our colleagues . The SPINE OUTREACH programs so far held at Guwahati, Patna and Trichy were a huge success. I am pleased to inform you that ASSI will be travelling to 4 more cities across India in 2018.

A lot of hard work has gone into preparation of ASSI MONOGRAPHS IN SPINE. Three of these Monographs will be released in ASSICON 2018 and I sincerely thank all the authors and Editors of these Monographs for their dedication and hard work in bringing out these books.

THE INDIAN SPINE JOURNAL is ready and will be in your hands from Jan.2018. I urge all of you to send your original work for publication and I am confident that in the years to come The Indian Spine Journal both in print and in electronic format would be widely read across the Globe.

I sincerely thank all of you who worked so hard to help ASSI achieve so much in just one year. I Look forward to your continued support and commitment in 2018.

With best wishes

Dr Raghava Dutt Mulukutla
President - ASSI

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January 2018

From the Secretary's Desk



I feel honored and privileged to write to you from the Secretary's Desk of ASSI. It has been a year since I took over and it has been a great learning experience for me. Overawed by my predecessor, Dr Chhabra's work, it took quite some time to cope up with the daily activities of ASSI and it was a major challenge for me to match up to his standards. Having overcome that, the first task for me was to organize the entire gamut of activities of this prestigious society into various committees and task forces. Once that was done, allocating responsibilities to each of them was completed soon after. The co-opted Executive Committee pool was then selected and a proper executive structure was laid down with the Core Executive (consisting of President, President-Elect, Secretary and Joint Secretary) at the top, the Executive Committee Members and Chair of the various committees following them, with the co-opted members serving as the foundation. Details of various committee and task force activities are given below. Please take some time out to read through them and feel free to contact us regarding any queries you might require to be clarified.

There have been significant increases of activities of ASSI with new initiatives being started like Indian Spine Journal, ASSI Monographs and ASSI Outreach Program. You will get to know them in details under the appropriate headings. The fellowship entrance and exit examinations have been streamlined. The website has been completely re-designed, the ASSI Spine Registry portal has been completely revamped and the fellowship entrance and exit examinations have been streamlined. The numbers of members of ASSI continue to grow just as the participation level of ASSI meetings including the ICS and ASSICON have witnessed a phenomenal increase. ASSI is now having a global presence and we have partnered successful meetings with international societies like NASS, APSS, SRS, CSRS, etc.

I hope that with your unstinted support and blessings, we will be able to carry the ASSI torch further so that our society soars to newer heights of academic excellence. Let us pledge to share our thoughts and work together to make it the best in the world.

Long live ASSI !

Regards,
Dr Saumyajit Basu
Secretary - ASSI

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January 2018

Minutes of the Extra-ordinary General Body Meeting (E.G.B.M.) of Association of Spine Surgeons of India (ASSI)

Held on: Saturday, 12th August 2017 at 18:00 hrs
Venue: Hotel Leela, Kovalam

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.

Secretarial Report

Dr Saumyajit Basu briefed the members about the activities of ASSI since 1st February 2017 – he mentioned that it was a daunting task for him to take over as Secretary of ASSI at ASSICON, Hyderabad and especially to live up to the standards of Dr Harvinder Singh Chhabra who has left an indelible mark in the history of ASSI by his secretarial activities over the last four years.

The first major activity, he mentioned, was reorganizing various committees (please view in [website](#)), co-opting interested members to give the committee a proper shape and relegate responsibilities to each.

The details are as under:

Committees of ASSI

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

Report of The Program Committee

Dr GR Vijay Kumar briefed the members that the program committee has been allocated to work on the various programs of ASSI and other meetings with ASSI co-branding. Due to the successful functioning of this committee, various conferences and meetings of ASSI had relevant and attractive programs with good delegate interaction. The meetings which the program committee has looked after include ASSICON Hyderabad, ASSI Outreach Program, Guwahati, ICS, Kovalam and the forthcoming IOACON, Indore.

Report of the ASSI Education Committee

Dr Gururaj briefed the members that the education committee would be looking after the fellowship entrance and exit examinations. 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, Ganga Hospital, Coimbatore and Wockhardt Hospital Mumbai & two seats in Park Clinic, Kolkata. This time a web based company was hired for the online ASSI entrance exam and nearly 50 candidates took the exams after a mock test was successfully conducted. 15 of the them have been shortlisted for the counselling, which will take place on the sidelines of ICS Kovalam through which allocation of ASSI fellows to the various accredited centers would be done. The interviews were held on Saturday, 12th August 2017. Following candidates were selected:

1. Dr Rajdeep Singh Bagga
Centre - Ganga Hospital, Coimbatore
Mentor - Dr S. Rajasekaran
2. Dr Anuj Gupta
Centre - Indian Spinal Injuries Centre, New Delhi
Mentor - Dr H.S. Chhabra
3. Dr Rohan Bharat Gala
Centre - Park Clinic, Kolkatta
Mentor - Dr Saumyajit Basu
4. Dr Naveen Aggarwal
Centre - Park Clinic, Kolkatta
Mentor - Dr Saumyajit Basu
5. Dr Ashwinkumar Vasant Khandge
Centre - Bombay Hospital, Mumbai
Mentor - Dr CE Deopujari, Dr. Arvind G. Kulkarni and Dr Vishal Kundhani
6. Dr Vigneshwara
Centre - Apollo Hospitals, Chennai
Mentor - Dr Sajan Hedge
7. Dr Pramod Baral
Centre - Wockhardt Hospital, Mumbai
Mentor - Dr Abhay Nene
8. Dr Harshil Patel
Centre - BJ Medical College and Civil Hospital, Ahmedabad
Mentor - Dr Jayprakash Modi / Dr M.M. Prabhakar

Wait-listed candidates

1. Dr Prabhat Agrawal
2. Dr Jagandeep Singh Virk
3. Dr Sagar Sharma

The exit exam has been planned this year on 16th September 2017 at Park Clinic, Kolkata. Examiners of the exit exams includes – Dr Saumyajit Basu, Dr Rohit Amritanand, Dr Shankar Acharya and Dr Vijay Kumar. The education committee is also pondering over a plan to start a short-term fellowship program which has been discussed in the executive committee meeting.

It was also discussed and ASSI will be going to have ASSI PG teaching program. The details of the same are going to be worked out by the Education Committee.

Report of ASSI Social Work Committee

Dr Abhay Nene briefed the members that the social committee of ASSI is actively doing various

types useful charitable work for societal benefits. The spectrum of work ranges from organizing free surgeries to medical checkup camps to training spine surgeons in various parts of the country. Many poor patients are being supported by this fund and we hope that it spread its wings throughout the length and breadth of this huge country.

ASSI Advocacy Committee

Dr Shankar Acharya briefed the members that the Advocacy committee would look after all the social awareness aspects of ASSI including all press releases and related issues. It will be in continuous touch with governmental and non-governmental regulatory bodies to make orthopedic surgeons and neurosurgeons to become equally efficient and legally responsible for various categories of patients with spinal disorders.

ASSI Nomination and Constitution Committee

Dr Ram Chaddha briefed the members that the nomination and constitution committee is looking after various constitutional aspects of the ASSI including various legal angles of the same. Amendments which have been proposed and ratified by the GB will soon be incorporated. It is also scrutinizing all the nominations and applications for various ASSI posts which become vacant from time to time. It will also scrutinize applications for various ASSI meetings including ASSICONS and ICSs. He is also briefed that members that there are two Executive posts which are going to be vacant for the next year and for which last date for application will be 30th October 2017.

Dr Ram Chaddha also appealed to the General Body to consider the period of Secretary's tenure to be reduced to 2 years and the President's tenure to be reduced to one year. The society has grown a lot over the last few years and is likely to go on expanding in the next few years. Many worthy candidates for Secretary and President are not getting the chance to be considered for the position because of the present tenure of 3 years for Secretary and 2 years for the President. He earnestly requested the senior members to put forward their suggestion in this regard so that the constitution amendment can be passed by the General Body in ASSICON Chennai.

ASSI Research Committee

Dr Naresh Babu briefed the members that the research committee is dedicated to various research activities of ASSI. This includes ongoing research projects and recruiting new research concepts for multicentric data analysis. This committee also has been instrumental in formulating various ASSI research proposals and as mentioned earlier, thesis topics has been allocated to ASSI fellows and it is hoped that each of these would be published in peer reviewed journals with high international acceptance.

ASSI Spine Registry Committee

Dr. Bharat Dave briefed the members that the registry committee has been looking after the ASSI Spine Registry and the website has been completely revamped with different search engines incorporated in to the system so that all the uploaded data can be retrieved and analyzed smoothly. Based on this registry data, various thesis topics have been allocated to the ASSI Fellows. Our sincere thanks goes to the all those 10 centers who have been uploading their case details religiously for the last 5 years. It is only due to their efforts that the prospects of multicentric data analysis would see the light of the day

ASSI Website Committee

Dr Rohit Amritanand briefed the members that the website committee has launched a completely new website of ASSI. This website is now more interactive and will soon have online registration system, online payment portal and online directory of all ASSI members. We hope that within the next ASSICON, we are going to realize the fruitfulness of this new website. Lot of efforts has gone in designing this website and we encourage all members to log on to www.assi.in to get the best out of it.

In addition to these committees, 4 task forces have been formed.

The first is the **Task Force on the Indian Spine Journal (ISJ)** which is scheduled to come out in January 2018. Dr Anil Jain has kindly consented to be the editor in chief and we have already signed an agreement with the publishing house, Wolters Kluwer, for publishing the ISJ. Initially it would be printed twice in a year and once more and more articles are submitted by our members, it will be increased to 4 times in a year. Please submit articles and this is the only way ISJ would become an indexed journal of international repute soon. The first issue has been planned to be a symposium on spinal infections and is scheduled to be released at the inauguration of ASSICON Chennai.

The second is the **Task Force on the ASSI Outreach Program**. This program is supported by Medtronic and Dr Ajoy Shetty and Dr Samir Dalvi are the key persons who are looking after this activity. This one-day event would reach out to the various orthopedic and neurosurgeons from the second tier cities of our country so that the participants can interact on basic topics, like disc prolapse, spinal trauma and tuberculosis.

