

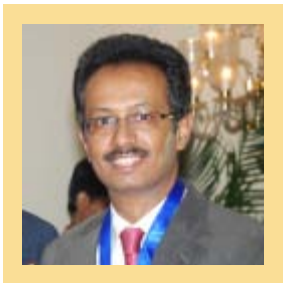
NOVEMBER 2012



# A.S.S.I.

## NEWS

### FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



Dear Colleagues,

This is probably the last time that I will be communicating to you through the A.S.S.I. News letter as the President of A.S.S.I. It has been a great privilege and honour to be the Secretary of this great Association for six years and then the President for four years and I thank you all for your support and co-operation. During this time, it was heartening to see the Association grow by leaps and bounds into a strong academic body. Notable amongst the achievements are the establishment of A.S.S.I. Travelling Fellowships, the A.S.S.I. Awards for Basic Sciences, Clinical Science and for the Best Publication. A Young Investigator Award was also established to promote research amongst our young colleagues. The Silver Jubilee Year also saw the publication of the A.S.S.I. Textbook on Spinal Infections and Trauma which was very well received worldwide. The Combined Instructional Course with the Spine Society of Europe was a great success for the last 10 years. Having many prominent spine surgeons from Europe every year in our meeting has helped to get recognition for our Association amongst SSE members. From this year, I am pleased to inform you that for the next three years, we will have the Instructional Course with AOSpine, which is the largest educational spine body in the world.

A.S.S.I. has also found a rightful place of recognition amongst the world bodies. This year, we had a separate one hour session for A.S.S.I. in NASS meeting in Dallas in October 2012 and we will be having a one hour session in the Global Spine Congress in Hong Kong in April 2013.

With the generous grant from Synthes, we have also initiated the Indian Spine Registry from last year. For the first time, we will be able to have an Indian based data for patients requiring spine surgery.

I am sure that we will be able to grow from strength to strength and A.S.S.I. will be one of the premier clinical and academic bodies in the years to come.

Looking forward to meet all of you in Cochin.

**Prof. S. Rajasekaran, Ph.D.**

President - A.S.S.I.

## FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK



Dear Colleagues,

Since I took over as Secretary & Treasurer of the Association of Spine Surgeons of India at ASSICON – 2007, Ahmedabad, it has been a privilege & honour to hold this esteemed position.

I have seen the Association progress by leaps and bounds, We have had a steady increase in membership with the interest in “Spine” as a subspecialty developing across our vast nation.

The A.S.S.I. celebrated its “Silver Jubilee” with two ASSICONS at Mumbai & Delhi. The effort of the entire executive committee with the Presidents in particular taking the lead is commendable.

The interest in the fellowships, the research awards & the registry is slowly yet surely increasing and I am sure we shall realize the vision of our senior members soon.

I sign off, most humbled by all the love, regard & respect I have received during my two terms as “Secretary & Treasurer” .

Long Live A.S.S.I.!!!

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ram Chaddha'.

**Dr. Ram Chaddha**

Secretary & Treasurer - A.S.S.I.

# Minutes of the Annual General Body Meeting of the "Association of Spine Surgeons of India" held at Hotel "Le Meridien", New Delhi on Saturday, February 25, 2012

The Annual General Body Meeting of the Association of Spine Surgeons of India was held on February 25, 2012, at 1700 hrs. at Hotel "Le Meridien", New Delhi. The attendees were as per register. Dr. S. Rajasekaran, President, A.S.S.I. was in chair and called the meeting to order.

1. **Condolences:** There were no condolences
2. **Passing the minutes of A.G.B.M. – Mumbai & E.G.B.M. – Mahabalipuram:** The Secretary, Dr. Ram Chaddha, read out the minutes of the General Body Meetings at Mumbai & Mahabalipuram. The minutes were passed with a few changes as mentioned in the "Secretarial Report" as follows – proposed by Dr. Vilas Jog, seconded by Dr. Arvind Bhawe
3. **Secretarial Report - Dr. Ram Chaddha:** The clause mentioning "He should have organized at least one ASSICON / ICS as Organizing Secretary/ Organizing Chairman" was deleted from the "NOMINATION COMMITTEE REPORT".

The President, Dr. S. Rajasekaran gave a report about the success of the A.S.S.I. Fellowships & the Exit Exam. He felt that the performance of the fellows at the exam was average. The feedback from the fellows was that the fellowship should be longer than the stipulated 1 year. He proposed a 2-year fellowship. The financial constraints were also discussed. It was proposed that the mentor should pay more. There was a suggestion to increase the value of the fellowship. The Indo-American Spine Alliance had proposed supporting the fellowship. They offered a U.S. fellowship for the top-ranker at the exit exam. There was a suggestion to standardize the training and structure a syllabus. Dr. Saumyajit Basu suggested the fellow could be rotated to various centres. The house agreed in principle.

Dr. V. T. Ingalthalikar expressed concerns about monitoring the training at various centres. Dr. Ram Chaddha felt that a syllabus would help streamline the same. Dr. Samir Dalvie was not too happy with the mentor having to pay, not having a say in the

selection process & having to work with the selected fellow for 2 years. Dr. S. Rajasekaran commented that only those mentors/centres who are fine with the present scenario should apply.

Dr. Ram Chaddha mentioned that the mentors/centres could confirm/cancel their interest in having a fellowship till the first week of March 2012 based on the discussion just had in the AGBM.

Dr. Pradyumna Pai Raiturkar suggested that the A.S.S.I. could give a Research Grant of INR 50,000/- to the fellow on completion of the training. The President Dr. S. Rajasekaran accepted the suggestion. Dr. Rajendra Prasad stressed the importance of neuro-surgical training for the fellow.

