

PROCEEDINGS OF THE GENERAL BODY MEETING OF INDIAN SOCIETY OF BLOOD
TRANSFUSION AND IMMUNOHAEMATOLOGY ON 21.11.2009.

Date: Saturday, the 21st November, 2009

Venue: Stein Auditorium, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi.

Chairperson: Dr. Yudhbir Singh

Minutes:

Dr. L. K.Dadhich brought the contents of the letter dated 12/11/09 by Dr. Raj Kumar, member ISBTI from Haryana State Centre, addressed to Dr. Kabita Chatterjee, Organising Chairperson of Transcon 2009. The contents of the letter are as below.

To,

Dr. Kabita Chatterjee,

Organising Chairperson, "TRANSCON 2009"

Department of Transfusion Medicine,

All India Institute of Medical Science,

New Delhi.

Sub: Information regarding status of ISBTI from Registrar Firms and Societies UT, Chandigarh.

Madam,

I collected information regarding the status of Governing Body of ISBTI from the office of the Registrar Firms and Societies, UT, Chandigarh. The names of various office bearers are given at Page 18 of the total 39 pages. As per the provisions of the Societies Registration Act, 1860 (Act XXI of 1860), the governing body is notified to the Registrar of the Firms and Societies every year. The relevant portion of the provision is as given below:

"4. Annual list of managing body to be filed – Once in every year, on or before the fourteenth day succeeding the day on which, according to the rules of the society, the annual general meeting of the society is held, or, if the rules do not provide for an annual general meeting, in the month of January, a list shall be filed with the Registrar of Joint stock Companies of the names, addresses and occupations of the governors, council, directors, committee or other governing body then entrusted with the management of the affairs of the society.

In view of the provisions of the Act the members of the Governing body as per the record of the Registrar of the Firms and Societies are as given below:

Mr. H.P Bodhanwalla, President

Dr. K.M Radhakrishnan, Immediate Past President

Dr. Ambika Nanu, Vice President
Mr. Apurba Ghosh, Secretary General
Mr. Amit Banerjee, Joint Secretary
Dr. Shamim Sharma, Joint Secretary
Mr. H.R Dev, Treasurer
Dr. R.N Makroo, Editor, BTM Journal
Dr. Suresh Badekere, Member
Dr. D.S Hamal, Member
Dr. Manmohan Kaur, Member
Mr. Yudhbir Singh, Member
Mr. Sura Ramanathan, Member
Mr. G.S Toor, Member
Dr. Debasis Gupta, Member
Dr. Nabajyoti Choudhary, Member
Mr. Raju Chandrasekhar, Member
Mrs. Surjit Anand, Member

From the above averments it is clear that any person other than the above mentioned persons to be member/office bearer of the ISBTI is violative of the provisions of the Act.

I request you not to invite any body for addressing the conference in the capacity of Secretary General ISBTI or President ISBTI other than the ones given by the Registrar Firms and Societies UT, Chandigarh, as per office record.

In case if you would invite somebody other than the ones mentioned in the details of the office bearers/ Members of the governing body as per the record of the Registrar, Firms and Societies, UT Chandigarh, I would be left with no option but to move the court of law against you for violating the provisions of "THE SOCIETIES REGISTRATION ACT, 1860 (Act XXI of 1860).

Kindly convey the contents of this letter to your organising secretary. She is also requested to act in accordance with the provisions of the "THE SOCIETIES REGISTRATION ACT, 1860 (Act XXI of 1860).

With Regards,

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Raj Kumar
509/15 A, Hisar
Tel. No.: +91-9416208444

CC: Dr. Poonam Coshic – Organising Secretary (TRANSCON 2009)

In view of the contents of the letter, four members of the Governing Body, namely, Drs. R.N. Makroo, YudhbirSingh, T.R. Raina and Nabjyoti Chaudhary, were present in the AGM. They were invited on the stage. Dr. R. M. Arora proposed the name of Dr. Yudhbir Singh to preside over the proceedings of the AGM. The proposal was approved unanimously by the august House. Dr Yudhbir Singh took over as the Presiding Officer.