The third is the **Task Force on Prevention of Spinal Cord Injuries**. Headed by Dr H. S. Chhabra, this task force is responsible for spreading societal awareness regarding this issue and would devise ways and means to interact with various governmental and non-governmental agencies regarding this. The task force is already on the process of organizing a 2-day workshop on this.

The fourth is the **Task Force on ASSI Monographs**. We are all thankful to Dr Gautam Zaveri for his tumultuous efforts to bring out the topic based ASSI monographs. It has been a huge challenge for him to bring all the authors to submit their chapters in a mutually agreed time line. Thieme publishers is going to bring out the ASSI monographs and you will be happy to know that till now we have been on target and we plan to bring out the first few in ASSICON Chennai.

Further Matters

ASSI Travelling Fellowship

Dr Saumyajit Basu briefed the members that the Travelling fellowship of ASSI was awarded to Dr Shomayu Dutta and Dr Vijayraghavan in the last year. As per their choice, they visited Ganga Hospital, Coimbatore, ISIC New Delhi and Amrita Institute at Kochi. All local arrangements have been done by the mentors of these hospitals and the travel costs were born by ASSI. We hope they had a successful learning experience.

ASSI Research Award

- ASSI supports a research projects by its members with an award of Rs. 1,50,000/-. A call for proposals by members in this regard was advertised in Indian Journal of Orthopaedics (IJO) and Neurology India (NI) in the month of June. Repeated mailers were also sent to all members. 3 proposals have been received for consideration and had been reviewed by the panel of judges. After going through the review process, the projects selected for the award was "Factors influencing post-operative progression of OPLL - Role of Post - operative segmental instability on progression of OPLL" submitted by Dr Naresh Babu J – our heartiest congratulations goes to him.
- There were previous research awards which were awarded to various deserving members and it was decided that an update on the research would have to be submitted to the ASSI Secretariat by the concerned member.

Updating data-base of ASSI members

Dr Saumyajit Basu briefed the members that the updated membership list, ASSI now has 1579 members as against 806 when the endeavor was started. This also includes 103 new members who have joined since 1st February 2017. Email addresses of 1393 members were now available

as against the 318 which were available before the exercise was started. 1174 members have updated their contact details (including postal address etc.) with the Secretariat.

Short term ASSI one month spine observership

It has been extensively discussed in the EC Meeting and it was decided that Education Committee look into it and put up a report within one month

Creating eligibility criteria for various posts in ASSI

It has been decided that Dr HS Chhabra look into it and put up a report

Abolition of Hard copy of Newsletter

Dr Saumyajit Basu proposed that ASSI newsletter would be in email format from now on and not as a hard copy (ASSI will go paperless). The general body approved this.

Policy decision regarding opening up ASSI fellowship to foreign nationals (mostly from Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh)

It was decided that Education Committee look into it and put up a report

SpineWeek 2020 and other International Meetings with ASSI participation

Dr Saumyajit Basu briefed the members that ASSI has received invitation from the office of SpineWeek 2020 which is going to be held at Melbourne, Australia from 27 March till 1 May, 2020. It was decided that ASSI should participate in it as it participated in SpineWeek 2016 at Singapore. It was also decided by the house that accordingly it was agreed to prepone ASSICON 2020 by one month and to forgo ICS in 2020.

Asian Spine Journal Award for 2017 given to the VTI gold medal winner

Dr. Saumyajit Basu briefed the members that Asian Spine Journal has offered the ASJ award of USD 2000 for the best paper presenter. It has been decided by the Executive with the consent of Dr. VT Ingahalikar that the award should be given to the winner of VTI Gold Medal Award. The winner of 2017 is Dr. Srikant Reddy Dumpa and he will be given the award during ASSICON 2018 at Chennai.

Accounts & Income Tax Status

Dr Saumyajit Basu briefed the members that the Books and accounts had been audited up to Financial Year 2015-16 and subsequently the Income Tax Return has been submitted before the due date. The audit of F/Y: 2016-17 is under process.

We have received the copy of Balance Sheet of ASSICON Goa -- however the PAN of "Bombay Spine Club" was used for the event and therefore it COULD NOT be merged with that of ASSI (main). We informed them of the necessary corrections and it would soon be sorted out.

Dr Surya Prakash Voletti has informed us that the Balance Sheet for ASSICON Hyderabad has been prepared and he is going to submit the same to the ASSI executive soon. He also said that ASSICON Hyderabad has made a profit of Rs 34 lac which will equally distributed between ASSI and Twin City Spine Association.

We have made a Fresh FDR of Rs.60 Lacs for a period of 2 Years, which will be utilized in future

-- Total FDR is now Rs 1.80 Cr

Total Cash at Hand – 15 Lakh

A.S.S.I. Presidential Guest Speaker – ASSICON2018

Dr Saumayjit Basu briefed the members that we got official confirmation from Dr Mahatria to give "Presidential Orator" during ASSICON 2018 at Chennai. The oration is on 20th Jan 2018 and the topic is "Interpersonal relationships".

ASSICON 2018: Chennai - Update

Dr Saumayjit Basu briefed the members that the abstract submission for ASSICON 2018 will start on 15th August. The last date will be 1st October. This is an online submission with facility to edit till the last date. Please submit the full paper for consideration for VTI gold medal. Please visit www.assi.in and follow the link to ASSICON 2018.

ICS 2018: Amritsar – Update

Dr Rupinder Chahal briefed the members that the ICS 2018 will be held at Radisson Blue, Amritsar from 9th to 11th August 2018. They are also planning to have a pre-conference workshop / industry session on the 9th August 2018. They promise a good academic feast.

ASSICON 2019: Ahmedabad - Update

Dr Subir Jhaveri briefed the members that they are planning to hold the Conference from Thursday to Saturday – dates to be finalized soon. Workshops would be held in the first half of Thursday, and the actual Conference shall begin in the afternoon, and shall run for the next two days, thereafter. The venue is yet to be finalized. They shall be inviting top International Faculty for the same, along with our National Faculty.

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

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ASSI Program Committee Report

ASSICON 2018

The ITC Grand Chola, Chennai is a fabulous venue with plenty of well appointed space for all the academic activities.

The preconference workshops are all day on Thursday, starting 8.30 am with live surgical demonstration. In the afternoon from 2 pm onwards is a cadaver workshop, running parallel with industry devices and techniques workshops.

The conference starts on Friday with a breakfast session on trauma in special situations at 0830 hrs. This is followed by sessions on AIS & Endoscopic spine surgery. There are industry lunch symposia/workshops on Friday & Saturday.

Free paper sessions are distributed in 30 min slots throughout the day, there being five such sessions on Friday, one each on sat & Sunday for a total 7 sessions.

Post lunch, there are concurrent sessions on Neurofibromatosis and Lumbar Degenerative listhesis. The next session for the day is CVJ, followed by the last on safety in spine surgery and complication avoidance. The Inaugural function and dinner is at the end of the day on Friday.

Saturday begins with concurrent breakfast sessions on Osteoporosis and on spinal metastases. This is followed by Early onset scoliosis. Post the mid morning tea break will be the prestigious VTI Gold medal papers followed by the ASSI Research award papers.

12 noon- 1 pm is the presidential oration by Mahatria Ra, which will certainly be one of the highlights of the conference!

After the lunch industry workshops, there is a session on adult deformity, the free paper session and the exciting Plenary lecture session by the international faculty. A concurrent session follows to close the day of academics. The ASSI GBM is scheduled for 5.30 pm preceding the Gala dinner.

Sunday starts with a breakfast session on controversies in spine surgery followed by the last free paper session. A session on central cord syndrome precedes the Valedictory, with the final session on spinal TB bringing the curtain down on ASSICON 2018!



Dr Saumyajit Basu [Chair]



Dr GR Vijay Kumar



Dr Appaji Krishnan



Dr Gautam Zaveri



Dr Ranjith
Unnikrishnan

ASSI Outreach Programs

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

ICS 2017

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

APSS Meeting

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

CSRS AP 2018

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

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ASSOCIATION OF
SPINE SURGEONS
OF INDIA

January 2018

ASSI Education Committee Report

1. The interviews for the selection of ASSI fellows was conducted at ICS 2017

The candidates selected were as follows

- I. Dr Rajdeep Singh Bagga
Centre - Ganga Hospital, Coimbatore
Mentor - Dr S. Rajasekaran
- II. Dr Anuj Gupta
Centre - Indian Spinal Injuries Centre, New Delhi
Mentor - Dr H.S. Chhabra
- III. Dr Rohan Bharat Gala
Centre - Park Clinic, Kolkatta
Mentor - Dr Saumyajit Basu
- IV. Dr Naveen Aggarwal
Centre - Park Clinic, Kolkatta
Mentor - Dr Saumyajit Basu
- V. Dr Ashwinkumar Vasant Khandge
Centre - Bombay Hospital, Mumbai
Mentor - Dr CE Deopujari, Dr. Arvind G. Kulkarni and Dr Vishal Kundnani
- VI. Dr Vigneshwara
Centre - Apollo Hospitals, Chennai
Mentor - Dr Sajan Hedge
- VII. Dr Pramod Baral *
Centre - Wockhardt Hospital, Mumbai
Mentor - Dr Abhay Nene
- VIII. Dr Harshil Patel
Centre - BJ Medical College and Civil Hospital, Ahmedabad
Mentor - Dr Jayprakash Modi/Dr M.M. Prabhakar



Dr Samir Dalvie [Chair]



Dr Raghava Dutt
Mulukutla



Dr Gururaj
Sangondimath



Dr Vishal Kundnani



Dr Ketan Khujrekar

** Dr Pramod Baral has dropped out and replacement is still to be done.*

2. The exit examination for 'ASSI Spine Fellowship' for the batch 2015-2017 was held on 16th September 2017 at Park Clinic, Kolkata.

The exam included a theory paper (100 marks), long case (50 marks), short case (50 marks), Oral Table 1 (50 marks) and Oral Table 2 (50 marks).