Dr. Samir Dalvie suggested that the mentor should be a part of the selection process of the fellow. This would allow both the mentor and the fellow to get a feel/feedback of each other. The General Body disapproved.

The General Body finally approved of the following for the A.S.S.I. fellowship – Duration 2 years, Mentor pays INR 30,000/- per month to the fellow, Globus Medical (Indo-American Spine Alliance) Funding can be taken, Research Fund of INR 50,000/- to each fellow from the A.S.S.I. at the end of the tenure, Fellow from Nepal welcome, Dr. Abhay Nene & Dr. Saumyajit Basu to write up the curriculum, Institution + Mentor the leader.

4. **Accounts & Income Tax Status – Dr. H. S. Chhabra:** Dr. H. S. Chhabra informed the house that there was a profit of INR 11 lac in the last year. The details of the accounts would be presented at the E.G.B.M. at Srinagar in August 2012. The ICS - 2011 Mahabalipuram submitted the audited balance sheet and contributed INR 3 lac to the A.S.S.I. It was proposed that the Organizers of the ICS contribute INR 2 lac or 50% of the profit whichever is higher, while the organizers of the ASSICON contribute INR 4 lac or 50% of the profit whichever is higher to the A.S.S.I.

The ASSICON – 2011 at Mumbai had contributed INR 5 lac to the A.S.S.I. The accounts were accepted by the house – Proposed by Dr. Gautam Zaveri, seconded by Dr. Sivakumar.

5. **ICS - 2012 – Srinagar: Dates, Venue, Theme: Dr. Saheel Maajid, Dr. Suhail Afzal:** The organizers of the ICS-2012 invited the house to attend the Instructional Course in Spine from August 24-26, 2012 hosted by the OSAK – Orthopaedic Surgeons Association of Kashmir at Hotel Taj Vivanta, Srinagar. They promised an academic feast with the theme of “Cervical Spine” within the enchanting environment of Srinagar.
6. **ASSICON- 2013: Kochi: Dates, Venue: Dr. Suresh Pillai:** The organizers of ASSICON – 2013 invited the house to attend ASSICON-2013, the 26th Annual Conference of the A.S.S.I. at Hotel Le Meridien, Kochi, Kerala from January 17-20, 2013. The Spine Forum, Kerala would host the mega-event and would be a ‘must attend’ for all the A.S.S.I. members.
7. **A.S.S.I. Orator 2013:** Dr. S. Rajasekaran, President, A.S.S.I. informed the house that he would decide on the ‘Presidential Orator’ & communicate with the organizers of ASSICON-2013, Kochi.
8. **Ratification of New Members:** Dr. Ram Chaddha informed the house that 44 new members had applied for life membership of the A.S.S.I. in the year 2011-12. The applications were complete as per the norms. The new members were ratified & their details were to be forwarded to the A.S.S.I. secretariat.
9. **Election of Office Bearers:** Dr. Abhay Nene & Dr. Karthik Kailash completed their tenure of 3 years (2009-12) as members of the Executive Committee. The General Body appreciated their contribution towards the activities of the A.S.S.I. Dr. Appaji Krishnan, co-opted for ICS-2011, Mahabalipuram & Dr. Rajendra Prasad, co-opted for ASSICON – 2012, were also thanked for their contributions. Dr. Atul Goel, eminent neurosurgeon co-opted was also thanked in his absence. The above outgoing members were all applauded by the house.

Dr. Abhay Nene was co-opted for work on the website and membership registration along with Dr. Ajoy Prasad Shetty. Dr. Sajesh Menon was co-

opted in addition to Dr. Suresh Pillai for ASSICON - 2013, Kochi. A provision was made for the Organizers of ICS-2013 and ASSICON-2014 to be co-opted after the meetings were confirmed.

Dr. Gautam Zaveri was proposed as member of the E.C. by Dr. Amit Jhala & seconded by Dr. Samir Dalvie. Dr. V. Suryaprakash Rao was proposed as member of E.C. by Dr. S. Y. Bhojraj & seconded by Dr. Amol Rege. Both Dr. Gautam Zaveri & Dr. V. Suryaprakash Rao were welcomed in to the Executive Committee of the A.S.S.I. from 2012-15.

#### **The Executive Committee of the Association of Spine Surgeons for 2012-13 is as follows:**

##### **President:**

S. Rajasekaran (2011-13) – sr@gangahospital.com

##### **Vice- President:**

Sajan Hegde (2011-13) – drsajanhegde@yahoo.co.in

##### **Secretary & Treasurer:**

Ram Chaddha (2010-13) - spineram@yahoo.com

##### **Joint Secretary:**

H. S. Chhabra (2010-13) –  
drhschhabra@isiconline.org

##### **Members:**

Saumyajit Basu (2010-13) -  
saumyajitbasu@hotmail.com

Amol Rege (2010-13) – regeamol@hotmail.com

Rajesh Parasnis (2011-14) –  
rajeshparasnis@rediffmail.com

K. Venkatesh (2011-14) –  
venkateshortho1@cmcvellore.ac.in

Gautam Zaveri (2012-15) – zaverigr@hotmail.com

V. Suryaprakash Rao (2012-15) –  
vsprao@rediffmail.com

##### **Co-opted members:**

Abhay Nene – abhaynene@yahoo.com

Ajoy Prasad Shetty – ajojshetty@gmail.com

Saheel Maajid – saheelmaajid@gmail.com

Suresh Pillai – sureshortho@gmail.com

Sajesh Menon – sajesh@aims.amrita.edu

R. Sivakumar – drsivakumarspine@yahoo.co.in

#### **10. ICS-2013: Proposal for Dates, Venue & Theme (Supporting Letter of local Spine Body):**

Dr. R. Sivakumar proposed “Kodaikanal” from August 16-18, 2013 to be organized by: Madural

Spine Club, Tamil Nadu at "The Carlton" Hotel. The theme of "Failed Spine Surgery" was proposed. The house accepted the proposal. Dr. R. Sivakumar would be co-opted to the Executive Committee for the above event.

