MINUTES OF THE GENERAL BODY MEETING OF INDIAN SOCIETY OF AEROSPACE MEDICINE HELD ON 26 NOV 21 ON HYBRID PLATFORM

- 1. The General Body Meeting (GBM) of the Indian Society of Aerospace Medicine (ISAM) was held on the hybrid platform, where in few of the members were present physically at IAM IAF, Bengaluru while others were available on online (virtual platform) using Cisco Webex platform. The GBM on hybrid platform was held on 26 Nov 21 from 1530h to 1700h, and was attended by approx. 75 members physically and more than 100 members virtually.
- 2. The meeting was chaired by Air Mshl Prashant Bharadwaj VSM & Bar PHS, DGMS (Air) & President ISAM and attended by the following members of the Executive Committee of the Society either physically or virtually.

(a)	AVM N Taneja VSM	PMO HQ EAC	Ex –officio Member
(b)	Air Cmde VV Joshi VSM	Comdt IAM	Ex -officio Member
(c)	Air Cmde R Ravi	Air Cmde MS (S)	Co-opted Member
(d)	Gp Capt MPS Marwaha	SMO Chandigarh	Member
(e)	Gp Capt YS Dahiya	Gp Capt MS (CA)	Member
(f)	Wg Cdr Ajay Kumar	AFS Jodhpur	Member
(g)	Col Deepak Kumar Khukhar	Indian Army	Army Rep
(h)	Surg Cdr MT Rajurkar	Indian Navy	Navy Rep
(j)	Dr B Vivekanand	Air India	Air India Rep
(k)	Dr Punita Masrani		Member
(I)	Gp Capt Prathu Rastogi	Gp Capt MS (AM)	Secy ISAM

INTRODUCTION

3. On behalf of the President ISAM, Secretary welcomed all the members of the Society to the GBM, attending GBM either physically or virtually.

4. **Obituary.**

Secy ISAM, read out the obituary to Surg Vice Admiral MV Singh AVSM PHS (Retd) (18 Jun 1959 to 14 May 2021), who was an eminent Community Medicine specialistand researcher par excellence. He had the privilege of serving in all three services of AFMS. He finally retired as DGMS (Navy). He will always be remembered as a humble, inspiring teacher and a thorough professional.

5. Welcome to New Members of EC

Secy ISAM, welcomed Air Mshl Prashant Bharadwaj VSM and Bar PHS, DGMS (Air) & President ISAM and AVM N Taneja VSM, senior most serving IAF Aerosp Med Splt, an ex officio member of EC, to their first GBM in the present appointments.

6. Opening Address by President ISAM.

Secy ISAM requested the President ISAM, to commence the GBM proceedings with his opening address. In his opening address, President ISAM appreciated the

members for the alluring jobs, which the Society had been doing for the past six decades. He urged all members to continue contributing towards the upgradation of the Specialty and Society within their own capabilities. He conveyed his best wishes to all the members for the Diamond Jubilee Conference being organized this year. He said though this occasion deserves appropriate celebrations but because of the current pandemic scenario we have to restrict it to a limited scale. He appreciated the efforts made by the Society members during the difficult times of Covid-19 pandemic. He informed the house about the progress being made towards the indexing of Indian Journal of Aerospace Medicine and emphasized on the need complete it on priority. In the end he conveyed his sincere gratitude to all the EC members for the support rendered and assured all that as President ISAM he will make all efforts for the betterment of the Society. He wished everyone Good Luck for the future endeavors of the Society.