The examiners for the Exit Examination were Dr. Shankar Acharya, Dr. GR Vijay Kumar, Dr. Rohit Amirtanand and Dr S Basu . There were four candidates. One was absent. All four candidates were declared successful pass.

3. All fellowships are presently going on without any problem. The thesis report is awaited for all centres.
4. The ASSI Outreach programmes were successfully conducted at Guwahati, Patna and Trichy. Further programme is planned in Udaipur.
5. Re-accreditation of centres has to be decided on. My suggestion is that it should be done every 5 years and the check list should include the confidential report of the Fellows trained at the centre, the Mentors report and objective criteria as previously decided to look for any variation of initial information provided during the approval.
6. Short term senior fellowships to be instituted and applications invited from centres willing to host the same. These would be observerships of 2-6 weeks.
7. Fellowship teaching programmes: A comprehensive curriculum based programme, can be appended to ASSICON and ICS, as well as major regional meetings

The last 3 points are to be discussed at the committee meetings in ASSICON 2018.

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ASSI Research Committee Report

The main activities of the Research committee in the year 2017 were :

AOSAP Regional Research Project

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



Dr H. S. Chhabra [Chair]

1. Revised the proforma.
2. Made sections mandatory.
3. Removed the "Edit" option for Users. Only Admin has the right to edit.
4. Created a separate section of "Follow-up" data.
5. Worked on the improvisation of the quality of data.
6. At present, 548 patient's data has been collected and uploaded into the portal.



Dr J. Naresh Babu



Dr Arvind Kulkarni

Thesis for ASSI Fellows

1. Thesis guidelines for ASSI fellows: Reviewed and approved by members of the Research Committee and circulated to the fellows and guides for implementation.
2. All ASSI fellows have been given a thesis progress to analysis of data on a particular topic from ASSI spine registry. All fellows (7 in number) had submitted the **Thesis Progress Report** with approval of their mentors. The same have been forwarded to Dr. Saumyajit Basu (Secretary, ASSI) and Dr. Bhavuk Garg for their approval.



Dr Bhavuk Garg



Dr Tarun Suri

Report on past winners of ASSI Research Award 2016

Dr. Pravin Salunke (Winner of ASSI Research award-2016) submitted his progress report on "Biomechanical testing of artificial C1-2 joints in cadaveric spine- pilot study."

Summary of his report: He visited university of Toledo, Ohio, USA in the month of October and was able to test C1-2 artificial joints in 4 cadavers. One of the cadavers was stiff and results generated for this one were not included. The results of remaining three have been compiled and the mean ROM has been represented in graphical manner in his full report.

The receipt for charges for cadaveric testing (2000 US dollars- or approximately 1.30 lacs INR) has also been attached with his report.

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

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

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ASSI Social Work Committee Report

The SOCIAL WING of ASSI and The Spine Foundation, under the guidance of Dr Shekhar Y Bhojraj is working for the poor and the under served cases with spine ailments from the state of Maharashtra and other states with the Govt and Non Govt organizations.

The Spine foundation has started a multi centric comprehensive Spine care programme for the poor and needy patients with spine ailments in Rural Maharashtra along with the Govt of Maharashtra as well as other Non Government Organizations.

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

GMC Akola
GMC Ambajogai
GMC Aurangabad and
GMC Dhule.

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

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

The details about the staffing.... residents... faculty members.... equipment... space allocation... clinic and surgery schedules.... secretarial support.... nursing needs.... physiotherapy and occupational therapists... etc has been worked out.

Spine Foundation works with the Govt of Maharashtra as well a other Non Government Organizations.

In pursuit of this dream, The Spine foundation with the support of Govt of Maharashtra has started these projects and herewith are the initial report and statistics of the same... (with Gov of Maharashtra) and



Dr Shekhar Y Bhojraj [Chair]



Dr Subir Jhaveri



Dr Abhay Nene



Dr Amit Jhala



Dr Premik Nagad

others.

GMC Dhule

10.12.2016	1st feasibility visit - To check the availability of infrastructure and manpower.
25.03.2017	1st OPD camp. Total patients seen in OPD: 52
28.04.2017 - 30.04.2017	1st Mega Surgical camp. Total operated patients: 3 Total patients seen in OPD: 105
15.07.2017	2nd OPD camp. Total patients seen in OPD: 183
04.08.2017	2nd Surgical camp. Total operated patients: 4 Pain block: 3
13.10.2017	3rd OPD Pickup camp. Total patients seen: 60
27.10.2017	3rd Surgical camp. Total operated patients: 2 Blocks Given: 2

Total number of patients seen till date at Dhule RSCC in OPD: 400
Total operated patients till date: 9
Total Pain block till date: 7

GMC Aurangabad

11.02.2017	1st feasibility visit - To check the availability of infrastructure and manpower.
22.04.2017	1st OPD camp. Total patients seen in OPD: 123
12.05.2017 - 14.05.2017	1st Mega Surgical camp. Total patients seen in OPD: 80 Total operated patients: 6 Total pain blocks: 2
05.08.2017	2nd OPD camp. Total patients seen in OPD: 50
14.07.2017 & 15.07.2017	2nd Surgical camp. Total operated patients: 2 Blocks Given: 0 Total patients seen in OPD: 14
03.11.2017	3rd OPD Pickup camp. Total patients seen: 36

Total number of patients seen till date at Aurangabad RSCC in OPD: 303
 Total operated patients till date: 8
 Total pain blocks till date: 2

GMC Ambajogai

12.11.2016	1st feasibility visit - To check the availability of infrastructure and manpower.
01.07.2017	1st OPD camp. Total patients seen in OPD: 178
18.03.2017 - 19.03.2017	1st Mega Surgical camp. Total operated patients: 1 Total pain blocks: 6 Total patients seen in OPD: 65
01.07.2017	2nd OPD camp. Total patients seen in OPD: 97
14.07.2017 - 15.07.2017	2nd Surgical camp. Total operated patients: 11 Total Pain Blocks: 3
28.10.2017	3rd OPD Pickup camp. Total patients seen: 273
09.11.2017 & 10.11.2017	3rd Surgical camp. Total operated patients: 8 Blocks Given: 3 Total patients seen in OPD: 16

Total number of patients seen till date at Ambajogai RSCC in OPD: 646
 Total operated patients till date: 20
 Total pain blocks till date: 12

GMC Akola

03.12.2016	1st feasibility visit - To check the availability of infrastructure and manpower.
25.02.2017	1st OPD camp. Total patients seen in OPD: 197
31.03.2017 - 02.04.2017	1st Mega Surgical camp. Total operated patients: 4 Total patients seen in OPD: 132
10.07.2017	2nd OPD camp. Total patients seen in OPD: 72
21.07.2017	2nd Surgical camp. Total operated patients: 2 Total Pain Blocks: 2 Total patients seen in OPD: 22

29.09.2017 3rd OPD Pickup camp.
Total patients seen: 36

13.10.2017 3rd Surgical camp.
Total operated patients: 5

Total number of patients seen till date at Akola RSCC in OPD: 459
Total operated patients till date: 11
Total pain blocks till date: 2

Spine Foundation with NON Government collaboration

Swami Rama Himalayan University, Dehradun

24.11.2016 - 26.11.2016 1st feasibility visit - To check the availability of infrastructure and manpower.

01.06.2017 - 04.06.2017 1st Mega Surgical camp
Total operated patients: 7
Total patients seen in OPD: 55

Ratnagiri Civil Hospital

04.03.2017 1st feasibility visit - To check the availability of infrastructure and manpower.

04.03.2017 1st OPD camp.
Total patients seen in OPD: 101

14.04.2017 - 15.04.2017 1st Mega Surgical camp.
Total operated patients: 2
Total pain blocks: 2
Total patients seen in OPD: 188

21.05.2017 2nd OPD camp.
Total patients seen in OPD: 11

09.06.2017 - 10.06.2017 2nd Surgical camp.
Total operated patients: 3
Total patients seen in OPD: 87

10.09.2017 3rd OPD Pickup camp.
Total patients seen: 36

22.09.2017 & 23.09.2017 3rd Surgical camp.
Total operated patients: 3
Total Pain Blocks: 0

26.11.2017 4th OPD Pickup camp.
Total patients seen: 104

08.12.2017 4th Surgical camp.
Total operated patients: 3
Total Pain Blocks: 2

Total number of patients seen till date in OPD: 527
Total operated patients till date: 11
Total pain blocks till date: 4

Mohan Dayal Hospital, Killa Pardi, Gujrat

25.12.2017 Feasibility visit
 1st OPD camp.
 Total patients seen in OPD: 34

RIMS - GMC Ranchi

30.11.2017 - 02.12.2017 Feasibility visit
 1st OPD camp.
 Total patients seen in OPD: 131

Sittilingi Tribal hospital, Tamil Nadu

15.12.2017 & 16.12.2017 Total patients seen in OPD: 75
 Surgical cases: 1
 Block: 2
 Under investigations: 20
 Investigated but Conserved: 9
 Non specific back/neck pain: 32
 Non spine referrals: 10
 Higher center referrals: 1

SEARCH, Gadchiroli

This is one of Spine foundations most cherished and prized project< br />A surgical and OPD camp is held every 4 months

We have reached more then 150 spine surgical cases here

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

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

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

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

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ASSI

ASSOCIATION OF
SPINE SURGEONS
OF INDIA

January 2018

ASSI Spine-Registry Committee Report

The main activities of the ASSI spine registry committee

We have revamped the Spine Registry portal to made the below sections mandatory:

1. Patient ID
2. Age
3. Sex
4. Date of Surgery
5. Date of Admission
6. Diagnosis
7. Procedure
8. Duration of surgery
9. Estimated blood loss
10. Implants
11. Complications
12. Images (Xray / Ct / MRI section): Mandatory in terms of image upload only. Atleast one PRE-OP x-ray and either one CT or one MRI is must(file size less than 2 MB) . If not they will be listed in unconfirmed list.)
13. Score : We have marked this section as default score "0" which represents NA

By default it will be "0" but when user opens a particular score form and fills then only that score will change. If user does not fill any of the score forms : then all score will go as "0" i.e NA

Without filing all the above sections in the portal, the user will not be able to check his case in "My Patient list". It will reflect in "Unconfirmed list."