**11. ASSICON-2014: Proposal of Dates & Venue (Supporting letter of local Spine Body):**

Dr. Saumyajit Basu of Kolkata proposed for ASSICON-2014 in January 2014, third week. Dr. Amol Rege, Dr. Vilas Jog, Dr. Arvind Bhawe et al proposed Pune for the same, but withdrew in favour of Kolkata with a request to the house for support for ASSICON-2015 when they propose again at Kochi, ASSICON-2013.

The General Body welcomed ASSICON-2014 at Kolkata. Dr. Saumyajit Basu is already a member of the Executive Committee of the A.S.S.I.

**12. Any other matter with the permission of the chair:** Dr. K. V. P. Singh complained about improper communication. He was requested by the President & Secretary to visit [www.assi.in](http://www.assi.in) which would be managed by Dr. Ajoy Prasad

Shetty or contact Dr. Ram Chaddha ([spineram@yahoo.com](mailto:spineram@yahoo.com)) or the Secretariat VAMA EVENTS ([vamaevents@yahoo.co.in](mailto:vamaevents@yahoo.co.in) or [vamahospitality@hotmail.com](mailto:vamahospitality@hotmail.com)).

The V. T. Ingalhalikar Gold Medal for the Best Paper at ASSICON-2012 was awarded to Dr. Mihir Bapat for his Oral Presentation on "Management of Cranio-vertebral Junction Tuberculosis: A Protocol". He would be presented the medal at the Inauguration Ceremony of ASSICON – 2013 at Kochi.

Dr. S. Rajasekaran requested for contributions to the "European Spine Journal" which was ready to publish a special "A.S.S.I. – Supplement".

Dr. S. Rajasekaran, President A.S.S.I. thanked Dr. H. S. Chhabra and the entire team that organized ASSICON – 2012, New Delhi for an excellent show.

The AGBM was called to a close by the President Dr. S. Rajasekaran.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the chair and all members.

## Report on ASSICON 2012



*Dignitaries on dias during inaugural ceremony*



*A.S.S.I. Anthem being sung during inaugural ceremony*

The Silver Jubilee (25th) Annual Conference of Association of Spine Surgeons of India (ASSICON 2012) was organized by Spine Society – Delhi Chapter at Hotel Le Meridien, New Delhi from 23rd to 26th February, 2012.

For the first time in the history of A.S.S.I., 7 Societies collaborated with A.S.S.I. and contributed to the

scientific deliberations. On each afternoon during the first three day of the conference, there were parallel sessions of Scoliosis Research Society (SRS), International Society for Study of Lumbar Spine (ISSLS), International Spinal Cord Society (ISCoS), International Group for Advancement in Spine Surgery (IGASS) and Neurological Society of India (NSI).





*Dr. Rajasekaran presenting Life Time Achievement Award to Dr. P. K. Dave*



*Dr. Rajasekaran presenting Life Time Achievement Award to Dr S M Tuli*



*Dr. Rajasekaran presenting Life Time Achievement Award to Air Marshall A. S. Chahal*



*Dr. Rajasekaran presenting Life Time Achievement Award to Col. V. S. Madan*



*Dr. Rajasekaran Releasing Book titled Mastering orthopedic techniques -spine surgery in the presence of authors*



*Chief Guest Maj. H.P.S. Ahluwalia delivering motivational talk during inaugural ceremony*



*Folk dance during Inauguration ceremony in Le Meridien*



*Inaugural Dinner at Hotel Le Meridien*



*Dr. Rajasekaran presenting Life Time Achievement Award to Dr. A. K. Banerjee*



*Scientific session in progress*



*Dr. Ram Chaddha, Secretary, A.S.S.I. delivering secretarial report*



*Honouring Dr. Munish Gupta, President of Overseas Spine Surgeons of Indian Origin*





*Honouring Dr. Anand Agarwal,  
President of World Endoscopic Navigated & Minimal  
Invasive Spine Surgery (WEINMISS)*



*Honouring Dr. S. Rajasekaran,  
President of International Society for the Study  
of the Lumbar Spine (ISSLS)*



*Honouring Dr. W. E. I. Masry,  
Past President of International Spinal Cord Society*



*Honouring Prof. Norbert Passuti, President of International  
Group for Advancement in Spine Surgery (IGASS)*



*Honouring Dr. Lawrence Lenke,  
Past President of Scoliosis Research Society*



*Dr. V. T. Ingalthalikar presenting  
VTI gold medal award for 2011 to Dr. Kapil Mohan*





*Dr. Manoj Sharma enthraling the participants with delightful ghazals during banquet*



*Gala Dinner at Hotel Imperial*



*Participants in high spirits*



*A.S.S.I. members demonstrating dance moves during Gala Dinner*



*Valedictory*



*Dr. Rajasekaran honouring Chief Guest Maj. H.P.S. Ahluwalia*



*Dr. Munish Gupta giving valuable tips to young spine surgeons during pre conference workshop*

On the last day, there was a session of World Endoscopic Navigated & Minimal Invasive Spine Surgery (WENMISS). Overseas Spine Surgeons of Indian Origin also conducted a session. The participating Presidents /Immediate Past Presidents of the Societies were honoured by the President of A.S.S.I. during the conference.