7. Secy ISAM, presented the progress and review of old agenda points, Society activities since last ECM and discussed the fresh agenda points. The salient points of these deliberations are tabulated below:-

Agenda Point	Action by	Info
ITEM I		
8. Progress/Review on Old Points.		
The Last GBM was held at IAM IAF on 21 Nov 20 during the 59 th ISAM Conference. The points under progress since the last GBM are as follows: -		
 (a) Indexing of IJASM. The indexing of the IJASM is a critical component towards the success of the Journal. The present editorial team is working towards it. The major steps taken so far towards it includes:- On line publication of Journal wef Nov 2019 Outsourcing to firm M/s Scientific Scholar for online publication, development and maintenance of the Journal website (www.indjaerospacemed.com). All editions since Nov 2019 have been published online, well in time. The complete process of submission, review, proof reading as well as publication had been made online. The online journal is gradually gaining popularity and is being downloaded and viewed by a substantive number of users. Reviewer panel created with 28 Aerosp Med spl Additional splts from allied specialties included in the reviewer panel as Domain expert Older issues of IJASM are being made 	Editorial team IJASM	Secy ISAM

available online. Issues since 2000 have already been uploaded on the Journal website. Older issues (scanned copy) are going to be uploaded on the website shortly.		
Secy informed the house that President is personally monitoring the progress and the efforts are on by the editorial team towards achieving the goal.		
<u>Decision</u> . President ISAM appreciated the efforts of the editorial committee and urged them to pursue with the efforts for timely accomplishment of the goal of indexing the Journal.		
Point Open		
(b) Membership of International Societies. Secy ISAM informed the house that this year ex-officio membership of AsMA has been taken for Comdt IAM and Secy ISAM. The membership taken is Allied (subsidized) membership @50 USD in consultation with the SecyAsMA.	Comdt IAM Secy ISAM	Members
<u>Decision.</u> The President asked both the members to use this membershipjudiciously for the benefit of the members.		
Point closed		
(c) Revision of Society Memorandum. Draft Society Memorandum, after incorporating the suggestions from the members, was deliberated during the GBM 2020. Revised memorandum has been disseminated to members and uploaded on ISAM website in Dec 2020.	Secy ISAM	Members
<u>Decision.</u> The President directed that policy decision should not be changed frequently unless it is very essential, so as to maintain the sanctity of the memorandum. In addition, whenever there is a change addendum to memorandum should be issued to maintain continuity.		
Point closed		
(d) Publication of Annual Report of the Society. Secy ISAM informed the house that the society annual newsletter is being published online for last 02 years and 3 rd edition of 2021 will be releasedby President during the forthcoming GBM.	Secy ISAM Editorial Board	Members

<u>Decision.</u> The practice of annual e-newsletter to be continued and the same to be published on ISAM website.	IJASM	
Point closed		
 (e) <u>Updating the ISAM website.</u> Secy ISAM informed the house about the recent changes and updates being made on ISAM website. The major updates done recently are as follows: Membership log in module with provision to download digital membership certificate created. Membership numbers allocated to all Life members and Honorary Fellows. Updated lists of members and fellows uploaded on website. All TMSs made available online under membership module. 	Secy ISAM Oi/c Website at IAM	Comdt IAM Members
Online registration for the annual conference.		
<u>Decision.</u> The upgradation of website is an ongoing process and should be followed up regularly by the Secy ISAM and Oi/c Website at IAM.		
Point closed		
(f) Sponsoring a Panel during AsMA or ICASM. It was proposed that ISAM should sponsor a Panel during one of the International Conferences, where in either some or all of the panellists are sponsored by the Society. The point was deliberated earlier and it was unanimously decided that all panellists should be sponsored by the Society. However, some of the members settled abroad and regularly attending these International Conferences may be included in the Panel; so as to reduce the financial burden to Society.	Secy ISAM	Members
<u>Decision.</u> President directed Secy ISAM to liaise with ISAM members settled abroad and the International Societies and explore the administrative feasibility of hosting Panel Discussion sponsored by the Society.		
Point Open		
(g) Bidding to host the ICASM Conference in India. In the GBM 2019, it was proposed that ISAM should bid to host ICASM Conference in near future. Secy ISAM informed the house that conventionally ICASM is hosted by the same country only after a gap	Secy ISAM	Members