Plan for year 2018

The data uploaded so far in the registry is not as useful, a) due to lack of follow up b) inadequate



Dr Bharat Dave [Chair]



Dr S Rajasekaran



Dr Amitava Biswas



Dr Ankur Nanda



Dr Rishi Kanna

information uploaded. I believe we need to work on the below points to overcome these issues.

1. We are working on the sections to create separate login for fellows for their thesis work. Also I believe all fellows should spend few days at their host centers to collect the data for their thesis.
2. We are working on to add additional regional diagnosis, i.e. Occipitocervical, cervicodorsal, dorsolumbar and lumbosacral into the registry section "Diagnosis." After this updation, we will take 100 cases (as a trial run) retrospectively and try to put them in new format. If we succeed than will have to do this for all uploaded data. It will be a daunting task.
3. To manage the data at our center, we need to hire a dedicated Physio of salary 10 to 15 k per month.
4. We should include new centers to generate inner competition so that data gets uploaded.
5. To complete the follow-up data/paper/publication work, we should call patients once a week without charging any fee.
6. All consultants are consciously taking post op images. We should have dedicated still camera in consulting rooms.
7. We should follow European Registry i.e Tango and apply their methods to upload the data.
8. We really need to gear up all the centres to complete and upload at least one year follow up.

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January 2018

ASSI Advocacy Committee Report

Addressing medico-legal concerns Interacting with regulatory authorities Health Awareness Programs

The Advocacy Committee has taken stock of medicolegal concerns faced by members including one from Hyderabad. Discrepancies, unfortunately still remains among neurosurgeons and orthopedic surgeons in performing spine surgeries and it is high time that our society gets adequately educated regarding various wrong perceptions which exists. Already, with the efforts of Dr H. S. Chhabra, Govt of India gazette notification regarding the equality of these two categories of surgeons is on the way.

The committee is on the process of interacting with regulatory bodies including the MCI with regards to a number of issues. This includes institution of a curriculum of spine surgery to be incorporated in various fellowships and setting up of a post-graduate teaching program on spine so that the candidates can face the exit exams a lot better.

The Advocacy committee is on the process of creating Health Awareness programs for the lay people to understand the benefits of safe spine surgery. A significant step forwards is the forthcoming workshop on Prevention of Falls, which is going to have a multi-societal representation. It is going to be held at ISIC, New Delhi. A joint representation regarding this issue would be given to the Government of India to incorporate necessary changes in the system.



Dr Ram Chaddha [Chair]

Dr Surya Prakash
Rao Voletti

Dr Prashant Kekre



Dr Shankar Acharya



Dr Rushama Tandon

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January 2018

ASSI Website Committee Report

The main activities of the Website committee in the year 2017 were :

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



Dr Ajoy Prasad Shetty [Chair]

The revamping and upgrading of the official ASSI website (www.assi.in) was one of the main mandates of the newly formed website committee. The modifications included a modernised software platform, a more contemporary and appealing design of the front page, updating of membership data and starting a payment gateway. Though most of the modifications have been performed, some are still work in progress. Dr Rohit Amritanand took the overall responsibility and along with the Webmaster was able to carry out the desired changes. The other activities of the website included updating of the Upcoming events, travelling fellowships, awards and other key activities of the Society. The other major areas included redesigning of the ASSI Registry and modification of the existing Spinal Tuberculosis database. Another Presidential initiative has been the establishment of an Online Case based discussion forum. This academic endeavour is to be spearheaded by Prof. S.K.Srivastava. This would allow members to post any case of interest & get feedback from senior members regarding management. The website committee met during the ICS at Kovalam in August 2017 and brainstormed possible modifications and upgradation to be performed in the near future. We invite our members to access the Website regularly and provide us with your feedback so that our Website maybe at par with the world's elite Spine societies.



Dr B Upendra



Dr Rohit Amritanand



Dr Rupinder Chahal



Dr K Venkatesh

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January 2018

ASSI Nomination & Constitution Committee Report

Nominations for ASSI Vacancies

There will be two vacancies since two executive members, Dr Subir Jhaveri & Dr GR Vijay Kumar would be finishing their tenure this year. The members were informed about the vacancies through mailers. The last date for submission of application was 31st October. We have received 9 applications as under for these two Executive posts:

1. Dr Bhavuk Garg
2. Dr Vikas Tandon
3. Dr Ketan
4. Dr rishi Kanna
5. Dr Charanjit Singh Dhillion
6. Dr Ranjith Unnikrishnan
7. Dr Ujjwal K Debnath
8. Dr Janardhana Aithala
9. Dr Appaji Krishnan



Dr H. S. Chhabra [Chair]



Dr Arvind Jayaswal



Dr Ram Chaddha

Constitution committee of ASSI

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



Dr Sajan Hegde



Dr S Rajasekaran

There was an opinion that we should reduce the tenure of the officials, especially President and Secretary. It was felt that ASSI is now growing quite well and there are quite a large number of members who are interested in contributing actively to the Society. With the present tenure, it would take a long time for them to get an opportunity to hold a position in the Executive. It was felt that this long wait could act as a disincentive for many of the aspiring members. Reducing the tenure would help more members to get actively involved and contribute to ASSI. An opinion was taken from Past Presidents and subsequently the Executive. There is more or less a consensus. A concern has however been raised that a tenure of 1 year for the President may not allow him/her to implement the agenda with which he/she takes over. However everybody is open to move forward with a consensus.

It was also decided to take an experts opinion on the constitution in order to update it as per present requirements. Hence we have taken the expert opinion of Dr PK Kohli in this regard.

After suitable discussions with Dr P.K. Kohli, a draft constitution has been compiled. This draft has the approval of the Executive and has now been circulated to all members of ASSI for further comments.

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January 2018

Task Force for Prevention of SCI Report

SCI Day activities: a brief report

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

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

Inclusive Cultural program : 5th September 2017

An inclusive cultural programme was organized at Talkatora Stadium on 5th September 2017. The audience was enthralled by breathtaking performances by artists on wheelchair from AAMAD dance group. The performances were choreographed by Ms. Rani Khanam herself a renowned dancer. Three individuals and three organizations as under were facilitated for their exemplary achievements and contributions to the society and nation in the field of spinal cord injury:

- Dr Mary Varghese – The earliest pioneer of Physical medicine and rehabilitation in the country and Padma Shri Awardee in 1972. The felicitation was done posthumously. Dr Henry Magimairaj from CMC Vellore, received the award.
- Deepa Malik - Arjuna award in 2012 and Padma Shri award in 2017.
- Amit Saroha – Asian Para Games medalist and an Arjuna Awardee.
- Family of Disabled – A Delhi based NGO working in the field of employment for persons with disability.
- Amar Seva Sangham - NGO is working in the field of disability management in rural areas of Tirunelveli District.



Dr H. S. Chhabra [Chair]



Dr Raghava Dutt
Mulukutla



Dr Amol Rege



Dr Karthik Kailash



Dr GR Vijay Kumar



- Svayam - an initiative of Sminu Jindal Charitable Trust based at New Delhi. The NGO advocates an enabling & accessible environment for all.

Sakshi Malik, bronze medalist at Olympics and Arjuna Awardee, graced the occasion. The audience comprised of about 100 wheelchair users and 1000 able bodied individuals.

In the month preceding the event awareness among students for prevention of SCI was inculcated through talks, Nukkad Natak (street play) and poster competition on the theme "Disability is not inability". The program was run in 9 educational institutes in Delhi NCR region. Winners of poster competition were also felicitated during the event. The event was widely covered in the press.

Wheelchair Rally : 10th September 2017

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

Injury Prevention Program Proposal to the Government of India

A. Program Proposal

ASSI has joined hands with other societies to conceptualise a proposal in which experts from various national & international Societies as well as organizations, including WHO, could be invited to brainstorm over a 3 day workshop.

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

The workshop will help finalize the prevention program for implementation.

B. Proposed Participating Organizations:

- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- Spinal Cord Society (SCS)
- World Health Organization
- Indian Academy of Neurology (IAN)
- Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
- Neurological Society of India (NSI)
- Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
- Indian Society for Trauma & Acute Care (ISTAC)
- Ministry of Rural development
- Trauma Society of India (TSI)
- Ministry of Urban development
- International Society of Orthopaedic Surgery and Traumatology (SICOT)

Dr Neeraj Gupta

Dr M. M. Prabhakar



Dr Ram Chaddha



Dr Saumyajit Basu



Dr S Rajasekaran



Dr B Upendra



Dr Prashant Kekre

- Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation
- Rick Hansen Institute (RHI)
- Transportation Research and Injury Prevention Programme (TRIPP) at the IIT (Delhi)
- The George Institute for Global Health
- National Disaster Management Authority
- John Walsh Centre for Rehabilitation Research
- International Spinal Cord Society (ISCoS)
- World Orthopaedic Concern (WOC)
- Indian Association of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (IAPMR)
- Indian Orthopaedic Association (IOA)
- Association of Spine Surgeons of India (ASSI)
- Asian Spinal Cord Network (ASCoN)

C. Constitution of Sub Groups:

Professionals from different fields shall be invited to form each subgroup. Total number of members in each subgroup is expected to be 25.

The following would be the subgroups:

1. Subgroup for identification and designing RTC Prevention Strategies
2. Subgroup for identification and designing High Fall Prevention Strategies
3. Subgroup for designing strategies for Implementation of the Program
4. Subgroup for Analysis & Monitoring

D. Timelines of Project:

1. Finalizing members of Sub Groups: 31st Oct 2017
2. Structured plan for working within the sub group: 15th Nov 2017
3. First draft of prevention program for internal discussions of sub group1 & 2: 01st Dec 2017
4. Final draft of prevention program of Sub Group 1 & 2 for circulation to sub group 3 & 4: 31st Jan 2018
5. First draft of sub group 3 & 4 : 15th Mar 2018
6. Finalization of reports of sub group 3 & 4: 15th Apr 2018
7. Circulation of prevention program for all stakeholders: 20th Apr 2018
8. 3 Days workshop on 'Preventing injuries due to Injuries': Mid May 2018
9. First draft of Program on preventing injuries: 15th June 2018
10. Final draft of report on preventing injuries: 30th July 2018

E. Follow up Workshop

A workshop would be organized in May 2019 to assess the outcomes of the program. The details including budget etc. could be finalized subsequently.