26 International and 80 Indian faculty participated in the conference. There were 423 participants and 38 exhibitors.

There were four pre-conference workshops - Spinal Osteotomies & Restoration of balance in Scoliosis; Non-fusion techniques for early onset scoliosis; Atlantoaxial / occipito cervical fixation and standalone cervical spine cage; and Multilevel percutaneous pedicle screws. Four companies i.e. Medtronic India, Globus Medical, Synthes and Orthofix participated in the workshops.

There were 58 invited talks, 12 Panel discussions, 59 free paper presentations & 65 poster presentations. The format of panel discussions using illustrative cases was appreciated in general by the participants. The PG Training session on "Evaluation of Cervical Spine and interpreting images in clinical practice" by Dr. V.T. Ingalhalikar, conducted in joint collaboration with Delhi Orthopaedic Association, was well attended.

Dr. Ashok Thomas was given the A.S.S.I. Clinical Research Award 2012 for his study titled "A prospective randomised control study comparing Lumbar Spinous Process Splitting Decompression and Conventional Midline Decompression for Degenerative Lumbar Canal Stenosis - A Clinical & Biomechanical analysis", Dr. H. S. Chhabra was awarded A.S.S.I. Basic

Science Award 2012 for his work on " Validation of bone marrow cells for autologous bone marrow cell transplantation in persons with acute spinal cord injury - An Indian Pilot Study", Dr Ajay Kothari was presented the Young Investigator Award 2012 for his study titled "Prevalence & Patterns of Degenerative Disc Disease (DDD) in the Whole Spine - Hierarchical Cluster Analysis of Pan - spine MRI Images of 785 subjects with & without Back Pain".

The prestigious VTI Gold Medal Award was won by Dr. Mihir Bapat for his paper titled "Management of craniovertebral junction tuberculosis; a protocol".

The A.S.S.I. Spine Registry was launched during the conference. Dr. Rajasekaran and Dr. Rishi Kanna briefed the representatives of the participating institutions about the details of the registry during a special session of the conference.

Dr. Naresh Trehan delivered the A.S.S.I. oration on "Building Future Healthcare in India". Dr. Rajasekaran urged the members of A.S.S.I. to contribute to the society through his Presidential address on "Let's Pledge to Give".

Maj. H.P.S. Ahluwalia was the Chief Guest during the inauguration ceremony. His motivational talk struck a chord with all the participants and he was given a standing ovation.

Dr. S M Tuli, Dr. P. K. Dave, Air Marshal A. S. Chahal, A. K. Banerjee & Col. V. S. Madan were honoured with Delhi Spine Society's Life Time Achievement Award in the field of spine surgery during the inaugural ceremony.

The Banquet dinner was held in the lawns of the





*The core organising group*

majestic Hotel Imperial with the colourful theme of Holi. Dr. Manoj Sharma enthralled the audience with his melodious ghazals.

It was overall a successful conference with the faculty and delegates giving a good feedback of the conference.

## Minutes of the “Extra-ordinary General Body Meeting” of the “Association of Spine Surgeons of India” held on Saturday, August 25, 2012 at 1300 hrs. at Hotel Taj Vivanta, Srinagar

An Extra-ordinary General Body meeting of the Association of Spine Surgeons of India was held on Saturday, August 25, 2012 at 1300 hrs. at the Taj Vivanta, Srinagar during ICS- 2012. The A.S.S.I. members as per register attended the meeting.

The following matters were discussed as per agenda:

**1. Accounts & Income Tax Status – Dr. H. S. Chhabra:** Dr. H. S. Chhabra mentioned that returns of the A.S.S.I. need to be filed and audited accounts of all meetings – ASSICON & ICS need to be submitted by all the organizers. He had received the audited accounts of ASSICON – 2011, Mumbai & ICS – 2011, Mahabalipuram. He presented the audited accounts to the General Body.

On behalf of the organizers of ASSICON – 2012, New Delhi, he offered a cheque of INR 1.6 lac to the A.S.S.I. Dr. S. Rajasekaran, President said that the amount of INR 1.6 lac would set a wrong precedence as it would send a wrong message to

future meetings if the minimum suggested amount for ASSICON was not met by a major metro meeting like ASSICON – 2012, New Delhi. Dr. H. S. Chhabra clarified that they had spent a lot of money? He asked a question if such meetings are meant to make a profit? Dr. Samir Dalvie suggested that a percentage of the net collection of a meeting should go to the parent organization & expenses should be suitably planned. Dr. H. S. Chhabra mentioned he would go back to the local organizing team in New Delhi and raise the cheque amount INR 2 lac after taking their consent he would send the modified cheque to the A.S.S.I. later.

Dr. V. T. Ingalhalikar proposed that the audited accounts presented by Dr. H. S. Chhabra be passed. Dr. Suhail Afzal seconded the proposal.

**2. A.S.S.I. Subspecialty Meeting at IOACON – 2012, Chennai:** Dr. S. Rajasekaran, President A.S.S.I. & President I.O.A. clarified that unlike the



past, this year there would be a dedicated "Spine Hall" at IOACON – 2012, Chennai. All the three days of IOACON would have spine programs including papers, symposia etc. He also mentioned there would be a workshop after IOACON. He mentioned Dr. Prashant Kekre, Dr. Sajan Hegde, Dr. Karthik Kailash & Dr. Nalli Yuvraj who are part of the local organizing committee besides being our members would liaise with Dr. Saumyajit Basu & Dr. Abhay Nene to plan a program for the three days. All members of the A.S.S.I. who wish to participate should contact Dr. Basu & Dr. Nene. Dr. V. T. Ingalthalikar asked how free papers would be selected? Dr. S. Rajasekaran clarified it would be done by "Spine Specialists" from the local organizing committee with the A.S.S.I. representatives. Dr. Ketan Khurjekar wanted to know where the free papers would be presented. Dr. Rajasekaran clarified that all the "Spine Papers" would be in the "Spine Hall".