of 10 years. It has been confirmed from Secy IAASM that the process for bidding till 2026 has already been initiated. Hence, we can initiate the process for 2027.		
<u>Decision.</u> President asked Secy ISAM to pursue the point with competent authorities.		
Point Open		
(h) Hiring of Part Time Clerkfor ISAM Activities at Society Office. The proposal of hiring one part time clerk for ISAM activities at Air HQ, from ISAM funds with approx financial implication of ₹ 2.5 lakhs/year (₹ 20,000/ month) was approved by the GBM. However, the point could not be actioned till date due to prevalent Covid-19 pandemic.	Secy ISAM	Members
<u>Decision.</u> President directed Secy ISAM to explore the possibility and implement the decision on priority.		
Point open		
(j) Corporate Membership. The proposal of extending the corporate membership to more private airlines and aviation related industries on payment of onetime fee of ₹ 10 Lakhs was approved by the GBM. It was recommended that necessary assistance from Gp Capt MS (CA) at the O/o DGCA and other Airlines doctors may be sought for the same. Secy ISAM informed the house that due to prevalent pandemic and economic crisis thereafter the same could not be materialized.	Secy ISAM	Members
<u>Decision.</u> The point needs to be followed up in forimplementation in future.		
Point Open		
9. Society Activities. Secy ISAM intimated the house that due to the prevalent Covid-19 pandemic some of the major activities of the Society like participation in various International Conferences, DGCA workshop for Class I & II Medical examiners etc could not be conducted with full zeal. However, the salient activities/ achievements of the Society are enumerated below:-	Secy ISAM	Members
(a) Air Mshl PM Sundaram Memorial Travelling Fellowship. Gp Capt MS Nataraja one of the Fellow of the Society visited 03 Medical Colleges and was		

	instrumental in spreading the awareness about thespecialty in these colleges. Gp Capt Rahul Pipraiya could not complete this campaign due to certain administrative reasons and prevalent covid pandemic.	Secy ISAM	Members
	<u>Decision.</u> Gp Capt MS Natatraja was presented the travelling fellowship medallion this year and the same will be awarded to Gp Capt Rahul Pipraiya on completion lectures at some of the Medical Colleges.	Secy ISAM	Members
	(b) <u>Sponsoring Research work.</u> A research project titled "To study the employability of combination of Hypobaric and Normobaric Hypoxia in Hypoxia Demonstration" was sponsored to Surg Cdr Ranjan Sarkar of IAM IAF, amounting to ₹ 71,400/ The project has been successfully completed.		
	(c) <u>Continuing Aerospace Medicine Education</u> <u>Online (CAMEO).</u> An online journal club sponsored by ISAM, by the name of CAMEO has been started by IAM on once-a-month frequency. The aim of this journal club is to provide avenue for specialists in field to get updated with the recent advances in the field of the Aerosp Medicine.	Secy ISAM	Members
	(d) <u>Aeromedical Support to the Gagannauts.</u> Secy ISAM informed the house about the role of IAM and the Aerospace Medicine Specialists in the Selection and training of the Gagannauts and the various steps being taken towards this.	Secy ISAM	Members
	(e) Inclusion of ISAM in IAF NPFs. Till now ISAM has been investing funds with IAFBA and have been claiming IT rebate as well. This year IAFBA has returned all the investment citing that ISAM is not a NPF and IAFBA can take investment from NPFs only. Subsequently a case was taken up for inclusion of ISAM funds in the list of Air HQs NPFs, as this would entail higher rate of interest as well as exemption under IT act. The same has been included with approval of competent authorities.	Secy ISAM	Members
10.	ITEM III Fresh Agenda Points		
	(a) Revision of Delegate Fee for ISAM. The current rate of delegation fees for attending the IAM Conference (as per GBM 2018) are Rs 7000 for life members and Military delegate and 350\$ for FFC delegates. With effect from 2020 inclusion of online delegate has been included @ ₹ 1,000/- for Indian	Secy ISAM Comdt IAM	Members

and 100 \$ for FFC. It was proposed that the delegate fee be revised to ₹10.000/- and 400 \$ for Indian and delegates respectively. The FFC issue deliberated in detail during the ECM and following was decided so as to encourage retired life members to participate and share their experiences during the Conference.