ASSI may consider sending two to three experts at its expense to participate in the workshop. This would be important in demonstrating the resolve of ASSI to help initiate prevention programs in emerging countries.

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January 2018

Task Force on ASSI Monographs Report

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

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



Dr Gautam Zaveri [Chair]



Dr Raghava Dutt
Mulukutla



Dr Amit Jhala

Series editors: Dr Gautam Zaveri; Dr Raghavdutt M
Publishers finalized : Thieme

We are progressing well and hope to release at least 4 of the 5 monographs by Assicon 2018.

Intas has promised to buy 1500 books on Lumbar Spine Stenosis

ASSICON 2018 ORGANIZING COMMITTEE has offered to buy 600 copies of the monograph on Early onset scoliosis for delegates attending the meeting in Chennai.



Dr Amol Rege

ASSI will be buying 100 copies of each monograph for distribution amongst the authors of the various monographs, and for distribution for review by various journals and also as gifts to Presidents and secretaries of key spine, orthopaedic and neurosurgical associations.

In the calendar year 2018- 2019, ASSI plans to come up with 5 more monographs and also launch the unfinished one on Craniovertebral junction
The topics for the 5 future monographs include:

1. Osteoporosis and the Spine
Editor: Dr HS Chhabra
Co - editor: Dr Bharat Dave
2. Lumbar disc prolapse
Editor: Dr Arvind Kulkarni
Co- editor: Dr G Vijaykumar
3. Tuberculosis of the Spine
Editor: Dr Ajoy Shetty
Co- editor: Dr Abhay Nene
4. Adolescent Idiopathic scoliosis
Editor: Dr KV Menon
Co- editor: Dr Saumyajit Basu
5. Complications in spine surgery. Volume 2
Editor: Dr Amit Jhala
Co- editor: Dr Rishi Kanna

Series editors: Dr Gautam Zaveri; Dr Raghavdutt M

The preliminary work for these monographs has already started

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SPINE SURGEONS
OF INDIA

January 2018

Task Force on Indian Spine Journal Report

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

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

1. Prevention protocols, antibiotic prophylaxis at primary surgery and medical treatment rationale in postoperative infections with implant and non-implant surgeries - Sunita
2. Imaging in postoperative infections: Role of MRI, bone scan, CT scan & PET Scans - VSV Ram Mohan
3. Surgical Management in postoperative infections - When and How to intervene for Implant and non-Implant surgeries, anterior and/or posterior constructs with pros and cons of implant removal. - Rohit Amritanand
4. Special scenarios in spinal infections - Atypical infections : fungal/nonpathogenic infections and mycobacterial infections in immunocompromised patients.- H.S.Chhabra
5. Controversies and consensus on Implants usage in presence of tubercular and pyogenic infections. -S. K. Srivastava
6. Minimally invasive interventions for spinal infections - what works and what doesn't - Arvind Kulkarni

The scientific material for the first issue is nearing completion and we are in preparation for the next issue. The second issue will have a symposium on "Spinal Trauma".

The First Issue of the Indian Spine Journal shall be launched during the ASSICON 2018 at Chennai.



Dr Anil Jain [Chair]



Dr Rohit
Amritanand



Dr Manish Chadha



Dr B Upendra



Dr Raghava Dutt
Mulukutla



Dr Ankur Nanda

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Spine Surgeon, Vitus Spine care And Research, Bhagwan Mahaveer Jain Hospital, Bangalore

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January 2018

Task Force on ASSI Outreach Program Report

The Spine Outreach Program is one of the Presidential initiatives of ASSI taken by Dr Raghava Dutt Mulukutla, starting off from 2017, and supported fully by Medtronic India. The idea is that national ASSI faculty would go to two tier cities in India and will impart knowledge on the basics of spine surgery. The course involves lectures, along with hands on workshops on models and covers topics which are important in day to day spine practice

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



Dr Ajoy Shetty
[Chair]



Dr Samir Dalvie
[Chair]

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

Course Chairman – Dr Saumyajit Basu and Dr Ajoy Shetty
Organising Secretaries – Dr Bipul Borthakur and Nitru Borgohain

ASSI Faculty – Dr Saumyajit Basu and Dr Ajoy Shetty
Regional Faculty – Prof. Santanu Lahkar, Prof. Tulsi Bhattacharya, Dr Jaydeep Ghosh and Dr Rajdeep Roy.



Dr Raghava Dutt
Mulukutla



Dr Saumyajit Basu

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



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

Course Chairman – Dr Samir Dalvie
Organising Secretary – Dr Gautam Prasad

ASSI Faculty – Dr Bharat Dave and Dr Kalidutta Dass

Regional Faculty – Dr John Mukhopadhaya, Dr V.K.Sinha, Dr Shyam Sunder, Dr Sudeep Kumar

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



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

Course Chairman – Dr Ajoy Shetty

Organising Secretaries – Dr Jaikish and Dr Mukesh Mohan

ASSI Faculty – Dr R.Sivakumar and Dr B.N.Upendra

Regional Faculty – Dr Ramakrishna Eswaran, Dr S.Balasubramanian, Dr D.Backia Raj, Dr Ajith Kumar, Dr Bharatkumar



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

Course Chairman – Dr Samir Dalvie

Organising Secretary – Dr Chirayu Pamecha

ASSI Faculty – Dr S.K.Srivastava and Dr Rushuma Tandon

Regional Faculty – Dr Lalit Sharma

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

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January 2018

Report of ASSI Fellowship

The exit examination for 'ASSI Spine Fellowship' for the batch 2015-2017 was held on 16th September 2017 at Park Clinic, Kolkata.

The expert panel of scientific and academic committee of ASSI approved the format for the examination which included a theory paper (100 marks), long case (50 marks), short case (50 marks), Oral Table 1 (50 marks) and Oral Table 2 (50 marks).

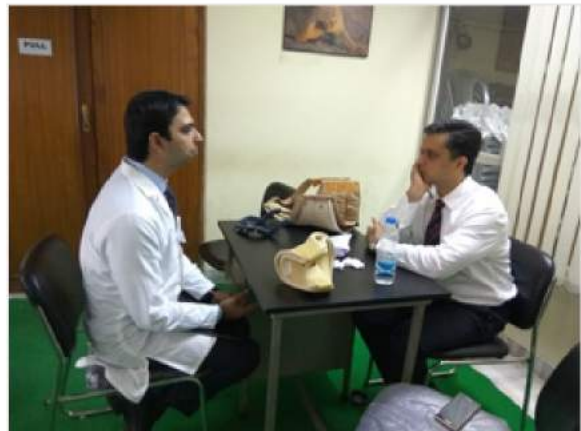
The examiners for the Exit Examination were Dr Shankar Acharya, Dr GR Vijay Kumar, Dr Rohit Amritanand and the undersigned. There were four candidates for the exit examination. The examination started as scheduled at 7:00 a.m. with the theory examination (7.00 am -9.00 am). **A copy of the question paper is enclosed.** It ended at around 6:00 pm. when the examiners got together to compile the results.

All four candidates were declared successful pass. **A copy of the result is enclosed for perusal.** Some photographs are also enclosed.

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 the entire team of spine consultants and residents at Park Clinic including Dr Amitava Biswas, Dr Trinanjan Sarangi, Dr Aditya Banta and Dr Anil Solanki. Ms. Priti Mishra and Subhomoy Ghosh provided excellent secretarial support.

The entire hospital management was extremely supportive of the cause, especially Dr Sandip Chatterjee who took personal interest in setting up the examination.

Dr Saumyajit Basu
Secretary – ASSI





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January 2018

Report of ASSI Travelling Fellowship

The ASSI Travelling fellowship is a month long programme that ends at ICS, where-in the fellows can choose upto 3 centres in India for visiting. We (Dr Vijayraghavan and I, Dr Shomayou Dutta) requested to visit Ganga hospital, Indian spinal injury centre and Amrita institute. Our fellowship started at Ganga Hospital. My best efforts to emphasise how much there is to learn from Dr Rajashekharan sir, Dr Ajoy Shetty sir and their team, would be inadequate. Having just started my own practice for a few months, I had a whole bunch of questions ready and loaded for them, which were always patiently entertained and answered. Apart from lengthy discussions on 'spine', I often realised that the wisdom sir shared with us was so much more than being just a good surgeon. Very inspiring! Sir had also co-ordinated our arrival in a way that it co-incided with the Ganga Micro-surgical course. I spent many hours in the skills lab practicing the techniques I observed in the OR. From scoliosis, high grade dysplastic spondylo-listhesis, OPLL with almost 90% occupational ratio, thoracic discectomy and Spinal trauma was all in a days work at Ganga! The ten days passed by in the blink of an eye and before our stay was over, we had the opportunity to visit the rehabilitation facility and interact with the staff and patients.



Dr Shomayou Dutta

The next stop was the Indian Spinal Injury Centre. After completing the formalities and a quick orientation of the centre by the HR team, we got straight into the action. Rounding with Dr Chhabra sir, was an experience in itself. He motivated and encouraged patients with SCI to accept and adapt to their new lives.



Dr Vijayraghavan

He also framed custom made short-term and long-term rehabilitation goals for each patient and had many different teams working cohesively, from the social worker to the assistive technology in-charge. Being exposed to all this for the first time, I developed deep curiosity in the rehabilitation process and decided to spend some time understanding various aspects of it. It was an eye-opening experience indeed. I realised that the true treatment for SCI patients begins once surgery is done (if need be). There are so many ways in which assistive technology can play a dominant role in improving their quality of life. Having Indian specialists configuring and producing assistive technology has made it affordable too. For example, there was a singer who was recovering from a high thoracic complete SCI. He expressed the importance of a singer to stand and perform for stage presence. For him, ISIC designed a standing wheelchair, at a very affordable cost at which the social worker believed that procuring financial support would not be a problem. More over to see families come into the physiotherapy centre regularly and trying their best to gain personal and financial independence, did make me feel very happy. I could feel a genuine atmosphere of positivity and healing which in a way is the essence of managing these patients. By my experience at ISIC, I believe that all spine specialists dealing with SCI need to be aware of the advancements in rehabilitation, as we are the health providers that patients trust completely and look for guidance. Knowledge of these options will at least enable us to guide the patient in the right channel help them achieve their goals.