3. **ASSICON – 2013 – Kochi: Dr. Suresh Pillai, Dr. Sajesh Menon:** Dr. Pillai & Dr. Menon invited all members to attend ASSICON – 2013 at "Le Meridien", Kochi from January 17-20, 2013. They promised a gala event with the best of academics and hospitality.
4. **ICS – 2013 – Kodaikanal:** Dr. R. Sivakumar: Dr. Sivakumar invited the house to attend ICS – 2013 at Kodaikanal from August 16-18, 2013. He mentioned it would be great time to come to this enchanting hill station in Southern India with family for a time of your life.
5. **ASSICON – 2014 – Kolkata: Dr. Saumyajit Basu:** Dr. Basu made a brief presentation and invited the house to attend ASSICON – 2014 at Kolkata from January 24-26, 2014.
6. **Any other matter with the permission of the chair:**
  - **Participation of International Spine Society at ICS:** The SSE (Spine Society of Europe/ Eurospine) represented by Dr. Frank had had a discussion with Dr. S. Rajasekaran and expressed their inability to continue with the ICS in the future.  
Dr. S. Rajasekaran mentioned that there is a proposal from the JSS of participation at ICS in the future. The house suggested that the executive committee should explore such proposals like the JSS, AO-Spine, and Euro Spine etc. to have joint meetings. The pros & cons of such meetings were discussed.

Dr. Samir Dalvie felt that A.S.S.I. should come as equal at any of these meetings and should not lose its identity. Dr. Shankar Acharya felt that the level of our papers was at par with any of the above-mentioned societies and we should initiate proceedings for such meetings.

- **APOA Spine members:** Dr. S. Rajasekaran mentioned that the APOA has 2 positions for Spine Surgeons from India. Dr. Arvind Jayaswal was completing his term and he suggested Dr. Sajan Hegde & Dr. Ram Chaddha, office bearers of the A.S.S.I. should be nominated for the same. The house agreed to his suggestion and seconded his proposal.
- **NASS – 2012 invitation for A.S.S.I.:** Dr. S. Rajasekaran mentioned that the North American Spine Society had very recently offered an hour of time at the "Global Spine Forum" at Dallas, USA on October 26, 2012 to the A.S.S.I. He proposed that few members of the A.S.S.I. who plan to attend the NASS meeting this year would participate along with him at the same. He hoped a good show this time would create many more such invitations in future.
- **Indian Spine Registry:** Dr. S. Rajasekaran was unhappy with the participation of the Centres who had consented to contribute to the Indian Spine Registry. He mentioned that there was a registration of approximately 1890 cases from a handful of centres while he had expected over 5000 if all the centres had registered their cases as promised. He requested all centres to contribute all their cases.
- **European Spine Journal – Special Issue:** There were inadequate submissions from our members for this special issue and hence we were unable to continue our deliberations for the same.

The President Dr. S. Rajasekaran & Secretary Dr. Ram Chaddha acknowledged and appreciated the efforts of Dr. Saheel Majid & Dr. Suhail Afzal with their entire team in making ICS – 2012 a fantastic success. The organizers thanked Dr. Gautam Zaveri & Dr. Abhay Nene for their help with their planning of the academics for ICS – 2012.

The President Dr. S. Rajasekaran called the meeting to a close. Dr. Ram Chaddha thanked all members for attending the EGBM and the President for being in chair.

# Instructional Course in Spine 2012 (ICS 2012, Srinagar)

(A combined meeting of Spine Society of Europe and A.S.S.I.)



Instructional Course in Spine, ICS 2012, a combined meeting of Spine Society of Europe and Association of Spine Surgeons of India, was held in the beautiful Valley of Kashmir from August 24-26, 2012. The venue of the conference was Hotel Vivanta by Taj, Dal View Srinagar, located on the picturesque Kralasangri Hills.

The conference was organized by Dr. Saheel Maajid and Dr. Suhail Afzal. Prof. Gh Rasul Mir FRCS, M.Ch, FRCS was the patron.

The conference was attended by a record 180 delegates from all over India and abroad.

European Spine Society was represented by Dr. Marco Teli from Milan, Italy.

We had an excellent national faculty like Prof. S. Rajasekaran, Dr. Sajjan Hegde, Dr. H. S. Chhabra, Dr. Ram Chaddha, Dr. Gautam Zaveri, Dr. V. T. Ingalthalikar, Dr. Prashant Kekre, Dr. Saumyaji Basu,

Dr. Shankar Acharya, Dr. Shashank Kale, Dr. Abhay Nene, Dr. Samir Dalvie to mention a few.

The Theme of the meeting was Disorders of the Cervical Spine. The scientific programme was meticulously designed by Dr. Gautam Zaveri and it was appreciated by all the delegates as being of very high academic order. Delegates actively participated in the scientific sessions and fireside discussions. Delegates and spouses enjoyed visiting local tourist attractions like Pari Mahal, Cheshma Shahi, Mughal Gardens, Royal Springs International Golf Course and Shikara Ride of the famous Dal Lake.

The feedback from the delegates was that this was one of the best ICS meetings ever.

Feedback:

Congratulations on arranging a very successful meeting - both academically and socially. The academic

discussions were of very high order and the interactions were very good. The feedback from most of the delegates was that this was one of the best ICSS ever....

**Dr. S. Rajasekaran**

Thank you. Shall never forget your spirit. All the best...