1. The Chairperson authorised Dr. Poonam Coshic to record the minutes of the meeting.
2. The Chairperson asked the members to express their views and suggestions to improve the functioning of ISBTI.
3. Dr. V. N. Machave said that the Society had been doing great work since its inception. He suggested that the elections to various posts should be done by postal ballots to increase the participation of the members in the process. He added that it will require a suitable amendment in the constitution of the Society. He told the house that they had conducted postal ballot in the state of Maharashtra successfully. However, this will also require updating addresses of the members and will need extensive coordination with State Centres to do that.
4. Dr. Ved Beniwal said that we need to appoint a legal advisor, some one like Mr. Sarin, to the Governing Body. He said that if we had had a legal advisor, the kind of circumstances we are facing now, would not have arisen.
He told the House that postal ballots have their own shortcomings. These may be manipulated by people having vested interest in various ways, like - posting ballot papers to chosen areas only. He cited the experience of Indian Medical Association in Haryana, which has been facing many complaints and litigations. He warned members to take a decision considering all the pros and cons of this.
He said that he had discussed with the Editor of Asian Journal of Transfusion Medicine about the cost of Journal and according to a rough estimate, one copy of journal costs Rs. 500/-. Considering 2,500 copies of an issue being posted, the total cost becomes a huge amount. He praised the Journal for its quality. However, he observed that member couples are receiving two copies of an issue of the Journal. If we decide to send only one copy per household, a significant amount of money can be saved.
He observed that only a few Presidents of State Centres have been participating in the Governing Body Meetings and other activities of ISBTI. He said that it is because of no incentives or powers being given to the representatives of the State Centres. For example, they could be provided with badges to distinguish them from ordinary members in the Conferences or Meetings. They could also be offered a seat on the Dias in the Meetings. However, the State Centre offices are being treated like post offices where copies of circulars are sent to be re-circulated amongst members of their States. He observed that the Society has, increasingly, been using emails for communications. He opined that all the members do not own or use computers, especially the donors and

motivators coming from illiterate sections of the society or the villages. He said that it is good to embrace the modern technology but it should not replace the postal communication in present state of circumstances.

5. Dr. Nabjyoti Chaudhary sought the permission of the House to continue working on the post of Editor till a duly elected body is installed. The House requested him, unanimously, to continue on this post.
He informed the House that he, himself, had been receiving two copies of the Journal in his home, one each in the name of his wife and himself. He agreed with the suggestion of Dr. Ved Beniwal to send only one copy of the Journal to the member couples.
6. Dr. Raj Kumar said that election by postal ballot is a gigantic task and thus should not be adopted. He suggested a delegate based election system where one delegate may represent 10 members. He further suggested that a member, who has held the office of the President or the Secretary at any time, should become a life time voter for all the elections to come. He proposed 33% reservation for women in elections at national level as well as in State Centres.
7. Dr. Keshav appreciated the chairperson for conducting the meeting in an orderly manner. He observed that the Current Annual Conference is headed by two women, as its Organising Chairperson and the Organising Secretary. He further observed that the Organising Chairperson and the Organising Secretary of the next Annual Conference to be held at Hyderabad, too, are women and that the contribution of a lady founder member in the Society can not be ignored. He suggested 50 % reservation for women at all levels of ISBTI.
He also observed that while going around in various stalls of the exhibition, most of the personnel had never donated blood.
He appealed for the reduction in the delegate registration fee for the conferences organised by the Society.
He said that members should study the proposal of postal ballots carefully looking into all the pros and cons of it.
8. Dr. R. N. Makroo said that adequate representation of the States is lacking in the Governing Body. He informed the House he had proposed postal ballots a few years back.
He observed that most of the office-bearers in the Society do not take active interest in the activities of the Society after their term has expired. He said that people join an office for the sake of name and that we should not thrust a post onto a member but the interested members should come forward to hold an office.
Narrating his experience during his visit to Japan, he told that when asked about the percentage of Voluntary Blood Donation in his country, he was ashamed to tell that it was 60%. One has to work hard to increase this level. In Voluntary Blood Donation Camps, only a blood donor should be asked to inaugurate a camp.
9. Dr. Veena Doda informed the house that in most of the professional bodies the term of President and other office bearers is one year unlike ours. The executive bodies consist of a President, an Immediate Past President and a President-Elect, besides other office-bearers. She suggested adopting the same system.