Next stop was Amrita institute in the beautiful lush green city of Kochi. The institute is famous for their modification of the lumbo-pelvic (iliac screws) fixation technique and we were fortunate to witness this on a couple of occasions in the short time we spent there. The fellowship ended at ICS, Kovallam and with renewed energy, I returned to my hometown to resume my work.

I sincerely thank ASSI for bestowing this prestigious fellowship on me and it will go a long way in bettering my practice. I will also take this opportunity to thank our support staff, especially Miss Neema Bisht who is such an asset to our organisation that words will not do justice to. From prompt correspondence, to connecting between busy doctors, she was always an email away to help with any concern during the travel period.

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January 2018

Report of ICS 2017

The ICS 2017 was hosted by the Trivandrum Spine Society under the aegis of the ASSI & Korean Spine Society was the collaborating international society. The meeting was held from 11th to 13th of August 2017 at the ravishing The Leela Kovalam. The Organising Secretary for the meeting was Dr. Ranjith Unnikrishnan and Organising Chairman was Dr. K.V Menon. This was the maiden ASSI event conducted in Trivandrum, Kerala. The theme of the Meeting was, Spinal Interventions- Long term outcomes. The meeting format was case based discussions interspersed with invited lectures, which was well appreciated. We have a total of 284 registrations which included 160 residential registrations and 124 non residential including trade. The faculty spectrum encompassed a total of 66 speakers, from across the country and 4 international faculty from Korea and USA. The Inaugural ceremony was on the 11th, which was presided by the President of ASSI Dr Raghav Dutt and Secretary Dr Saumyajit Basu. The chief guest of the event was Dr Rajasekaran, who set the meeting rolling. The inaugural speech on, Work Life Balance for spine surgeon was well appreciated by both the young and seasoned alike. The banquet was conducted on the Leela Beach, which had mesmerising performances from ethnic and fusion artists. The delegates and the family had a memorable experience both, academic and social and the meeting was noted especially for maintaining time line and the breathtaking location. I thank the ASSI for bestowing confidence in me, to conduct the ICS at Kovalam, which was our maiden attempt.

Sincerely
Dr Ranjith Unnikrishnan

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January 2018

Awards and Achievements of Members at National or International level

Awards

Dr Arvind kulkarni

- BMJ Award (British Medical Journal) for the Best Research Project in South Asia for the year 2015-16.
- Best Paper Awards – Asia Spine Conference – September 2016, Seoul for titled 'Stand-alone lateral recess decompression without discectomy in patients presenting with neurogenic claudication and MRI evidence of large disc protrusions: a prospective study'.

Dr Ankit Patel

- Spinal Cord Society (SCS) Gold Medal Award received for Best Paper Presenter in the field of Surgical Management for the paper titled 'Quantification of Bone Graft required for Inter-body Fusion in TLIF- A CT based study of 100 subjects' at the ISSICON 2017 held in New Delhi, INDIA.
- Korean SICOT Award received by the hands of Dr Rajasekharan at the 38th Orthopaedic World Congress held in Cape Town South Africa.

Dr Pramod Sudarshan

- "ISASS Leon Wiltse award" for the best overall paper of ISASS 2017, Boca raton, Florida, USA – Paper on - Use of Intraoperative traction in Adolescent idiopathic scoliosis – Impact on Concave apical screws density, curve correction and functional outcomes.
- Dr K T Dholakia Gold medal" for Best overall paper of the conference – 60th annual Indian Orthopedic association conference (IOACON) Kochi, India - paper on minimally invasive robotic tlifs, safety and accuracy.

Dr Shakti Goel

- Selected by IASA (Indo-American Spine Alliance) for a fully sponsored fellowship at USA in November-December 2017 and rotated at University of Colorado Hospital and Children's Hospital Colorado with Prof Vikas Patel and Prof Sumeet Garg.
- Awarded a grant of 6000 swiss francs by AO spine Asia Pacific to work on "Clinical Correlation of Intra-operative Neuro-monitoring in 300 individuals undergoing posterior decompression and instrumentation of spine" in January 2017 (Modi, Goel, Desai et al).

Dr S. Dilip Chand Raja

- Secured the first rank in NATBOARD FET (orthopaedics) 2016 examination.
- Awarded the young scientist award by the Indo-Korean orthopaedic foundation conducted on March 19, 2016.

Dr Kunal shah

- Awarded SRS global outreach fellowship ,2017.

Dr Rajendra Prasad

- Received the 2017 BMJ (British Medical Journal) South Asia award in the "Best initiative of the year" in the non-communicable disease category on behalf of the Indian Head Injury Foundation and Apollo Hospitals.

Dr Ayush Sharma

- Awarded by Bombay orthopaedic society - Recognition of Publication Award 2016- 2017. For contribution towards academic excellence in Orthopaedics and cause of humanity
- Awarded Spine fellowship by SICOT in 2017 at Department of Scoliosis and Spine surgery at The General Hospital of Attica "KAT", Athens from May 2017 to July 2017.

Achievements**Dr S. Rajasekaran**

- Chair, International Research Commission, AOSpine – 2016 – 2018
- President SICOT – 2016-2018
- President Elect of CSRS – AP (Cervical Spine Research Society - AP)
- National University of Singapore - Visiting Professor – to attend the Pesi B Chacha lectureship.
- Editor – Volume 10 Master Series in Spine Surgery – AOSpine

Dr Bhavuk Garg

- Became Member of CME committee of SRS
- Invited by NASS to its annual meeting as member of International education committee and spine connect program
- Selected for AO Trauma Asia Pacific research grant 2017
- Founder member of Indian Fragility Fracture Network (FFNi)

Dr Rohit Amritanand

- Conferred Fellow American College of Surgeons (FACS) at the recently concluded ACS Convocation held in San Diego ,USA on 22nd October 2017.

Dr K. Sridhar

- Elected as Executive Committee of the Neurological Society of India for the term 2017-2020.

Dr Sanjoy Biswas

- Completed Shoichi Kokubun Spine Fellowship, TOHOKU UNIVERSITY, JAPAN, February 2017 – March 2017.

Dr Kedar Phadke

- Winner of SRS Globus medical fellowship 2017.
- Winner of 'SICOT meets SICOT' spine fellowship 2017.

Dr Sohael M Khan

- Conferred with NuVasive/SICOT Foundation Scholarship 2017 at Cape Town, South Africa by hands of SICOT President Dr. Rajasekaran.

Dr Sachin Borkar

- Admitted as a Fellow of American College of Surgeons (FACS) in Neurological Surgery at the Annual Congress in San Diego, USA in Oct.2017.

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January 2018

ICS 2018

Dear All

On behalf of the Delhi Spine Society, we invite you to the Instructional Course Series (ICS 2018), an event of the ASSI to be held on the 9th, 10th & 11th of August 2018, at the Radisson Blue hotel in Amritsar. For the first time, we will have 3 days of an academic extravaganza at no added cost (same registration fee as the last ICS). With the past experience of ICS at Shimla and Udaipur, as well as the two ASSICONs at Delhi we will strive to rise up to your expectations. The ICS 2018 venue, the Radisson Blue hotel, is especially designed for such events and has nearly 100 rooms all of which have been booked for the conference. The adjoining hotel, the Park owned by same hotel group as the Radisson Blue, is also available to us depending upon the number of registrations. The academic program will be from 8.30am to 1.30pm, while evenings will be reserved for social networking. As a first, there will be no program on Sunday.

Distances from the Radisson Blue hotel

Airport: 0.5 Km

Golden Temple: 12 Km

Jallianwala Bagh: 12 Km

Durgiana Temple: 12 Km

Wagha Border: 33 Km

Railway station: 8 Km

Bus stand: 12 Km

Amritsar is well connected by bus, rail and has an international airport.

We will facilitate your visits to the Golden Temple, Jallianwala Bagh and Wagha border.

The website www.ics2018amritsar.com is up and running. As part of our green initiative we will have as many paperless activities as possible.

Important dates

Registration starts January 19 at the ASSICON 2018 Chennai

End of early bird registration: 31st March 2018

End of registration: 15th July 2018

No spot registration will be entertained, as it is logistically not feasible.

So, we welcome all of you and your family to this Holy City, to seek blessings and empower ourselves to excel at refining our skills.

Dr. R S Chahal
Organising Secretary

Dr. Shankar Acharya
Chairman

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January 2018

ASSICON 2019

Dates:

January 17 - 19, 2019. (Thursday to Saturday)

Venue:

YMCA International Centre, S.G. Highway, Ahmedabad

Accommodation:

Nearby Five-star Hotels, within walking distance. Shuttle buses will be provided.

Timings:

Pre - Conference Workshops: Thursday, 17th Jan, 2019; 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Conference: Thursday 17th Jan, 2019; 2:00 PM onwards till Saturday 19th Jan, 2019; 6:00 PM

International Faculties:

1. Dr. Stephen Lewis, Toronto, Canada (Confirmed)
2. Dr. Jc Le Huec, Bordeaux, France (Confirmed)
3. Dr. Michael Fehlings, Toronto, Canada

Theme:

"Controversies to Complications in Spine Surgery"

Website:

www.assicon2019.in

Scientific Agenda:

Workshops: Live &/or Cadaveric Skill Enhancement Workshops

Lunch Workshops on Innovations during the Conference

Conference: Free Papers, Grand Rounds, Symposiums, Debates, Innovations & Clinical Utility, Spine Quiz, Rapid Fire Rounds etc.