**Marco**

Le mail tiraggiungonoovunque con.... **Marco Teli**

Would like compliment you for a very well organized

ICS and that too despite the hurdles. It was my pleasure to participate.... **Dr. H. S. Chhabra**

By all reports ICS Srinagar was a GRAND success. I congratulate you guys for having worked so hard to achieve all the accolades. I believe you had about 180 registrants. Wonderful. I, in fact, felt proud of you guys when I heard great reports of the meeting including that from our A.S.S.I. President....

**Dr. Arvind Jayaswal**

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## A.S.S.I. Awards & Fellowships for 2013

### (Application protocols)

#### A.S.S.I. - CLINICAL RESEARCH AWARD – 2013

The A.S.S.I. encourages clinical research projects undertaken by its members.

Three copies of the complete report of a research project finished in 2012, including the treatise, yet unpublished, is to be submitted for the award by Monday, December 31, 2012 to the Secretariat.

The A.S.S.I. – Clinical Research Award is a certificate of honour and Indian Rupees 50,000/- (Fifty thousand) which will be presented at the inaugural function of ASSICON – 2013 at Kochi.

The judges would be three senior A.S.S.I. members.

#### A.S.S.I. – BASIC SCIENCES AWARD – 2013

The A.S.S.I. encourages research on “Basic Sciences” undertaken by its members. Three copies of the complete report of the project finished in 2012, including the treatise, yet unpublished, is to be submitted for the award by Monday, December 31, 2012 to the Secretariat.

The A.S.S.I. – Basic Sciences Award is a certificate of honour and Indian Rupees 50,000/- (Fifty thousand) which will be presented at the inaugural function of ASSICON – 2013 at Kochi.

The judges would be three senior A.S.S.I. members.

#### A.S.S.I. – YOUNG INVESTIGATORS AWARD – 2013

The A.S.S.I. encourages research projects undertaken by its young members less than 35 years of age.

Three copies of the complete report of a research

project finished in 2012, including the treatise, yet unpublished, is to be submitted for the award by Monday, December 31, 2012 to the Secretariat.

The A.S.S.I. – Young Investigators Award is a certificate of honour and Indian Rupees 25,000/- (Twenty-five thousand) which will be presented at the inaugural function of ASSICON – 2013 at Kochi.

The judges would be three senior A.S.S.I. members.

#### A.S.S.I. PUBLICATION AWARD – 2013

The A.S.S.I. acknowledges & recognizes the member who has made the most substantial contribution to published literature in the year 2012.

The award includes a certificate and an award of Indian Rupees 12,500/- (Twelve thousand five hundred) to be presented at the inaugural function of ASSICON – 2013 at Kochi. The applicant has to send three copies of all his published material to the Secretariat by Monday, December 31, 2012.

The A.S.S.I. Publication award is judged by a three member committee namely - President, Vice President and Secretary (or any other senior member like a Past President of the A.S.S.I., if applicant for the award is also one of the above office-bearers)

The following point scale is used:

#### International Journals

- First author of invited review articles/ full original papers 10
- First author of case report 7
- Co-author 4



## Indian Journals

- First author of invited review articles/full papers 7
- Co-authors of any of above 3

The applicant who gets the maximum amount of marks for publications published in 2012 gets the award. If there is a close call, the award may be shared to recognize and encourage members.

## A.S.S.I. – TRAVELLING FELLOWSHIP FOR 2013

The A.S.S.I. awards two travelling fellowships from amongst the A.S.S.I. members. The duration of the fellowship is three weeks and will begin with the ICS – 2013 attendance at Kodaikanal and then visiting two / three spine surgery centres in different parts of India. The registration fee and local hospitality for ICS – 2013 for the selected fellows will be borne by the local organizers of ICS - 2013. Each A.S.S.I. travelling fellow will receive actual payments for travel (by 2nd AC / Air whichever is cheaper) and stay (arranged by local organizers) on receipt of a written report of the fellowship from the selected fellow.

The travel to the ICS – 2013 meeting and thereafter to the two/ three centres in India and back home as well as local subsistence including stay and travel will have to be arranged by the selected fellows in co-ordination with local organisers. The local organizers will surely offer organizational support. The applicant has to be a life member of the A.S.S.I. and should send three copies of his/her curriculum vitae with an application stating what the expectation from this fellowship is.

The application should reach the Secretariat by Monday, December 31, 2012. The selected candidates would be informed by January 31, 2013.

## A.S.S.I. - DARTMOUTH SPINE FELLOWSHIP - 2013:

The A.S.S.I. announces its annual fellowship in spine surgery in collaboration with the Dartmouth Medical School, New Hampshire, USA. The selected fellow will work in the spine surgery unit of the Department of Orthopaedics of the Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center in May – June 2013 for a period of 4-6 weeks.

Though the fellowship will have no stipend, the selected fellow will receive travel and stay allowance from the Dartmouth – Hitchcock Medical Center. Applications are invited from interested A.S.S.I. life members. Please submit your applications to the Secretariat by Monday, December 31, 2012.