Physical attendance

Military – ₹ 10,000/-Life Members in service- ₹10.000/-Non-Life members – ₹ 10,000/-Retired Life Members- ₹ 5000/-Foreigners 400 \$

Virtual Attendance

Indian - ₹1,000/-Foreigners – 100 \$

Decision. After deliberations GBM ratified the ECM decision of revised rated and that no fresh revision in delegation fee to be sought for next 05 years. The point needs to be

Point closed

(b) Revision of Salary for IJSAM Clerk. A proposal was submitted by editorial team of IJASM that the existing salary (revised in 2013) of IJASM Clerk need to be revised from existing ₹15,000/- to ₹ 25,000/-. The same has been approved by the EC and the revised salary of ₹ 25,000/- is to be implemented wef 01 Jan 2022.

Decision.EC decision was ratified by the GBM.

Point closed

(c) Certificates for IJASM Editorial Team. IJASM advisory committee has recommended the proposal to issue Certificate to its members, on completion of their tenure in the editorial team & advisory board. These certificates to be presented during the GBM of ISAM and should be startedon pro rata basis wef 2016 as this point was ratified earlier by the GBM in 2016. EC has approved the proposal and the certificates have been prepared by the editorial team of IJASM for being issued after ratification by the GBM.

<u>Decision.</u>EC decision was welcomed by all members

Secv ISAM

Comdt IAM

Members

Secy ISAM

Comdt IAM

Editorial Board of **IJASM**

Members

and the same was ratified. The certificates for the previous committees were issued on the same day. Hence forth, editorial team IJASM to keep a record and ensure issuance of certificates on completion of tenure to respective members.

Point closed

(d) Election of New Members of EC. As per the existing norms the tenure of elected members is 02 years and new members are to elected during the GBM. 02 members Gp Capt YS Dahiya and Wg Cdr Ajay Kumar were accorded extension for a period of 01 year during the last GBM. This year another set of 02 members Gp Capt MPS Marwaha and Dr Punita Masarani are completing their tenure of 02 years. In addition, Army and Navy Reps are also completing their tenure of 2 years this year. In addition, Secy ISAM intimated that there is a shortage of 02 members in the EC which has evolved over a period of time due to insolvency of Jet Airways and superannuation of members.

The EC has decided the following methodology to handle the situation.

- 02 members who have completed their tenure last year (Gp Capt YS Dahiya and Wg Cdr Ajay Kumar) to be replaced with new members by election.
- 02 members who are completing their tenure this year (Gp Capt MPS Marwaha and Dr Punita Masarani) be granted extension for one more year.
- Army and Navy reps to be replaced by suitable reps nominated by respective services.
- The shortage of 02 members in the EC to be fulfilled by 02 membersnominated by the President ISAM.
- Secy ISAM to coordinate the above with concerned agencies for nomination and election.

Based on the EC decision, the nominations were sought from the members for election. As only two names were received against the 02 vacancies, there was no need to conduct the voting. The 02 new elected members of the EC are

- Gp Capt Rajesh Kumar
- Gp Capt Mona Dahiya

President nominated following 02 Associate fellows of the Society as new nominated members

Secy ISAM

Members

- Wg Cdr AVK Raju
- Wg Cdr Parul Goel

Secy ISAM to approach the O/o DGMS (Army) & DGMS (Navy) for nomination of their reps.

<u>Decision</u>. GBM ratified the decision and welcomed the new members with applaud.

Point Closed

(e) <u>Sponsorship to delegates for International Conferences.</u> Conventionally 01 delegate each is sponsored by ISAM for attending AsMA and ICASM Conference every year (GBM 2015 & Revised Memorandum). In addition, approval has been accorded for one PG resident in a year either for AsMA or ICASM (Ref 2019 GBM). However, due to Covid -19 pandemic these conferences were either cancelled or postponed and no member was sponsored for AsMA 2021 due to visa restrictions.

sored for AsMA 2021 due to visa restrictions.