Deadlines:

Early Bird Registration: 15th August, 2018

Abstract Submission : 15th September, 2018
Abstract Acceptance : 31st October, 2018
Regular Registration : 30th November, 2018
Late Registration : 31st December, 2018
Spot Registration allowed only for Conference

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January 2018

Thesis Progress Report of ASSI Spine Fellow

Progress Report : Osteoporotic thoracolumbar fractures with neurological deficit Demographics, Clinical presentation, modality of management and their outcome

Fellow: Dr Abhinandan Reddy .M

ASSI Thesis/research topic:

Osteoporotic thoracolumbar fractures with neurological deficit Demographics, Clinical presentation, and modality of management their outcome

Study Centres:

Indian Spinal Injuries Centre (New Delhi), STAVYA Spine centre

Objective:

To describe the demographics and clinical presentation of thoracolumbar fracture with neurological deficits due to osteoporosis, to discuss the modality of management and to evaluate their outcome.

Methodology:

Study design: retrospective study

The cases are recruited for the study from the ASSI Registry data base from Stavva Spine Centre and Indian Spinal Injuries centre. All patients who underwent surgical treatment for thoracolumbar osteoporotic vertebral collapse with neurological deficit are to be included. Demographic data of the patient are collected. Patients are evaluated preoperatively and post operatively for Pain using VAS Scale, neurological Status improvement with ASIA Grade, functional status using SCIM Scoring, (spinal cord independence measure score).

Radiographs are assessed for number of vertebrae involved, Focal Kyphosis Angle, Vertebral Body Height Loss, restoration of the vertebral height and focal angle of kyphosis and instrumentation failure. Operation notes, clinical charts are analysed for treatment of osteoporosis and comorbid conditions leading to osteoporosis and surgery done. The radiographs results are analysed for bony fusion and instrumentation failure.

Cases Accrued:



Dr Abhinandan
Reddy .M

Stavya centre:

Total cases (D11-L2) :52

MALE- 19, FEMALE –33

#D11-3, #D12-28, #L1-20, #L2-2.

ISIC:

TOTAL CASES : 52

MALE : 24 FEMALE 28

AVERAGE AGE :(90-52) 70.3yrs

Average dxa: 2.89

#D11-12, #D12-31, #L1-10, #L2-10

Two vertebrae involved in 8 pts

Three vertebrae in 6pts

Single vertebra in 38 pts.

Time-line:

Collection of data of all the patients April 2018

Analysis of the data and statistics May 2018.

Thesis initial draft June 2018.

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January 2018

Thesis Progress Report of ASSI Spine Fellow

Progress Report : Scoliosis in Neurofibromatosis: Demographics and surgical outcome

Fellow: Dr Anil Solanki

ASSI Thesis/research topic:

Scoliosis in Neurofibromatosis: Demographics and surgical outcome.



Dr Anil Solanki

Centers:

1. Park clinic, Kolkata
2. Ganga Hospital, Coimbatore

Objective:

To review the clinical and radiographic outcomes of correction of neurofibromatosis curves and analyzing its efficacy, safety and possible complications. (Study involving two centers)

Materials and Methods/ Methodology of research:

We are retrospectively collecting data of patients of NF scoliosis operated at both centers using ASSI registry and Electronic records system at centers. We are noting all data in Performa and Master-chart (Excel sheet).

We are collecting data including – demographic details (age & sex), clinical features of NF and Neurological findings.

By retrieving pre-op images(Plain radiographs, CT scan & MR images) we are studying radiological details – level of curve , side of curve, type of curve (dystrophic vs Non-dystrophic), sagittal and coronal cobb angle, dystrophic features on X-ray, other MRI features such as plexiform Neurofibroma, Dural Ectasia etc.,

In Surgical Details- date of surgery, levels fused, approach and implants used, Estimated Blood loss and duration of Surgery are acquired. We also are analyzing intra-op or post op complications if any.

On post-op and follow-up radiographs, we are assessing correction of coronal and sagittal Cobb's angle, evidence of Fusion and complications like implant

loosening/failure or PJK.

For functional outcome we are using SRS-22 questionnaire. We are analyzing difference in each domain of the score as well as total score at final follow-up.

Cases Accrued:

From Park Clinic- 13 operated patient + 1 patient managed conservatively with Halo
From Ganga Hospital- 6 operated patients
Target is to have at least 30 cases

Time-line

To collect all data by Feb 2018
To analyze the data by March 2018
First proof of thesis to be ready by April 2018

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January 2018

Thesis Progress Report of ASSI Spine Fellow

Progress Report : Pseudoarthrosis in Ankylosing Spondylitis

Fellow: Dr Jimmy Chokshy

ASSI Thesis/research topic:

Surgical outcomes of fixation and fusion for Anderson Lesion in patients of Ankylosing Spondylitis



Dr Jimmy Chokshy

Objective:

Analyze the clinico-radiological features of Anderson Lesion (AL) in patients of Ankylosing Spondylitis (AS) and functional outcomes after surgical fixation and fusion.

Rationale:

- AL is a destructive vertebral or disco-vertebral lesion that occurs as a late non-inflammatory sequel in AS. It is a state of chronic mobile non-union with posterior element fracture or unfused facet joints associated with the anterior lesion.
- Natural history, pathophysiology, clinical features, laboratory investigations, image findings, and even the terminology of AL have been controversial
- Diagnosis of AL is difficult due to pre-existing spinal changes, osteoporosis, and radiographic resemblance to infective spondylodiscitis.
- Surgery for unstable fractures in AS includes anterior/posterior decompression and fixation or both. Decompression, instrumentation, bone grafting, and various osteotomies for deformity correction have been reported and long segment fixation is usually preferred for fractures, but surgical recommendations for AL are scarce.

Subject Recruitment Procedure:

Patients of AS having AL operated by fixation and fusion at Civil Hospital, Ahmedabad and Stavva Spine Hospital, Ahmedabad will be reviewed for inclusion and exclusion criteria.

Inclusion Criteria:

Age more than 18 years

Exclusion Criteria:

Patients having follow-up less of than 6 months

Methodology of The Study:

- This is a retrospective study.
- The data will be obtained from the hospital medical records.
- All patients will be seen for final follow-up.
- Their name, age, gender, address, phone no, occupation, duration of spondyloarthropathy, mode of present onset and its duration and co-morbid conditions will be noted.

Outcome Measurements:

- Surgery time, blood loss, perioperative complications and hospital stay will be noted.
- Results will be analyzed at the time of presentation and at final follow-up for improvement in VAS score, neurological Frankel grade, ASQoL (Ankylosing Spondylitis Quality of Life Questionnaire scoring) and radiological union.

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January 2018

Thesis Progress Report of ASSI Spine Fellow

Progress Report : Tandem Stenosis: Clinical presentation, management option and their outcome

Fellow: Dr Ankit Patel

ASSI Thesis/research topic:

Tandem Stenosis: Clinical presentation, management option and their outcome



Dr Ankit Patel

Study Centers:

1. Bombay Hospital & Medical Research Centre, Mumbai
2. Mallika Spine Centre, Hyderabad

Objective:

To study the clinical presentation, management options and clinico-radiographic outcomes of Tandem Stenosis.

Methods:

Study design: Retrospective Cohort Study of patients treated for Tandem Spinal Stenosis (TSS) at Two Specialized centers. (4 ASSI member surgeons)
Study period: January 2010 – October 2017

A retrospectively data search of patients treated for TSS at both centers using ASSI registry and PACS/Manual/Personal records at study centers was done. Available data was entered in Performa and Master spread-sheet for statistical assessment. All the patients were clinico-radiologically diagnosed TSS. (The term 'tandem spinal stenosis' was first introduced by Dagi et al to describe concurrent symptomatic stenosis involving two specific regions of spine, most commonly cervical and lumbar attributable to their mobility) Conservative followed by operative treatment as per individual surgeons' preference.

Clinico-demographic data was recorded along with specific scores/scales such as Nurick grade, Neck Disability Index (NDI), mJOA scores and Oswestry Disability Index functional outcomes score at presentation, 6-week follow-up and available final follow-up. Operative parameters recorded include Estimated Blood Loss, Operative time, intra-op events, type of procedure, implant details and mode of fusion. Complications were recorded in both post-op and late periods. Special emphasis was given to characterize the sequence of symptom appearance which holds clue to the progression and expected end-result of a successful TSS

treatment.

Radiologic assessment was done to document the type of TSS (any two combinations of Cervical, Dorsal or Lumbar stenotic scenarios). An analysis of cord-substance signal changes was done and recorded. The alignment of respective spinal regions was observed along-with segmental changes which could have influenced decision-making and surgical plans. A minimum follow-up period of 6 months was used as a criterion for inclusion in the study.

Cases Accrued:

Bombay Hospital & MRC- 24 patients operated (process of manual database search under-way)

Mallika Spine Institute- A contact with data-keeper and center established, master-chart based and electronically available data being retrieved. Compiling and protocol based Performa filing pending. (Target is to have at least 60 cases to achieve adequate statistic power.)

Time-line

Retrospective Data Collection: March 2018

Data Analysis: April 2018

First Proof of manuscript by May 2018

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January 2018

Thesis Progress Report of ASSI Spine Fellow

Progress Report : High grade spondylolisthesis - reduction outcome of surgical procedure with or without reduction

Fellow: Dr Subramaniyam MH

ASSI Thesis/research topic:

High grade spondylolisthesis – outcome of surgical procedure with or without reduction



Dr Subramaniyam
MH

Study Centres:

Apollo hospitals, Chennai; Ganga Hospital, Coimbatore.

Objective:

To compare the clinical, radiological, functional outcome of two surgical procedures done for high grade spondylolisthesis patients- Reduction, posterior instrumentation, fusion and in situ posterior spinal fusion.