## Requirements:

1. A.S.S.I. life member
2. Age less than 45 years at the time of application
3. Applicant must have a US visa valid for at least a year from date of travel

## Applicant must indicate:

- Current professional position
- Current work profile including percentage of spine work in practice
- Special spine interests
- Contribution to A.S.S.I. as regards conferences attended, papers/posters presented, meetings organized etc
- Contribution to academics as regards international/ national/ regional papers/ publications/ podium presentations etc
- Specific expectations from the Dartmouth fellowship (in 50 words)

The applicants would be assessed based on the following criteria:

## DARTMOUTH FELLOWSHIP POINT SYSTEM

(A) A.S.S.I. related achievements:

1. Research award / publication award: 6 pts
2. Best paper award: 5 pts
3. Traveling fellowship: 4 pts
4. Organized ASSICON/ ICS (org sec or org chairman only) - 4 pts
5. Paper read at best paper session: 2 pts
6. Paper read: 1 pt
7. Poster: half pt
8. Each ASSICON/ICS attended: 1 pt

(B) Publications:

1. International (A grade): 3 pts
2. International (B grade): 2 pts
3. Indian A grade: 1 pt

(C) Presentations: (only spine topics)

1. International podium: 2 pts
2. National podium: 1 pt
3. Posters: half pt

(D) Age:- 35-40yrs : 1 pt

(E) Extras:

1. International recognitions/awards (spine related): 3 pts
2. Other national spine awards (non A.S.S.I.): 2 pts

# A.S.S.I. - Long Term Fellowship

## Guidelines for Applicants & Centres

Applications are invited for 2 year A.S.S.I. - Fellowship at reputed centres in India from members of the Association of Spine Surgeons of India. Young Orthopaedic or Neurosurgeons with an interest in "Spine Surgery", willing to train for two years with Senior Mentor Spine Surgeons at various centres all over India should apply. A process of selection by interview will be held at ASSICON - 2013, Kochi, Kerala. The exact time & venue will be communicated to the applicants selected for the interview.

### Applications are invited from prospective fellows & Training Centres:

#### Eligibility Criteria for Fellows:

1. Must be three years post MS Orth or MCh Neurosurgery
2. Must have demonstrated adequate interest in spine surgery by attending at least two spine meetings of significance in the past three years
3. Adequate presentations and publications marks or points could be awarded by the selection committee for the various things
4. Membership of the A.S.S.I. for at least two years prior to becoming a fellow.

All applications must reach the A.S.S.I. Secretariat by December 31, 2012 for the fellowships for the year 2013.

#### Eligibility Criteria for Training Centres

Name of Chief Mentor assuming overall responsibility of training:

1. Single surgeon / unit / group doing pure spine work:
2. Institute Specifications:
  - a. Beds

- b. Multi-specialty / limited specialty / Single Specialty
  - c. Any extra spine specific utilities (CT, MR, neurophysiology, Computer navigation etc)
3. Gamut of work: (Pl enclose list of surgeries performed in the last 3 years)
    - a. Number of cases per year: minimum 250/year
    - b. Spectrum of cases: (% of total)
      - i. Area
        1. Cervical spine
        2. Thoracic spine
        3. Lumbar spine
      - ii. Pathology
        1. Degenerative, fracture
        2. Deformity
        3. Tumour
    - c. Non surgical procedures performed: Injections, Vertebroplasty etc
  4. Research work done in the unit so far
  5. Publications by unit so far (yearly break up)
  6. Do you have possibilities of lodging the fellow?
  7. Can you organize funding for the fellowship through your own resources?
  8. Any other comments:

The communication can be sent to:

#### ASSI Secretariat:

C/o VAMA EVENTS, Office 4, Gr. Floor, Anmol C.H.S.,  
Sakharam Keer Road, Shivaji Park, Mumbai 400 016.  
Tel.: +91.22. 2438 3498 Telefax: +91.22.2438 3499

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## Report of A.S.S.I.-Dartmouth Spine Fellowship for 2012

I would like to thank the A.S.S.I. for giving me an opportunity to travel to Dartmouth for a 4-week fellowship, it is a herculean task to arrange all the privileges for the fellows and Dr. Dilip Sengupta and Tracy Popes did all the hard work months ahead of my visit. Dr. Sengupta went to great lengths to make our stay as comfortable as possible, be it in guiding about travel plans or what clothes to get. When I arrived in New York, I was joined by an IOA fellow. Although we

had booked the coach for our travel to Dartmouth, Dr. Sengupta made a special effort to pick us up from Connecticut and take us to his house for a cup of hot coffee and then drove us to Dartmouth and prepared a dinner for us.

We started our fellowship from 1st October. Unlike in most hospitals in India, work starts at 6.00 am here. We were up and ready by 5.30 am and Dr. Sengupta drove us to hospital, where we were introduced to the



*Orthopaedics Secretaries*



*Medical School*



*Facing the biting cold*



*Dr. Sengupta's Office*

whole of the Orthopaedics team and joined them in discussion of the previous day's trauma cases. I was impressed by the presentation of the residents and their detailed examination and knowledge of the cases. Even medical students were active participants in such discussions, and even they had to present one interesting case they had seen during their posting. So, after the morning presentation, we went for the orientation course where went through a structured programme of Access Card photograph, security, parking, rules in hospital, patient safety drill and introduction to hospital record keeping.

Every Monday evening, the spine team discussed all the cases posted for the week and all the cases operated in the previous week. This was a forum for frank discussion and everyone's opinion from resident to fellows like me were considered and debated.

I did see a significant number of cases, from neuromuscular scoliosis with sacral plate fixation, which was new to me, to corpectomies, discectomies, fenestrations, TLIFs. Another new thing was uninstrumented fusion, which personally I have never done in my practice. Here I must mention that since every one used operating loupe and not microscope,

Dr. Sengupta used to get his personal camera to transmit surgery to the monitor for us.