10. Dr. Kabita Chatterjee questioned the performance of the so-called President, Secretary and Treasurer who had continued for 6 years before the present body has been formed. She asked why nobody had read the constitution during the period 1998-2009 and why the constitution was being read now after 11 years. She said that during this period, the President, Secretary and Treasurer enjoyed all the powers and it was our fault that we allowed them to do so. No one cared to read a fifteen-page booklet of constitution all these years and now everyone is reading the constitution. We are opportunists. The Governing Body consists of 30 members – President, Deputy President, Secretary, Treasurer, Editor and Presidents of 25 states. Only few members were present and they were taking all the decisions. Meetings were conducted without the mandatory corum. Who is responsible for all this, she questioned. General Body Meetings, too, were conducted in a similar manner, she said. She observed that while we call ourselves the most educated people, we do not care to read the constitution.
11. Dr. Debashish Gupta said that he agreed with Dr. Kabita Chatterjee that in the last few years, meetings were held without adequate corum.
12. Dr. Sunita Kamath suggested that all the members should be provided with a copy of the Constitution. She said that it is sad that we do not know the functioning of our own office.
She observed that in last few years, the Conferences have become doctor oriented. She told that the motivators and technicians accompanying them do not gain much from these conferences.
13. Dr. Patte from Orissa told the house that there are 60 life members in the Orissa State Centre and that he has not been able to receive the charge of the office from the Past President. He requested for a suitable action in such cases.
14. Dr. Neelam Marwaha pointed out that in so many other professional Societies, we receive an Annual Report and a copy of Audited Statement of Accounts every year but in our Society we have not received any for last many years. There has been no transparency in the functioning of the Society, she observed. She said the persons who stand for the offices of the Society command a lot of respect from the people. She said she felt sad to see this kind of rot in the Society. She also pointed out that we are not a society of blood donors but Indian Society of Blood Transfusion and Immunohaematology. Merely talking about blood donation is not enough. There have been lot of technical advancements in blood safety and diverting the attention from these is not the correct way, she said. Blood can be transfused directly, but requires many scientific tests and procedures. On the other hand, motivation of blood donors, too, requires a scientific approach. We should have a balance of Technology and motivation sessions, she suggested.
Dr. Yudhbir Singh read out the contents of an email posted by Dr. Neelam Marwaha to the all Governing Body Members and appreciated her for this. Following are the contents of the letter.

*Dear colleagues,
we seriously need to consider -*

1. *What kind of a society we want ISBTI to be?*
2. *What are the objectives of this society?*
3. *What have we done so far to achieve them?*
4. *We need to introspect and come forward with suggestions for improvement.*
5. *If the constitution needs to be changed/amended we must come forward in the interest of our professional improvement.*
6. *Most of all we need to show mutual respect towards our colleagues and due respect for our seniors.*
7. *We need to invite suggestions from our young members as well, as they are the future torch bearers of our profession and society*
8. *We must maintain transparency in our functioning in all respects.*
9. *I appreciate Dr. Manisha for being forthright in her views and concern for the good functioning and image of ISBTI. Let us stop the blame game and learn to appreciate each others efforts.*

Are we not working towards the same goal?

With sincere regards to one and all,

*Prof. Neelam Marwahaa
Head, Department of Transfusion Medicine
PGIMER Chandigarh
Phone: (+91)-172-2756481; Fax: (+91)-172-2744401*

15. Dr. N. K. Bhatia informed that since 1972 (college days) he has donated blood 209 times. He congratulated Dr. Poonam and Dr. Kabita for organising the conference successfully. He suggested that the Governing Body should consist of founder members like Mrs. Saroop Krishen and Dr. Jolly. Besides, Dr. Kabita Chatterjee, 2 young doctors, few technicians and motivators should also be included. He opined that election by postal ballot paper is a good alternative and we should not expect manipulations since we have reputed people to hold various offices of ISBTI. Ballots papers may be posted in September. Dr. Yudhbir Singh should convene a meeting of the current Governing Body and discuss these issues and form a new Governing Body. The meetings should be held in various zones by rotation. He suggested that younger people should be included in the Governing Body. He also suggested that the agenda of the Meetings should be circulated well in advance. The audited accounts and minutes of the meetings should also be circulated regularly.
16. Dr. P. K. Paliwal said that the current Governing Body should be given six months' time to install a new elected Governing Body. He suggested that there should be two posts of Deputy President; one for the Technical and another for the

Motivation. State Centres elections should be held and the lists of members should be updated. State Presidents should be included in the Governing Council and Mr. Sarin as a Legal Advisor should be appointed in this meeting.