Methodology:

Patients with high grade spondylolisthesis, who have undergone the two procedures at the above two centers, from the period 2012 were enrolled into the study. All the patients preop Lumbosacral spine standing radiograph were evaluated for slip angle [angle drawn between a line drawn along inferior border of L5 vertebrae, and another line drawn along S1 superior endplate, perpendicular to the posterior border of sacrum], L5 incidence angle [angle between two lines, a line drawn perpendicular to L5 superior end plate, and the other line drawn from midpoint of superior endplate of L5 vertebrae, bisecting the bicoxofemoral axis], Lumbar lordosis [angle between inferior border of D12 vertebrae and superior border of S1 vertebrae], Dysplastic features [Sacral doming, Trapezoidal L5 vertebral body, narrowed pedicles, S1 spina bifida] were documented. Preop Oswestry disability index for low back pain, SF-36 health related quality of life questionnaire, proper neurological examination of spine, Spinal mobility [Flexion, Extension, Lateral flexion] with goniometer were documented. Patients who had undergone the two procedures were followed up for two years, and at the end of two years they were evaluated with standing Lumbosacral spine radiograph, Dynamic radiographs of lumbosacral spine, MRI of lumbosacral spine. Assessment of Oswestry disability index, SF-36 Questionnaire, Proper neurological examination, and Spinal mobility were undertaken. Standing radiograph was evaluated for slip angle, L5 incidence angle, lumbar lordosis and assessment of fusion using Bridwell criteria. Angular change of 3 degrees and or displacement of

3mm in dynamic radiographs were taken as pseudoarthrosis. MRI was evaluated for adjacent level segment degeneration, canal stenosis, instability. The values were tabulated and statistical analysis was carried.

Cases Accrued:

12 patients with 5 patients in insitu fusion group and 7 patients in reduction, posterior instrumentation, spinal fusion group.

Time-line:

June 2018 to be completed.

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January 2018

Thesis Progress Report of ASSI Spine Fellow

Progress Report : TLIF in lumbar caries spine: clinico-radiological outcome, safety and efficacy

Fellow: Dr Siddharth S Shah

ASSI Thesis/research topic:

TLIF in lumbar caries spine: clinico-radiological outcome, safety and efficacy



Dr Siddharth S Shah

Study Centers:

P.D. Hinduja Hospital & Medical Research Center, Mumbai
Gangaram Hospital, Delhi

Objective:

To study the efficacy, safety and outcomes of Transforaminal Lumbar Interbody Fusion (TLIF) in the treatment of tuberculosis of lumbar spine.

Methods:

Study design: A retrospective cohort analysis of prospectively collected registry database of all patients who underwent TLIF for Lumbar Spine Tuberculosis.

Study period: January 2012 – October 2017.

Patient selection: A retrospective data search of the records from the PACS / MRD / Personal data sets and from ASSI Registry was done to identify the cohort of all patients undergoing surgery for lumbar tuberculosis. The patients were then segregated based on the type of procedure performed: Anterior-only, Anterior + Posterior and Posterior-only. Those patients who underwent single stage posterior transforaminal debridement, interbody fusion, 3-column reconstruction and posterior instrumentation, were included in the study population.

Patient evaluation: Demographic and clinical details were recorded which included the details of presenting symptoms, assessment of back pain and leg pain, neurological symptoms, other stigmata of tuberculosis. Special focus of history was in the concomitant past/present history and/or treatment of tuberculosis, prior biopsy and culture reports and detailed record assessment of the anti-tuberculous treatment regimen. Clinical examination entailed both physical assessment of the lumbar spine as well as accurate neurological recording as per the MRC grading and Kumar grade. Radiological assessment included radiographs of the lumbar

spine as well as the MRI / CT scan images to aid in the diagnosis and planning treatment. Parameters noted were number of levels involved, skip lesions, type of tuberculous involvement, degree of vertebral destruction, end plate integrity. Operative assessment included operative duration, blood loss, number of levels instrumented, implant density, mode of anterior reconstruction: chip / strut graft or bullet / banana / mesh cage. Complications if any in the immediate postoperative period and delayed on follow-up were noted. Follow-up radiograph assessment was done to record bony fusion, healing of lesion, implant status, sagittal and coronal spinal alignment.

Outcomes measures: (Assessment at each follow-up visit)

1. Pain – Visual Analogue Scale (VAS)
2. Disability: Oswestry Disability Index (ODI)
3. Neurological assessment
4. Segmental / Local Kyphosis
5. Global Lumbar Lordosis
6. Fusion : as per Bridwell's criteria.

A minimum follow-up period of 1 year was used as a criterion for inclusion in the study. All available data was manually entered into the individual patient case proforma and thereafter into one single excel mastersheet, for accurate tabulation and statistical assessment.

Statistical evaluation planned in collaboration with in-house biostatistician at P.D. Hinduja Hospital & Medical Research Center using SPSS software v16.0. Expected statistical evaluation: Descriptive statistics, Shapiro-wilk test for Normality assessment, Pre- and Post-outcomes assessment using Paired 'T' test or Wilcoxin Signed Rank Test.

Application to the Institutional Ethics Committee of P.D. Hinduja Hospital & Medical Research Center done for ethical approval for the study. The ethics committee meeting awaited (Next expected meeting – January, 2018)

Database Retrieval:

- P.D. Hinduja Hospital & Medical research Center: ~35 patients operated (additional manual database search underway). Proforma-based data recording of individual patients on-going.
- Gangaram Hospital: Contact with center and mentor established. Proforma based data retrieval to be initiated.

Expected Time-line:

Ethics Committee Clearance: January 2018

Retrospective Data collection: March 2018

Data Analysis: April 2018

First proof of manuscript: May 2018

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ASSI

ASSOCIATION OF
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OF INDIA



January 2018

Thesis Progress Report of ASSI Spine Fellow

**Progress Report : Thoracic Myelopathy due to OLF/OPLL/PID:
Demographics, clinical presentation and outcome of various
surgical procedures**

Fellow: Dr Ashish Yadav

ASSI Thesis/research topic:

Thoracic Myelopathy due to OLF/OPLL/PID: Demographics, clinical presentation and outcome of various surgical procedures

Study Centers:

Sancheti Spine Centre and Hospital

Objective:

- 1) To study of epidemiology and clinical presentation of thoracic myelopathy due to OLF/OPLL/Thoracic PID
- 2) To study the functional outcome of various operative procedure for thoracic myelopathy

Methodology:

Patients are selected on the basis of inclusion and exclusion criteria of study from sancheti spine center and hospital.

Data is obtained on the basis of structured questionnaire and outcome scoring system(mJOA and SF36) at 6 , 12 and 24 months.

Statistical analysis of data will be done at the end of study

Cases Accrued:

5 cases

Time-line:

2013 - 2017



Dr Ashish Yadav

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January 2018

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

1. President's welcome
2. Condolences & Leaves of Absence if any
3. Ratification of the Minutes of the last A.G.B.M. - Hyderabad and E.G.B.M.- Kovalum
4. Secretarial Report
 - I. Program Committee
 - II. Education Committee
 - a. ASSI Fellowships – entrance & exit exams
 - b. Short term fellowships
 - c. Re-accreditation of ASSI Fellowship centers
 - III. Research Committee
 - a. On going research projects
 - b. ASSI thesis topics
 - IV. Social Work Committee
 - V. Spine Registry Committee
 - VI. Website Committee
 - VII. Advocacy Committee
 - VIII. Nomination & Constitution Committee
 - IX. Task Force for Prevention of SCI
 - X. Task Force on ASSI Monograms
 - XI. Task Force on Indian Spine Journal
 - XII. Task Force on ASSI Outreach Program
5. Accounts & Income Tax Status
6. A.S.S.I. Presidential Guest Speaker – ASSICON 2019
7. Election of Office Bearers
 - I. Nomination received
 - II. Eligibility criteria for various posts of ASSI
8. ICS 2018: Amritsar - Update
9. ASSICON 2019 : Ahmedabad – update
10. Call for Proposal for ICS 2019

11. Call for Proposal for ASSICON 2020 (to be held in December 2019 because of SpineWeek at Melbourne)
12. Update of ASSI participation in Global Spine Congress (GSC) 2018 in Singapore and CSRS AP, New Delhi
13. Ratification of New Members
14. Re-visiting guidelines for ASSICON – start from Friday morning to Sunday afternoon
15. Criteria for application for ASSI Research Awards
16. ASSI Constitutional Amendment
17. Any other matter with the permission of the Chair

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January 2018

Spine Conferences in 2018: Save the Dates

Spine conferences from January to December 2018, Save the Dates

Month	Dates	Conference	Society	City	Website
January	5-7	The 4 th Neurology and Neurosurgery Conference (NeuroConf 2018)		Bangkok, Thailand	www.engii.org/conference/NeuroConf2018/
	19-21	ASSICON 2018	Association of Spine Surgeons of India (ASSI)	Chennai	assicon2018.in
March	22-24	The 9 th Annual Meeting of CSRSAP	Cervical Spine Research Society Asia Pacific Section	New Delhi, India	csrsap2018.com
May	2-5	Global Spine Congress	AO Spine	Singapore	www.gsc2018.org
	9-11	34 th Annual Meeting Cervical Spine Research Society - Europe	Cervical Spine Research Society	Lisbon, Portugal	www.csrs-europe-congress.com
	14-18	45 th ISSLS Annual Meeting	The International Society for the Study of the Lumbar Spine	Banff, Canada	www.issls.org/banff-2018/
June	7-10	APSS 2018 Annual Meeting	Asia Pacific Spine Society (APSS)	Taiwan	www.apssonline.org/apss-biennial-congress.php
July	11-14	25 th International Meeting on Advanced Spine Techniques	Scoliosis Research Society (SRS)	Los Angeles, CA, USA	www.srs.org/imast2018/

		(IMAST)			
August	9-11	ICS 2017	Association of Spine Surgeons of India (ASSI)	Amritsar	www.ics2018amritsar.com
September	13-15	57 th ISCoS Annual Scientific Meeting	International Spinal Cord Society (ISCoS)	Sydney, Australia	
	19-21	EUROSPINE 2018	European Spine society	Barcelona, Spain	www.eurospinemeeting.org/f130000847.html
October	10-13	53 rd Annual Meeting & Course	Scoliosis Research Society (SRS)	Bologna, Italy	www.srs.org/am18
December	6-8	Cervical Spine Research Society Annual Meeting	Cervical Spine Research Society	The Phoenician, Scottsdale, Arizona	

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Picture Gallery : ASSICON 2017

ASSICON 2017 Hyderabad, 26th - 29th January 2017, HICC Hyderabad, Hyderabad





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Picture Gallery : ICS 2017

ICS 2017 Kovalam, 11th - 13th August 2017, The Leela, Kovalam, Trivandrum





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