Another thing that is good is patient assessment; every patient outcome is recorded and is available for accessing the patient's progress. Patients who needed help in taking decision for surgery were referred to shared decision making department, where they were given counseling and shown a surgical video to help them understand their problem and the treatment available. Apart from academics, Dr. Sengupta helped us planning our weekend, be it a trip to Boston to see Harvard, MIT or Imax theatre or arranging a departmental cruise party at Lake Sunapee. We went to NASS meeting at Dallas, my first. It was a good experience as it was the first time that A.S.S.I. had a special session, and it made us feel part of this great event which also gave me an opportunity to buy my first loupe!! Finally, as every good thing comes to an end, so did our journey, but it left a lasting impression on me as Dr. Sengupta made a part of his team in the hospital and part of his family at home.

Thank you sir, your efforts to help a young spine surgeon of your country are appreciated by all.

-Dr. R. S. Chahal



# Report of A.S.S.I. Travelling Fellowship for 2012



We started our ASSI travelling fellowship at Delhi centre first. The capital city hosts were the prestigious All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) and the Indian Spinal Injuries Center (ISIC), Delhi where we spent our week. We were accommodated at the ISIC, courtesy Dr. Chhabra.

We spent our 1st day at the ISIC. After the morning rounds with Dr. Chhabra, he arranged a visit to their renowned physiotherapy department which was amazing. They do the best job of rehabilitating the quadriplegics and paraplegics, with patients from all over the country. There is more to it than only surgery.

That day, we saw an ACDF for a hard central cervical prolapsed disc, an anterior + posterior reconstruction for burst # L1 and a revision discectomy by Dr. Chhabra and his team. We also had a healthy discussion on spinal osteotomies with Dr. Chhabra the next day after the rounds. That day, we witnessed a TLIF procedure for lytic spondylolisthesis L5-S1 and a percutaneous vertebroplasty D10 for osteoporotic nonunion at ISIC.

We spent the other half of the 3rd day at AIIMS with Prof. Arvind Jayaswal and attended his very busy "scoliosis clinic" in the afternoon. We could learn his approach to different scoliosis patients. Long term follow up of his selectively fused thoracic levels in

scoliosis patients were a treat to watch. The next day, we saw a congenital scoliosis being operated by Prof. Jayaswal. She was a 7 yr old girl with L1 hemivertebra and Prof. Jayaswal performed the Shilla technique on her. The use of motor evoked potentials was another thing which we saw being used. Prof. Jayaswal uses it for all his spinal deformity cases.

We also had some fun time visiting some of the well-known places in Delhi and were made to feel very special by Prof. Jayaswal and Dr. Chhabra.

The fifth day, we saw a transarticular C1-2 fixation by Dr. Kale at AIIMS for reducible atlantoaxial dislocation. He made the surgery look simple but we all know that it's anything but that. He used the flexible drill assembly for the cannulated screw which was very useful.

All in all, we were humbled by Prof. Jayaswal and Dr. Chhabra and had a very good mix of hospitality and academics during our stay at Delhi. We are thankful to them for letting us have a look into their practice. We are immensely grateful to the A.S.S.I., Dr. Rajasekharan and Dr. Ram Chaddha for giving us this opportunity. We would cherish this for long time. We still have the Ganga Hospital travelling fellowship pending which we shall be visiting in January 2013.

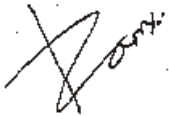
-Dr. Uday M Pawar & Dr. Suresh Kripalani

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

The Annual General Body Meeting (A.G.B.M.) of the Association of Spine Surgeons of India will be held on **Saturday, January 19, 2013 at 17.00 hrs. at "Le Meridien", Kochi, Kerala, India.** All members of the A.S.S.I. are requested to attend.

**The following matters are on the agenda:**

1. Condolences
2. Passing the minutes of A.G.B.M. – New Delhi and E.G.B.M. – Srinagar
3. Secretarial Report: Dr. Ram Chaddha
4. Accounts & Income Tax Status: Dr. H S Chhabra
5. ICS – 2013 – Kodaikanal: Dates, Venue, Theme: Dr. R Sivakumar
6. ASSICON – 2014 – Kolkata: Dates, Venue: Dr. Saumyajit Basu
7. A.S.S.I. Orator – 2014
8. Ratification of New members
9. Election of Office Bearers
10. ICS – 2014: Proposal for Dates, Venue & Theme (Supporting letter of local Spine body)
11. ASSICON – 2015: Proposal for Dates, Venue (Supporting letter of local Spine body)
12. Any other matter with the permission of the chair



**Dr. Ram Chaddha**

Secretary & Treasurer, A.S.S.I.

November 1, 2012

ASSOCIATION OF SPINE SURGEONS OF INDIA  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE : 2012-2013

President	: S. Rajasekaran (sr@gangahospital.com)
Vice-President	: Sajan Hegde (drsajanhegde@yahoo.co.in)
Secretary & Treasurer	: Ram Chaddha (spineram@yahoo.com)
Jt. Secretary	: H. S. Chhabra (drhsshhabra@isiconline.org)
Members	: Saumyajit Basu (saumyajitbasu@hotmail.com) Amol Rege (regeamol@hotmail.com) Rajesh Parasnis (rajeshparasnis@rediffmail.com) K. Venkatesh (venkateshortho1@cmcvellore.ac.in) Gautam Zaveri (zaverigr@hotmail.com) V. Suryaprakash Rao (vsprao@rediffmail.com)
Co-opted members	: Abhay Nene (abhaynene@yahoo.com) Ajoy Prasad Shetty (ajoyshetty@gmail.com) Saheel Maajid (saheelmaajid@gmail.com) Suresh Pillai (sureshortho@gmail.com) Sajesh Menon (sajesh@aims.amrita.edu) R. Sivakumar (drsivakumarspine@yahoo.co.in)

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Kindly send your suggestions and feedback to: Dr. Ram Chaddha, Secretary & Treasurer, A.S.S.I.