EC has approved the proposal for year 2022, 01

<u>Decision.</u>GBM ratified the decision of 01additional delegate to be sponsored each for AsMA and ICASM for the year 2022 only. (i.e for year 2022, two each for AsMA and ICASM as ISAM sponsored candidate and 01 PG resident for either AsMA or ICASM.

additional delegate may be sponsored each for AsMA

Point Open

and ICASM.

(f) Selection Committee for AoC – in-C Trophy for Best Dissertation. AoC - in-C Trophy for Best Dissertation was instituted in 2017 and the same is given by CAS/ AoC-in-C HQ TC during inaugural session of ISAM. Till date IAM has been deciding the methodology for selection of best dissertation, as no formal methodology for the same had been laid down. IAM has now proposed to formalize the procedure which will be in 02 stages, in first phase screening will be carried out by a screening committee comprising of two / three senior serving Aerosp Med Splts and in 2nd phase the three shortlisted dissertations to be submitted executive selection to committee comprising of retired officers. The pros and cons of involving the Society and the EC in the selection process was deliberated in detail.

EC has recommended that a panel of Splts

Secy ISAM

Comdt IAM

Members

Secy ISAM

Comdt IAM

IJASM editorial board Members

should be created by IAM in liaison with Secy ISAM, and any available officer from this panel may be requested to carry out the assessment of the dissertations.

The Screening Committee to comprise of all serving Aerosp Med Splts of the rank Gp Capt and above (Senior Adv and above) and depending upon the availability two or three Splts from this panel (who are not the guide of any of the student) be requested to carry out the initial screening of the dissertation objectively as per the laid down criteria given by the IAM.

The Executive Selection Committee, to carry out the final selection from the shortlisted dissertation, should comprise of the Retd officers who are preferably the members of the IJASM editorial advisory board (03 Retd officers for tenure of 02 years are member of this advisory board).

These panels to be reviewed by the EC of ISAM every year.

<u>Decision.</u>GBM ratified the EC recommendation and requested the retd members of the editorial board to do the needful.

Point Open

- (g) <u>Investment from ISAM funds.</u> During GBM 2020 a proposal was received for creating a hostel facility for civilian PG residents at IAM from the Society funds as an investment. It was decided that Comdt IAM to study the feasibility and submit a detailed proposal for the same. IAM had submitted that to create a hostel facility for civilian PG residents there are 04 options viz.
 - Purchase of land and build the hostel
 - Build a hostel facility over defence land
 - Purchase of 3-5 flats in a Society
 - Hiring of suitable accommodation

These options were deliberated in detail and apparently all would require not only one-time bulk investment but subsequent recurrent expenditure as well, in terms of maintenance and employment of care takers etc.

<u>Decision.</u> The investment in property is not a good option, as it is more of liability both administrative and financial, rather than being a safe investment. It was decided to drop the point.

Secy and Treasurer ISAM

Comdt IAM

and Members

Point closed		
(h) Audit Report for the financial year 2020- 21. The Secy and Treasurer ISAM presented the audit report along with the trial balance for the financial year 2020-21 duly vetted by the Charted Accountant. He informed the house that the CA in his audit report has recommended deduct TDS, as applicable while making any payment and to check if the Society comes under the purview of GST.	Secy& Treasure ISAM	Members
<u>Decision.</u> The audit report was ratified by the GBM. Secy ISAM was advised to look in the observations made by auditor.		
Point closed		
(j) Selection of New Fellows of the Society. Based on the approved MOM of 2019, a BOO under chairmanship of senior most IAF Aerosp Med Splt was constituted at Air HQ with Air Cmde MS (S) and Secy ISAM as members, to finalize the names of newFellows. The BOO has recommended following 02 life members to be nominated as Fellows for the year 2021.	Secy ISAM	Members
 Gp Capt RR Kapur (Retd) Gp Capt Rahul Pipraiya		
Decision. The decision of BOO was ratified by GBM		
Pointclosed		
(k) <u>Selection of New Associate Fellows of the Society.</u> This year Sect has received 02 applications from Life members for the associate fellowship. Both the applications were in order and the members were found to meet therequired QRs (approved in GBM 2019). Following are members are recommended for grant of Associate Fellowship for the year 2021:-	Secy	Members
 Gp Capt BK Umesh Kumar (Retd) Gp Capt Rajesh Kumar		
<u>Decision.</u> Both the names were ratified by the GBM.		
Point closed		
(I) <u>Selection of New Life Members of the Society.</u> Secy ISAM presented the house with the details of new applications received. All the applications were in order and were recommended for approval by GBM.	Secy ISAM	Members