17. Mr. Ravi Kumar said that a copy of the constitution should be given to a member at the time of his induction in the Society. He wanted to know whether exemption to ISBTI under section 80G applicable to State Centres also. He also said that the minutes of Last General Body Meeting should be confirmed as read to which Dr. Yudhbir Singh added that last General Body meeting was held in 1998. He quoted and read out the relevant provision of the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860. He informed the House that as per these provisions, the last elected Governing Body is the one formed in 1998.
18. Dr. Nabjyoti Chaudhary said that the social workers are being ignored in the Conferences. One can fix a separate day for social workers with a reduced registration fee. Similarly, one day session could also be fixed for the technicians.
19. Dr. Poonam Coshic raised the issue of misbehavior with her by Dr. G.N. Gupta in the presence of several members i.e. Dr. V. P. Gupta, Dr. T. R. Raina, Dr. R. N. Makroo, Sh. J. N. Gehlaut, Dr. Kabita Chatterjee, Dr. Ved Beniwal, Dr. Neelam Marwaha, Dr. Nabjyoti Chaudhary etc.
Many members, vociferously, debated the issue. It was resolved the issue be taken up by the Governing Body as per the by-laws of the Constitution.
20. The House authorised the members of the Governing Body present in the House, namely, Drs. R.N. Makroo, Yudhbir Singh, T.R. Raina and Nabjyoti Chaudhary, and Presidents of the State Centres to nominate the Office bearers of the new Governing Body. The following were present in the Meeting.
 - a. Dr. D. B. Wani, President, ISBTI, Maharashtra Chapter, 'Mamta' 26/72, Sahawas Society, Karve Nagar, Pune-411 052 (Maharashtra)
 - b. Dr. Susheela Kamath, President, ISBTI Tamil Nadu Chapter, I-32, Chaitanya Nest, 9, Ratna Nagar, Teynampet, Chennai-600 018.
 - c. Dr. K. C. Usha, President ISBTI Kerala Chapter, Prof. & Head, Department of Transfusion Medicine, Medical College, Trivandrum-695 011 (Kerala)
 - d. Dr. T. R. Raina, Chairman, ISBTI, J&K Chapter, Tulsi Vihar, Maheshpura Chowk, Jammu (J&K)
 - e. Dr. Snehalata C. Gupta, President, ISBTI, Gujarat Chapter, Surat Raktadaan Kendra & Research Centre, Khatodara Health Centre, U.M. Road, Surat (Gujarat)
 - f. Dr. Nabjyoti Chaudhary, Ahmedabad (Gujarat)
 - g. Dr. Kabita Chatterjee, President, ISBTI Delhi State Chapter, Faculty-in-Charge, Blood Bank (Main), A.I.I.M.S. New Delhi
 - h. Dr. Yudhbir Singh, IAS, Deputy Commissioner, Sirsa (Haryana)
 - i. Dr. V. Saraswath, President, ISBTI, Andhra Pradesh Chapter, #49-A, Venkut Bhawan, Niliyam Sunder Nagar, Hyderabad-36.

- j. Dr.Kulbir Kaur, President, ISBTI, Punjab Chapter, Life Line Blood Bank Centre, Dukhniwaran Road, Near Hotel Fly Over, Patiala (Punjab)
- k. Dr.Sunder Periyavan, Gen.Secy. ISBTI, 24, Type-IV, Block-IV, NIMHANS Quarters, Byrasandra, East Jaya Nagar, PO Dharmavaram, Bangalore.
- l. Dr.Ved Beniwal, President ISBTI Haryana Chapter, Beniwal Clinic, Begu Road, Sirsa-125055 (Haryana)

It was resolved, unanimously, that the Governing Body shall consist of the Following.

- a. President Dr.Yudhbir Singh, IAS, Deputy Commissioner, Sirsa (Haryana)
- b. Deputy President Dr. Kabita Chatterjee, President, ISBTI Delhi State Chapter, Faculty-in-Charge, Blood Bank (Main), A.I.I.M.S. New Delhi
- c. Secretary General Dr. Neelam Marwaha, Head, Deptt. Of Transfusion Medicine, PGIMER, Chandigarh
- d. Treasurer Dr. P. K. Paliwal, General Hospital, Gohana, Distt. Sonapat (Haryana)
- e. Editor, ISBTI Bulletin Dr. Nabjyoti Chaudhary, Ahmedabad (Gujarat)

The Immediate Past President, H. P. Bodhanwalla, is no more.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to one and all.