The list candidates for the Life Membership is as follows:-		
Med) <u>Decision.</u> All the names were ratified by GBM.		
Point Closed		
(m) Selection of Air Mshl PM Sundram Travelling	Secy ISAM	Members
Decision. Both the names were ratified by GBM.		
(n) <u>Venue and date for 61stISAM Conference.</u> Secy ISAM proposed that venue for the next conference should be IAM IAF Bengaluru and discussed the availableoptions of dates for the Conference.		
Decision. Venue - IAM Bengaluru Conference to be scheduled from Thursday to Saturday Dates First Choice: 10– 12 Nov 22 Second Choice: 03 – 05 Nov 22	Secy ISAM	Members
The dates were ratified by GBM and CAS approval need to be sought for the final dates.		
Point Closed		
ITEM V		

11. Awards during the 60th ISAM Conference.

- (a) Following awards were given during the Inaugural function of the 60th ISAM Conference by CAS: -
 - CAS Trophy for Primary Course in Aerospace Medicine (PAMC) **Sqn Ldr Arjun Malhotra & Flt Lt Shalini Bajpai**
 - AVM MM Srinagesh Trophy for best officer in Advance Course in Aerosp Med -- Lt Col Manu N
 - AoC-in-C Trophy for Best Dissertation in the MD Exam- **Dr Shivani Kasture**
- (b) Following awards were given by DGMS (Air) during the GBM:
 - President's Gold Medal for best student in MD Aerosp Med - Flt Lt Harshit HS
 - Air Mshl Kuldip Rai Award for best published article in IJASM – Flt Lt Rahul Dev
 - Air Mshl PM Sundaram Travelling
 Fellowship Gp Capt MS Nataraja
 - Best Papers presented during 60thISAM
 - Late Gp Capt GS Nayar Award for best paper – Gp Capt Murtaza
 - 2nd Best Paper-....
 - Best poster -Wg Cdr AVK Raju
- 12. Release of 3rd edition of Society News Letter. The 3rd edition of the Society newsletter, giving the glimpses of the Society activities was released by President ISAM and subsequently uploaded on the ISAM website.
- 13. Release of Book authored by Gp Capt VN Jha (Retd). A book titled 'Design Concepts in Human Space Missions' (2nd edition) authored by one of the Fellows of the Society Gp Capt VN Jha was released by the President during the GBM. The e version of the book is available on Amazon.

ITEM V

- **14.** <u>Vote of Thanks to the outgoing Members.</u> Secy ISAM proposed vote of thanks to the following outgoing members who have completed their tenure as members of EC. He expressed his gratitude towards the members for the unprecedented support.
 - Gp Capt YS Dahiya
 - Wg Cdr Ajay Kumar
 - Col Deepak Kumar Khukhar
 - Surg Cdr MT Rajurkar

ITEM VI

- 15. <u>Closing Remarks by the President</u>. The President thanked all the members of the EC for their unprecedented support and the good work being done by them for the benefit of the Society. He urged them to continue doing the same. He requested all to put in some more efforts as a team to the betterment of the Aerospace Medicine as a Specialty in the country. He assured all the members his whole-hearted support for the Society. In the end he conveyed his Good wishes to all the members for the Diamond Jubilee celebration.
- 16. There being no further points, Secy ISAM thanked the President ISAM, members of the Executive Committee and the members attending the GBM physically or virtually for their valuable time and contribution. The meeting concluded at 1700h.

(Prathu Rastogi)

Gp Capt Secy ISAM

Date: 21 Dec 21

Copy to:-

1. All members of EC

2. IAM, IAF